

GBAC BOARD MAY MEETING
May 27, 2025
South Shore Grill

Attendees via Zoom: Mary Dobberstine, Jenny Dudley, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Gene Fisseler, Sharon Tirpak, Julie Massey, Mohammed Nasrullah, Tracy Walpole, Anthony Soliz-Rocha, Mary McElligott, and Denise Correll.

Absent members were Robin Novak, Mary Jean Slazer, and Brandi Keller

Mary Dobberstine, President, reminded members of the meeting date and agenda via email on May 22, 2025. The date was originally announced at the April board meeting.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mary asked everyone to introduce themselves, state his or her class year and share a volunteer activity they enjoy.

Mary called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

The quorum requirement was established by Lisa Hardcastle, Secretary.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Jenny to approve the Consent Agenda items. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **2025 HEB Pollinator Garden Grant**

Mohammed shared the status of his application for the grant. He has completed the application and its supplements. The proposed project will be a pollinator garden at the Clear Lake Islamic Center. The garden will be approximately 1,200 square feet and located at the center in the Clear Lake area. A detailed budget, site map, timeline, volunteer plan, and maintenance plan were shared and will be included in the application. He is requesting \$4,100 for the project.

After questions were answered and suggestions made, **a motion was made by Lisa and seconded by Jenny to approve the Clear Lake Islamic Center Pollinator Garden application for the 2025 HEB Pollinator Garden Grant. The motion passed unanimously.**

- **Dragonfly BINGO**

Mary reported that the Dragonfly BINGO card and rules are ready and will be shared with members at the June chapter meeting. An electronic form and rules will also be shared via email to chapter members. She reminded the board that in addition to encouraging members to try diverse types of volunteer activities, the

contest is also intended to encourage members to socialize and “volunteer with a friend.”

- **Milestone Volunteer Service Hours Award Plaques**

Gene shared a “mock-up” of an alternative to the current milestone volunteer service hour award plaques and name plates used to honor chapter members. This alternative is a printed list of milestone volunteer service hour award levels and names of members who obtained that level during the year inserted into an acrylic frame. This alternative would reduce the amount of time and money spent on the current process. The consensus was that this was a great idea.

New Business

- **Communication Director Candidate Proposal**

Mary reported that Chloe Stifler has expressed interest in becoming the new Communications Director. Chloe sent Mary an email outlining the skills that she brings to the role.

Jenny made a motion to approve Chloe Stifler as the Communications Director and Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports

President (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary reminded the board that our chapter meeting is next week. Mason Gilfoil has requested to speak about angler education and Stennie Meadours would like to speak about the bird rescue team.

She is also thinking ahead to a chapter event in the fall and our chapter’s 25th anniversary next year.

Vice President (Jenny Dudley)

Jenny reported on the upcoming chapter meeting speakers: Gary Seloff, photographer, in June; Ashley Jones, state archeologist, in August and Daniel Imrecke, geologist, in October.

Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade shared that she now has a locked drawer at Carbide Park which will be used to store the Square® device, iPad, and petty cash.

Immediate Past President (Gene Fisseler)

Gene and Mary have reviewed chapter documents and comments have been sent to the state.

Director Reports

Advanced Training Director (Robin Novak)

Robin was unable to attend.

Communication Director (Mary Dobberstine)

No update.

Community Engagement Director (Mohammed Nasrullah)

Upcoming activities include the Juneteenth celebration on June 14 (he will need volunteers), a presentation by the Green Muslims director on July 1, and a new project in collaboration with the Woods Project involving birding with inner city high school students. Jenny offered to assist with the birding project.

Membership Director (Tracy Walpole)

Highlights of the membership report include:

- 248 active members, 23 in training and eight people interested in the program.
- April member activities (as of 5/4/25) include 5,468.75 volunteer service hours and 405.5 advanced training hours.
- All members of the 2025 training class have completed classroom training and nine of the 29 have certified.
- Milestone volunteer service hour awards include Billie Brinkley – 250, Alyssa Goforth – 500, Jason Miles, Paul Morken and Kat Pollock – 1,000, and Patty Trimingham – 10,000!

Outreach Coordinator (Lisa Hardcastle)

An outreach event was held in April and approximately 200 intermediate school students learned what bird they would be based on their wingspan. The next event is World Ocean Day in Galveston on June 7 and six chapter members will be volunteering at our outreach booth.

Lisa was excited to announce that Denise Correll has agreed to assume the role of Outreach Coordinator. Lisa will meet with Denise to help with the transition.

Training Class Director (Julie Massey)

Julie was pleased to report that nine members of the new class have already certified. Additionally, the class came in under budget, mainly because they were unable to go out on the bay due to weather conditions, saving the cost of the boat charter.

Additionally, she and Gene have agreed to lead the next class in 2026.

Volunteer Service Director (Sharon Tirpak)

Sharon reported that things have been quiet and that Tracy and Patty responded to emails while she was out of town recently. She will be meeting with Gene soon to review partner and sponsor lists.

Other Reports**New Class Representatives (Anthony Soliz-Rocha, Mary Jean Slazer and Mary McElligott)**

Mary introduced Anthony and Mary to the board. Mary Jean is also excited to be a class representative but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mary briefly informed them of their duties but will meet with them at another time to discuss the duties in more detail.

Chapter Advisor (Brandi Keller)

Brandi was unable to attend.

Announcements

Our next meeting will be on June 24 via Zoom.

Review Action Items

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle