

Tennessee Trails Association
4th Quarter 2001
Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held Saturday November 10th 2001 and Sunday November 11th 2001 at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport Tennessee, site of the annual meeting.

Saturday Nov. 10th 2001

The chapter chair reports were presented before the entire assembly during the annual business meeting prior to the auction.

Big South Fork (Eric Wilson) This chapter has turned around from a long struggle for membership. They now have 30 members and hold regular monthly meetings. They average 12-15 people on their hikes, which are usually in the Rugby area. They hope to elect new officers at the January meeting.

Clarksville (J.R. Tate) They have had a good year and gained 3 new members. Total membership is now over 50 members. They hike most every weekend and are working closely with rails to trails groups.

Columbia (Russell Smith) They currently have about 19 members but only 6-8 of those are active. They are committed though to keeping it active and strong.

Cove Lake (Siler McCarty) They plan hikes about twice a month and are active in trail maintenance also.

East Tennessee (Keith Mertz) They have had a good year and remain active. They've had 19 hikes this month (November). They are still looking for a new chairperson. Their annual monthly meeting is next Saturday and they will plan their 2002 hike schedule then.

Memphis (Betty Porter) Their group has gotten smaller, but the remaining members are strong and active. They stay heavily involved in working with the Meeman-Shelby Forest.

Murfreesboro (Fount Bertram) The chapter is doing well with over 30 new members this year. Their new meeting location at Barfield-Crescent Park has been very successful and they enjoy a good relationship with the park. They have already built 5 miles of trail in the park and have plans for building 5 more miles. They try to schedule hikes two times per month and also get involved with the community.

Nashville (Dan Brennan) They have recently moved to a new meeting location at St. Bernard Academy in Nashville and have had good attendance. They have done a lot

The candidates were presented to the general TTA body and all were elected to the positions unanimously. Their terms will begin January 1, 2002.

Mention was made by Rob Weber and Libby Francis that this is the first time in recollection that ALL chapters and regions were represented at the annual meeting.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Libby Francis presented the following awards/certificates.

*Doug Burroughs received a certificate of appreciation for holding the newsletter parties at his home each month.

*Herb Kneeland was recognized for picking up all the TTA mail and getting it to the correct person.

*Jim and Jenice Johnson received a certificate for being the TTA data base address and e-mail maintainers.

*Jim Poteet was recognized for being the TTA web wizard.

Anne Wesley named Carolyn Pierce as the winner in the guess the number of current memberships contest. Carolyn guessed the closest (792) without going over. We currently have 824 members. One new life member was added in 2001 – Diane Manas.

TENNESSEE TRAILS AWARD FOR 2001 was awarded to Bob Clement. Jim Deming announced the board's decision and read the plaque that was made for Mr. Clement. Due to schedule conflicts, Mr. Clement could not be present for the award and Jim will work on scheduling a presentation time in the future.

BILL STUTZ AWARD FOR 2001 was presented by Leigh Jones to Libby Francis. Libby is now in proud possession of the "boot" and received a plaque recognizing all her hard work for TTA.

The GOLDEN SQUIRREL AWARD for 2001 went as a shared effort to Jim Poteet and Bob Brandt. The Sewanee trail was the place and it seemed hike leader and book author had conflicting opinions on which way to go. As is only appropriate, the entire membership sang their ode in tribute with wording furnished by Anne Wesley.

With all business and awards completed the membership then started with the annual auction. This year's auctioneer was Jim Lumpkins and his helpers were Dave Walton and Libby Francis.

Sunday November 11th 2001

The board meeting continued at Carson Springs Baptist Conference Center in Newport Tennessee at @8:30a.m. Present were:

J.R. Tate	Jim Clark	Anna Clark
Patti Shaw	Gloria Lenski	Jerry Lenski
Mark Stanfill	Siler McCarty	Dan Brennan
Bill Haynes	Betty Porter	Carol Haley
Sandra Spearman	Fount Bertram	Leigh Jones
Anne Wesley	Keith Mertz	Jim Poteet
Jim Deming	Libby Francis	Russell Smith
Rob Weber	Arleene Scheller	Janie Mertz
Diane Manas		

Corrections to 3rd quarter 2001 minutes are as follows:

*Jim Deming was present at the 3rd quarter 2001 board meeting

*The contact that Anne Wesley made regarding Kentucky Trails Association is in the city of Somerset Kentucky not Summertown Kentucky.

*Jim Clark not J.R. Tate will secure a meeting place for the May 18th 2002 board meeting to be held in West Tennessee.

With the above corrections the 3rd quarter 2001 board meeting minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Jim Poteet) We currently have @ \$17,000 in the bank, but a lot of it is already allocated for specific items. Bottom line is we're o.k., but membership revenues are down for the year. A lot of memberships renew January 1st though so hopefully we'll be getting a significant amount of revenue in the near future from renewing members. Reports were handed out to board members covering: 2001 Detail Income and Expenses, Trial Balance as of Sept. 30th 2001, Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison, and Budget 2002 Detail and Summary Sheets. Some discussion was held on the audit expense we had this year. An audit is not mandatory for us but with our increase in grant requests most companies want to see audited financials. Cumberland Trail pays a significant portion of this audit cost also to help offset the expense. Libby thanked Jim Poteet for all his work in presenting the treasurer's report in Barbara Matheson's absence. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The vote was unanimous.

NEWSLETTER REPORT (Diane Manas) Diane handed out a sheet to board members detailing newsletter time lines and desired information and formats. Diane thanked Anne Wesley for completion of the Hiking Handbook and said she has seen several hikers use it. The advertising in the handbook, which Diane secured, should pay for almost all of the cost of printing the handbook. We expect to see the advertising checks come in in the next couple of weeks. The suggestion was made to be mindful of what we put in the newsletter as a lot of prospects see it also.

Some discussion was held regarding putting the Hiking Handbook on line. Consideration will be given to that idea, or putting perhaps part of it on line with the hook of you getting a free complete handbook with your paid membership.

MEMBERSHIP (Anne Wesley) Anne handed out information to chapter chairs. She talked about membership denial and expulsion. It was decided to handle any incidents at the chapter level on a as happens basis rather than try to change the by-laws. The chapter chairs were reminded that they can handle the problem member/hiker and will have board support. It's best to have more than one person address any problems. Membership does have its rights and responsibilities.

We have currently 24 supporting members. Anne made the suggestion that the excess money beyond membership coverage go towards the Evan Means grant fund instead of being put in with the general funds. After discussion the board voted unanimously to apply the excess funds from supporting members to the Evan Means grant funds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SLIDE SHOW (Fount Bertram) The TTA slide show is done. The annual meeting ran too late Saturday night to present it to the entire membership but copies will be sent to each regional representative within 30 days. Gloria Lenski helped in the slide show also. Any chapter who wants to use the slide show just needs to contact their regional rep and they can make arrangements to use it. The show is about 30 minutes long and contains 80 slides from all around Tennessee. Fount set up a screen and showed the presentation after the board meeting was over.

KENTUCKY TRAILS ASSOCIATION (Jim Poteet) They are trying to find pockets of interest in Kentucky to get something started. Kentuckytrails.org has been set up for about six weeks but there hasn't been any response yet. They plan to get an introductory newsletter put together and mail it throughout the state. They have to have Kentucky leadership in order to get it started. Jim Deming volunteered to help promote the association through his rail-to-trails contacts in Kentucky.

EVAN MEANS GRANTS (Libby Francis) Grant applications were handed out to the board. We already have one application for 2002 grant money. Jim Poteet is going to get wording together for a press release regarding grant availability. Once the wording is done, Arleen Scheller has volunteered to blast-fax the release to all the local newspapers.

NEW BUSINESS

2002 BUDGET AND SPENDING PLAN (Jim Poteet) Sheets had previously been handed out showing the 2002 budget in summary and detail. It currently projects a loss for next year. We're hoping to get more membership income to offset this and we should be o.k. Discussion was held regarding tax letters being issued to members who donate

above the membership amount. Susan Weber has wording she will pass on to us that they use in issuing CT tax letters at year end. It's also of extra work to automatically do that on all donations made above the membership level. It was suggested that we make a note on the bottom of the membership renewal form that if you're a supporting member and wish a tax letter at year end please notify us and we will furnish one. Barbara Matheson and the new 2002 treasurer Carol Haley will look into this matter further. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2002 budget as presented. It was passed unanimously.

2002 ANNUAL MEETING (Jim Poteet) Nashville chapter will host next year's annual meeting. Several locations were mentioned, among them: Fall Creek Falls, Pickett, and Montgomery Bell all Tennessee State Parks. They are still working on location selection and more details will be available next meeting.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FOOT TRAILS CONFERENCE (Arleen Scheller) The American Hiking Society and other outdoor organizations are putting on a conference at Unicoi State Park in north Georgia on April 26-28, 2002. This will be a visionary session and lots of events are planned. Cumberland Trail will have representatives there and Arleen encouraged any TTA member or interested person to attend also. There will be hikes and other activities along with the learning aspect. More information will be made available as the time nears.

CHAPTER ALLOCATIONS FOR 2002 (Libby Francis) Currently the structure for chapter allocations is: \$2.00 per member or a minimum of \$100.00 per year or a maximum of \$400.00 per year. A motion was made and seconded to retain this allocation structure. The vote was unanimous to keep the allocations as they are. Libby then handed out checks to each chapter chair for their 2002 allocation. There is also a form with the check for each chapter to report on how their allocation was used.

The meeting was then adjourned.

of local projects lately like: bridge construction at Short Springs State Natural Area, helped build trail at Edgar Evans State Park, and worked with Warner Parks on trail etiquette. Next year Nashville will host the annual meeting and are now beginning to evaluate locations.

Northwest (Jim Clark) This group started and remains small. They have done a recent group hike with the Memphis chapter. They try to sponsor one event a month (except for the summer when the students are out of school). They are also active in helping the city of Martin plan for a greenway.

Plateau (Bill Haynes) Bill is the newly elected Plateau chairperson and will have more information next meeting. He recognized Carolyn Miller for all her tireless hard work in helping to get the annual meeting organized and operational.

Upper Cumberland (Matthew Pung) The group is active and has helped work on trail construction at Edgar Evans State Park. They will plan their 2002 hikes at the December chapter meeting.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATION REPORTS

TRAC (Jim Deming) Efforts are underway to reactivate the group. They are currently working on three projects. 1) Ashland City rails to trails expansion has received \$250,000 towards this effort 2) Etowah to Ducktown area has recently been abandoned by CSX railroad and they should know in @60 days if they can convert it to rails to trails and 3) Devonia to Oneida stretch has not yet been officially abandoned but they are hopeful it can be converted.

Cumberland Trail (Sandra Spearman) They have had a great year with lots of Breakaway trail building events. They have trail opportunities open from March through the fall. This year they spent a lot of time working in the Norris area and on land acquisition. Sandra presented a great slide show highlighting the value and gratitude CT has for its volunteers.

(Rob Weber) Rob also noted their intense work on land acquisition for this year. They have 166 miles approved for acquisition and are close to getting all areas secured.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2002 (Libby Francis)

Libby presented the following people to be voted on for 2002 officers. (There were no additional nominations from the floor.)

President - Leigh Jones

Vice President - Fount Bertram

Treasurer - Carol Haley

Secretary - Anna Clark

Membership Director - Anne Wesley

Middle Tenn. Regional Director - Mark Stanfill