

TWS - Western Section
Business Meeting and Member's Forum Minutes
January 31, 2013
The DoubleTree Hotel, Sacramento, CA

In attendance:

Executive Board:

Linda Leeman, *President*; John McNerney, *Past President & Treasurer*; Doug Bell, *President-elect*, Don Yasuda, *Section Representative & Membership Services Coordinator*; Janine Payne, *Secretary*; Rhys Evans, *Professional Development Committee Chair*, Armand Gonzales, *Conservation Affairs Chair*; Rich Burg, *Awards and Grants Committee Chair*; Laura Patterson, *Sac-Shasta Chapter Representative*, Linda Connolly, *San Joaquin Chapter Representative*; Jessica Martini-Lamb, *SF Bay Area Chapter Representative*.

Members:

Cynthia Perrine, *Western Section Program Director*; Tina Bartlett, Chrissy Howell, Brad Valentine, Kent Webb, Tom Kucera, Mike Chapel, Craig S. Harrison, Dawn LoBaugh, Julie Vance, Eric Kleinfelter.

President Leeman called the meeting to order at 17:09.

Election Results:

Past President McNerney commented that we were lucky to have such great candidates in Natasha Dvorak and Cahn Nguyen. Our next President-elect will be... Natasha Dvorak! Nguyen was unable to attend the meeting as he was visiting family in Vietnam. McNerney gave a brief history of Dvorak's career highlights and years of service to TWS before welcoming her to the board.

Appointment of New Officers and Committee Chairs:

Leeman informed the Membership that since Craig Bailey resigned in the middle of the year, John McNerney has agreed to take over as Treasurer. We are very grateful to him. He is also heading up the committee tasked with re-visioning and revitalizing Transactions. Also, another subcommittee just formed dealing with the maintaining of section records which will be headed up by Don Yasuda and Cynthia Perrine. With the passing of Jim Yoakum we need to figure out how to maintain those records and share them with the Membership.

Minutes - Payne

Payne passed out last year's business meeting minutes dated February 2, 2012. ***Rhys Evans motioned to approve the minutes. Laura Patterson seconded the motion. No edits were suggested. The motion passed unanimously.***

Officer Report Highlights:

Leeman stated that we were trying something a little different this year. Rather than have each person give a report, she summarized the highlights from each officer over past year and then opened the floor to questions for them.

She thanked McNerney for being such an active Past President and taking on the optical recognition project and the Transactions Advisory Committee. He also took on revising our logo. He solicited the designs and the logo you see today is a result of his hard work. Of course Bell had been hard at work planning this amazing conference. Payne has been working on getting minutes posted online on our website. Interim Treasurer Chapel compiled our records and we're on solid financial ground. Yasuda has

been serving as our Section Rep for almost six years now! We have an election coming up soon with candidates Jeff Lincer and Cynthia Perrine.

Committee Report Highlights:

The Committees were also had at work this past year. The Student Affairs Committee was reinvigorated with leadership of Davis Wyatt. Perrine has also been instrumental in guiding and advising that committee. The Conservation Affairs Committee was also invigorated com with Gonzales leading. Membership has been very strong. Professional Development put on some wonderful workshops with the leadership of Perrine and Evans. The Awards Committee gave out quite a few awards and lots of money with Burg's coordination. Leeman commented that it is nice to be on solid enough financial ground to be able to do that.

Our Program Director has been focusing her time, energy and dedication to getting education to school age children, developing our Membership Survey, and helping the Board stay on task by working on the Operations Manual.

Member's Forum:

Leeman then opened the floor for member comments. There was a question regarding Santa Rosa as a future conference location. Connolly wondered if we will do more merchandise now that we have new logo. Leeman replied that we always think its going to sell, but then it doesn't and we have to find storage for it. Patterson added that merchandise tends to sell better at smaller technical workshops. Leeman stated that she is really pleased with the new logo, especially the Hi islands in the turtle's shell.

Perrine pointed out that it's a problem to have a major meeting to be scheduled at the same time as our members' forum and respectfully asked that no meetings are scheduled opposite the business meeting. There was an extended discussion on ways to increase attendance, since the meeting was very poorly attended.

Yasuda pondered ways the Section could support the travel of state employees to Reno in 2014. He is looking for more creative ways to support members, perhaps by creating a travel grant fund. Another possibility discussed was about writing letters to employers.

Evans and Perrine talked about a Western Section bid to host the TWS conference again in 2017. San Diego is being considered as a possible location.

Awards:

Mike Lohr received and award for his service as Hawaii Chapter Representative, but was not in attendance.

Sandra Hunt-von Arb received an award in recognition for her longstanding service as North Coast Chapter Representative.

Past-President Pin:

Leeman presented McNerney with the Past President's pin and once again commended him on a job well done. McNerney said that he was excited to step up as Treasurer.

Transfer of Gavel and Presentation of Perpetual President Plaque:

Leeman presented Bell with the Perpetual President Plaque and commented on what amazing job he had done organizing this year's conference. This plaque has recognized all of the Presidents of the Western Section and is held by the current President during their term. She then presented the gavel to Bell.

Bell then presented Leeman with the award for outstanding service as President during 2012.

Valentine motioned to adjourn. Grayber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 18:02.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janine Payne
Secretary