



LOUISIANA OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
Annual General Membership Meeting
August 7, 2010

- 1. Call to Order by Chairman**
- 2. Roll call by Secretary John Flores**

Present; 3:51 P.M.

(Executive Board):

President Lyle Johnson

Secretary John Flores

Chairman of Board/Executive Director Chris Holmes

(Board of Directors):

Wendy Billiot

Helmut Ermlich

Rusty Tardo (Board Member & Nominations Committee Chair)

Dave Moreland

Bo Boehringer – Internal Awards Committee Chair

Gordo Hutchinson – Youth Journalism Chair

Bill Ford – Fish Records Committee Chair

Don Dubuc – Ethics Committee Chair

Absent:

Mike Lane – Vice President & Craft Improvement Committee Chair

Chris Ginn – Board Member

Bob Dennie – Conservation Award Committee Chair

1. Call to Order and Calling of the Roll:

Board Secretary, John Flores called rolled and recorded members present and absent.

2. Reading of minutes of last meeting:

Joe Macaluso gave a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Rusty Tardo. All members were in favor.

3. Comments from the Executive Director and Financial Report:

The E.D. did not provide financials to the general membership, but did explain the account balance was currently higher due to unpaid 2010 conference expenditures, along with YJC and EIC awards still to be presented.

Announced the banquet will start promptly at 7:00 P.M. and encouraged everyone to participate in the raffle, which is part of the LOWA fund raising for taking care of expenses incurred for the annual conference. Moreover, this year's prizes exceed \$2,000 in donations.

4. Presidents Report:

Thanked everyone for their support during his first 2 years serving in the capacity of President and expressed would be willing to serve another term; and, looked forward to improving the organization if nominated.

5. Committee Reports:

A. Youth Journalism – Gordon Hutchinson:

Mr. Hutchinson expressed that the Advocate Educational Services budget was reduced along with the number of ads the paper ran in past years. As a result a fair, but small submission of entries was received. Mr. Hutchinson reported most of the winners would be present at the Awards banquet, along with Ron and Jackie Bartel who will represent the Safari Club to present the awards to the youth. A thank you also goes out to Safari Club who puts up \$1,100 in prizes for these youth with thanks especially to Pug Loran Safari Club president.

B. Internal Awards – Mr. Bo Boehringer:

Mr. Boehringer reported the EIC Awards was currently a work in progress as he makes his first presentation since taking over for Mr. Rex Caffey. And, that he appreciated the great effort and lengths that Rex went to in organizing it for the future. Mr. Boehringer said he looked forward to the banquet that evening and thanked everyone for their help and assistance.

C. Membership Committee Report:

President Lyle Johnson announced Deb Burst's stepping down as membership Chairman after 3 years of service. He also announced Wendy Billiot accepted the appointment to serve as Membership Committee Chairman; and, encouraged everyone to support her during her transition to the position.

D. Ethics Report – Don Dubuc:

Mr. Don Dubuc reported no ethics concerns at this time for the membership.

E. Conservation Awards – Mr. Bob Dennie:

E.D. Chris Holmes reported: Mr. Bob Dennie, was not present at the meeting, nor provided a report due to poor health, as expected. During the April Board meeting it was discussed, followed by a motion and second to present a new lifetime achievement award in Mr. Bob Dennie's name. A group will take the first Lifetime Achievement Award and present it to Mr. Dennie at his home in Baton Rouge after the annual conference. Moreover, a card will be available for every member to sign and pass on warm wishes.

F. Fish Records Committee – Mr. Bill Ford:

Mr. Ford reported no new records were reported, but they did evaluate a Large Mouth Bass that will move up to 2nd place in that category, only missing the mark by 100/th's of a pound. The bass was caught at Valentine Lake. Mr. Ford also mentioned that Mr. Bill Walters will be honored in absence for fish of the year – an 1150 pound Mako Shark caught in Louisiana waters – announced Jerald Horst new membership to the fish records committee board.

G. Nominations Committee – Mr. Rusty Tardo: The portion of this activity took place under NEW BUSINESS.

Mr. Tardo reported all currently serving members agreed to continue to serve in their present capacities, but there were two nominations required for the vice president position and an open board position. Mr. Joe Macaluso accepted the nomination for V.P. James Goose was nominated for the at large position and agreed also to serve. No opposition candidates were nominated to run against any of those accepting nominations, therefore, a full board has been implemented for another two years.

H. Craft Improvement Committee – Mr. Mike Lane:

Mr. Lane was not present at the meeting to provide a report, but E.D. Chris Holmes thanked Bo Boehringer for getting Mr. Mike Carloss and Larry Reynolds from the LDWF to provide timely seminars for the state of the coastline and waterfowl post B.P. Oil Spill disaster.

I. Supporting Member Committee – Mr. Gerald Gaspard:

Mr. Gaspard was absent from the General Membership Meeting. However, E.D. Chris Holmes thanked Gerald, on behalf of the entire membership for his new product demonstration the previous evening and his continued commitment to LOWA. Joe Macaluso announced new supporting member CCA.

6. Old Business:

None to review.

7. New Business:

A. E.D. Chris Holmes brought up discussions for future sights of the 2011 Annual Conference telling the membership packets were sent out to Lake Charles, Shreveport, and of late, Gonzales. After discussions that focused on the need for the location – “in order to have good turn outs” – must take in to consideration number of the banquet attendees, where incoming guests will be able to stay, considering minimal travel for most is 2-hours, and close to fishing/shooting activities. Further discussions were tabled for a future meeting.

B. President Lyle Johnson brought up that he would like to develop a student membership program and asked the board to form a committee or have discussions on criteria for a membership of this kind. After much discussion the program idea was tabled for further discussion at a later date. But, all agreed it would be a great program with plenty of potential for member involvement.

C. Election Year – see Nominations Committee Report above.

Meeting adjourned: 4:36 P.M.

