

First Quarter Board Meeting – 2005
February 5, 2005
Ellington Agricultural Center
Nashville, TN

In Attendance: Richard Savage, Lou Ann Partington, June Parker, Anne Wesley, Fount Bertram, Sandra Spearman, Barry Spearman, Gloria Lenski, Jerry Lenski, Gary Cooper, Diane Manas, Judith Tate, Rick Lausten, Jennie Hoesht-Ronner, Jack, Rosemary Marshall, Libby Francis, Doug Burroughs, Carolyn Miller, Leigh Jones, Brent Morris, Anna Bertram, Jim Johnson, Doug Ratliff, Jack Murrah, Tim Takas, and Lynn Takas.

TTA President, Fount Bertram, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Welcome and Introductions

Members in attendance introduced themselves to the group.

Approval of 4th quarter minutes

- Gloria Lenski asked that the minutes be corrected to report that the 2004 annual meeting had: "a record attendance of 156 people, and that well over \$7,000 had been raised. Final amount to be reported in the December or January newsletter."
- Leigh Jones asked that the minutes be corrected to state that: "No applications for the Evan Means Small Grants have been received for 2005."
- The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's report by June Parker.

- Have received all but two of the treasurer's reports for the chapters.
- Lou Ann Partington has the checks for the chapters that have submitted their treasurer's reports.
- The annual meeting shows that \$6000 was contributed in 2004. The additional money was not received until 2005. To date, June Parker has received \$7893. There is \$350 in cash donations to be added to this.
- Anne Wesley asked if we had paid a membership fee to AHS. Yes, but not listed as a line item in the Treasurer's report. June Parker will send a revised statement.
- Budget for 2005. No significant difference is expected in 2005. The actual figures for 2004 should be used for a guideline.

Newsletter information:

- Contact the life members and ask if they really want to receive the newsletter.
- Offer e-mail version of the newsletter. Put on Agenda for next board meeting. Jim Poteet to be invited to the meeting to discuss how to manage this.
- Diane was directed to write-up guidelines for the newsletter regarding the font size, number of pages and grade of paper. These guidelines are necessary to make sure that we can keep the postage as budgeted.

Evan Means Grants reported by Leigh Jones.

There were 5 requests received in 2004. Monies collected through the supporting memberships support the Evans Means grants. In order to have a reserve for the future, it was decided to keep \$1000 in the Evan Means Fund. The remaining \$4000 was awarded to 5 projects that had met the requirements and submitted budgets. The Evan Means Small Grants committee met prior to the February board meeting. They approved one change to the amounts requested. Big Dig III to get \$1200 instead of the requested \$1500. The Evan Means grants for 2004 totaled \$4049.55. Tim Takacs moved to approve these grants. Second by Libby Francis. Motion passed.

New Treasurer: June Parker has resigned. Lou Ann Partington was nominated to replace June Parker as Treasurer. She was elected by unanimous vote.

Membership Report

Dianne Manas gave the report for Garnett Rush.

Garnett understands the database. Diane Manas passed around information regarding membership information for each chapter for 2004.

Garnett will send an e-mail notice to the chapter chair when a member renews their membership.

Diane will process new memberships while Garnett is on vacation.

Membership will now include e-mail address (see the February newsletter for details). For the books, the Family and Supporting members are counted as one membership. However, for actual numbers of TTA members, the family memberships should be counted as two persons.

East Tennessee Representative at Large

leen has written Fount a letter of resignation. Fount requested nominations from the members at the Board meeting.

Annual Meeting Update - 2005

Anna Bertram gave a report about the planning for the 2005 annual meeting. Two core members from each of the three chapters will form the annual meeting committee. The annual meeting will be held at the Dubose Center in Monteagle, on October 14 – 16, 2005. Each chapter is asked to donate 5 quality items for the live auction.

Chapter Reports

- Gloria Lenski – Memphis. Their new project is to increase membership. They have a goal of 20 new members in 2005. Publicity is their main method for achieving their goal.
- Gary Cooper – Jackson. Due to the weather, two hikes have been cancelled. Last week one of their members gave a Powerpoint presentation to showcase hikes around Savage Gulf and the Suwannee area. Fount would like to have a copy of the presentation.
- Northwest Chapter. No report.
- Doug Ratliff– Highland Rim. Weekly meeting good attendance with 10 –15 members. Park Ranger talked about the history of the Old Stone Fort. Had a Christmas Party and joined the January 1 TTA hike.

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Workdays planned for Short Springs and Savage Gulf.

- Rick Lausten - Columbia/Franklin
January meeting was held at a member's cabin. Cookout in one week.
They will hand out TTA information during the Beast Feast event to be held at Thompson Station Baptist Church in early March. A group of members will work at Big Dig. Richard Savage presented a about his trip to Australia. Monthly meetings: 15 – 20 people.
- Anna Bertram – Murfreesboro
Good turn out by chapter members at annual meeting.
Still selling pocket calendars for a fund-raiser.
Jim Schroeder, Anna Bertram, Mike Harvey, and Fount Bertram attended the CTC Volunteer Weekend
Monthly backpackers hike
Monthly beginners and newcomers hike
At least one – two day hikes per month.
Christmas party was a candlelight dinner..
New Years Day Hike: 38 hikers from 7 chapters
Election of officers: Jeannie as co-officer.
Earned free rent by maintaining trails at Barfield Crescent.
Will celebrate National Trails Day (June 4) by working on the CTC during Big Dig III
Earth Day – April 22, 2005
- Judith Tate – Clarksville
New Years Eve hike in downtown Clarksville
They got eight new members due to the newspaper article about this hike.
Hikes scheduled through July.
Rotary Park – grant for Evans Means. Park has been given to TTA and the Boy Scouts to manage. It has a nice playground. Girl's softball would like to clear the area for ball fields. TTA and other volunteers are working to make trails and keep this an open area. They have a website. Search: Hike Clarksville and search Rotary Park. Making plans for the 2006 Annual meeting.
Trail work at Land Between the Lakes. There are sections of the trail that is maintained by the Clarksville Chapter.
- Jim Johnson– Nashville
Nashville Greenways speaker for the last meeting.
Newcomers hike Stone's River Greenway in Nashville on February 26.
Lightweight backpacking clinic – February 10
Jim Johnson – New Chapter Officer.
- Richard Savage – Upper Cumberland
Hike every Saturday. Usually 10 – 15 persons on the hikes and persons from other chapters join them.

- Carolyn Miller – Plateau
Terry Brophy – new Chapter Chair
Now meet quarterly, instead of monthly.
Plateau chapter has volunteered to re-route part of the CT on Black Mountain.

- Tim Takas – Big South Fork
Annual chapter meeting was held in January.
Hike every week on Tuesday in the Rugby and Big South Fork Area.
Hike on Saturday once a month.
If you want to get on the e-mail list, send an e-mail to Eric Wilson.
- Rosemary Marshall – East Tennessee
New ideas.
Twenty – seven hikes planned for the year.
Fran Cope – member for a couple of years. She just led her first hike.
East Tennessee chapter plans to contribute to Breakaway.
- Cove Lake – No Report

CTC Report.

