

First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting - 2006  
Tennessee Trails Association  
Saturday, February 4, 2006  
TWRA Building, Nashville, TN

**Present:** Leigh Jones, Carolyn Pierce, Jenice Johnson, Richard Savage, Fount Bertram, Brent Morris, Merri Hinton, Gary Cooper, Garnett Rush, Leslie El-Sayad, Lynn Takacs, Sherrie Yokley, Anna Bertram, Anne Wesley, Doug Ratliff, LouAnn Partington, Alan Stokes

TTA President, Anne Wesley, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

**Approval of the 4th quarter minutes for 2005**

Approved and seconded with one corrected name spelling (under guest - Gray Campbell instead of Gary)

**Treasurer's Report - LouAnn Partington**

2 CDs and Money Market Funds totaling \$19,119.22 were reinvested at better rates. In order to continue to support Evan Mean Grants supporting membership needs to be expanded.

LouAnn checked into liability insurance for the Board of Directors, but the cost seems to be prohibitive.

Will check into Amazon concerning rebates since none have been received lately. Finance committee will consist of Anne Wesley, LouAnn Partington, Fount Bertram, Brent Morris, and Carolyn Pierce.

**Membership - Garnett Rush**

Due to a computer eraser all October data had to be reentered. Those still not receiving their newsletters need to contact Garnett.  
611 current memberships

**Cumberland Trail Conference - Alan Stokes**

Because of changes in the staff the Profit and Loss statement was not prepared for today's meeting.

Mark Stanfill and Nora Beck have resigned and CTC plans to hire 4 people to fill these two positions.

23 schools are signed up for BreakAway. Adult leadership is needed for these weeks as well as for the Big Dig. Forms are available on-line.

A picture book of the Cumberland Trail is in the works.

There is still an on-going discussion of the 501-C3 split between TTA and CTC. Paul, Anne, and a pro bono lawyer plan to meet together after the lawyer receives the last of the needed information from both groups.

**TTA Regional Representatives**

**Middle TN - Brent Morris**

Three projects are underway:

1. Walls of Jericho - They continue to flag and build trail for a proposed loop. Will take another year or two to finish.
2. Short Springs - possible bridge building in the spring
3. Tims Ford State Park - Friends group has asked for assistance. Nature Center and hiking trails are presently available.

**East TN**

Charles Jones submitted his resignation due to family commitments, which will keep him out of state.

**West TN**

The board will continue to solicit a member to fill this and the East TN position.

**Chapter Reports** - members were asked to address challenges facing their chapters this year

**Big South Fork - Lynn Tackas** - new leadership.

**Clarksville - Merri Hinton** - increasing membership

**Columbia/Franklin - Sherrie Yokley** - trail at Stillhouse Hollow - group accepted a grant to complete a trail to the falls. Since then they have been asked to build a 30 ft steps/stairs trail to the bottom of the falls. They do not feel that they have the expertise to complete the project by the fall deadline.

**Highland Rim - Doug Ratliff** - finding new officers, hike leaders, and increasing their membership.

**Jackson - Gary Cooper** - replacing their treasurer, increasing membership and monthly meeting attendance.

**Memphis - Carolyn Pierce** - increasing and maintaining members - They are greeting and making contact with all new hikers. On their email reminders, they are also adding a weather forecast for the upcoming hike. Carol Haley is leading unpublished hikes on Mondays.

**Murfreesboro - Anna Bertram** - developing a deeper leadership pool - One of their members created a pictorial directory of their membership. They conducted a successful backpackers' clinic and are including family oriented hikes.

**Nashville - Jenice Johnson** - new and additional hike leaders and the need for new treasurer

**Plateau - Leigh Jones** - additional hike leaders and increased membership - are trying to include shorter and closer hikes to appeal to local population.

**Upper Cumberland - Richard Savage** - new members, more news coverage, and being more visible in the community

**Newsletter - Leslie El-Sayad**

Board showed their appreciation to Tina Dean for her service as newsletter editor for the past two years.

Newsletter deadline for articles will be the 10th of each month. Leslie will send a reply for all articles received.

The new Editorial Committee will consist of Anne Wesley, Garnett Rush, LouAnn Partington, and Leigh Jones. They will make any needed decisions concerning newsletter content.

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**Evan Means Grants - Leigh Jones**

Clarksville Chapter requested an extension of last year's grant due to tornado related problems at Rotary Park. Fount Bertram made a **motion** to allow them an additional year to use their funds. The motion was second by Garnett Rush. Motion was approved.

She recommended that all three grant requests for 2006 be approved. - \$1500 to CTC for 2006 Big Dig, \$600 for WaTER for bridge building materials for Lake Shore Trail on Tellico Lake, and \$225 for tree identification labels on Laurel Branch Trail in Rugby. A **motion** to send a total of \$2325 to these three groups was made by Doug Ratliff and seconded by Jenice Johnson. The motion was passed with one abstention by Lynn Takacs (she is a member of the Big South Fork Chapter which would be receiving funds).

**Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition**

Fount Bertram will be our new representative replacing J.R. Tate.

**Tennessee Conservation Voters**

We pay yearly dues for this group to lobby on our behalf. Anne Wesley will try to find a Nashville member to represent us.

**National Trails Day**

Chapters are asked to email ideas. Any state wide projects will be advertised.

**Earth Day**

This is a good opportunity to hand out TTA information.  
Spring Fling at Edgar Evans State Park will be a three day event.

**J.R. Tate Book Signing**

J.R. will be promoting his new book at the Clarksville-Montgomery County Library. Clarksville Chapter will be manning a TTA information table at the event.

**Bloom 'n' Garden Expo**

TTA has been offered free both space. Jenice Johnson will be setting up our display board to provide TTA information.

**Liability Waivers**

Forms are available on the web site. If a hiker does not sign the release, they should not be allowed to hike with the group. All waivers should be kept for a least one year. Be sure to report any accidents occurring on any outing.

**Old Business**

Protocol Committee for TTA display equipment and PA system - Diane Manas is creating handouts that will go with the display. There is folder of guidelines covering the use of this equipment and an inventory list.  
Central home will be in Nashville - can be shipped UPS

Electronic Newsletter - additional pros and cons were discussed. No decision was made.

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**New Business**

2006 Annual Meeting - October 20-22 at Brandon Springs

Solicitation of Advertisements - no response to add, but will be rewritten and resubmitted to the newsletter.

2006 Board Meeting Dates - May 6th, August 5, and October 22.

Adjournment - 4:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Miller, TTA Secretary