

**Tennessee Trails Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting by Zoom
May 5, 2026, at 7:30 ET / 6:30 CT**

President Will Latham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. ET.

Will Latham called the roll. Present were: Will Latham, June Callahan, Bryan Brand, Jane Coffey, Wayne Drown, Jenny Fitzgerald, Hal Beckham, Alice Cannon, Phyllis Long, Nina Heckler, Maria Martinez, Susan Brand, Karen Shoemaker, Patty Deen, Tommy Black, Danny Greer, Cheryl Smith, Dianna Richter, Norm Brinsley, and Lucy Cahill.

Absent: Marti Owensby, Lora McBride and Michael Hernan.

Guests: Libby Francis (Nominating Committee Chair), Chris Fitzgerald (Web Administrator) and Melissa Love (Plateau AGM Chair).

Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 2026 Quarterly Board Meeting were sent out to the BOD with the agenda. President Latham asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. Jane Coffey moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Karen Shoemaker. The minutes were approved by the BOD.

Financial Committee Report

Bryan Brand, Treasurer, presented the first quarter financials. June Callahan moved to approve the report, seconded by Alice Cannon. The report was approved by the BOD.

Mr. Brand discussed an initiative to switch from our current USPS mailbox to a virtual mailbox and scanning service. The service would provide a new address. They would open and scan incoming mail, and the images would be accessible online. This would allow faster processing of checks and membership forms and negate the need for the mail to be picked up several times a month. The cost of the service would be partially offset by discontinuing the USPS box. Different vendors are being reviewed, and the process and requirements for transitioning are being defined. A formal proposal will be presented on or before the next BOD meeting.

Will Latham encouraged the identification and development of a backup Treasurer. Mr. Brand committed to work with the Finance Committee to pursue this.

June Callahan reported that the Application to Renew Registration of a Charitable Organization will be completed by the June 30 deadline.

Membership Committee Report

Will Latham reviewed the membership report. There were no questions.

It was requested that a copy of the new member “welcome” email generated by MemberPress be sent to every chapter chair so that they can see what is included in that email.

Strategic Communications Committee Report

Patty Deen reviewed the activities and initiatives of the committee to improve the website, newsletter and internal communications. The Committee proposed establishing a \$1,500 annual stipend to be paid to the Web Administrator, \$375 per quarter, effective January 1, 2026. This expense would be offset by spending less on Richards Design Group. Our Web Administrator is currently doing much or all the work that Richards Design Group had been doing. Patty Deen moved to establish the stipend as presented, which was seconded by Nina Heckler. The proposal was approved by the BOD.

Audit and Risk Management Report

Both insurance policies (D&O and General Liability) were reviewed.

The D&O policy has a 3-year term and automatically renews June 1st.

The general liability policy has an annual term. The committee decided to continue with the same company with similar terms and will go into effect June 1, 2026.

From time-to-time TTA conducts an external “audit” of the Association’s finances. Due to the changeover to a new Treasurer January 1, 2026, the Committee was charged with arranging a limited external audit for the calendar year 2025. An AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures) audit scope was determined, and a vendor identified. The proposal is well within the budget. Mr. Beckham will have them work with Bryan Brand to be paid, and to arrange for the review. Mr. Brand has all related digital and paper files.

Evan Means Grant Committee Report

Wayne Drown reviewed several grant applications that were submitted to the committee. The first two did not meet the Committee’s criteria.

The Friends of Mill Ridge Park proposal for \$1,000 to enhance the Grassland Loop Trail at Mill Ridge Park was recommended to the Board for approval. Mr. Drown moved to approve the proposal, which was seconded by Karen Shoemaker. The proposal was approved by the BOD.

Mr. Down reported that the checks approved for the Friends of Harpeth River State Park and Friends of David Crockett State Park were delivered. Libby Francis encouraged photos to be captured when delivering checks for the Newsletter.

Will Latham encouraged chapter representatives to identify and solicit grant-worthy project applications from their areas.

Annual Conference Report

Norm Brinsley reviewed the ongoing planning efforts for the 2026 Annual Conference. Online registrations and donations are coming in. The web page for the AGM includes a video showing the beauty of the Plateau area.

Mr. Latham reminded the Board that the 2027 AGM is on the horizon. The Nashville and Sumner Trails chapters are co-hosting that meeting and need to start considering dates and location. Ideally, the 2027 AGM dates and location will be announced at the October 2026 Annual Conference.

Nominating Committee Report

Libby Francis reminded the Board that three Board members rotate off each year, and nominations for these positions are needed to be approved at the Annual Membership Meeting held as part of the Annual Conference.

The Nominating Committee also develops nominations for officer positions that rotate off or resign. The Vice President position is vacant due to a resignation. The Committee nominated Hal Beckham to fill this position. The Board approved Hal Beckham as Vice President, effective immediately.

Supporting Chapters Committee

Will Latham reported that a Supporting Chapters Committee has been formed to develop resources to support chapter activities such as recruiting hike leaders, broadening hike variety, improving practice operations and recruiting and retaining members. The committee is in the process of surveying all chapters about how they currently operate.

Supporting Trails Committee

Libby Francis reported that the Committee would like to publicize and promote individual chapter efforts to support trail. Photographs and narrative descriptions will be used in the newsletter to publicize these activities. This includes:

- EMGF check-giving and project results (before and after, when appropriate).
- Various chapter maintenance projects. This includes projects to collect trash and other clean-up activities. The goal is one project like this per year.

President's Report

The strategic planning team continues to work. Points of discussion include:

- Implementation of the plan and follow up
- Bylaws changes that are required

A bylaws committee may need to be formed. This will be addressed at the Annual Membership Meeting held as part of the Annual Conference.

Mr. Latham reminded chapter representatives that they are the conduit for communication between their chapters and the Board. The Board depends on them to ensure that information and issues should flow both ways.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Nina Heckler and seconded by Lucy Cahill to adjourn at 9:02p ET, 8:02p CT.

Minutes submitted by Susan Brand, Secretary

Dates for future TTA Board of Directors meetings:

- August 4, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 7:30 pm Eastern, 6:30 pm Central - via Zoom.
- October 25, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 8:00 am Central - To be held at TTA Annual Conference on Sunday.



Agenda for Tennessee Trails Association Board of Directors Meeting

7:30 pm ET, 6:30 pm CT, May 5, 2026 by Zoom

7:20 ET/6:20 CT pm	Initiate Zoom
7:30 ET/6:30 ET pm	Call to Order

Mission: TTA brings people together through hiking—to enjoy nature, promote well-being, support trails, and build lasting friendships
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1. **Call to Order** and Welcome, Will Latham, President
2. **Roll Call**, Susan Brand, Secretary
3. **Approval of Quarterly Board of Directors Minutes**, Susan Brand, Secretary – Attachment #1
4. **Financial Committee Report** Bryan Brand, Treasurer – Attachment #2
 - a. FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION
 - b. QUESTIONS
5. **Membership Committee Report**, Marti Owensby, Chair – Attachment #3
 - a. QUESTIONS
6. **Strategic Communications Committee Report**, Patty Deen, Chair – Attachment #4
 - a. QUESTIONS
 - b. DECISION: Establish stipend for Web Administrator
7. **Audit and Risk Management Committee Report** – Hal Beckham, Chair – Oral Report
 - a. QUESTIONS
8. **Evan Means Grant Committee Report** – Wayne Drown, Chair – Attachment #5
 - a. QUESTIONS
 - b. DECISION: Approve grant proposals
9. **Annual Conference Report**, Norm Brinsley – Plateau Chapter – Attachment #6
 - a. QUESTIONS
 - b. 2027 Annual Meeting Preparation – Nashville and Sumner Trails



10. Nominating Committee Report – Libby Francis, Chair – Oral Report

- a. QUESTIONS
- b. DECISION – Elect Vice President

11. Supporting Chapters Committee, Will Latham – Oral Report

- a. QUESTIONS

12. President's Report, Will Latham, President – Oral Report

- c. QUESTIONS
- d. Formation of Bylaws Committee

13. Old Business

14. New Business

15. Motion to adjourn

Date for future TTA Board of Directors meetings:

- August 4, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 7:30 pm Eastern, 6:30 pm Central - via Zoom.
- October 25, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 8:00 am Central - To be held at TTA Annual Conference on Sunday.

**Tennessee Trails Association
Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting by Zoom
February 3, 2026, at 7:30 ET / 6:30 CT**

President Will Latham called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. ET.

Secretary Susan Brand called the roll. Present were: Will Latham, Susan Brand, Bryan Brand, Jane Coffey, Wayne Drown, Jenny Fitzgerald, Hal Beckham, Alice Cannon, Marti Owensby, Phyllis Long, Nina Heckler, Maria Martinez, Karen Shoemaker, Patty Deen, Tommy Black, Nancy Wark, Cheryl Smith, Dianna Richter, Norm Brinsley, Lucy Cahill, and Cathy Moran.

Absent: June Callahan and Michael Hernan.

Guests: Libby Francis, Nominating Committee Chair, and Chris Fitzgerald, Web Administrator and Lora McBride, Murfreesboro chapter representative.

Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 2025 meetings (Annual Membership Meeting, Special Organizational and Quarterly Board Meeting) were sent out to the BOD with the agenda. President Latham asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. Alice Cannon moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Wayne Drown and was approved by the BOD.

Strategic Plan

Patty Deen Presented the strategic planning process and results, including a proposed mission statement, vision, pillars and next steps. After discussion, Bryan Brand moved to adopt the strategic plan as presented, seconded by Jane Coffey. The motion was approved by the BOD.

Financial Report

Bryan Brand, Treasurer, presented the 2025 financials, and the budget for 2026. Wayne Drown moved to accept the financial report and approve the 2026 budget, seconded by Nina Heckler. The motion was approved by the BOD.

Membership Committee Report

Marti Owensby noted that the report was provided to the Board with the agenda. There were no questions.

Communications Committee Report

Patty Deen reported that the Communications Committee has not met yet in 2026. Chris Fitzgerald was welcomed as the new Webmaster, who briefly discussed some initiatives he is working on. Improvements are being made for the official emails for the Board officers, that are used by the current occupants of the board positions (i.e., President, Treasurer, Webmaster, Chapter Chairs). This provides a consistent email address for the public, while allowing Board officers and chapter chairs to rely less on their personal email addresses for TTA business. A TTA Google workspace has been created, so that files for TTA business can reside centrally, with access determined by the webmaster.

