Minutes for STMN Meeting 4/19/2022

7:00 pm by Zoom

Speaker introduced by Leslie Albrecht, Vice President

Speaker: Captain Jay Tarkington, Center for Coastal Studies

Attendees: Michele Connolly, Leslie Albrecht, Suanne Pyle, Leslie Hoekstra, Cindy Frank, Janice Knezek, Chad Huckabee, Marie Kieber Emmons, Mike Wenzel, Bibi Dalrymple, Art Siebert, Randy Bissell, Rebecca Johnson, Jennifer Pshigoda, Michelle Alvarez, Ada Anderson, David Niepert, Chuck Blend, Christine Blend, Winnie Schrum, Bryan Tilley, Phil Woods, Ann Flanagan, George Gardiner, Holly Grand, Jacquelyn Jones, Janice Ainbinder, Jean Meadors, Kevin Gibbs, Lari Jo Edwards, Jason Edwards, Melissa Williams, Paula Baker, Rebecca Maestas, Ric Garces, Ricardo Rodriguez

Call to Order at 7:57 by Michele Connolly

The minutes of our last meeting are posted to our website (https://txmn.org/st/meetings/chapter-meeting-documents/). Are there any new corrections to the minutes? The minutes will stand as posted.

Visitors and Guests were welcomed, David Nyford, Melissa Williams

Awards: Cindy Frank

* Recertifications for 2022 – Chuck Blend, Dawn Bissell, Randy Bissell, Adel Casiano, Suanne Pyle, Carol Singleton, Elaine Tiller
* 250 Hours pin – Wendy Hill, Teri Gettelfinger, Janice Knezek
* Lightning Whelk pins are in and Cindy Frank handed out to everyone there who had earned it. She will distribute to the other members in a timely manner.

President’s report: Michele Connolly

* The next meeting will be hybrid Zoom and at Flour Bluff Intermediate Library
* On Wednesday, April 27 the South Texas Texas Master Naturalists will be recognized by the Commissioner’s Court for Volunteer Appreciation Week. The meeting begins at 8:30 on the third floor of the Courthouse. We don’t know when during the meeting we will be recognized. We will be introduced by Kevin Gibbs and Michele will be our representative there. Any members of the group are welcome to go, the more the merrier! Casual TMN attire is appropriate.
* Michele stated that our current way of getting information out to volunteers was a bit clunky. Information is presented in many ways such as emails, the website, calendars etc. We need to improve our communication. During the two years of the pandemic we weren’t able to have live events. We are now beginning to so we need a better way to communicate.
* We are working on creating a Members Only Zone on our website. Mike Wenzel, Randy Bissell and Suanne Pyle are leading this effort. This will have the Members Directory, bios of the members, pictures of events, a calendar etc. The calendar will be the hardest part to keep current and updated. Lari Jo Edwards volunteered to work on the calendar.
* Chad brought up Earth Day. He said volunteers need to be at Flour Bluff school by 7:00 am on Friday, April 22. Grace sent an email to some members. Do we have volunteers for Earth Day? Five or six members said they were going. Michele again said we need better organization. We need sign up sheets so everyone knows when, where and what they will be doing. Suanne said signup for Kidfish worked well. Mike said we could put the sign up sheets on the Members Only Zone.
* Michele said we are looking for donations to create kits for events such as school visits. We need marine items such as shells and land items such as bones. We can’t collect any bird parts because of the Migratory Bird Act. Donations can be given to Cindy Frank or Michelle Connolly on the Island or Suanne Pyle in Port Aransas or bring to a meeting. We will set up an inventory system by drilling holes or writing on the artifacts and attaching a tag with pertinent info. We will then put it all in a spreadsheet. We will then have training on how to identify and use the items. They will then be available to check out from the storage shed

Vice President Report: Leslie Albrecht

* If anyone has a last minute presentation they can do, please let Leslie A. know.
* She showed a bucket that she got from Firehouse Subs. It costs $3.00 and is a fundraiser for Firemen.

Secretary: Suanne Pyle

* She urged members to read the minutes when they are posted on the website
* She said she has the notebook of all the rules and regulations we are supposed to follow as Master Naturalists so if there is a question or issue during a meeting we will have the resources handy.

Treasurer Report: Leslie Hoekstra

* 56 members renewed (3 in 2021), 19 trainees from 2021, 2 advisors for a total of 77 members
* Kudos to Cindy Frank for helping with membership dues
* Leslie H. bought textbooks for the 2022 class. They cost around $900.
* See financial report at end

Immediate Past President: Bibi Dalrymple

* Nothing to report

Advanced Training Director: Chad Huckabee

* Nothing to report

Communications Director: Michael Wenzel

* Members only Zone will be a one stop shop!
* What are other Chapters doing? We need to do some research. Do we need an Event Committee?

Membership Director: Michelle Alvarez

* The next social will be at Hazel Bazemore Park, tentatively scheduled for June 25, 2022. It will be a kayaking adventure. Randy said they are looking into bringing in an outfitter to help those who are new and to bring kayaks.
* We now have updated brochures. You can get physical copies from Michelle or download from the website.
* Thanks to the members who have responded with their info for the Member directory. If you haven’t the Membership Committee will be contacting you for your information.

New Class Director (Initial Training): Phillip Woods

* The final schedule for training should be available this week. The beginning of the year Social for everyone is the 13th of August, location TBA. Hazel Bazemore training will be the first Saturday in September and PINS will be on October 8. There are two new venues this year including UTMSI and Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center.
* There are about 35 people who have expressed interest in the 2022 class. Anyone interested needs to fill out the paperwork now on the state website. A letter of intent will be sent in May.
* The Committee is working on aligning the objectives and agenda to better reflect our goals.
* Several people asked if members could go to training sessions. They haven’t the last two years because of COVID. Phil said we would have to determine that when the time comes.
* A shout out to the GLO for providing giveaways for the new class

New Class Representative Report: Katilyn Parker, not present

Volunteer Management Report: Cindy Frank

* Cindy said she and Chad, Ada, and Janice A. have a Junior Master Naturalist group at Flour Bluff Elementary. They present an award at the end of the year. It is called the Golden Trowel Award and is awarded for attending meetings and working in the garden. Cindy asked if the chapter would reimburse them for the cost which was about $50. Leslie A made the motion that the Chamber pay for the Flour Bluff Elementary Junior Master Naturalists Golden Trowel award. Rebecca Johnson seconded the Motion. The Ayes were Unanimous

Announcements:

* A member asked if there could be a discount on the digital book. Kevin Gibbs said the price was set by Amazon and we had no control over it.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

1 hour of AT, 1 hour of Chapter Business

TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

FINANCIAL REPORT

April 19, 2022

SAVINGS $ 1,821.12

.67 Interest 3/31/22

TOTAL $ 1,821.79

CHECKING $ 5,795.69 Beginning Balance as of April 1, 2022

48.25 Two Annual dues payments by CC

40.00 Annual Dues and a Name Badge

25.00 Annual Dues

TOTAL $ 5,908.94

2 YEAR CD $ 4,440.38 Maturity Date: November 14, 2023

3.92 Interest 3/31/22

$ 4,444.30

TOTAL $12,175.03

Annual Dues Paid for 2022

56 Renewed (3 in 2021)

19 Trainees 2021

2 Advisors (no annual dues required)

77 Total