

WRNC Board Meeting Sunday, February 17th, 2008

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Present: Elizabeth Hanrahan, Jean Chamberlain, Carla Johnson, Mary Weiss, Alicia Cawlfeld, Toni O'Neil, Linda Bergman, Dr. Laurel Degernes, Dr. Lauren Powers, Elaine Corvidae, Shannon Westbrook

Absent: Beth Knapp-Tyner, Jennifer Gordon, Janenie Ledbetter (all excused)

[This teleconference meeting was recorded to help with the minutes.]

Meeting called to order by President Elizabeth Hanrahan, roll call by Secretary Toni O'Neil.

1. Symposium Evaluation/Follow Up: Jean reported that the evaluations that were turned in were good. The survey results indicate to have future symposiums remain in the Raleigh location, and several board members also felt the same way. There were a few negative comments concerning the hotel accommodations, and primarily that people preferred to stay in one that offered a free continental breakfast. The symposium committee would look into other hotel options and possibly finding another hotel location for next year.
2. Chimney Swift Towers: Elizabeth mentioned that the synopsis that Linda did for this project was great. Linda announced that the project was completed for this year, and the final approvals had been made. The checks, books, and acceptance letters have all been mailed out by Jean. The letters to those who did not get selected were also sent out, along with encouragement for them to reapply and information on ways to update their next application packet. She said several applicants have already contacted her to find out how they could become more competitive for next year. File copies have been sent by email to be included in the Secretary Notebook. Linda also announced that a couple in Sneads Ferry had read her Letter to the Editor in the newspaper about the CS Towers. Even though they didn't plan on applying for the grant, the woman wanted a tower, and her husband built her one for a Christmas present. Linda went out last week to view this tower, which is located near Swan Point off Stump Sound. She was absolutely thrilled to see it, and took many pictures which she will share later on with everyone. Elizabeth also offered to help Linda with the letter mailings next year. Linda also mentioned that she has informed several people who inquired that they can apply for the CST Grant any time during the year, but the applications will be held until the WRNC Symposium 2009, January time frame for a decision.
3. Symposium 2009: Jean gave the following timetable for the symposium committee: there will be an introductory meeting in several weeks to go over the survey information in detail. Then, the committee will start working around the first of June, followed by a big push for activity beginning in September. They will ask for the last weekend in January as usual (January 30th, January 31st, and February 1st) as the date. If that is not open, then they will ask for the weekend prior to that as the date for the 2009 Symposium.
4. Membership Committee: Jean said the number of members is usually around the same number of symposium attendees, since membership is built into the symposium fee. This number is about the same as for last year, between 100-150. Following the symposium, a reminder notice is usually mailed out to those who did not renew already. Elizabeth volunteered to help when she returns. She reminded everyone that they have pamphlets to distribute to encourage membership. Jean said that the membership directory section of the web site will be updated to reflect the new members. After that a comparison list will need to be done, to compile the list for renewals still needed.
5. Newsletter: Brenda has emailed everyone a budget for the newsletter. Linda will be putting an announcement in the newsletter about the Chimney Swift Towers. She will also be putting in a notice

about the tee-shirts available for sale, but the S&H fee will have to be \$3.00 to cover the cost of postage (\$2.49) plus the cost of the envelope. This makes the total cost of the (mailed) tee-shirt \$15.00

6. Raffle Committee: Toni requested that a new chair be found for this committee. She will continue to assist, but has decided that more help and input is needed, and she cannot manage to run it completely on her own anymore. The raffle has simply grown too big for one person to handle. Several board members offered to help, but Toni felt that more general members were needed, rather than simply asking already burdened board members to take on another task. A notice will be put in the newsletter asking for someone to take charge as head of the raffle for next year. Alicia offered to help with the letter writing, if the lists were split up so that several people could assist with this task. Toni also reported that the number of items donated as well as the number of companies donating was way below the response from last year. Elizabeth reported that the same thing happened for the SPCA raffle that she helps with. Both blamed the economy on the problem this year. Shannon also offered to help with the raffle next year. Elizabeth though having members representative from different areas all around the state assist with the raffle was a good idea because that way it would not put a burden on just one or two towns having to donate.

