

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Business Meeting of PSO

The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology (PSO) met at the Doubletree Hilton, Meadowlands in Washington County, Pennsylvania on May 31, 2024, to conduct its annual business meeting. President Dan Brauning opened the meeting at 7:07 pm and declared the presence of a quorum.

All past presidents were also asked to stand and be recognized.

Bylaws: During the 2023-2024 operating year of the PSO, revisions were made to update and align the bylaws to the current operating procedures of the PSO. The officers and Board of Directors passed the edits of the Bylaws at the meeting held via Zoom on March 20, 2024. The revised Bylaws will be posted on the PSO website.

Annual awards were announced by Brian Byrnes. The Earl Poole Award recipient is Mike Fialkovich. The 2024 PSO Conservation Award recipient is the Allegheny Land Trust.

Brian Byrnes gave an update on the Breeding Bird Blitz for Conservation and asked for participants and donations. Funding three conservation projects around the state: wetland project; American Woodcock habitat improvement; and bird window strike issue.

Events and Field Trips - Jeff Kenny. Field trip spotlight weekends in underbirded counties. Warren County is next. Golden Eagle field trip. Two out-of-state field trips through Hillstar: a pelagic and a trip to Montana.

The Student Scholarship Grant Awardees were introduced by Doug Wentzel. They are Anna Reichenbach and Matt St.Clair.

Dan provided a summary of the fiscal year 2023 treasurer's report prepared by Treasurer Frank Haas and said that the organization is good financially. He announced that at the end of April we have 539 members, the highest in over 20 years, and our current balance of funds available as of April 30 was \$41,406.29, of which \$6,348.65 is in reserve for the Youth Scholarship Fund. A motion and second to approve the treasurer's report were made. It was passed by voice vote.

Newsletter: Margaret Higbee was recognized as the original and editor for over 30 years of the PSO newsletter the PSO Pileated. The new newsletter editor is Kaitlyn Stouch.

It was announced that next year's Birding Festival/Annual Meeting will be held in Lehigh County, on a date in September to be announced.

President Brauning asked for any new business, or questions from the membership

Elections:

Four current directors to be voted on for re-election: Brian Byrnes (Delaware County), Frank Haas (Lancaster County), Laura Jackson (Bedford County), and Wayne Laubscher (Clinton County).

The nominations committee, chaired by Director Carolyn Hendricks, has prepared a slate of candidates for the Board and as officers. Biographical summaries of each were circulated electronically.

Four new board members were nominated: Sheree Dougherty (Allegheny County), Joseph Gyekis (Union County), Brian Miller (Crawford County) and Richard Rieger (Schuylkill County).

Additional nominations for Director were requested from the floor. There were none. A motion was made that the above slate be elected to the board of directors. The motion was seconded and was passed by voice vote.

The following officer candidates have been nominated: President Brian Byrnes (Delaware County), Vice President Carolyn Hendricks (Bedford County), Secretary Valerie Dunn (Lancaster County), Treasurer Franklin Haas (Lancaster County).

Additional nominations for officers were requested from the floor. There were none. A motion was made that the above slate of officers for the PSO Board of Directors be elected. The motion was seconded and was passed by voice vote.

Mary Alice Koeneke read the minutes of the 2024 business meeting. There were no corrections or additions, and it was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as read. The motion was approved by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made and unanimously approved.

The business meeting ended at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Alice Koeneke, for Valerie Dunn as Secretary