

## **GBAC BOARD MEETING**

**Held March 28, 2023**

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Vivian Allen, Laura Clark, Mary Dobberstine, Gene Fisseler, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Meade LeBlanc, Mike Petitt, Abhi Prasad, Patty Trimmingham. Also present were Tracy Walpole and Chapter Advisor, Julie Massey.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 6:00 pm.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The minutes of the March meeting that had been emailed previously to the Board were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Vivian to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Pam mentioned that Chuck and his team continued to test the Hybrid Light meeting technology and that they were prepared for the next Chapter meeting scheduled for April 6. Pam felt confident that the meeting would be well attended.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

In new business, Pam discussed a request for reimbursement in the amount of \$848.24 from the HawkWatch leaders for the acquisition of five Signicade A-Frame signs and weather durable hawk identification inserts. The signs would be stored at the Carbide office and would be available for other events when not being used by HawkWatch during March and April. Discussion ensued after which a motion was made by Mike Petitt to approve the reimbursement. Lisa provided the second, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

#### **President (Pam House)**

Pam reported that she has been working on a PowerPoint for the upcoming Chapter meeting. She noted that Treasures of the Bay recipients for 2020, 2021, and 2022 would be recognized at the meeting. She was also preparing slides about how volunteer service has been building each year and the variety of the Chapter's volunteer service.

#### **Vice President (Gene Fisseler)**

Gene noted that he was very much looking forward to Kjell N. Lindgren's presentation, *A Window on the World*, on April 6 and would be planning an appropriate introduction. Looking ahead, he was happy to report that Lisa Gonzalez, Vice President and Executive

Director of Audubon, Texas, had agreed to speak at the following Chapter meeting scheduled for June 1.

### **Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)**

Meade reported that she had acquired the iPad and Square Up device for the Chapter Store that had been approved at the previous meeting. Next Meade provided the financial report detailing activity through March 25, 2023. Following some discussion, a motion was made by Gene and seconded by Mike to accept the financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Pam noted that in an effort to be both transparent and avoid waste, she would like to make a notebook of the latest financial reports available for inspection by members at Chapter meetings and provide printed copies upon request.

### **Membership (Patty Trimmingham)**

Patty noted that Chapter members had reported 3,289.25 Volunteer Service hours and 372.75 AT hours through March 26, 2023. Personal impacts were up from 820 in February to 1,411. The Chapter has 245 active members, while 255 members have paid 2023 Chapter dues. Patty announced that Alan Wilde had achieved 10,000 hours. Patty also reported that the Service Hours Achievement plaques at Carbide Park had been updated, and she welcomed members to go by and view them. Gene observed that updating the plaques required massive effort, and he thanked Patty and her team. Finally, Patty thanked Tracy for creating a Google form that would allow members to sign in electronically at future meetings.

### **Volunteer Service Hours (Jo Monday)**

As Jo was traveling, Pam reported that Jo was looking for a new volunteer to train as the next Volunteer Services Director. Jo has been reaching out to a few prospects, but all suggestions would be welcome.

### **Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)**

Mike was pleased to report that two AT presentations had been completed since the February board meeting: *Wrens—Little Birds with Lots of Energy* by Scott Kiester on March 22 was attended by 45 members and had gone well. There had been an independent presentation by Rick Becker on March 25 on *Monofilament Collection and Recycling*. Upcoming AT would include a program on iNaturalist by Scott Buckel on April 12, a program on Bald Eagles by Mary Schwartz on May 17, and a program on Texas Native Cats by Monica Morrison on June 14. As Mohammed was traveling, Mike mentioned his Community Presentations, *Houston Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBOR): Our City's Promises to Future Generations* by Fernanda Marrero Hi scheduled for April 4, and "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Armand Bayou Nature Center" by Tim Pylate on May 23.

## **Communications (Mary Dobberstine)**

Mary reported that she was working on several areas of Communications at once. Regarding Photography and Publicity, Mary was looking for volunteers to organize and monitor the Chapter's photo database. To promote Publicity, Mary had written a HawkWatch article and had offered it to several news outlets. (Following the meeting, Mary reported that the article had been accepted and would be published by *Reporter News* on April 5.) Mary had also posted information on bulletin boards with the *Bay Area Citizen* and the *Galveston Daily News*.

On the Archives side, Mary was developing a master list of documents that could be curated and monitored in a central location.

Finally, regarding the redevelopment of the Speakers' Bureau and Outreach Committee, Mary observed that the Board may need to reexamine the goals and the steps necessary for implementation. Mary had received a list of past speakers and presentations from Sarah Snell, and she was going to reach out to those members to see if their presentations were still on topic or if they had developed new presentations. However, Mary asked for more direction from the Board in the context of a designated committee for the Speakers' Bureau and Outreach. Pam thanked Mary and encouraged her to add a discussion of this component of Communications to the agenda for the next meeting.

## **Class Reps Spring 2022 Class**

Lisa noted that the first day of Spring Class Training would take place on Thursday, March 30, and that the 2022 Class was organized and ready to serve the welcome luncheon that day. Next, Vivian reported that in her participation in transporting injured birds to the Wildlife Center on Old Katy Road in Houston, she and her sister had met halfway to save time and fuel costs. Vivian asked if it might be possible to form cooperative partnerships with other TMN chapters to form relay transport teams. Julie offered to share this idea with her contacts at the Gulf Coast Chapter.

## **Class Reps Fall 2022 Class**

Abhi observed that almost everyone in the fall class was working toward their first certification. Discussion ensued regarding support and assistance that could be provided to help every trainee succeed.

## **Chapter Advisor (Julie Massey)**

Julie was looking forward to welcoming 22 enthusiastic trainees of the new Spring Training Class on Thursday, March 30. She was also excited about new partnerships that might arise from researchers who were submitting proposals for Sea Grant, and she promised additional information in the coming months.

Finally, in preparation for the upcoming Chapter meeting, Pam asked that all prepared slides be submitted to Chuck for inclusion in the business portion of the meeting. She announced that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Tuesday, April 25, and that Gene would chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes