

POMN Board Meeting Minutes

3 December 2020

Zoom Meeting (Virtual)

The meeting was called to order by President Karen Aho at 6:03 pm.

Board members in attendance: Karen Aho, Katie Moses, Edd Robinett, Ashley Medeiros, Lynn Wood, Barbara Salter, Bill Hopkins, Colton Claborn, Devin Erxleben

The minutes from May 7, 2020 stand approved.

Officer Reports

1. Edd (Treasurer)- November 6th balance was \$5,456.11. Current balance is now \$5,581.48.
2. Katie (Vice President)- no report.
3. Ashley (Secretary)- no report
4. Katie (Vice President)- working on presentations for the first quarter of 2021. She will send those to Lynn to be shared with the upcoming training class.
5. Karen (President)- no report

Director/Chair Reports

1. Bill (Communications Dir.)- Some members reported they were not receiving events through the email. Bill reviewed this and found problems and corrected various things (incorrect emails, etc).
2. Barbara (Membership Dir.)- Currently have 75 eligible volunteers, of those, 40 are active members, 33 have logged hours for this year. 1637 total hours logged for 2020. We have 35 in-training members, 26 have logged hours, totaling 87 volunteer hours. Certification and recertification milestones include 2 initial recertifications where one volunteer is from the 2020 class (AWESOME!). Sadly, she is moving back to the Houston area but intends to continue volunteering until she joins another chapter closer to her new home. We also have 12 other

recertifications. Five people have reached the 250 milestones this year, one reached 1000 hours! (WOW!!) Twenty-four in-training members from the 2020 class and 11 from the 2019 class. There are several from the 2019 class that have until the end of December to recertify or will be classified as inactive.

Barbara will reach out to those facing inactive status.

Edd suggested that survey or questionnaire to find out intentions of inactive members. Barbara expressed similar sentiments saying many people just aren't comfortable going out at this time and also some don't have ease of access to virtual meetings. Texting and emails are another mode of communication Barbara will use to contact members.

3. Barbara (Volunteer Service)- no report
4. Colton (Advanced Training)- Over the past few months, Colton has received several suggestions for advanced training. Other than that, nothing further to report.
5. Lynn (New Training Class Dir.)- Solicitation for member for the new training class went live in November. Since then we've had 4 citizen respondents asking for applications and we've had one from our 2020 class asking to return. There's about 6 or so students in limbo, unsure whether they will continue. Ten students from TSU have registered, with a total of 14 needed to complete class capacity requirements. Class will officially start on January 13th for the citizens and students and citizens will start the following week. Speakers are lined up as well as field trips except one. Lynn is reaching out to Kyle Waters to fulfill an aquatic field trip to the Proctor Lake wetlands.
6. Nature Center- Grant funding is complete. Two plants have died that need to be replaced.

Advisors

1. Devin - no report

Old/Unfinished Business

1. Board retreat is to be decided by newly elected president, Katie.

2. Agrilife advisor search is ongoing. Any suggestions for this role, such as someone from the local extension agency, are welcomed.
3. Diversity & equity inclusion discussion is ongoing.

New Business

1. Covid-19 (Karen)- Numbers are starting to go back up and Agrilife has updated their policies and we have updated ours. Karen forwarded emails from the state to the group. Our counties are listed, categorizing them based on number of Covid-19 cases. We need to continue current protocol (meetings at 10 people or less, 75% capacity, no overnight events, seek alternative methods to face-to-face meetings).
2. Financial examination (Katie)- Email was sent out to board members. Approvals were given via email in lieu of signatures. Finalized paperwork will be sent to the treasurer along with a copy of the minutes.
3. Dues scholarship for students- Karen had a discussion with a student as to whether they would join POMN. Student was hesitant because of dues owed to join the chapter. \$25 could be a barrier between students and joining the chapter. Bill suggested reducing or eliminating dues amount for students as an incentive to join. Board will consult the CMOP.
4. 2021 Budget- Karen suggested pulling back spending since we'll have fewer members. We only had \$750 in dues for 2020. Couples dues are \$35/yr, individuals are \$25/yr. Edd will approximate the amount of dues for 2021. The training class registration fees will also be lower this coming year.
5. Nature Fest 2021 is undetermined regarding date, sponsorship, and overall participation. This year (2020), many businesses did not respond. Potentially reduce asking amount (\$200-\$300?), or ask in person instead of email/call, or focus on donations only.
6. 2021 Chapter meetings will remain on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6pm.
7. Next board meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2021 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

Minutes were prepared by Ashley Medeiros.