



**LOUISIANA OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Conference Board Meeting 2008**

**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)**

Rex Caffey

Deb Burst

Kevin Diez

John Flores

Dave Moreland

**Absent**

Mike Folse

Bob Dennie

Jeff Bruhl

Don Dubuc

Bill Ford

Rusty Tardo

Gerald Gaspard (Supporting Member Liaison)

Joe Herring (Past President)

**3. Reading of Minutes**

Previous Board Meeting Minutes Accepted

**4. Financial Report;** MM account balance is \$1,383.01 and our checking account balance is \$11,683.10. We also have \$790.16 in our Paypal account which will be transferred to the checking account after the conference. The total in all accounts

is \$13,856.27. The interest rate in the Money Market has gone down to 2.71 percent. So far this year, we have earned \$118.89 this year in interest payments.

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

### **2008 Annual Conference**

So far the conference is going well. Our attendance is down from Shreveport. We have 23 members registered for the entire conference and an additional nine who registered for the banquet.

While at SEOPA, I met up with our General Motors contact, Craig Eppling. He offered a \$3,000.00 sponsorship of our conference. I have not gotten the check yet, but he requested and I sent him an invoice. I will email the board once I receive this check.

### **2009 Annual Conference**

Katie Harrington with the Southwest Louisiana CVB is here at the conference and has brought Eric Zartler, the Athletic Sales Manager for the CVB. They wanted to come to get the lay of the land with regard to our conference. They also sponsored our Trade Show good and drink last night.

### **Supporting Members**

We do not have any new Supporting Members, but when speaking with Kelly Haydel, he advised that Haydel's Game Calls will once again join LOWA as a supporting member.

### **2008 Conference Report**

**6. President's Comments;** Brought up to board the need to increase dues for membership and supporting membership to be addressed at general membership meeting. Suggested increase was \$40.00 for active members and \$75.00 for supporting members.

**7. Chairman's Comments;** No comments at this time.

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

**a. Ethics (Don Dubuc);** none at this time.

**b. Internal Awards (Rex Caffey);** This year we had 101 entries from 26 members, we collected \$6300 from 11 sponsors for 27 awards under 9 categories of EIC competition. One new sponsor came on board, CCA of LA (thanks to Lyle

Johnson). The other (renewing) sponsors included: LA Forestry Assn, LA Assn. of Professional Biologists, LA Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation, LA Hunting and Fishing (RodnReel.com), LA Sportsman Magazine, LA Charter boat Assn, LA Boat Show/NMMA, CWPPRA, Cajun Coast, Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association.

We had 14 members who were selected to receive awards.

Judges were recruited (with help from OWAA) from 9 states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, New York, Tennessee.

The Board agreed to two changes to the EIC rules:

- 1) Competition will be only open to LOWA members who are LA residents
- 2) EIC committee will consist of the chairman plus the E.D., or one additional member to be identified by the president of LOWA - the EIC committee members will not be able to participate - but from hence forth the LOWA president will be able to participate - provided he/she does not serve on the EIC committee.

Rex Caffey has agreed to serve as EIC Chair for 2009 (his 4th year) and will reevaluate afterwards.

**c. Conservation Awards (Bob Dennie);** There were two nominees for the Arthur Van Pelt award; Joe Macaluso and Gerald Horst. 100% of the board voted and Joe Macaluso is the recipient of this year's award.

**d. Fish Records (Bill Ford);** No updated report at this time.

**e. Nominations (Rusty Tardo)** The Board nominated the following persons for the eight elected positions; Lyle Johnson for president, Mike Land for vice president, John Flores for recording secretary and Helmut Ermlich, Chris Ginn, Rusty Tardo, Dave Moreland and Kevin Diez for the Board of Directors.

**f. Craft Improvement (Mike Lane)** The Craft Improvement seminars went very well and looking forward to next year's event. Special thanks to Mike Mattly of Knight Rifles and Lawrence Taylor of Pradco Outdoor Brands for their travel to the conference and expert presentations.

**g. Membership Committee (Deb Burst)** We are pleased to announce that 6 new members (3 males & 3 females) have submitted applications. Five have been accepted and the 6<sup>th</sup> one has been approved.

**h. Youth Journalism (Gordon Hutchinson)** Nine of the thirteen winners will be present at the banquet this year. The results along with the winning photos & essays can be found at [www.lowa-yjc.com](http://www.lowa-yjc.com) courtesy of Mike Lane & rodnreel.com.

**Old Business;** No old business at this time.

**New Business**

- a. Motion by Gordon Hutchinson to reimburse Mike Lane for website expenses for [www.lowa-yjc.com](http://www.lowa-yjc.com) website; second by Kevin Diez. Motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned.**