Audit and Risk Management Committee Report

Hal Beckham presented the committee members and discussed some of the initiatives/projects that the committee is working on. These include insurance policies review, clarification of policies around car-pooling, external 2025 financial Agreed Upon Procedures review, and first aid training, kits and related policies.

Evan Means Grant Committee Report

Wayne Drown discussed 2 grant proposals that were included in the board agenda materials.

Friends of David Crockett State Park and Still Hollow Natural Area

A motion was made by Jane Coffey and seconded by Karen Shoemaker to approve \$825.00 to purchase trail tools for the volunteers to use for maintenance and improvements to the parks 11 miles of hiking trails in the two areas. The motion was approved by the BOD.

Friends of Harpeth River State Park:

A motion was made by Norm Brinsley and seconded by Alice Cannon to approve \$860.00 to purchase Weed Wrenches for volunteers to use in removal of invasive plants, which is needed to maintain the trails and provide safe access points. The motion was approved by the BOD.

2026 Annual Conference Report

Norm Brinsley reported on the efforts underway to prepare for the annual conference, as outlined in the attachment provided to the BOD with the agenda. The planning group asked if it was possible to move the Board meeting from Sunday morning to Saturday afternoon, to allow Board members to hike on Sunday. Mr. Latham will explore this, to see if there are any issues with timing and sequence regarding Board business.

Mr. Latham noted the historical list of the chapters who hosted annual conferences, in the attachments. If adopted, the repeating cycle of hosting chapters list would help chapters identify several years in advance when their next turn is. Wayne Drown motioned, seconded by Patty Deen, to adopt the schedule as proposed, for sharing with chapters and to post it on the TTA website. The motion was approved by the BOD.

Nominating Committee Report

Libby Francis presented the committee's activities and challenges as outlined in the attachment provided to the BOD with the agenda.

It was noted that the Vice President position is currently vacant and board members were asked to contact the President if they were willing to serve in that role.

There is a vacant Director-At-Large position, which has a term extending through 2027. The committee recommends Lora McBride from the Murfreesboro Chapter to fill this role. A motion was made by Lucy Cahill and seconded by Cheryl Smith to appoint Lora McBride to this position.

There are several Board of Directors whose terms are expiring at the end of 2026. The Board was

reminded that there is an ongoing need to identify people within the Organization to serve on the Board and the various committees.

President's Report

Will Latham reviewed the proposed committees and committee members included in the attachments provided to the BOD with the agenda. A motion was made by Patty Deen and seconded by Jane Coffey to approve the proposed committees and members. The motion was approved by the BOD.

It was noted that there will be additional committees formed as part of the strategic planning process, and the Strategic Planning Team will be reaching out to individuals to serve on those committees.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Bryan Brand and seconded by Wayne Drown to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. ET or 8:13 p.m. CT.

Minutes submitted by Susan Brand, Secretary

Date for future TTA Board of Directors meetings:

- May 5, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 7:30 pm Eastern, 6:30 pm Central - via Zoom.
- August 4, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 7:30 pm Eastern, 6:30 pm Central - via Zoom.
- October 25, 2026 - TTA Board Meeting - 8:00 am Central - To be held at TTA Annual Conference on Sunday.

General Fund by Month
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
January 1-March 31, 2026

	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Total
Revenue				
4000 Donations				
4050 Donations - Unrestricted	100.00	31.24	25.00	156.24
Total for 4000 Donations	\$ 100.00	\$ 31.24	\$ 25.00	\$ 156.24
4100 Memberships				
4150 Individual	1,525.00	1,425.00	1,250.00	4,200.00
4200 Family	770.00	455.00	680.00	1,905.00
4250 Lifetime - Individual	75.00	25.00		100.00
4310 Student	15.00	15.00	30.00	60.00
4350 Supporting Individual	50.00	150.00	50.00	250.00
4400 Supporting Family	70.00	20.00	35.00	125.00
Total for 4100 Memberships	\$ 2,505.00	\$ 2,090.00	\$ 2,045.00	\$ 6,640.00
4450 Other Income				
4500 Bank & CD Interest	325.40	388.55	37.43	751.38
Total for 4450 Other Income	\$ 325.40	\$ 388.55	\$ 37.43	\$ 751.38
Total for Revenue	\$ 2,930.40	\$ 2,509.79	\$ 2,107.43	\$ 7,547.62
Gross Profit	\$ 2,930.40	\$ 2,509.79	\$ 2,107.43	\$ 7,547.62
Expenditures				
6100 Allocations to Chapters		3,335.00		3,335.00
6250 Merchant Charges	115.55	97.77	79.38	292.70
6200 Insurance - Directors & Officers				
6210 Insurance - General Liability				
6250 Merchant Charges				
6300 Newsletter Editing				
6350 PO Box & Office Supplies				
6400 State & federal Filing Fees	20.47			20.47
6550 Awards				
6750 Marketing Materials				
6800 Website & Supporting Software	42.51	121.52	22.52	186.55
Total for Expenditures	\$ 178.53	\$ 3,554.29	\$ 101.90	\$ 3,834.72
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 2,751.87	\$ (1,044.50)	\$ 2,005.53	\$ 3,712.90
Net Other Revenue				
Net Revenue	\$ 2,751.87	\$ (1,044.50)	\$ 2,005.53	\$ 3,712.90

General Fund by Quarter
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
January-December, 2026

	Jan - Mar 2026	Apr - Jun 2026	Jul - Sep 2026	Oct - Dec 2026	Total	2026 Budget
Revenue						
4000 Donations						
4050 Donations - Unrestricted					0.00	1,500.00
Total for 4000 Donations	\$ 156.24				\$ 156.24	\$ 1,500.00
4100 Memberships						
4150 Individual	4,200.00				4,200.00	11,000.00
4200 Family	1,905.00				1,905.00	4,725.00
4250 Lifetime - Individual	100.00				100.00	50.00
4310 Student	60.00				60.00	15.00
4350 Supporting Individual	250.00				250.00	1,100.00
4400 Supporting Family	125.00				125.00	400.00
Total for 4100 Memberships	\$ 6,640.00				\$ 6,640.00	\$ 17,290.00
4450 Other Income						
4500 Bank & CD Interest	\$ 751.38				751.38	3,300.00
Total for 4450 Other Income						\$ 3,300.00
Total for Revenue	\$ 7,547.62				\$ 7,547.62	\$ 22,090.00
Gross Profit	\$ 7,547.62				\$ 7,547.62	\$ 22,090.00
Expenditures						
6050 Accounting, Legal & Other Reviews						5,500.00
6100 Allocations to Chapters	3,335.00				3,335.00	3,345.00
6200 Insurance - Directors & Officers					0.00	700.00
6210 Insurance - General Liability					0.00	649.00
6250 Merchant Charges	292.70				292.70	685.00
6300 Newsletter Editing					0.00	1,500.00
6350 PO Box & Office Supplies					0.00	260.00
6400 State & federal Filing Fees	20.47				20.47	100.00
6550 Awards					0.00	200.00
6750 Marketing Materials					0.00	600.00
6800 Website & Supporting Software	186.55				186.55	6,039.00
Total for Expenditures	\$ 3,834.72				\$ 3,834.72	\$ 19,578.00
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 3,712.90				\$ 3,712.90	\$ 2,512.00
Net Other Revenue						
Net Revenue	\$ 3,712.90				\$ 3,712.90	\$ 2,512.00

General Fund Compared to Prior Year Same Period
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
January-March, 2026

1 Gen Fund

	Jan 1 - Mar 31 2026 Jan 1 - Mar 31 2025 (PY)	
Revenue		
4000 Donations		
4050 Donations - Unrestricted	156.24	1,030.00
Total for 4000 Donations	\$ 156.24	\$ 1,030.00
4100 Memberships		
4150 Individual	4,200.00	3,700.00
4200 Family	1,905.00	1,470.00
4250 Lifetime - Individual	100.00	25.00
4310 Student	60.00	15.00
4350 Supporting Individual	250.00	250.00
4400 Supporting Family	125.00	120.00
Total for 4100 Memberships	\$ 6,640.00	\$ 5,580.00
4450 Other Income		
4500 Bank & CD Interest	751.38	778.91
Total for 4450 Other Income	\$ 751.38	\$ 778.91
Total for Revenue	\$ 7,547.62	\$ 7,388.91
Cost of Goods Sold		
Gross Profit	\$ 7,547.62	\$ 7,388.91
Expenditures		
6100 Allocations to Chapters	3,335.00	2,370.00
6250 Merchant Charges	292.70	217.17
6400 State & federal Filing Fees	20.47	70.46
6800 Website & Supporting Software	186.55	180.50
6050 Accounting, Legal & Other Reviews		3,000.00
6300 Newsletter Editing		375.00
Total for Expenditures	\$ 3,834.72	\$ 6,213.13
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 3,712.90	\$ 1,175.78
Other Revenue		
Other Expenditures		
Net Other Revenue		
Net Revenue	\$ 3,712.90	\$ 1,175.78

EMGF Activity
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
January-December, 2026

	Jan - Mar 2026	Apr - Jun 2026	Jul - Sep 2026	Oct - Dec 2026	Total
Revenue					
4000 Donations					
4070 Donations - Board Directed	395.00				395.00
Total for 4000 Donations	\$ 395.00				\$ 395.00
Total for Revenue	\$ 395.00				\$ 395.00
Gross Profit	\$ 395.00				\$ 395.00
Expenditures					
6600 Evan Means Grants Given	1,685.00				1,685.00
Total for Expenditures	\$ 1,685.00				\$ 1,685.00
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (1,290.00)				\$(1,290.00)
Net Other Revenue					
Net Revenue	\$ (1,290.00)				\$(1,290.00)

Statement of Financial Position
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
As of Mar 31, 2026

	1 Gen Fund	2 EMG Fund	Total
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Total for 1000 TTA Chapters	\$ 9,172.96		\$ 9,172.96
1200 TTA Center			
1220 Regions Bank - CD Accounts	45,659.51	20,000.00	65,659.51
1240 Regions Checking 8364	5,692.38	10,771.82	16,464.20
Total for 1240 Regions Checking 8364	\$ 51,351.89	\$ 30,771.82	\$ 82,123.71
1260 Regions Money Market	5,201.29	5,000.00	10,201.29
1270 Edward Jones Investments	104,702.52		104,702.52
1280 Stripe Account	230.60		230.60
Total for 1200 TTA Center	\$161,486.30	\$ 35,771.82	\$197,258.12
Total for Bank Accounts	\$170,659.26	\$ 35,771.82	\$206,431.08
Other Current Assets			
1420 Deposits - Future Annual Meetings	1,500.00		1,500.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$ 1,500.00		\$1,500.00
Total for Current Assets	\$172,159.26	\$ 35,771.82	\$207,931.08
Total for Assets	\$172,159.26	\$ 35,771.82	\$207,931.08
Liabilities and Equity			
Liabilities			
2100 Prepaid Membership Dues	1,836.00		1,836.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$ 1,836.00		\$ 1,836.00
Total for Liabilities	\$ 1,836.00		\$ 1,836.00
Equity			0.00
3002 Opening Balance Equity	163,503.94	35,859.00	199,362.94
3100 Retained Earnings	3,106.42	1,202.82	4,309.24
Net Income	3,712.90	-1,290.00	2,422.90
Total for Equity	\$170,323.26	\$ 35,771.82	\$206,095.08
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$172,159.26	\$ 35,771.82	\$207,931.08

Statement of Financial Position Compared to Prior Periods

Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.

As of Mar 31, 2026

	1 Gen Fund		
	As of Mar 31, 2026	As of Dec 31, 2025 (PP)	As of Mar 31, 2025 (PY)
Assets			
Bank Accounts	170,659.26	167,546.36	164,237.72
Other Current Assets	1,500.00	0.00	890.00
Total for Current Assets	\$172,159.26	\$167,546.36	\$165,127.72
Total for Assets	\$172,159.26	\$167,546.36	\$165,127.72
Liabilities and Equity			
Total for Liabilities	1,836.00	936.00	448.00
Equity	170,323.26	166,610.36	164,679.72
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$172,159.26	\$167,546.36	\$165,127.72

	2 EMG Fund		
Assets			
Bank Accounts	35,771.82	37,061.82	36,239.00
Other Current Assets			
Total for Current Assets	\$ 35,771.82	\$ 37,061.82	\$ 36,239.00
Total for Assets	\$ 35,771.82	\$ 37,061.82	\$ 36,239.00
Liabilities and Equity			
Total for Liabilities			
Equity	35,771.82	37,061.82	36,239.00
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$ 35,771.82	\$ 37,061.82	\$ 36,239.00

	Total		
Assets	207,931.08		
Current Assets	207,931.08		
Bank Accounts	206,431.08	204,608.18	200,476.72
Other Current Assets	1,500.00	0.00	890.00
Total for Current Assets	\$207,931.08	\$204,608.18	\$201,366.72
Total for Assets	\$207,931.08	\$204,608.18	\$201,366.72
Liabilities and Equity	207,931.08		
Total for Liabilities	\$1,836.00	\$936.00	\$448.00
Equity	206,095.08	203,672.18	200,918.72
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$207,931.08	\$204,608.18	\$201,366.72

Statement of Cash Flows by Fund
Tennessee Trails Association, Inc.
January 1-March 31, 2026

Full name	1 Gen Fund	2 EMG Fund	Total
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net Income	\$ 3,712.90	\$ (1,290.00)	\$ 2,422.90
Adjustments to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by operations:			
1420 Deposits - Future Annual Meetings	\$ (1,500.00)		\$ (1,500.00)
2100 Prepaid Membership Dues	\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
Total for Adjustments to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by operations:	\$ (600.00)		\$ (600.00)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 3,112.90	\$ (1,290.00)	\$ 1,822.90
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
NET CASH INCREASE FOR PERIOD	\$ 3,112.90	\$ (1,290.00)	\$ 1,822.90
Cash at beginning of period	\$ 167,546.36	\$ 37,061.82	\$ 204,608.18
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	\$ 170,659.26	\$ 35,771.82	\$ 206,431.08

TTA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – May 5, 2026

Submitted by Marti Owensby, Membership Director

Committee Members - Cheryl Heckler (Plateau), Will Latham (Director - East Region), Phyllis Long (Director – Middle Region), Nina Heckler (Director – West Region), Patty Dean (Communications Chair), Dianna Richter - Nashville

Membership Report March 2026

Attached is the Membership report for 1st Quarter 2026 – January through March.

- 62 new members joined from Jan 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026.

Clarksville	14	Murfreesboro	4
Columbia Franklin	4	Nashville	3
East Tn	5	Plateau	6
Highland Rim	1	Scenic City	10
Jackson	2	Sumner Trails	5
Memphis	5	Unaffiliated	3

Updates from April 2026 Committee Meeting:

- Moving forward to identify requirements for addition of Gift Membership option. Once defined they will be submitted to the Web Master for implementation options and priority.
- Reviewed the membership reminder email timeline and all agreed that it was good and appropriate. No changes at this time.
- It was decided to pursue options for implementing a new member survey to help in learning how joining members found us as well as their whys for hiking. That is in progress.
- The Committee discussed what the Welcome email should include. A draft was submitted to the Chair and is in the process of being reviewed.

Items Needing Board Approval: None

As always, we welcome input from the Board.

Marti Owensby (Scenic City)
423-309-0579 (voice or text)
mlovensby71@gmail.com

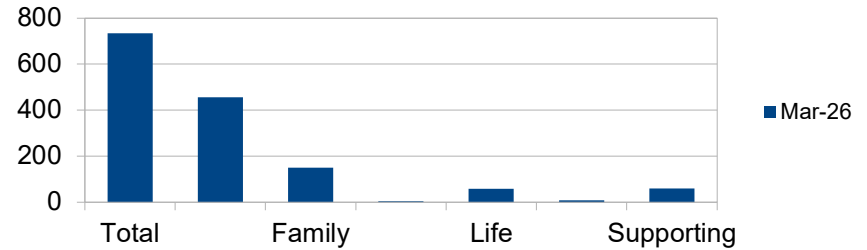
Genesis 3.6.2 is available. [Check out what's new](#) or [update now](#).

Chapter	Total	Individual	Family	Student	Lifetime	Lifetime Family	Supporting
Clarksville	88	56	19	2	2	1	8
Columbia Franklin	43	27	11	0	0	0	5
East Tennessee	40	25	6	0	6	0	3
Highland Rim	44	18	12	0	9	2	3
Jackson	31	16	11	0	3	0	1
Memphis	66	43	14	0	4	0	5
Murfreesboro	50	34	6	1	2	1	6
Nashville	89	49	10	0	23	1	6
Plateau	87	63	15	0	3	0	6
Soddy Daisy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scenic City	102	67	23	1	1	0	10
Sumner Trails	57	32	17	0	2	1	5
Upper Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unaffiliated	36	26	5	0	3	1	1
Totals	733	456	149	4	58	7	59

TTA Membership Report for May 5, 2026 Board Meeting

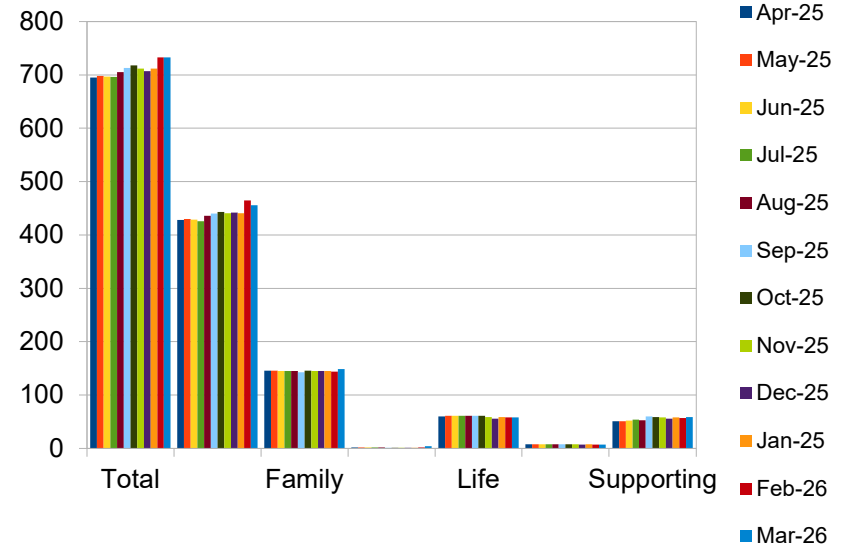
TTA Membership Ending March 2026

Date	Total	Individual	Family	Student	Life	Family Life	Supporting
Mar-26	733	456	149	4	58	7	59



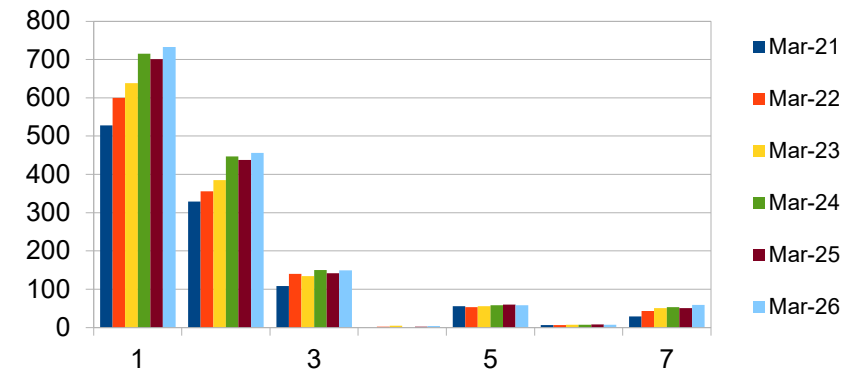
TTA Membership for past 12 months

Date	Total	Individual	Family	Student	Life	Family Life	Supporting
Apr-25	695	428	146	2	60	8	51
May-25	698	430	146	2	61	8	51
Jun-25	697	429	145	2	61	8	52
Jul-25	696	426	145	2	61	8	54
Aug-25	705	436	145	2	61	8	53
Sep-25	713	440	143	1	61	8	60
Oct-25	718	443	146	1	61	8	59
Nov-25	712	441	145	1	59	8	58
Dec-25	707	442	145	1	56	7	56
Jan-25	712	441	145	1	59	8	58
Feb-26	733	465	144	2	58	7	57
Mar-26	733	456	149	4	58	7	59
Inc/Dec	38	28	3	2	-2	-1	8



TTA Membership Ending March for past 6 years

Date	Total	Individual	Family	Student	Life	Family Life	Supporting
Mar-21	528	329	108	0	56	6	29
Mar-22	600	356	140	2	53	6	43
Mar-23	638	385	134	5	56	7	51
Mar-24	715	447	150	0	58	7	53
Mar-25	701	438	142	2	60	8	51
Mar-26	733	456	149	4	58	7	59
Inc/Dec	205	127	41	4	2	1	30



Strategic Communications Committee Report, May 5, 2026

The Strategic Communications Committee members include Patty Deen – Chair, Chris Fitzgerald (Web Administrator), Marti Owensby (Membership Chair), Libby Francis (Newsletter Editor), Sara Pollard, Mark Hubbard, Craig McBride, Greg Christian. Will Latham (TTA President) has participated in meetings.

Our committee has met twice, February 9 and April 8. Meetings have had meaningful discussions. Significant progress has been made in multiple areas related to the website, newsletter, and internal communications. Data analysis from the TTA website, Facebook page and Mailchimp has been integral to Committee discussions and decisions. Key to this progress is the work and expertise of our Web Administrator along with collaborations with individual committee members. Minutes of these meetings that include details of committee discussions have been posted in the Communications Committee folder of the new TTA Google Workspace.

Significant actions and activities include:

1. Updates to the TTA Privacy Policy
2. Reformatting of the Membership Directory, removing street addresses.
3. Approval and adoption of Google Workspace for Nonprofits.
4. New TTA email accounts set up for TTA officers, select committee chairs, and Chapters through Google Workspace.
5. TTA Google Drive Shared Drive Folders set up for Committees and administrative functions. Folders will allow committee chairs and officers to store documents.
6. Annual Meeting website pages include a registration page.
7. Work toward streamlining hike descriptions to the TTA Calendar
8. Public Newsletter accessibility trial. A 2-month experiment to determine if outside access drives downloads from non-members leading to new memberships.
9. Formation of a Facebook Subcommittee to establish guidelines for use and administration of the TTA Facebook page and update page information to align with mission statement.

Action Item Requested by the Committee:

The Committee voted to recommend to the Board the establishment of a \$1500 budget item for a Web Administrator. Funds could be assigned from the 2025 budget adopted for Richards Design group.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Deen, Chair



About Friends of Mill Ridge Park

Friends of Mill Ridge Park (FMRP) was founded in 2017 to support and advocate for Mill Ridge Regional Park in Antioch, Tennessee. Since then, FMRP has grown into an award-winning, community-based nonprofit dedicated to expanding equitable access to trails and outdoor experiences while fostering a culture of conservation and stewardship.

Serving a rapidly growing community in southeast Nashville that has historically lacked access to greenspace and trail infrastructure, FMRP works in partnership with local schools, businesses, and public agencies to create and sustain welcoming, inclusive outdoor spaces. Together with these partners, we have engaged more than 30,000 participants in year-round programs that connect people to nature through recreation, education, and volunteer-driven stewardship.

Central to this work is the creation, maintenance, and activation of more than six miles of primitive trails at Mill Ridge Park. Through guided hikes, conservation activities, and hands-on volunteer opportunities, FMRP advances environmental awareness, trail sustainability, and public health to ensure that trails are not only accessible, but also protected and cared for by the community.

Support for this request will strengthen and expand our trail system, increasing opportunities for safe, sustainable access while deepening community engagement in trail stewardship for years to come.

Project description

Friends of Mill Ridge Park respectfully requests support from the Tennessee Trails Association's Evan Means Grant to enhance and sustain the Grassland Loop Trail at Mill Ridge Park. This 2.5-mile primitive nature trail meanders through scenic meadows, cedar glades, woodlands, ponds, and streams in a part of Davidson County (zip code 37013) that has historically lacked access to greenspace and trail infrastructure.

Created, maintained, and activated by FMRP, the Grassland Loop Trail is a vital community asset that welcomes walkers, hikers, runners, and families with strollers and wagons. The trail is used year-round by hundreds of people including families, school groups, community organizations, and walking clubs. FMRP also leads guided hikes and educational programs along the trail, helping participants explore phenology, wildlife, plant life, and astronomy, deepening connections to the outdoors.



This project will support improvements, care, maintenance, and programming of the Grassland Loop Trail to ensure safe, welcoming, and consistent public access. Planned enhancements include installation of new wayfinding and safety signage, construction of small pedestrian boardwalks over sensitive and wet areas, provision of first aid supplies for volunteer workdays, and seasonal mowing of the grassland trail. The project will begin in spring 2026 and conclude in January 2027, culminating in winter brush cutting to sustain the trail and grasslands.

FMRP requests \$1,000 to support this work. Funds will be used for wayfinding and safety signage (\$271); lumber, nails, and a skill saw for boardwalk construction (\$429); first aid kits and supplies for volunteers (\$220); and fuel for mowing equipment (\$80). The total project cost is approximately \$4,600, with the remaining \$3,600 contributed by Friends of Mill Ridge Park through donations received from local individuals and corporate donors.

The project will require approximately 108 total hours, including 32 volunteers for 72 volunteer hours contributed by community members engaged in stewardship and trail care.

Through this effort, Friends of Mill Ridge Park will continue to ensure that the Grassland Loop Trail remains a safe, accessible, and enriching outdoor experience for the southeast Nashville community year-round.

