



LOUISIANA OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
General Membership 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

Don Dubuc

Absent

Mike Folse

Bob Dennie

Jeff Bruhl

Bill Ford

Rusty Tardo

Gerald Gaspard (Supporting Member Liaison)

Joe Herring (Past President)

3. Reading of Minutes

Previous Membership 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; Thanked everyone for attendance and made mention of low turnout for Craft Improvement Seminars.

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); Award will be presented at banquet.

d. Fish Records (Bill Ford); Due to a dispute on a rejected application discussion came forth about the decision to deny a fish that was dispatched with a pistol after being gaffed and secured. Decisions by committees are voted upon amongst the committee members. The action by the anglers was deemed mutilation; the vote was 2 to 1 against the application. The mutilation rule was then changed by the committee to specifically exclude the use of firearms.

Joe Macaluso then made a motion to allow committee members to change rules for that committee during a calendar year. The rule change would then apply until the general membership meeting where a vote of the members would take place. A second was made by Butch Thurmond and passed by a show of hands.

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. Butch Thurmond made a motion to accept the board's nominations, second by Joe Macaluso. Nominees were elected unanimously. Chris Ginn and Helmut Ermlich replaced outgoing board members Jeff Bruhl and Mike Folse.

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 6th one has been approved.

After some discussion, Deb Burst made a motion to require Louisiana residency to compete in Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association's EIC awards. A second was made by Butch Thurmond and the motion carried unanimously. Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries language for resident license applications wording will be used.

Bona Fide Resident:

1. Any person who has resided in this state continuously during the 12 months immediately prior to the date on which he applies for any license and who has manifested his intent to remain in this state by establishing Louisiana as his legal domicile, as demonstrated by compliance with all of the following, as applicable:

If registered to vote, he is registered to vote in Louisiana

If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana drivers license

If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, he is in possession of a valid Louisiana registration for that vehicle

If earning an income, he has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

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 courtesy of Mike Lane & rodnreel.com.

Old Business; Fish Records brochure was a success.

New Business

- a. Motion by Lyle Johnson to increase membership dues from \$30 to \$40 per year for active members and from \$50 to \$75 for supporting members; second by Gordon Hutchinson. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.