- Paul Freeman sent a letter stating that he could not attend the TTA meeting and a thank you for the money donated to CTC by TTA.
- Sandra Spearman thanked TTA for the auction money.
- Latest mileage: 154 miles of trail built. Trail should be complete in 6 years.
- CTC has added a part-time staff member: Janet Smith. She has an accounting background.
- Breakaway 2005: Sandra gave a review of the schools and organizations that will be at Breakaway. She also reviewed a list of food items that are needed for the Breakaway program. Volunteers: So far 17 TTA members have volunteered.
- Big Dig 2005: May 22 – June
Still looking for student leaders to fill the positions.
Need volunteers, donations, and kitchen help.
- Newsletter in progress.
- Land acquisitions. There has been a lot of progress with land acquisition. Bowater donation on June 30, 2004 was just the beginning. Additional donations are in the works.
Some private landowners and other groups are also interested in making donations of land. State has taken an active role in land acquisition.
- Mechanized Trail Building.
A machine made by Ditch Witch has been purchased. It looks like a bobcat. You walk behind it to operate the machine. It is owned by the state, but was purchased by grant money that had been given to the CTC. The machine works well in fairly level areas. The machine does a rough cut. People will be required to groom the trail behind the Ditch Witch.

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Regional Reports

- Jerry Lenski, West Tennessee Representative
Still trying to set up a chapter in Camden.
- Brent Morris: Middle Tennessee Representative
Met with ranger for the Stone Door and South Cumberland regarding some trail work to be done in the South Cumberland. There is at least a quarter mile of trail in need of water bars and also needs a stone staircase. Trail work will be advertised in newsletter to recruit volunteers to do the work.
- East Tennessee Representative – Position Open. No report.

Old Business:

Release of Claims Agreement

Lee Sparks, Jackson member, gave suggestions concerning the wording of the document.

Acknowledge that there are potential dangers associated with hiking and that participation in outdoor activities is inherently dangerous.

Add a column to the sheet for e-mail addresses.

Suggest that Fran Wallas review the claims agreement.

Board motion to review. Leigh Jones made the motion to take this under consideration. Upon further discussion, she removed her motion.

New Business:

1. CTC/TTA Financial Separation

Some financial and legal issues have come to our attention concerning the Application for Renewal of Charitable Organization. The form states "the parent organization may file for the affiliate if the affiliate does not solicit funds from an organization other than the parent organization."

Decided at the CTC board meeting for Fount Bertram, TTA President and Paul Freeman, TTA President to determine the best course of action.

MOTION: Fount Bertram, TTA President and Paul Freeman, CTC Executive Director, the TTA Treasurer and possibly Jim Poteet to meet with the auditor to determine what solutions are available and with a lawyer at their discretion. Motion made by Tim Takacs. Second by Judith Tate. Motion passed with no opposition.

Discussion concerning this situation:
Why not caught by auditor?
Need legal counsel.
What is CTC's plan?
Review by-laws.

Land acquisitions for the Cumberland Trail are now being handled by the state, so the amount of money will drop, but it will remain higher than TTA.

2. American Hiking Society.
 - a. When you become a member of AHS, you get a one-year subscription to Back Packer Magazine. AHS webpage lists the benefits of membership.
 - b. Promoting National Trails Day – June 4, 2005.
3. Merchandising information presented by Gloria Lenski.
Pocket calendars with TTA name and website.
Costs for \$2.60, but now costs \$3.00 per calendar.
She was able to sell them for \$5.00.
She would be willing to split an order.
4. Lu Ann Partington.
Finance Committee meeting needs to be scheduled.
5. E-mail voting.
We did it for a critical issue. Can we add this procedure to the by-laws?
We need a comment period. Brent volunteered to look at writing guidelines for e-mail voting by the board.
6. Newsletter.
Tina Dean sent no information to the Board.
Fount Bertram asked that Jeffrey Hunter be listed as VIP member in order to receive a newsletter. Motion passed.
7. Southeastern Foot Trails Conference.
Table Rock State Park in Pickens, South Carolina
April 29 – May 1, 2005
Information about the conference is on AHS website.
J.R. Tate is TTA Board Rep to the Southeast Foot Trails Conference.
Goal is to have a 5,000-mile trail from Key West, FL to Canada
8. Chapter Chairs should review the VIP list for their area to make sure that any newly elected representatives are on the mailing list. If there have been changes, send the information to Garnett Rush.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Miller
TTA Secretary, 2005