TTA Grant Acknowledgement

Friends of Mill Ridge Park will recognize the Tennessee Trail Association & Evan Means Grant to thousands of community members and partners with online messaging, with onsite signage, and in programmatic remarks. TTA will be free to publicize its contribution to the project and partnership with Friends of Mill Ridge Park. Friends of Mill Ridge Park agrees to participate in a press release that acknowledges TTA's participation in the project. Friends of Mill Ridge Park will keep the committee informed about the projects' progress and completion with email updates including photos as requested.

Request Contact

Darrell Hawks, executive director, darrell@millridgepark.org, 615-933-8466

Gail Grant Info

Number of Signs: 3

Cost: Estimated to be \$2500.00 in total. Park will be responsible for \$1250.00.

Volunteer Hours: Estimated to be around 50 hours of volunteer labor hours.

Staff Hours: Over 200 hours.

Map of the Trail:



The trail that the signs are going on will be the River Gem Wetland Trail and is colored in black.

Sign Information: The signs will focus on three different topics that when read in order will all build off each other.

1. Wetland Builders: A beaver dam may look like a jumble of sticks, but it's the start of a wetland. By cutting trees and weaving branches into the stream, beavers slow the flow of water. As the water backs up, it spreads into wide, shallow ponds, the foundation of an entire wet-land ecosystem.

These wetlands quickly come to life. Still water creates perfect habitat for frogs and turtles, while the flooded edges support fish, ducks, and countless insects. Plants rooted in the calm, nutrient-rich water help filter sediment, clean the stream, and store water during heavy rain.

Even after the beavers move on, their dams keep shaping the landscape. As ponds slowly fill in, they transform into lush meadows and marshes that continue supporting wildlife for years.

When you explore Indian Mountain State Park, watch for telltale signs—gnawed saplings, muddy pathways, and glimmering pools. Behind each one is a beaver-made wetland quietly reshaping the park.

2. Wetlands: Wetland plants are specially adapted to grow in soils that are often wet or flooded. At Indian Mountain State Park, this vegetation forms the foundation of wetland ecosystems, helping to stabilize soil, improve water quality, and support wildlife.

Grasses, sedges, rushes, shrubs, and water-loving trees have dense root systems that slow moving water and hold soil in place. This reduces erosion and allows sediments and pollutants to settle out, naturally filtering the water.

Common wetland plants you may see here include cattails, with their tall leaves and brown flower spikes, and swamp mallow, a showy plant with large pink flowers that bloom in late summer and attract pollinators. Along the wetland edges, sedges and rushes provide important cover for insects, frogs, and birds, while shrubs like buttonbush offer food and shelter for wildlife.

By stabilizing soil, cleaning water, and providing habitat, wetland vegetation plays a vital role in keeping these ecosystems healthy. Protecting these plants helps preserve the natural balance of Indian Mountain State Park for generations to come.

3. River Gem Coal: Long before Indian Mountain State Park was covered in forest trails and beaver ponds, this land was part of a warm, swampy world. Around 300 million years ago, during the Carboniferous Period, vast wetlands stretched across what is now Tennessee. Giant ferns, horsetails, and early trees towered above the water, creating a dense green jungle.

When these ancient plants died, they fell into still, shallow wetlands where oxygen was scarce. Without enough air for full decay, the plants slowly built-up thick mats of peat — a soggy, carbon-rich layer of half-decayed vegetation and other organic materials. Over time, layers of sand, clay, and silt buried the peat deeper underground. The immense pressure and heat from these overlying sediments gradually transformed the peat into coal — a rock made from the energy of long-vanished plants.

Coal seams found in the nearby mountains are the re-mains of those primeval wetlands. The same natural processes that formed coal once shaped this landscape — water, plants, and time working together.

Today, Indian Mountain's beaver ponds and marshes echo that ancient cycle. While they won't form new coal, they still store carbon, filter water, and provide life-sustaining habitats. Every cattail and willow here plays a small part in the same grand story — one that began hundreds of millions of years ago beneath these very hills.

**Plateau Chapter Report for TTA Board of Directors Meeting
5 May 2026**

1. Actions Completed:

- 2026 Annual Conference Open for Registration
 - Web Page has active links for On Line and Manual Registration
 - Conference Agenda Published
 - Supporting Information for Registrants Provided
 - Hikes and Hike Leaders Schedule Published

2. Actions Pending:

- Coordination with Treasurer and Web Master to add New Links
 - i. Fund Raising and Silent Auction – Instructional Letter Prepared
 - 1. Date to Post Dependent on Links being Activated
 - ii. Information Sheets Descriptive of
 - 1. Friday and Saturday Night Entertainment
 - 2. Friday Night Presenter's Biographical Summary

3. Actions to be Completed:

- Chapter Members Assigned to Administrative and House Keeping Jobs for Annual Conference
 - i. Requirements Circulated at March Chapter Meeting-Awaiting Input
 - ii. Follow – up Dependent on Responses

4. Future Events:

- On going Coordination and Monitoring of Registration Process
- Chapter Meeting 14 May and Spring Picnic
- Summer recess: June – July – **Next Meeting 13 August**
 - AC Committees Continue to Monitor Registration Progress