

## WRNC Board Meeting 1/29/12 (held during Symposium lunch time on Sunday)

**Present:** Linda Bergman (Pres), Linda Woodruff (Trea), Toni O'Neil (Sec), Jean Chamberlain, Ann Rogers, Christina Hildreth, Halley Buckanoff, Laurie Degernes, David Scott, Carla Johnson (VP), Kathy Lillard, Nicki Dardinger

**Excused:** Mary Weiss, Savannah Trantham, Leslie Martin

The meeting was called to order by outgoing President Linda Bergman, who thanked everyone again for making the symposium a success!

Laurie introduced the new VSL, Amanda Malueg, who is replacing the outgoing VSL. She thanked Adrienne Breaux and Amanda for the hard work they did organizing all the vet students who assisted with the symposium this year.

It was brought up that there was a problem with some speakers not having moderators for their sessions. Several of the board members assigned to be moderators said they did not get an email in time to alert them to the sessions they were supposed to moderate.

Halley suggested using the email program Survey Monkey after the symposium instead of the written paper evaluations that are turned in at the end of the symposium. Carla said she had received quite a large stack of the evaluations and was in the process of going through them, so that the results could be compiled and sent out to all the board members.

Toni said that there still were no applications sent in for the Cage Grant. More publicity will be sent out to remind members that this is still open to them.

Linda B. reported that no applications have been sent in for the Chimney Swift Tower Grant. The one man who applied asked to have his application disregarded as he felt he would be able to pay for it on his own, and to let WRNC use the funds for someone else. She is waiting to hear from past tower builders to report activity use of those towers to her once the birds arrive.

Halley reported that the newsletter is being created with PDF Publisher, which they have found is easier to use, set up, and print. She and Nicki were commended for doing a great job with the latest newsletter.

Toni reported for the Nominating Committee that the 3 write-in candidates for the recent election will be considered for next year. They were: Yanina Razik, Chris Hazen, and Daron Barnes.

The Treasurer Report will be held off until the February meeting. Linda W. will have a better idea of the expenses associated with the Symposium at that time.

The total raised by the Raffle was not available at this time, but will be at the next meeting. Kathy's creations of all those beautiful baskets helped make this a huge success.

Carla reported that the NC Health Department veterinarians are the blockage holding back any progress with the RVS proposal to the WRC. The next campaign focus will concentrate on trying to get them to change their mind by talking with them directly, rather than trying another letter mailing effort.

Several people mentioned their confusion over the new WRC rules and reporting requirements, as well as the process for new rehabilitators receiving their first permits. Carla stated that after speaking with Daron Barnes, it appears that the confusion is being generated by the various local and state wildlife inspectors interpreting the WRC requirements differently or too literally. WRNC supports the new state requirement for having the rehabbing location inspected prior to receiving a first-time rehab permit.

Linda welcomed back the four incumbent board members who recently ran for re-election.

**New Business: electing new officers of the board.**

- 1) Linda B. made the motion, seconded by Carla, that Linda W. continues to serve as Treasurer.
- 2) Carla made the motion, seconded by Linda W., that Toni be nominated for President.
- 3) Toni made the motion, seconded by Laurie, that Carla continues to serve as Vice President.
- 4) Toni made the motion, seconded by Ann, that Kathy be nominated for Secretary.

It was explained that according to the By-Laws, a board member could serve for two consecutive terms as an officer before having to be replaced in that position.

The voting proceeded, and it was unanimous in favor for all for nominations.

Jean and Laurie announced that they would be serving as Co-Chairs for the Symposium Committee now.

Halley volunteered to serve as the Moderator Coordinator. She would schedule the moderators for each session and coordinate the schedule.

The wet labs will now have their own separate pages for sign in sheets for each session. The vet students will handle this and this should avoid confusion. Christina and Halley served as Wet Lab Co-Coordinators, and did a great job.

Jean was responsible for notifying the Speakers and sending out the letters with their session information, as well as the follow-up thank you letters. She asked for assistance in this.

Linda B. suggested that a list of duties be made up for different symposium job positions and sent out to the board members, in order for them to review prior to volunteering to help assist. Those involved with the set-up and break-down processes need more assistance as well from other board members.

Laurie suggested checking first with Dane regarding the vet school registration program to see if notifying the speakers and providing the information letters could be handled as a part of the symposium registration process.

It was felt that a board member should continue to write the thank you letters to provide a more personal touch.

It was found that the registration process for banquet sign-up was too confusing. This may be due in part to the software program that is used and is creating the problem. It was decided that a way to rectify this would be to institute a new change for next year's symposium by requiring email confirmation, which attendees must bring with them at the time of checking in. This would serve as proof in order to get into the banquet and avoid the confusion.

We will also be checking with Dane next year to see about getting the list of banquet attendees who registered and signed up to attend the banquet, and then comparing the list with those who registered but didn't sign up. Those people will be contacted to see if they really don't wish to attend, or simply failed to check that on the registration form and really want to attend. Carla volunteered to help with this project.

It was felt that the new minimal \$5 charge for wet lab sessions was successful in cutting down on the number of people who failed to attend, and increased the attendance at all the labs.

It was suggested that the online registration be kept open until Friday morning, rather than being taken offline several days prior to the symposium. There were several complaints of people trying to register on Wednesday and Thursday who were unable to do so. This could cut down on the number of registrations on Saturday morning.

The rough estimate is that about 160 people paid to attend, and there were a total of about 220 people at the symposium (counting speakers and vet students). Linda asked to see the % increase in attendance this year compared to last year's totals.

One complaint that was raised was that toilet paper in the restrooms ran out. It was suggested that extra be stored in each restroom next year. Extra custodial services for the weekend would have to be paid for and would increase the cost of the symposium.

The smoking area was littered with cigarette butts, and Kathy voiced her concern that the vet school would think we were unable to keep the area clean. It was mentioned that the litter may have already been there before the symposium started, but that next year there would be a reminder to use the ashtrays that are provided.

It was clarified that the vet students are able to attend the symposium for free in exchange for their help and volunteer services. They would be able to attend a lab only if there was room available, and would not be taking a seat and preventing a member or rehabilitator from attending.

Another problem arose concerning a member who became upset when entering the lab and viewing the bodies that were to be used. She left because of the smell and thought she could transfer her place at the lab to another of her organization's members, since the organization paid for its members to attend the labs. It was pointed out that the labs are not transferrable and that money is not refundable if someone fails to attend. This will be made clear next year on the registration form.

The next meeting will be in February. President elect Toni will send out an email asking for board members to indicate which weekends do or do not work for them, and that information will help determine the date.