

OWAC TELECONFERENCE AGENDA – September 12, 2022

7 p.m., Monday September 12, 2022

Call-in Number: 607-374-1189 Pin 141147#

Call to Order: Carrie Wilson, President

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call – **Bob Semerau, Don Vachini, John Williamson, Barbara Steinberg, Carrie Wilson, Matt Johanson, Mike Harris**
Absent: Peter Schroeder, Risa Wyatt, Betsy Senescu, Tom Martens
- III. Who will take the minutes – Barbara Steinberg
- IV. Approve minutes Exhibit A – No changes or edits. Motion to approve: Don Vachini, John Williamson. No opposed
- V. Additional agenda items? - None
- VI. Finance Bob..... \$ 16,423.00
Some dues and few payments. Need to review our insurance – maybe look for better avenue for liability insurance and reducing the expense.
Nothing on endowment. Peter absent to give report.
- VII. Legal issues: Bob has received another state demand letter. See attachments
IRS is asking for documentation on taxes from 2016 until today. Do we have a record of what we sent? Trying to reach Tom Martens about the IRS. They don't know how small we are.
- VIII. Retired Members reduced dues cost level? Per Patrick Young
He still wants to be a “retired” member for those who are no longer writing.
Create a new category at a slightly reduced rate, but don't have to provide any journalistic samples. Fee of \$50. What about conferences and how it benefits the hosts? Allow retirees to come in at guest rate? **Motion: Bob – we move forward with existing retired member category at \$50 annually and payment at conferences at guest rate. Will have to be added manually to the system. Moved to approve First: Mike Harris Second: Don Vachini**
No oppose. Motion carries.
- IX. Publicity - Betsy - I have no news to report on PR other than I continue to search for pertinent content for our OWAC Facebook page, and schedule at least one post per day: our audience continues to grow - we have nearly 900 people who 'like' our page, and keeping this up to date and active can continue to draw people to OWAC. Ideally I would like to post content from OWAC members however this is scarce, so I'd like to remind the Board to please send me links to your published work. Bob Semerau we only had three

or four posts for the newsletter and website.

- X. Website membership report, John Williamson – Updates are completed. Took a bit longer but the company stuck to the estimate. Changes have made new member enrollments much easier. In terms of membership, we've lost a few more members and seeing if others will renew.
- XI. Spring Conference Locations Anyone? – Haven't heard back from anyone about fall. Bob will reach out to potential hosts for spring 2023.
- XII. Outdoor Californian of the Year status – Completed the rework. Laurie has final documents for approval. Mike Harris – this would be a spring activity to announce at the conference. Bob will contact Laurie to establish a timeline.
- XIII. Mission Statement, Tom Martens – Table until next meeting since Tom wasn't present
- XIV. Next Meeting Date: 7:00 p.m. **Monday, October 17, 2022**
- XV. **New item:** Mike Harris – want to discuss opening this up to Arizona Outdoor Writers. Arizona Fish & Game open to outdoor writers. Extend membership to western states. How do we phrase that and put it together?
- XVI. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn: First Don Vachini, Second Mike Harris
Adjourned at 7:54pm

Exhibit A

OWAC BOARD TELECONFERENCE MINUTES – Monday July 18, 2022

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order 7:04PM – President Carrie Wilson
 - II. Roll Call – Carrie
 - In attendance: Bob, Peter, Betsy, Risa, John, Tom, Connie
 - Absent: Mike, Matt, Barbara
 - III. Who will take the minutes? Betsy
 - IV. Approve minutes of May 9 (Exhibit A) with the following correction:
 - IV Finance:*
 - i. General fund has \$18,076.10*
 - ii. Liability Insurance ~~quarterly~~ ANNUAL fee of \$414, paid*
- Risa moved to approve with the revision, John seconded, approved
- V. Finance
 - a. Bob: General Account
 - i. \$16,689 after expenditures and awards, and Visit Big Bear waiving their portion of income
 - b. Endowment: Peter
 - i. \$16,100 – maintained value despite market fluctuations
 - ii. \$704 cash
 - iii. Offers by Board members to make up any deficit in award monies were not required and have been waived.

- VI. Spring 2022 Conference Big Bear Lake, California May 9-12, 2022
 - a. Recap
 - i. Raffle - revisit value of future raffles when Barbara is on the call
 - ii. Covid – only one attendee refused stated protocol and was turned away, confirmed success of predetermined protocol
 - iii. Peter recommended we standardize thank you gift for conference
 - 1. Suggested a plaque for hosts, other forms of recognition requested: Peter will review and present ideas
- VII. Legal issues: Tom
 - a. Noted we are getting closer' to resolution, some paperwork still pending
- VIII. Membership
 - a. Discussed request by Ray R. that retired Members get reduced dues
 - i. Board determined 'no action' on dues, but to maintain membership
 - b. Membership – John noted three persons on the roster with expired membership
- IX. Website repair and upgrades:
 - a. John reviewed several resources to make online membership application and renewal functionable. He moved to accept "CreativeByRed" Co. to upgrade membership portion of the website at a cost of \$450; seconded by Bob, unanimously passed.
 - i. John reminded that WebCat is owed \$100 for their audit of the website
 - b. Both Betsy and Peter recently submitted blogs/news to the OWAC website which did not automatically post: John will pursue.
- X. Publicity: Betsy
 - a. RE: Vachini Scholarship/Contest winners, Betsy sent six regional press releases to 28 different local media platforms, in addition a general press release with the names of all winners to 55 media sources.
 - b. Placement results still pending
- XI. Fall Conference Locations Bob
 - a. Three potential venues have not responded
 - i. Bob will pursue Folsom Lake
 - ii. Pursue Calif State Parks for optional camping/glamping options
- XII. Californian of the Year: Connie Young
 - a. Connie submitted proposed documents to solicit COY candidates; the following recommendations were made:
 - i. Change 'preserve' and 'preservation' to 'conserve' and 'conservation'
 - ii. Peter will forward other approved wording
 - iii. Eliminate number of OWAC members in letter, and date of upcoming conference

- b. Connie was commended for her work and stepping in to handle this important program
- XIII. Mission Statement: Tom
 - a. Pending next meeting
- XIV. Next Meeting Date: 7:00PM Monday August 8, 2022
- XV. Adjourn – Betsy motioned to adjourn, seconded by Bob, adjourned unanimously at 7:59PM

:BCS 7-21-22