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One item that warrants the understanding of the membership regarding the Section's current financial program, is that most of the income is derived not from membership dues but from Section activities, notably, training workshops, annual meetings, sales of Transactions, and "Golden Wildlife" programs. Present dues barely pay expenses sufficient to publish and distribute the Section's *Newsletter*.

Organizational Structure has expanded in response to increased geographical area, membership, and activity. Essentially the Section's governing body, the Executive Board (EB) has been:

- 1955 - All officers and 3 representatives elected at large in California.
- 1964 - As in 1955 but, with one representative added for Nevada.
- 1970 - Organizational changes by TWS added Hawaii and Guam. The WS membership voted to have an Executive Board of all officers plus one representative from each of the 10 Chapters within the Section.

We have been operating 20 years with the present organizational structure, however, it is not working as efficiently as it might. Reasons are many. Only about 30% of the Chapters send representatives to any one of the Executive Board meetings; when the Executive Board does not have sufficient Chapter representatives, it lacks a quorum and is unable to implement business for the membership. The activity status of Chapters vary greatly; some are active, whereas others are passive, and some are inactive. Passive and inactive Chapters lead to canceled checks and lack of membership representation to the section EB and the Wildlife Society's Executive Council. This dilemma exists today with 2 or 3 chapters very inactive. The situation is a sad state of affairs for a professional society to tolerate. If the WS does not act to solve this problem, TWS will, because checks for membership dues are not being cashed. Because the WS created this organizational structure, it can modify it to more efficiently work for the betterment of the membership.

Publications are a pride of the Section just as they are for TWS. Every member benefits from these permanent documents that are produced for all to see and use. This service also benefits those outside the Section membership, thereby making a contribution to the entire wildlife profession, avocation, government agencies, private enterprise, and the public. To date, three approaches to publications have been pursued.

Newsletters have been printed and distributed to

all TWS members since 1955. These have varied from 2 to 4 per year and from 2 to 10 pages. The *Newsletter* is the Section's main organ of communication, for it goes to all members, plus a number of cooperating government agencies, colleges and universities, and other units of TWS. The *Newsletter* serves a vital role in keeping members informed of current events, past accomplishments, and future meetings, training workshops, and special projects.

Transactions of papers presented at the Annual Conference have been published since 1966. The WS was the first section in TWS to publish an annual transactions. The *Transactions* provides information for members unable to attend, a periodical for data of regional interest, an outlet source for publications by less experienced or new authors, and is a medium for both scientific and non-technical information on various aspects of wildlife biology and management. The WS's present procedures encourage speakers to publish their papers in the *Transactions* and those that agree to do so are given priority in the conference's agenda. The *Transactions* have become a model for similar publications by other sections.

Special Publications to date has produced to one, "*The Professional Wildlife Biologist*" (Yoakum et al. 1987). This was a compendium of papers identifying the qualifications, role, responsibilities, and ethics of the professional wildlife biologist. The booklet has been used by government agencies and universities outside the WS, thereby providing a service to the entire wildlife profession. Copies were exhausted within 6 months of publications, although the Section did reserve copies for distribution to new Section members.

Awards are a means for an organization to recognize personnel who have made outstanding contributions to their profession or the Society. The WS did this beginning in 1955 by granting their first professional achievement award to F.P. Cronemiller of the U.S. Forest Service. This was followed the next year with recognition to Seth Gordon of the California Department of Fish and Game. Awards have been granted most years since. Today the WS's honor program recognizes five categories.

The "Professional of the Year Award" or "Raymond F. Dasmann Award" is granted annually to a person whose contributions to the wildlife profession within the Section are regarded as outstanding or excellent. Only one award is granted annually. The name of this honor award recognizes the professional leadership and accomplishments of section member, Dr. Raymond F. Dasmann.

The "Conservationist of the Year Award" is presented annually to someone (who may or may not

be a member of the WS or TWS) or organization who has accomplished a truly creditable service to wildlife biology or management.

The "Nelson-Hooper Award" is presented to the author of the best technical paper presentation at the Section's Annual Conference. The award is a rotating trophy named in honor of Lew Nelson and Jon Hooper who were (J. Hooper still is) dedicated to organizing and conducting the WS's "Wildlife Communications Workshop]" over the past 20 years.

The "Continuing Wildlife Education Award" or the "Richard Teague CWE Award" is presented to those persons who have completed the requirements for the Section's Continuing Wildlife Education program. This program was instigated by Richard (Dick) Teague, former Section President and Representative to TWS Executive Council.

"Special Recognition Award" is a TWS certificate presented to WS members who on their own time, have accomplished tasks related to enhancing wildlife professionalism. This is one way the membership recognizes members willing to contribute beneficial services to the entire profession at all levels (Chapter, Section, TWS, and international).

Certification is now a professional activity of TWS, however, its inception rests with The Western Section and the New York Chapter. In the early 1970's, the Western Section became alarmed when foresters in California proposed state legislation licensing foresters to practice wildlife management. Fortunately this was defeated, however, the proposal showed that TWS needed standards for ethical and professional conduct while performing wildlife management duties and responsibilities, and procedures for implementing such standards. Eventually this led to the "Certification Program for Professional Wildlife Biologists" accepted through a vote by TWS members in 1977. The program has become one of the strongest TWS actions in identifying and pursuing professionalism. Again, grass roots input from Chapters and Sections became the impetus leading eventually to a fully recognized program adopted for wildlife professionals worldwide.

In accordance with recommendations from TWS, the WS maintains an active Certification Committee. Committee duties are to keep the members informed of progress of the program and problems arriving through time. Information from the Committee is available to any member seeking applications or assistance.

Resolutions and position statements have been developed over the years for many causes beneficial to wildlife. Many resolutions have been passed but not all have won favor. One actually was advocated by a WS Executive Board member, signed by the Section Presi-

dent and put into effect without concurrence by the EB. In fact, no other EB members were privileged to see it before enactment. This action resulted in the EB adopting policy procedures for future sections. Many of these actions express the WS's professional expertise regarding the welfare of wildlife and have influenced legislation policy guidelines for various government agencies, and standards for wildlife management practices. These activities indicate the intensive interest and involvement of the Section in political or policy matters related to the welfare of wildlife.

Few position statements have been issued by the WS to date. This responsibility of the Section should not be confused with the scope of TWS's position statements. TWS develops positions on issues at the national and international level, whereas the WS has responsibilities to address, evaluate, and recommend actions favorable for wildlife within the Section's geographic boundaries. Much more work is needed here and members are encouraged to get involved and participate in identifying issues where the WS should provide input and developing the resulting position statements.

Conservation Education activities have been sporadic. Member participation at public schools during National Wildlife Week is one of the most prominent functions accomplished. Lecturing and training at scout groups, churches, and conservation organizations are other traditional activities.

More recently, the production of the audio-visual programs *Silver Wildlife* and *Golden Wildlife* have provided both entertainment and education to thousands. These programs have been well received and used in many public schools. Presently, a "Teacher's Handbook" to assist teachers present the programs in the schools is being developed. These programs are only the beginning of a long-range conservation-education program. For *Golden Wildlife*, four sequel programs are needed, plus conversion to video format. In order to complete these goals, more assistance is needed from the membership.

Training is a shining example of the Section's attempt to provide education opportunities to the membership and other professionals for the past twenty years. Training helps wildlifers improve and update their knowledge and skills so vital to any professional. The WS's training endeavors have been open to members and non-members alike thereby providing a service to persons in various regions of Canada and the U.S. Since the initiation of the "Wildlife Communications Workshop" in 1970 at Reno, over 400 trainees have benefited (Hooper 1984). Workshops have been provided on topics such as Waterfowl Management, Habitat Management, Big Game Management, as well

as others. Training serves to meet one of TWS's objectives -- to work towards enhancing wildlife management.

Continuing Wildlife Education (CWE) is a relatively new program for both the Section and TWS. Continuing education and learning is a vital component of any practicing profession, be it medicine, law, or teaching. All professionals must keep up to date on new practices, skills, and techniques. Many agencies and individuals have participated in CWE, but a formal program was not initiated until the Nevada Chapter membership adopted one during the early 1980's. This program became the prototype for a similar program by Western Section (1988), which in turn became the prototype for the CWE adopted by TWS this year (1989). This is an example where a concept developed at the grass roots level in a Chapter was evaluated and adopted by a Section, then tried and approved at the parent society level. Instigation of a professional standard that is now adopted for implementation on an international basis is truly a contribution of the Section to the profession worldwide.

Let's not just relate to the goals and benefits of such programs. Evaluation of our performance in this project shows that less than five percent of WS members have participated in the CWE program. Although the program is new in concept and procedures, it is a function needed for professional integrity. What it also needs is membership support and participation to help fine-tune standards and procedures.

Other activities of the Section are numerous. I will try to cover a few salient endeavors. More complete coverage is provided in the Section's archives and "History Handbook."

"Code of Ethics and Objectives Certificate" was another idea generated by the WS, then evaluated and approved by TWS. The certificate makes readily available TWS's code of ethics and objectives. It was conceived and printed by the WS, then distributed to all members worldwide as the "Anniversary Certificate" of TWS during its 50-year golden anniversary in 1988, consequently, a bit of the WS is now with every TWS member around the world.

The Operations Manual is a policy and procedure handbook produced by and for the Section's EB. It lists the functions and duties of the officers and committees. The identification and listing of these duties and responsibilities aids for smoother administrative functioning. Other Sections have requested and used the WS's Operations Manual as a prototype for administration guidelines.

The annual *Photo Contests* and *Art Exhibits* at the Section's Conferences have been stimulating and provocative. They have added a new dimension of

interest and participation for members. Anyone can submit photos and the photo contest helps all to see quality in photography assignments. The Art Exhibits provide a medium whereby wildlife artists can exhibit their arts and crafts for members to enjoy. Both programs have been used as models by other TWS Chapters and Sections to stimulate appreciation of wildlife beauty and artistic values.

Unified Dues was another proposal the Western Section presented to TWS as a means of more efficiently administrating Society affairs. To many members, it seemed appropriate to write one check a year that would pay for dues requirements for whatever involvement a member chose: Chapter, Section, TWS, or all three. Unfortunately, the concept is now in trouble because of concerns of Chapters or Sections with members who are not TWS members. A non-coordinated dues structure can create administrative problems when Chapter members, who are not members of the Section and TWS, are elected to office in violation of Section or TWS bylaws that state all officers of Chapters and the Section must be paid dues members of the WS and TWS. Here is one area still needing a solution to provide for better operations of all units of TWS.

A member survey was conducted in 1985 giving an opportunity for WS members to state how they envision the Society should operate. The survey was initiated when the WS representative informed the WS Executive Board that TWS did not have a written mission or statement of long-term goals. Consequently, a questionnaire was designed to address questions regarding TWS's activities such as: publications; dues structure; certification; accreditation; continuing wildlife education; political involvement; training; professional enhancement; and many more. All members of the WS were given an opportunity to express their desires, opinions, and recommendations. Results were presented at the 1987 Western Section conference (Schmidt 1987). Much thought, work, and involvement went into this venture and the membership expressed priorities for future business. It is a responsibility of leadership now to implement these desires of the members.

One need identified by the membership is the development of a program to support the professional wildlifer when they are challenged while performing duties in accordance with TWS's code of ethics or standards of professional conduct. Recent investigations have confirmed that such cases have been a problem within the WS. The question now is will the WS support members who have performed their work according to professional standards advocated by TWS?

A History Handbook has been started to provide a permanent record of the WS's activities and accom-

plishments. It provides lists of meetings, memberships, officers, publications, and descriptions of workshop and training programs, certification, continuing wildlife education, and conservation education. Although recently started and presently incomplete, it has a definite goal to maintain a permanent record of the Section's activities and accomplishments.

SUMMARY OF THE PAST AND PROLOGUE TO THE FUTURE

The Western Section has operated continuously since it was organized in 1954. Its activities and accomplishments are many, a few prominent ones being:

Membership has increased from 145 in 1955 to some 300 in 1988.

Annual Meetings have grown into full-scale conferences. Thirty-five annual meetings have been held to date. Frequently these are held concurrently with other natural resource organizations.

Financial support originally came from membership dues, but now mainly come from Section activities. The Section's current (1989) net worth is over \$40,000.00.

Organizational structure of the Executive Board provides for representation from all Chapters in a highly democratic system. However, the system is not presently operating efficiently and needs evaluation and refinement.

Publications have been produced throughout the Section's history, thereby fulfilling the objectives of TWS to "increase awareness and appreciation of wildlife values." *Newsletters* are distributed to all members. *A Transactions* is published of papers presented at the annual Conference. A special publication on wildlife professionalism was printed and is used extensively.

Awards are granted each year to recipients judged worthy of peer recognition for special achievements. Five different awards are granted by the Section, generally on an annual basis.

Certification was recognized during the early 1970's by the WS as a needed component of the wildlife profession. WS actively participated in the implementation of this program at the TWS level; certification has worldwide application. The Section maintains a Certification Committee to provide assistance and service to members.

Continuing Wildlife Education is another component of the TWS commitment to improving professionalism in the field. The program adopted this year by TWS was originally conceived and implemented by a Chapter in the Section, then evaluated and approved by the Section. It was the Section's develop-

ment and testing of the program that led to adoption by TWS.

Resolutions and Position Statements are means to document topics and to recommend actions most desirable for wildlife in this region. Many have been developed and more will be needed in the future.

Conservation education endeavors have been myriad actions by members throughout the years at public schools, scout groups, churches, etc. More recently, the development of audio-visual programs have been actively used in the public schools and conservation organizations. Much more work in this area will be needed in the future.

Training and workshop sessions have been numerous in the last two decades. Wildlife Communications Workshops have trained more than 400 persons in the last 20 years. Another dozen workshops have trained hundreds, including other resource specialists, e.g., foresters, range managers, fisheries biologist.

Other WS activities that have contributed to the profession include: TWS Anniversary Certificate displaying the Society's code of ethics and objectives was conceived and printed in the Section; an Operations Manual detailing the duties and responsibilities of Section Officers and committees has been a prototype for other TWS units; the annual Photo Contest and Art Exhibits bring new media for membership participation; and the 1986 member survey allowed members to express their views and recommendations for the future operations of the WS.

This is not a complete listing of all activities of the WS, but merely highlights many examples of what has been accomplished and what can be done in the future. It identifies the WS as a dynamic unit, one that not only has benefited from participating as a unit of TWS, but one that has contributed highly toward enhancement of the Society, profession, and well-being of the resources. It has proven that one member or one chapter can initiate, design, and develop programs worthy of adoption by the entire profession for worldwide application. It is this opportunity that gives us a challenging goal to develop additional programs that will continue to improve our wildlife profession and the well-being of the resources. The purpose of a good retrospect should be to gain better perspective. Possibly this report may provide an aid to this goal for as David Ehrenfeld stated in *The Last Extinction*: "The future is shy. If you want to catch a glimpse of it, you have to sneak up on it from behind. So the place to start for a look into the future is the past."

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