

OWAC TELECONFERENCE AGENDA – October 17, 2022

7 p.m., Monday October 17, 2022

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

Call to Order: Carrie Wilson, President

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call – Carrie – **Bob, Carrie, Betsy, Tom, Peter, John, Don, Risa, Mike, and Barbara**
- III. Who will take the minutes? - **Barbara**
- IV. Approve minutes Exhibit A – No changes. Don Vachini and Risa Wyatt move to approve. All in favor.
- V. Additional agenda items? – **SF Gate on Website added by Bob**
- VI. Finance Bob..... \$ 16,013 – **There were only a few expenditures from last meeting. On the investment, we’re down 25% but we have repositioned the portfolio - \$865 estimated income. Portfolio is down to \$13,400**
- VII. Outdoor Californian of the Year status OCOY **Laurie Morrison/Bob** – One submission at this time. Given short timeframe, can we extend deadline? If we only have one nominee, can we just skip voting and accept the one? Betsy would like to see us extend the deadline and have everyone on the Board make an effort. Peter, Risa, and Carrie agree with extending. **Betsy** – we need to publish to the members that we’ve extended the deadline. New deadline to be determined or whatever Laurie decides. **Bob will discuss further with Laurie and send e-mail blast.**
- VIII. Legal issues: Remains unresolved No donations-No Awards – Current status from Rob Bonta, Attorney General – coming from the raffle. Our incorporation has not been validated. Forms we hadn’t submitted. We can’t accept any donations. **Peter** - Does this tie into rewriting of bylaws? **Bob doesn’t think it does. We don’t have copies of our IRS filings for the last six years. Bob is now the sole point of contact and is working on resolving the matter.**
- IX. Retired Members new level of membership **John Williamson** – One official retired member – Patrick Young. When John did this, Patrick’s picture fell off the page. We’ll try and figure that out. Carrie said she’ll call Ray Rychnovsky if he’s interested in renewing at the retired level.
- X. Liability Insurance Savings – **Bob** - We have our insurance that we’ve been paying from way back when. John Williamson set us up with same company as being used by BATW. We’re now saving almost \$1,100 a year.
- XI. EIC Peter/John – **Peter** – we have to decide how we’re going to go forward. We had very few members participate last year. Or do we want to open it up to non-Californians? Last year there were only 15 people who submitted entries. **Betsy** – maybe people didn’t have as many publications because of

Covid. Just offer awards for first and second place. We could reduce the amount of the awards to save money. Is this a benefit to membership? **Risa** – There wasn't fall conference and nothing so far for spring. We need to give members something. I think we should continue with the EIC. **Peter** – what about opening it up to non-California members? Do some PR to get more participation. We charge them more. Other organizations make money. **John** – The software can't do that – have different prices. When it's all done digitally it all goes to the judges. **Carrie** – we want to use this to get more members. If they want to be considered they need to join. **Betsy** – we're kind of in a crisis – how do we build our membership? **Peter** – what if we created two accounts with the software? One for members and one for non-members. **John** - If it retains membership it's a good thing overall. Just have a first and second place. And decide how we want to handle the cash awards. Even if we have to reduce the amount of money we award – shouldn't be a make or break issue.

Bob – RECAP we're not going to open it up and just leave it to our membership. We'll only give first and second. And decide on the cash award later. Keep the date the same as last year. Peter will write something for the newsletter.

XII. Vachini Scholarship contest Peter/Don – **Nothing to add at this time. Matt has jumped in to talk to schools.**

XIII. Publicity **Betsy** – Nothing new. But need to gear-up for EIC and scholarship. Do look at website from time-to-time to add to social media.

SFGate.com – Bob - They reached out to me that they are looking for writer to fill a position. Salaried. Do we want to post to our website? Looking for an outdoor writer. How do we share with members? **Bob will do and send email blast in the morning to the membership.**

XIV. Website membership report, **John Williamson** – Sent an updated report. We have 50 professional members. In the past month 5 members have expired memberships. Can people reach out to them?

XV. Spring Conference Locations Anyone? – **Bob** – have received no locations. The few ones we reached out to last year. No response back. Going to reach out to Basecamp to see if they have anything. **Mike Harris** – we have a bad relationship with Basecamp in San Bernardino.

XVI. Mission Statement, **Tom** – Suggest that a committee go through and discuss. **Peter** – we have bylaws and you reduced to eight pages. I sent you the existing bylaws – 50-plus pages. If we do anything we should update the existing bylaws. **Tom** – I'm not up to doing that kind of review. **Peter** – who is asking for the new bylaws? **Tom** – one of the agencies. I'll go back and look

at the original document. **Bob** – it needs updating – whether it’s still valid or not – if we’re going to redo it then someone needs to get on that. Let’s just leave it alone unless someone requests. But we still need a succinct Mission Statement and Tom said he’s willing to do that. **Bob will review the bylaws and Peter said he’d help.**

XVII. Next Meeting Date: 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 14, 2022

XVIII. Adjourn – **Don adjourn – Betsy – second. All in favor 8:07pm**

Exhibit A

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