7. By-Laws: Jean said that past Board Minutes reflect that the Board voted to change the By-Laws in 2005, when the official Fiscal Year went from a January 1st - December 31st time period to a new time period of May 1st to April 30th. Although the Board approved and the motion passed, somehow this change was not incorporated into the printed copy of By-Laws. The current old 2004 copy of the By-Laws does not reflect the 2005 change that was made. The Secretary will now correct this oversight and prepare a 2005 copy of the By-Laws. The Secretary will send the corrected copy of the WRNC By-Laws to the state, and to Carla to put in the web site section. No other changes to the By-Laws were recommended at this time. Clarification of the Board positions was given by Jean, who explained that all board member terms are for three years, and the elections are held at the General Meeting during the symposium. Officers are elected annually for a one year term during the post-symposium Board Meeting. An Officer may hold the same position for two consecutive years, but may not hold that position for the 3rd year in a row. There is no limit on how many times a board member may be elected to an office position. Duties of the Vice President were also clarified, and it is the VP, not the President, who is responsible for making the agendas for the board meetings. This had been decided as a way for the VP to contribute. Although this has not been the case in the past, the board decided to uphold this as a duty for the VP from now on. This means Beth will be working closely with Elizabeth now and will create the agendas for all following meetings.

8. Fishing Line Recycling: Because Jennifer was absent from the meeting, this discussion was postponed until the next board meeting.

9. New/Other: Alicia and Linda asked if the entire board could be made aware of the findings of the evaluations, rather than just the symposium committee members. That way if they are asked a question by general members, they will have an idea of what the problems are or what is being discussed. Jean expressed concerns that the committee was afraid that this could lead to endless discussions, and the committee did not want to have to hold meetings on all of this. Jean agreed that the symposium committee could supply the rest of the board with a general summary and information about the general trends and any issues that will need to be addressed by the symposium committee. They have already given the tabulations of the survey comments to the board. The committee looks at the issues and tries to resolve them as part of their duties. Alicia and Linda still thought that information would be very helpful to all board members throughout the year, and may help them be able to discuss concerns or ideas with general members at any time. Elizabeth mentioned that anyone could always contact Jean directly with an issue or specific question if it was brought up by a member and ask her directly about it.

10. New/Other: Elizabeth asked Alicia if she thought the Vet. Student Liaisons should be included in board meetings. This has not been done in the past, and it was agreed that board business really does not require their participation. They would only be required to participate in the Continuing Education for Vets. and Vet. Students Committee and the Symposium Committee. Alicia felt liaisons would be too busy and did not need to be overwhelmed, especially when their school work load was so busy. She felt they were very driven people who would appreciate only being kept informed about anything that had a direct impact on their roles as Liaisons. She said she would fill them in about anything that pertains to the two committees after each board meeting.

11. New/Other: Carla had received an invitation to the Piedmont Wildlife Center's "Day for Wildlife", and brought it to Elizabeth's attention. She felt that even though it was not appropriate for her group to attend, she felt it was OK for the state organization. This was discussed, and whether WRNC should participate at this event to be held at their new housing facility the first weekend in May. Apparently the PWC Administrative Office has moved, but the rehab hospital will remain at its current location for another year. Elizabeth mentioned she thought this was a great idea, but that May was the start of Baby Bird Season for many. Dr. Degernes suggested that since the students would have just finished a semester, she thought it was quite feasible to get several students and Jenessa to help man a booth and distribute brochures. That way it would not have to involve a lot of other people from out of the area. Some type of display would need to be put together, and Carla volunteered to lend her fold-up blank display velcro board. Dr. Powers volunteered to ask her husband about creating a vinyl sign that could hang from the table. She said his company had created signs with grommets (to hang from tables) for her office in the past, and that they were very economical plus there was a very short turn-around time. She asked if the board would email her designs. Elizabeth said she would email her the WRNC logo and mail her extra brochures. Linda made the motion, seconded by Carla, and the motion passed that WRNC would participate in this event. Elizabeth and Dr. Degernes offered to contact PWC and Gail Abrams to confirm the date and time, and notify them of our decision. She will also ask their permission to sell the WRNC tee-shirts. (A copy of Elizabeth's email and PWC's answer has been included with these minutes.) Pictures and information about membership benefits, the Cage Grant, and the Chimney Swift Towers can be sent to Dr. Degernes by email, and she requested that everyone please use her vet.school address to send her this for the display boards.

12. Elizabeth felt that April may be too soon, and recommended that the next Board Meeting should be held either in May (and will avoid Mother's Day and Memorial Day) or early June. She will send out an email with possible dates for everyone to select from, and will finalize the date later on.

13. Carla made the motion, seconded by Jean, and the motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni O'Neil, Secretary
February 21, 2008