

WRNC Board Meeting 11/16/13
10:00am – 11:00 am

Present: Toni O'Neil (Pres.), Carla Johnson (VP), Ann Rogers (Sec), Jean Chamberlain (Treas), Linda Bergman, Christina Hildreth, David Scott, Michelle Ray, Mary Weiss, Sue Heritage, Linda Woodruff, Laurie Degernes, Kelsey Stover (VSL), Elizabeth Hyde (VSL)

Excused: Kathy Lillard, Halley Buckanoff
Unexcused: Nicki Dardinger

Presence not required: Kelsey Blackburn (VSL), Amanda Malueg (outgoing VSL)

Toni O'Neil called the meeting to order, and roll was taken.

Toni and Laurie welcomed our two new VSL's. This is the first time we have had three VSL's. We had two qualified applicants for the position, so we had voted online to accept both. Elizabeth has helped with the symposium in the past. Both will be working to line up veterinary and pre-veterinary students to help with the symposium.

Old business: None

New Business:

Committee reports:

Symposium 2014 (Jean)

- The symposium will be held at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount.
- Most of the symposium information has been posted on the website. The vet school office will again handle the registration, but it has not yet been activated. The labs must be finalized before registration begins, since that's when attendees sign up for and pay for the labs.
- Book table: We will not have pre-symposium book reservations this year. It complicates things, and not many people used it anyway. Jean will post a list of the available books on the symposium website. Most of them have been ordered and received. If anyone has suggestions for other books, please let Jean know.
- Supplies: Since the labs aren't yet finalized, so we can't order supplies for those. Linda B. will work the supply table again. Michelle Richards also helped with that last year. Michelle Ray said her clinic can probably help with lab supplies. We don't need to order any more items for the sale table, since we still have plenty of leftovers that we need to get rid of.

- Plastic pet carriers: There is demand for these, but the price has gone up, so we would have to charge about \$10 each. Jean is looking into where they come from and whether we can find them cheaper. Nina Fischesser might make a minimum order that we could go in with. Some rehabbers use the Bojangles tail-gate boxes for one-time use. Michelle can get some cardboard carriers donated from her vendors.
- Raffle: Toni's committee has been contacting our usual donors, and things are progressing. She asked that board members donate items and help with this as they have in past years.
- Vet student assistance will probably drop since the site is an hour away from the vet school.
- Both the website and December newsletter should let attendees know that we would welcome any help with the symposium setup.

Membership/membership renewal (Carla)

We will have data on this after the symposium registration records.

Nominating (Linda B, Toni)

- Board members whose terms are expiring: Laurie Degernes, Dave Scott, Linda Woodruff, Halley Buckanoff, Christina Hildreth, and Nicki Dardinger. Christina is the only member running for re-election.
- There are six candidates for the six open board positions: Christina Hildreth (incumbent), Cathy Burns, Elizabeth Hanrahan, Dr. Joni Gnyp, Mathias Englemann, and Michelle Richards.
- Linda has bios from most of them. Michelle Richards is currently out of town. Toni will see if she still has the bios and pictures from a previous election, and Christina can review what we already have for her.
- Information about the candidates will be in the December newsletter.

Treasurer (Linda W.)

We have a balance of \$11,349.77. The financial reports from the past year will be posted on the website as pdf documents.

By-Laws Revision: (Linda B/Carla)

- Linda B briefly reviewed the changes, which were sent by email to the board.
- Areas of change included:
 - Membership and timing of dues
 - Clarification of board member terms
 - A review of current board member terms by the nominating chairman before the next election
- Ann will send a copy of the new bylaws to the state.

Carla moved that we accept the new by-laws as presented. Sue seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Newsletter:

Neither Nicki nor Halley was present at the meeting. We need new editors, since neither will be continuing on the board. The newsletter is currently being formatted using Publisher, but any software available to the editor is acceptable. There are two committees working on it: the editors and the proof-readers. The editors are in charge of recruiting submissions and formatting the newsletter. Michelle Ray and Sue Heritage graciously volunteered to accept the duties of editors. There will be an item in the upcoming newsletter requesting articles from the membership.

Recent newsletters have been much shorter than some in the past, which were probably too long. An optimal size would be 8-12 pages.

The newsletter is published quarterly, with the first quarter issue being mainly "post-symposium", and the last being "pre-symposium". Jean will send a list of past features to the new editors. All past issues are archived on the website.

Training: (Jean)

Jean and Halley were both involved with the recent IWRC class in Asheboro. Halley has already sent a wrap-up email to board members. It was agreed that presenting this class demonstrated good cooperation between wildlife organizations. The cost to WRNC was \$36 for the snacks.

RVS Rehab: Michelle/Sue

The committee has recommended that now is not a good time to try and advance this issue, due to recent rabies issues and policy changes in other states. They will wait for better timing and hope to have something to report by February. Michelle noted that the one year of experience required for a RVS license is not long enough.

Website: (Jean)

Nothing to report

Chimney Swift Tower Grants: (Linda B)

So far, there have been no interested parties in a tower grant. Linda knows some people are putting up towers without financial assistance. To receive a grant, the tower must be constructed in North Carolina. The deadline for grant applications is January 5.

Cage Grants: (Toni)

There have been no applicants yet for cage grants. The grant can be used to update or repair existing cages as well as for new construction. The application process will again be open to board members. January 5 is the deadline, so that the board can vote on applicants at the symposium meeting.

The recipient of the grant must show receipts, spend 90% of the money for supplies or labor (so that they don't use existing supplies and keep the money), and send copies of the plans and pictures of the completed cage.

Facebook: (Nicki)

The board would like for Halley to remain as moderator, even though she is stepping down from the board. Linda B agreed to help moderate again. It was suggested that we have more pictures and less text to make it more appealing to the public. We discussed having a statement to the effect that posts and pictures should be professional and not treat wildlife as pets. This should be run past the board. Jean suggested that we include a reference to our code of ethics. A newsletter article about professionalism was suggested

There was no other new business.

Upcoming meetings:

There will be a general membership meeting Saturday night at the symposium banquet, with board elections, followed by a board meeting on Sunday. Mary Weiss cannot attend the symposium. The majority of the board will be there to help.

New board members will be welcomed at the Sunday meeting. Board officer elections will take place at that meeting, although the term of treasurer will make a later transition because of the symposium financial statements. The following meeting will be in February.

Toni adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Ann Rogers, secretary