

PSO Board of Directors Meeting

Boalsburg, PA

October 28, 2017

The PSO Board of Directors met with the following members present: Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Wayne Laubscher, Evan Mann, Annette Mathes, Flo McGuire, Holly Merker, and Linda Wagner. Mike called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

Treasurer's Report - Frank

Frank distributed the treasurer's report on line prior to the meeting. He said that there was nothing unusual about the finances. He also mentioned that the membership was down a few members. Vern made a motion to approve the treasurer's report which Greg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Website – Frank

Frank reported that he is constructing a new website which is now approximately 90% complete and will go live in a couple of weeks. Prior to that, he is asking everyone to look at the test website to let him know what their thoughts are. He will email the site address to the board so that members can view the new website. There will be permissions for board members to edit their sections of the site. Board members will be given permissions to add content to the new site before it goes live. Holly asked if PORC can be incorporated into the new website. Frank will use PORC committee members' input to make the site work for them. He will also incorporate the ability for meeting registration on the new site. Another feature of the site will allow for rolling membership dates instead of all memberships being due in May. Vern thanked Frank for constructing the new website.

Also discussed as part of the new website was the beginning of the electronic version of our journal, *Pennsylvania Birds*. It was decided that there would be no reduction in membership fees for someone receiving the electronic version. The most recent two years of the journal will be available when the member signs in and the older journals will be available to everyone. The entire journal will be in color on line.

Newsletter – Margaret

The next newsletter will be out in early December which includes the listing of all CBCs in Pennsylvania. The deadline for articles will be November 15. Holly suggested that we highlight a young birder in each issue. She will write an article for this issue.

PSO Journal – Greg

Ted Nichols will continue to be the photo editor. There are now 12 new county compilers. Greg mentioned that three long-time compilers have retired. They are Doris McGovern, Trudy Gerlach, and Neil Troyer. Tioga, Potter, Bradford, Carbon, and Lucerne do not have compilers. Greg also mentioned that he needs articles for the journal.

Annual Meeting 2017 Recap - Vern

Everyone thought that Vern did a great job organizing the annual meeting. The annual meeting made a profit of \$1,196.40. The money previously realized from the silent auction was replaced by the sale of meeting t-shirts and a 50/50 raffle. The profit on the sale of 59 t-shirts was \$235, the 50/50 netted \$108 for a total of \$343. The cost of the three youth scholarships was \$912. This was covered by the \$1000 donation from Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures. Vern briefly reviewed the results of the survey of annual meeting attendees. He had distributed the results prior to this meeting by email. One important result of the survey was that of the respondents, 50% said that they had no preference between spring or fall meetings and about 35% said that they preferred a fall meeting. There were 131 or 132 registrants and 112 who attended the banquet. The large number of registrants may be attributable to fewer conflicts in the fall than in the spring, several local bird clubs in the area, the large registration window, and having Ted Floyd as the banquet speaker. Also, there was a very liberal cancellation policy which allowed registrants to cancel and receive a full refund up to the day before the meeting.

We discussed using the \$1200 profit from the annual meeting to do something specific so that the board can show that the money is being put to some use and not just going into the treasury. A youth scholarship was suggested and was discussed under the Education Committee report.

It was suggested that we try to have a well known speaker for the annual meeting which may help increase attendance. This could be costly as Ted Floyd's fee was \$750. Fortunately Jack Solomon and Tom Kuehl subsidized this cost.

Vern thinks that the annual meeting should be organized by a committee so that the work is done by more than one person. He also said that he would recommend that a designated person should be responsible for any technical issues. A field trip for beginning birders was also suggested. Annette volunteered to be chairperson of the Annual Meeting Committee. Vern and Frank said that they would serve on the committee.

2018 Annual Meeting – Mike

Mike has been doing some preliminary investigations into our next annual meeting which will be held in Crawford County the third weekend in September. He has checked several hotels for meeting room and banquet facilities and has not been able to find one that can accommodate more than about 50 people. This means having to have our meeting in a place other than in the hotel in which we are staying. One possibility is the Italian Club in Meadville which has banquet facilities. Also mentioned was Allegheny College. These facilities will be investigated further. Possible speakers suggested were Ronald Mummy, Bridget Stutchbury, Greg Miller, and someone from the Purple Martin Society.

2019 Annual Meeting

Wayne suggested that we have our annual meeting in 2019 in Lycoming County. Wayne said that Lycoming Audubon Society is interested in helping to host the meeting. Wayne made a motion which Frank seconded to have the 2019 annual meeting in Lycoming County the third weekend in September. The motion was approved.

Conservation Committee – Annette

Annette said that she will be adding content to the new website before it goes live. She also said that she would like to give up being the chairperson of the committee since she will be chairing the Annual Meeting Committee. Laura Jackson was suggested as a possibility to chair the Conservation Committee.

Education Committee – Holly

Holly was excited that three young birders were able to attend the annual meeting through our scholarship program. She said that she would like to be able to provide at least two youth scholarships per meeting.

Holly would like to provide a scholarship to a young birder who is attending a bird camp sponsored by ABA, Audubon, or Cornell. She suggested that we use part of the profits from this year's annual meeting for the scholarship. This was discussed further by the board. Vern made a motion which Frank seconded to provide a \$600 scholarship to a young birder attending one of the ABA, Audubon, or Cornell camps. The young birder must be from Pennsylvania and would provide an article for the newsletter detailing his or her experience. This is a one time scholarship with the money coming from half of the profits of this year's meeting. The motion was approved. Holly will write up the requirements to be met for the scholarship and distribute them on line for the board's approval. We should advertise the availability of this scholarship in any way we can. We will review the possibility of doing this again next year.

Greg suggested that maybe we could ask for donations for donations to a youth scholarship fund or have a place on the website for donations.

Field Trips – Mike

Chad does not want to lead all the field trips. He would like to lead the hawkwatch field trip once a year. He is willing to remain the chair and still advertise them, but he does not want to have to plan and lead them all. It was suggested that we could ask Chad to write an article for the newsletter asking for field trip suggestions and leaders. Another possibility is to ask county compilers to suggest field trip leaders.

PORC - Mike

Mike reported that the results for the PORC reviews for the listed years are as follows:
2012 and 2013 – Have been completed and are being published in this issue of *PA Birds*.
2014– Mike has completed this report.
2015 – Mike is working on it.
2016 – Needs to be done.

The problem with PORC members' taking an inordinate amount of time to review submitted species was discussed at length. Also, once a decision has been reached, the feeling of the board is that the decision should be reported as soon as possible. Additional discussion centered around the fact that PORC is now a part of PSO and that the board should have some say in how PORC conducts its reviews and elects the members to the committee.

Frank volunteered to rewrite the PSO bylaws to include PORC as part of our organization. He will include membership terms, residency requirements, and require that the PSO Board of Directors

approve PORC members and the PORC chairperson. Once he completes the rewrite of the bylaws, he will distribute them online for a vote.

Vern moved to adjourn, and Frank seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee
Secretary