

Southwest Section Board Meeting

February 26th, 2025

9:00–9:50am MST

Attendees: Nicole Tatman, Ryan Luna, Kay Nicholson, Megan Clayton, Madeleine Kaleta, Kathy Granillo, Tiffany Sprague, Nick Forman

- Missing: Robert Corkren, Levi Heffelfinger

Nicole Tatman – outgoing president – NM game and fish

Ryan Luna – incoming president

Kay Nicholson – outgoing past president and webmaster - wildlife biologist in AZ

Madeleine Kaleta – Co-editor for SW section newsletter – NMDGF regional wildlife biologist in Las Cruces, NM

Tiffany Sprague - President Elect – AZ game and fish in Phoenix, AZ

Kathy Granillo – Southwest Section Representative based in NM

Megan Clayton – Treasurer - based in Uvalde, TX

Nick Forman – SW Section Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) - NMDGF carnivore and small mammal program manager

Update for TWS awards

- Fellows award nomination submitted yesterday
- Leland Pierce is heading a second nomination as well
- Asked for distinguished service nominations (deadline Apr. 1st) – nothing received as of yet
 - o Last year Leland Pierce was awarded
- May try and nominate someone from a different state (not NM) if no nominations come in

AZ/NM TWS JAM

- The Mexico chapter had 2 oral presentations from professors that attended, lots of posters from students from our Mexico chapter – we had sponsored \$2,000 for help with lodging and food and NM chapter waived meeting registration costs

Updates from Council (Kathy)

- Council meeting coming up: March 8,9,10 in Louisville, KY

- TWS listening session tomorrow night (Feb 27th) to discuss federal biologist lay offs and moving forward
- TWS has a script to call congressional representatives regarding fed lay offs
- TxTWS and JAM had very few federal employees. At the last minute 30 federal attendees had to pull out of the AZ/NM JAM, NM chapter had to pay for their hotel rooms
- TWS lost grants (some DEI), sponsorship (USFS), probably going to lose USGS sponsorship
- New policy person on contract for TWS
- Position statements up for discussion this year (Kathy is on committee) – responsible human use of wildlife, hunting, animal rights philosophy of wildlife conservation, wildlife fertility control
 - o Want insights from experts on these topics
 - o Anyone interested can get involved
- Annual conference in Edmonton, CA – proposals due soon (March 9) for workshops and symposium, call for abstracts in April

Treasurer Updates (Megan Clayton)

- Nicole submitted tax report
- We do have a chase bank account \$12,250.45
- This year we opened a Zelle account – 8 members used this to pay dues, and we were able to pay the Mexico chapter's meeting sponsorship faster using Zelle system
- In the past year we had \$4,055 in membership dues (\$5 per person)
- Last year, the section paid out \$3,675 for the graduate student scholarship and sponsoring the Mexico chapter to attend the AZ/NM JAM, pretty close to what we brought in from membership dues.

Sponsorships/Scholarships – Ryan Luna

- We received a request from WAFWA to sponsor their upcoming conference
- We sponsored WAFWA conference for \$500 two years ago
- Mexico chapter will have own conference in 2026, consider providing a \$500 sponsorship to support their efforts
- Do we want to bump up or add additional scholarships moving forward for students? – we get a lot of new members now that scholarship applicants are required to be Section members

Membership (All)

- We have ~800 members in the Section
- Wrangling member list is challenging – there is a list TWS maintains for us, also a list from Tx chapter meeting and some ppl paying through Zelle (multiple places that people are coming in) – maintaining the members list is one of the secretary roles. Integrating email addresses for new members into google groups sometimes is an issue. A few members have their email set up so it will not accept mass distribution emails, so those members miss communications. Also, there are limits on the number of members that can be added to Google Groups per batch and a total number that can be added per day. Maybe ask Levi to help wrangle. Maybe consider using a different system instead of Google Groups.

- Women of wildlife use Brevo to send out emails. It is a free system, as well, but also has a daily limit on emails. The AZ TWS chapter uses Member Planet for maintaining their member list, distributing emails, and sending annual reminders that dues need to be paid. It costs \$50/month.

Conservation Affairs Network (CAN) – Nick Forman

- Ranked and submitted topics to prioritize about two months ago
 - Council will be discussing these priorities and voting on them in March
- CAN call tomorrow for update – with the existing turmoil, the focus right now is more on current events instead of strategic planning. Will get back to that when things calm down.
- Town hall meeting last month to discuss how we came to those decisions

Newsletter (Madeleine and Robert)

- Published our winter newsletter, Robert and Madeleine's first newsletter
 - We aimed to keep the general formatting the same for this newsletter so we could publish quickly
- Planning to re-format and modernize, potentially with Mail Chimp or a new process moving forward
- Open to ideas or feedback, Robert and Madeleine will be meeting soon to discuss
- Tiffany may have content; she is the newsletter editor for AZ

Webmaster (Kay)

- Open to changes for the website, mostly updating content
- Can update photos, etc.

Treasurer and President Elect positions

- These positions can be hard to fill if we don't start early. Start putting out feelers now to see if anyone is interested in running

Bylaws

- Bylaws have previously been distributed via president,
- On website: about > policy <https://wildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/TWS-Southwest-Section-Bylaws-2024.pdf>
- Kay and Nicole have both noted some changes that are needed. Board members should read the bylaws and then discuss in future meetings

Nicole's last meeting as president, Ryan Luna will be running them moving forward as president.