

Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Board Meeting

November 15, 1997

The meeting of the PSO Board of Directors began at 1:02 p.m. Present were Dan Brauning, Margaret and Roger Higbee, Shonah Hunter, Arlene Koch, Bob Ross, John Salvetti, and Gene Zielinski. Roger reviewed the minutes from both the annual members' meeting on May 16, 1997, and the previous board meeting of February 22, 1997.

Gene presented the treasurer's report with an ending balance of \$6,804.52 on November 3, 1997. We were informed that we lost \$600 on our annual meeting this year. John questioned why we are paying \$6 per month service charge for the checking account. Gene explained that since this is a business account, there is a charge. John suggested putting some of our funds into a CD or a savings account. Before our next meeting Gene will check into finding a checking account that pays interest. The source of our balance was discussed. Gene estimated that \$6,000 came from dues and some contributions to our Special Areas Projects.

The recently enacted policy of reimbursing board members for travel to board meetings was discussed. Bob suggested modifying the reimbursement for travel to actual expenses; for example, 25 miles per gallon at \$1.25 per gallon. Dan reminded the board that there are a lot of volunteers for SAPs; why should the board be reimbursed if our other volunteers are not. After much discussion, Gene made a motion that PSO reimburse for expenses such as postage and phone bills but not for travel since volunteers do not expect to be reimbursed. Shonah seconded the motion which passed.

Much discussion ensued on our losses from the 1997 annual meeting. Shonah was upset that two of our speakers brought their spouses and expected PSO to pay their expenses as well. We decided that only the banquet speaker, not the afternoon papers and talks, should require an honorarium. Gene made a motion to authorize the annual meeting committee to offer a \$150 honorarium for the banquet speaker and for the identification talk with anything over that amount having to be approved by the board. In addition, all speakers will be offered travel expenses, room, and board. The motion was seconded by Shonah and passed. Doug suggested that we look for speakers at universities--possibly grad students.

Arlene expressed surprise that there are not more PSO members. Many birders do not know we exist.

This year's annual meeting will be held May 15-17, 1998, at Mansfield University. Costs are \$16.25 for a double with \$7 for bedroom linen; bathroom linen is not available. Cost for a single is \$24.36 including the bedroom linen. Food services will have to open up specially for us. The cost per person for the Friday evening social is \$3.25 and this includes crackers and finger food. Shonah has priced the Comfort Inn where singles are \$50.15 and doubles, \$58.65. Other prices she has obtained include the following:

Continental Breakfast

\$ 4.95

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| Deli buffet lunch | \$ 8.50 |
| Afternoon cookies and soda | \$ 3.75 |
| Afternoon soda only | \$ 1.25 |
| Pre-banquet soda | \$ 1.25 |
| Banquet--stuffed chicken or vegetarian entree | \$13.00 |
| Banquet—carved turkey, pork, or beef | \$15.00 |

We decided to eliminate lunch and the afternoon cookies; everyone will be on his own for lunch, and we will offer only soda during the afternoon break. In addition, we decided to opt for the stuffed chicken/vegetarian entree. We provide our own wine for the banquet.

We also need vans for the field trips. Room fees are \$125. Registration costs of \$16.50 should cover the cost of vans, room fees, speakers, etc.); registration for spouses will be \$14.50. Anyone under 12 will receive a reduced registration fee. Shonah informed the board that she will need some help at the registration table.

Possible themes for the meeting were suggested. The board settled on "Birds of the Northern Tier." Programs were discussed. Doug, Dan, and Bob will organize the programs. Margaret offered to ask Jon Dunn for an i.d. program and/or to be our banquet speaker. Other suggestions included those involved with the Proctor and Gamble study on forest fragmentation, Walt Ellison on Bicknell's Thrush, and Penn State grad students. Gene will contact Margaret Brittingham-Brant concerning grad students. It was suggested that a plea be put on the internet on PA Birds, PA Audubon, or Bird Chat for papers for our afternoon sessions.

The Earl Pool Award Committee is organizing. Alan Gregory is looking for anyone interested in serving on the committee. Former recipients were suggested. The committee will make decisions concerning the plaque and the book.

The newsletter was discussed. Margaret informed the board that the current issue is ready to go to the printer. Dan suggested putting out a special issue for the Christmas bird counts including the name of the count, location, the date of this year's count, the compiler's name, and other pertinent information. Bob suggested mailing our newsletter to state agencies, universities, nature centers. Dan will supply a list of nature centers for the next newsletter. In addition, Shonah suggested listing internet addresses for interesting bird-related web sites.

Alan will write news releases of current PSO activities. Anyone who wants to help Alan will be welcomed.

Bylaws were discussed. The following changes were suggested:

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| Section 2.11 | change to "25 members" |
| Section 2.9 | The membership list has to be "in the city of meeting" |
| Section 3.1 | change to "3 years" |
| Section 2.1 | Anyone under 18 years of age can not vote. |

Gene informed us that the cost of incorporation will be \$600 for the legal fees and \$150 for the legal advertisement.

Doug reported on the Special Areas Projects. Data for 240 field trips have been submitted. Doug is currently revising the seasonal forms. He is still receiving the same amount of data but the data is coming from different areas. There are still some holes in the state.

Alan discussed the proposed I-99 over Bald Eagle Mountain. The Federal Highway Administration has approved the ridge route, but the Army Corps of Engineers has to approve the permit. They probably will. U.S. Fish and Wildlife will oppose it, and a possible suit will be filed to stop it. Other items of concern for conservation include HB 1650, Heritage 21, the takings, PA 21, S 1180, and HR 2351. The tipping fees for the Wild Resource Conservation Fund were also discussed.

The possibility of a web page for PSO was discussed. Bob will check with Jim Lockyer about this possibility. It was also suggested that we announce our meetings via the bird nets.

Our next meeting will be in February 1998. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger V. Higbee, Secretary