



**LOUISIANA OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Conference Board Meeting 08/18/2007**

- 1. Call to Order by Chairman Gordon Hutchinson.**
- 2. Roll call by Secretary Lyle Johnson**

**Present;**

President Chris Holmes

Vice President Mike Lane

Secretary Lyle Johnson

Chairman of Board Gordon Hutchinson

Executive Director Vicki Holmes

(Board)

Kevin Diez

Rusty Tardo

Deb Burst

Bob Dennie

Jeff Bruhl

Rex Caffey

John Flores

Don Dubuc

Helmut Ermlich (Website)

Gerald Gaspard (Supporting Member Liaison)

**Absent**

Mike Folse

Bill Ford

- 3. Reading of Minutes**

Previous Board Meeting Minutes Accepted

#### **4. Financial Report**

Executive Director Holmes reported that the current balance in our checking account is \$2655.06 and the money market certificate total is \$6186.75; our total assets are \$8844.81. The money market certificate earned \$141.00.

#### **5. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Holmes reported four new supporting members; Skeeter Boats, Trinity Tech Institute, Helmut Ermlich Sport Shows and Heidi Hitter and CWPPRA.

#### **6. President's Comments**

Chris Holmes thanked board of directors for their attendance. Thanks also to Shreveport/Bossier CVB for their professionalism. Big thanks to Gerald Gaspard of Pure Fishing (Supporting Member Liaison) for all his help. Commented on how well both Craft Improvement seminars went.

#### **7. Chairman's Comments**

Gordon Hutchinson sent out special thanks to Chris and Vicki Holmes for their tireless work in the conference and commented on how pleased the CVB and the Holiday Inn were totally satisfied with the size of our participants which greatly reduced the cost of the Saturday night banquet.

#### **8. Committee Reports**

##### **a. Ethics (Don Dubuc)**

In his absence Rex Caffey reported that there are no ethics problems at this time.

##### **b. Internal Awards (Rex Caffey)**

Rex reported a record amount of entries; 105 entries by 23 entrants in 9 categories. He also reported about a problem with one of the entrants entries; he requested a returned receipt from the post office and they didn't deliver the package until he was notified and picked the package from the post office. The post office didn't notify Rex until after the deadline and all the entries had been mailed out and judging was underway. Due to no fault from the EIC chairman or the entrant a motion was made by Kevin Diez and seconded by Dave Moreland to seal the entries and allow them to be resubmitted and judged with the 2008 entries. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **c. Conservation Awards (Bob Dennie)**

Due to illnesses, a death in his family and consensus from the board, the awarding of the Arthur Van Pelt award will not be presented this year.

##### **d. Fish Records (Bill Ford)**

In his absence, Glen Thomas reported 8 applications for this month already and 95% of them are the new applications that are on our website, which means we are getting traffic on the website. Fly fishing applications have stopped coming in.

##### **e. Nominations (Rusty Tardo)**

No nominations to report at this time.

**f. Craft Improvement (Mike Lane)**

Thanked Gerald Gaspard and Norris from Pure Fishing for the seminar on development and marketing of products. Our own Chris Ginn did an excellent job technically and inspirationally in his presentation on photography.

**g. Membership Committee (Deb Burst)**

Deb reported the organization has 70 active members. Two are new; Jimmy Winston and Daniel McCain. General membership will vote on the delinquent dues issue and audits will resume with 1/3 of the membership audited each year for three years.

**h. Youth Journalism (Gordon Hutchinson)**

Gordon happily reported that there were 339 entries from 248 contestants. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of entries since the contest started. Nine of the thirteen winners and their families are expected at the banquet.

**9. Old Business**

**a. Website Update (Helmut Ermlich)**

A motion was made by Kevin Diez and seconded by rusty Tardo to authorize spending up to \$1500 to customize our website so that the responsible parties for each segment of the site will be responsible to keep it updated. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. New Business**

**a. Youth Journalism Contest Mentoring Program**

Lyle Johnson reported that 12 of 13 winners will participate in the inaugural class of mentorship. We have enough volunteers to get the program underway. As he contacted the parents and young people, enthusiasm for the program was off the charts.

**b. Membership Dues Renewals and Late Fees**

A motion was made and seconded to resolve membership renewals and late fees. Membership dues will be payable December 1<sup>st</sup>. After February 28<sup>th</sup> and dues are not paid, membership will be terminated. After February 28<sup>th</sup> any lapsed membership can be renewed for a double fee of \$60. If the membership remains lapsed for the calendar year, reapplication will have to be done and approved by Membership Chairman which includes an audit. This motion will be voted on at general membership meeting to be approved by full membership.

**c. Executive Directors Review**

By unanimous consensus, Vicki Holmes, our executive director was given an outstanding rating from the board for her dedication to our organization.

**d. 2008 Conference Site**

Motion made by Chris Holmes and seconded by Kevin Diez to hold our 2008 annual conference in Morgan City. The motion carried unanimously.

**e. 2009 Conference Site**

The board agreed to entertain suggestions from the general membership meeting for consideration of site to be selected.

**f. Past Presidents Committee**

At Gordon Hutchinson's suggestion a motion was made by Dave Moreland and seconded by Mike Lane to establish a "Past Presidents Committee". This committee will comprised of all past presidents to serve as an advisory committee. A favorable vote was unanimous.

**g. Youth Hunter Registry**

Dave Moreland advised the board of a "Youth Hunter Registry" to be established by LDWF to recognize deer and turkey of the year for our young people. A suggestion was made for the board to consider adding these two categories to our current record keeping. The board will consider it at our next board meeting.

**h. Adjournment**