

Outdoor Writers Association of California
General Meeting
Sonora, CA (Opera Hall)
Monday, Nov. 15, 2021

President Carrie Wilson called the general meeting to order at 12:21 p.m. She welcomed everyone, noting that it was nice to see everyone again in person after such a long time during the pandemic. She thanked the Tuolumne County tourism team for making the event so seamless.

Carrie invited Executive Director Bob Semerau to the front. Bob then introduced the OWAC board, thanked the Tuolumne Visitors Bureau and invited them up to go over the activities and schedule details, which they did.

Barbara S. then came to the front and reminded everyone of Covid protocols that were still in place. Tom M. followed with information and rules about the Shirley Miller photo contest. All the photos taken during the conference and submitted would run on a continuous loop at dinner Tuesday night. The photos will also be used by the Tuolumne tourism folks to help promote the area.

Bob S. presented the financial report noting that the approximately \$16,000 in the OWAC accounts was four times greater than it was five years ago, positioning OWAC in a very comfortable financial situation.

Peter S. got up and explained that OWAC also has an endowment that he helped started about four years ago. That endowment started at about \$14,000 and has grown to \$16,000. The endowment itself is never to be touched but the growth from the endowment is dispersed to provide cash awards for the high school writing contest and members writing contests. Peter encouraged the group to consider giving to the endowment.

Gigi was introduced as both the website and newsletter editor. It was noted that OWAC and Gigi need a managing editor for the newsletter, which comes out every other month. That person would help solicit submissions for the newsletter. If you are interested in submitting something to the newsletter or would like to volunteer to be the managing editor, see Gigi or Bob about this. Submissions for the newsletter are needed at least a week before deadline.

Betsy S. noted to the group that any tear sheets or other publicity that members produce about this meeting should be copied to the visitors' bureau. This will not only help the Tuolumne folks but will help OWAC when it is pitching the conference to the next location.

Bob noted that the spring conference will be in Big Bear, May 8-11.

He also talked about membership and generating new blood for the organization. He added that the newly revamped website that Gigi has created is one of OWAC's greatest assets.

Carrie then noted that there were three new members and asked each of the new members to stand up and say a little something about themselves. Carrie added some closing remarks, thanked everyone, and urged everyone to have a great afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, by Acting Secretary Nancy Sorrells