10/26 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 with officers Ryan Ruhl, Jordan McGinnis, Mike O'Brien and John Fink present along with members and guests: Bobby Collins, Joe McCall, Geoff Crabtree, Wes Anderson, Steve Wright, Haley McGinnis, Gunner McGinnis, Christy Hebert, Mark Hebert, Bob Elmore, Jamie Elmore, Blake Martin, Larry Baer, Dorin Miller, Neal Graves, Jimmi Miles, Tim Kelley, Dave Scifres, Wayne Pruemer, Vaughn Suhling.

SECRETARY REPORT

O'Brien presented the minutes from the 10/25 general membership meeting. Motion was made (Elmore) "Accept the secretary report". Second (Suhling). Passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Fink provided the treasurer report. $26,972.78 beginning balance from last year, $58,292.02 this year prior to the convention. We currently have 3 CD's: Life Membership $16,593, Legal Defense $15,131, and General $18,712, with the rest in a checking account. Membership stands at 660, with 86 of those life members and 46 youth members. Motion was made (Elmore) "Accept the treasurer report". Second (Anderson). Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The website is greatly improved and continually updates. Members were encouraged to notify the board of any news that could be added.

The ITA spearheaded passage of legislation increasing the jaw spread of underwater traps to legally include an 8-½" jaw spread. Just as important is the language changes that refer to "foothold" traps opposed to "leghold" and exact criteria for CPO's measuring jaw spread.

It was proudly noted that membership has increased from 474 to 660! That's a 39% increase in just one year!

Thanks was given to Andy Day for the dedication and work that he put into this organization over the years, as well as the insight and help he continues to provide.

REPORTS

NTA- Weil gave a report on the '26 national convention in Indiana as well as the happenings within the NTA over the last year. The NTA continues to be at the forefront of any legal battle involving trapping across the nation. The 2027 national convention will be held in Lima, Ohio July 22-24.
FTA- None
IFOR- Weil gave a report on the cooperation of the ITA and IFOR and the help everyone gets in Springfield from the partnership.

NEW BUSINESS

Ryan Ruhl was the only applicant for president, and per the constitution, a vote was cast for him at the previous board meeting electing him to another 2 year term. This will be Ryan's 3rd term, which will constitutionally end his presidential aspirations.

Mike O'Brien was the only applicant for secretary, and per the constitution, a vote was cast for him at the previous board meeting electing him to another 2 year term as secretary.

Larry Baer, Jimmi Miles, Dave Scifres, Doug Stellhorn, and Mike Vose were introduced as the winners of the board of directors election. They will all serve a 3 year term. Congratulations, and thank you!

O'Brien presented changes to the ITA constitution. All changes were read aloud, and members given an opportunity to comment. There being no comments, a motion was made (Anderson) "Approve the constitution changes as presented". Second (Stellhorn). Passed unanimously.

Takeaways from the Effingham fairgrounds were overwhelmingly positive. The fairgrounds are very well taken care of, the facilities are all updated and operational. The consensus was that this would be great place to come back to.

Recognition of the many volunteers that helped make this weekend a success was noted.

DISCUSSION

There was a roundtable of ideas and comments held that included a request for trappers ed dates and locations added to the website. Also many positive reactions to the board, the convention, convention location, and Jordan McGinnis in particular. It was also noted the positive direction that this board and association is moving.

Motion to adjourn at 3:30 (Graves). Second (Hebert). Passed unanimously.