

**TWS - Western Section**  
**Business Meeting and Member's Forum Minutes**  
**January 29, 2014**  
**Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV**

**In attendance:**

Executive Board:

Doug Bell, President; Natasha Dvorak, President-elect; Linda Leeman, Past President; John McNerney, Treasurer; Don Yasuda, Membership Committee Chair; Cynthia Perrine, Program Director, Western Section Representative; Janine Payne, Secretary - Outgoing; Janae Scruggs, Secretary – Incoming; Richard Burg, Awards and Grants Committee Chair; Rhys Evans, Professional Development Chair; Erin Aquino-Carhart, Conservation Affairs Chair; Lisa Ollivier, California North Coast Chapter Rep; Sandra Hunt-von Arb, California North Coast Chapter Rep (proxy); Rachel Sprague, Hawaii Chapter Rep; Jessica Martini-Lamb, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Rep; Laura Patterson, Sac-Shasta Chapter Rep; Jeff Lincer, Southern California Chapter Rep; Debra Hawk, Newsletter Editor

Members:

Mark Cassidy, Deana Clifford, Geoffrey Guthrie, Doug Padley, Melissa Sutton, Wayne Vogler, Brad Valentine, and Catherine Yasuda

*President Bell called the meeting to order at 1736.*

**Appointment of New Board Members:**

Bell introduced the transition of a number of Board Members into the coming year. He mentioned Janine Payne is the outgoing Secretary with Janae Scruggs as returning to the Board again as Secretary. Also, the Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Representative will be transitioning from Laura Patterson to Hal Holland.

**Election Results:**

Leeman announced our new President-elect will be Don Yasuda.

**Awards:**

The following awards were presented for time served on the Executive Board:

- Janine Payne as Secretary from 2010-2013
- Don Yasuda as Western Section Representative to TWS National Council from 2007-2013
- Laura Patterson as Sacramento-Shasta Chapter Representative from 2011-2013
- Linda Connolly as San Joaquin Valley Chapter Representative from 2011-2013
- Natasha Dvorak as President-elect for 2013
- Linda Leeman as Past President for 2013

**Past-President Pin and President Award:**

Bell presented Leeman with the Past President's pin. Leeman then presented Bell with the award for outstanding service as President during 2013.

**Treasurer Report:**

McNerney discussed the upcoming 2014 budget. Overall, he felt the coming year might be a small deficit, yet it wouldn't be a major impact and it would probably not be apparent to the membership.

**Strategic Plan:** Bell stated that the Strategic Plan as in a draft form and urged members to reach out to Board members for a copy and/or discuss their thoughts. He described that the next phase would be the Operations Plan, which would require professional and student member involvement to implement.

**Member's Forum:**

Questions were raised about the status of the professional chapters, student chapters, and committees. Current Board and/or Chapter members provided noteworthy information to the membership regarding the status of Chapters in the Section including:

Southern California Chapter – Jeff Lincer

- Met last night to discuss ways to improve involvement of membership. The number one identified challenge is geography and restraints in the different regions.

San Francisco Bay Chapter – Jessica Martini-Lamb

- Mentioned their two student chapters of UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University.

Sacramento-Shasta Chapter – Laura Patterson

- Current membership at 200.
- Lots of interaction with Sacramento State University, UC Davis
- Conducted workshops and Natural Resources Symposium
- Assisted Feather River College with grant to attend this year

California Central Coast Chapter – Wayne Vogler

- Great symposiums and workshops last year including Natural Resources and Kit Fox.

Nevada Chapter – Ken Mayer

- Excited about the upcoming Chapter meeting that would be occurring tonight.

Discussion was redirected to how student chapters were doing and the establishment of new chapters. Perrine discussed the process of developing a student chapter including establishing a student group, building the energy to be sustainable thru member involvement with events and other activities, and finally submitting paperwork for forming a Chapter. The final step requires working with Katie Edwards at TWS Nationals and sponsorship by Western Section. Also, the change in bylaws to include a TWS liaison to the board to keep cohesiveness of the Boards. Perrine stated Santa Barbara was enthusiastic about creating a student chapter, while Humboldt and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo were doing great yet Feather River College was a good group without a Chapter. The discussion lead towards the support of the Student Affairs Committee. Currently, it was felt the creation of a Chapter was based on student participation, members at large and having faculty chair for support. Ollivier suggested even having a student chapter liaison to the local professional chapter. Evans highlighted Humboldt State University's 2<sup>nd</sup> place award at Milwaukee, WI. Lincer suggested towards the future considering objectives that follow members from students to their young careers to a professional and to retirement, he referred to it as going from "cradle to grave."

Bell stated that the Board approved this year to raise contractor's hourly rate from \$40 per hour to \$55 per hour. He went on to say that we have found that contractors are working more than they are charging and the Board will be continue to be considerate of all future increases.

Yasuda mentioned that the bylaw changes have been approved by membership and approved by Nationals.

**Minutes:**

Outgoing Secretary Payne passed out last year's business meeting minutes dated January 31, 2013. *Rhys Evans motioned to approve the minutes. Laura Patterson seconded the motion. Dvorak abstained from the vote. No edits were suggested. The motion passed unanimously.*

Annual Business Meeting  
January 29, 2014  
Reno, NV

**Transfer of Gavel and Presentation of Perpetual President Plaque:**

Bell presented Dvorak with the Perpetual President Plaque. This plaque has recognized all of the Presidents of the Western Section and is held by the current President during their term. He then presented the gavel to Dvorak.

*Patterson motioned to adjourn. McNerney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Meeting adjourned 1830.*

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Janae Scruggs  
Secretary**