

WRNC Board Meeting Minutes for Sunday, May 18th, 2008 at 10:00 AM

Present: Elizabeth Hanrahan, Jean Chamberlain, Mary Weiss, Toni O'Neil, Linda Bergman, Elaine Corvidae, Janenie Ledbetter, Dr. Lauren Powers, Jenessa Gjelteman, Beth Knapp-Tyner
Absent (and Excused): Dr. Degernes, Jennifer Gordon, Alicia Cawlfeld, Carla Johnson
Resigned: Shannon Westbrook

Committee Updates:

- 1) Symposium - by Jean: The committee will become active in June, so no action is needed at this time.
- 2) Chimney Swift Towers - by Linda: The last tower has just been completed at OWLS. After checking the dates, they were not that late on the completion of the project, which was done by the local Boy Scouts and their parents. Pictures will be sent in which will show the addition of a roof and display case that was added on. The application deadline for the next series of grants is scheduled for January 15th, 2009. There have been no inquiries so far, but a reminder will be put in the newsletter. Linda reported that several private individuals have asked her for information about the towers, but apparently have no interest in applying for a grant.

Elizabeth asked if there would be enough time for Linda to get all the information ready for the Board to make a decision at the meeting following the symposium. After discussion, the application deadline was moved up to January 5th, 2009, and Linda will change this on the application and in the online information. The two weeks prior to the symposium are very busy, and waiting until January 16th to begin to review the information would not allow enough time for everyone to make a decision by February 1st. Linda will be able to prepare the information as it comes in, and then send it to everyone at one time, so that all applications would be viewed equally and impartially. It was decided that sending information separately as the applications came in could bias the decision and was a fairness issue, preventing giving more weight to early applicants over late arriving applications.

- 3) Elizabeth reported that no changes are required as a result of Shannon's resignation, as she was not listed on any committees officially.
- 4) Piedmont Wildlife Center Festival for Wildlife – by Jenessa: Many people stopped by the booth, and they were able to interact a good deal with many children. She thought the event was worthwhile, and went very well. Approximately 30-40 pamphlets were distributed, and both public attendees and PWC volunteers were interested in joining WRNC. Jenessa felt recommended that WRNC participate again at future events, because it increased our visibility with other rehabilitators. She added that it was not a strain for the veterinary school students to help with this because the timing was good and occurred during a non-crucial school time after the selectives were finished. Elizabeth thanked her and Alicia for doing a great job, especially with the bunny bandaging wrapping.
- 5) Continuing Education for Veterinary Students and Veterinarians – by Jean: The committee is getting ready to send out letters, and needs board approval prior to this on two actions. A mailing list can be purchased from the Veterinary Association for the complete list of addresses for all veterinary clinics in the state at the rate of 6 cents per clinic. After the addresses are obtained, funds are required to purchase the stamps to mail out the letters. A motion was made by Dr. Lauren Powers, seconded by Jean, to purchase the address list as well as approve the cost of required postage. All approved, none objected, and the motion passed.
- 6) Raffle – by Toni: There has been no response to date by anyone to assist and Chair this committee. A person who expressed an interest in helping at the last symposium will be contacted and asked how much she is willing to help with the next raffle. Another article will be put in the newsletter, indicating

that it is the initial letter writing campaign (asking for donations) and making phone calls are the tasks that help is needed for specifically. The committee is looking for someone with company contacts, or who knows someone in a local business or store that they shop in, who will have better success asking for donations. This would be the most effective method and be the most labor productive. After the last symposium, several members indicated an informal desire to help, but have not officially requested to be part of the committee.

Elizabeth pointed out that other organizations require their board members to be responsible for contributing 5 items to their raffles, and asked if this should be considered for WRNC. It was decided that our board members already contribute so much already to the symposium, and those members who want to help the raffle and provide items already do so. We still want to involve more than board members, and are looking for a member to take over the Chair position; Toni will continue to be a Co-Chair and assist.

7) Cage Grant – by Toni: At this time, no applications have been sent in for 2008.

8) Membership – by Elizabeth: Cards were mailed out to the 98 former members and followed up by approximately 50% with phone calls in order to try and get them to renew their membership. Elizabeth felt this effort was not very successful and only resulted in 10-12 renewals. Trying to contact people to renew by email was not very effective because many wound up in the spam folder. Reasons given for not renewing were: that money was tight, people were too busy, they didn't see a need to rejoin, they didn't like the change in location to Raleigh, or they were waiting until the next symposium's registration. Four had moved and the addresses were incorrect. (There was one very negative reply that was sent out to all the members, by someone who was unhappy with everything, and Elizabeth personally responded to that member and thanked her for her comments and input.)

Elizabeth has learned that the issue of non-renewals is common to many organizations and not just WRNC. She encouraged everyone to try and think of ways to increase membership. The recent PWC event may bring in more members and was a good recruitment effort, and the efforts by Jenessa and Alicia were very helpful.

One question that was raised was if there was a family rate. Jean pointed out that WRNC already has a family membership rate, which allows one vote per family. If both spouses want to vote, then they must have separate memberships. Unmarried partners living together were not really an issue, and there was no confusion about symposium rates and registration fees vs. membership rates. Elizabeth proposed that the one family vote should be explained more carefully and clarified, though, to avoid confusion.

9) Newsletter: everyone enjoys the new format, and agree that Brenda does an excellent job!

10) By-Laws: Everyone should have a current copy by now, and if not, it can be found on the website.

11) Fishing Line: This has been proposed by Jennifer, who is not present today to present the information. This issue will be tabled until later.

12) T-Shirt Sales – by Linda: She reminded everyone that the shirts make excellent gifts at an affordable price. They are selling sporadically, and she mentions them to everyone she meets and tries to promote their sale. A check has been mailed recently to Jean.

13) Next Meeting: the date will be determined later, but it was decided to hold the next meeting in September after the Baby Seasons are over. Only one more meeting is officially required this year.

14) Mary made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Toni, all approved, none opposed, and the meeting ended at 10:30 AM.