

1/22/26 MINUTES

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:04 with the following members and guests attending: Ryan Ruhl, Jordan McGinnis, Andy Day, Mike O'Brien, Bob Collins, John Fink, Joe McCall, Kent Weil, Dean Corgait, Dave Scifries, Mike Vose, Merk Hebert, Marty Hatfield, Nick Bohms, Todd Broge, and Lisa DeMeule.

SECRETARY REPORT

O'Brien presented the previously emailed report from the 10/23/25 meeting. The report was amended to include "A motion was made (O'Brien) Approve the expenditure of up to \$3500 for new merchandise". Second (Scifires). Passed unanimously. Motion was made (Day) "Accept the Secretary report as amended". Second (Weil). Passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT

Day presented the previously emailed treasurer report. Net decrease in funds of \$3,845.23. Total balance of \$55,452.86. Our current membership stands at 519. Day wanted to double check the membership number. Secretary to follow up within a week. Motion was made (O'Brien) "Accept treasurer report". Second (Weil). Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The new website is up and running! There is going to be a learning curve in its implementation, but we will manage. Andy, Marty, and Lisa will collaborate on how new memberships will be processed. Lisa welcomes any changes that need to be made. A big thank you to her work on this project!

Hinshaw CPA Office in El Paso is assisting with our non-profit updating. Andy is to get her more information shortly. Secretary to follow up within a week.

Looks like we are set for the best turnout for a fur sale in recent history! Hebert, McGinnis, Ruhl, Fink, Day, O'Brien, Collins, and Hatfield all

expressed their plans to be there. Graves had previously indicated that he would attend, along with Emma Hatfield, and Keagan O'Brien.

Electronic communication since the last meeting: 10/26/25 Motion (O'Brien) "Approve a \$4000 budget for the convention raffle to cover all prizes and printing". Second (Broge). Approved 10/30/25 with 9 emailed and 1 text "yeas".

11/1/25 Merchandise committee was dissolved per President's decision.

REPORTS

FTA-3/22/26 9AM meeting in Chatsworth

NTA- Delta Waterfowl are new members. There are 300 NTA members from Illinois.

IFOR-Meeting 1/25/26 at Scheels

MERCHANDISE-Fink presented the previously emailed report. Showed \$1928 in strictly merchandise sales. People have used this vehicle to get memberships as well. Total sales of \$2689 since the convention.

Exploring new items for '26.

ELECTION-Nothing to report

CONSTITUTION-Nothing to report

RULES-Nothing to report

AWARDS-Nothing to report

SOCIAL MEDIA-Nothing to report

OUTREACH & EDUCATION-Mike Vose is heading up Gardner Camp again on 3/14&15. Have 30 kids signed up. Motion was made (Fink) "Buy 3 dozen #1½'s and 3 dozen DP's for Gardner Camp". Second (Weil).

Passed unanimously.

Lisa Demeule is having a trapping weekend in conjunction with her Becoming an Outdoorswoman program on 3/21&22 at Siloam Springs. Graves, CPO Blakely, and Jim Lierle will host an event at Panther Creek on 4/3-5.

GRANT WRITING-Nothing to report

LEGISLATIVE-Motion was made (Weil) "Extend the contract of our lobbyist Eric Madiar for \$400/month for another year". Second (Broge). Passed unanimously.

RAFFLE-O'Brien presented information for the 2026 convention raffle. We have spent \$3161 of the \$4000 allotted. Tickets are at the printers and should be available at the fur sale. O'Brien has secured a raffle permit from Logan County.

MEMBERSHIP-As chairman of the membership committee, Hatfield will begin to take over all duties concerning memberships. He has started a new PO Box for ITA business. He will be issued an ITA computer. Motion was made (Vose) "Approve spending up to \$1000 for an ITA computer for the membership chairman". Second (Collins). Passed unanimously. Hatfield has been setting up some breakfast meetings for outreach as well as membership. He's trying to hit different areas of the state. So far, there has been good turnout at the first 2, in El Paso and Vandalia. He has others planned for Mt. Vernon and Charleston. The Trophy House was contacted today with information for all lifetime memberships sold since the convention. Maybe looking at a "Family Day" type activity in June.

CONVENTION-Convention committee brought a recommendation of the Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton for the 2027 convention. Motion was made (Fink) "Approve the Bureau County Fairgrounds for the 2027 annual convention on October 1st&2nd, 2027 for a price of \$2200 for rental of 3 buildings including tables and chairs". Second (Weil). Passed unanimously. The fairgrounds have a location that will provide food throughout the convention.

NEW BUSINESS

McGinnis to check with the fairgrounds to see if they have a location for our May meeting. Secretary to follow up within a week.

Motion was made (O'Brien) "Accept the quote of \$3490 for our liability insurance from the same source as last year". Second (Fink). Passed unanimously.

Bohms, Hatfield, and Broge volunteered to man the kids' activities at the 2026 convention. More volunteers are needed for the activities that we would like to do.

ITA will have a presence at Beaverfest, and both the NTA and FTA conventions. Motion was made (O'Brien) "Purchase a \$250 sponsorship for the FTA convention". Second (Broge). Passed unanimously. We'll check on sponsorships for the NTA. Secretary to follow up within a week.

BOARD ROUNDTABLE-Corgait to look at used traps for the kids activities at the convention.

Broge would like to compile a list of members' emails.

O'Brien encouraged everyone to read their emails and get things done in a timely manner.

Hatfield would like to see an official photographer of the ITA.

Bohms indicated he lives close to Princeton and will be very involved in the 2027 convention.

Ruhl expressed his thanks to the Board for their dedication that is improving the Illinois Trappers Association - Thank You!

ADJOURN-Motion was made (Collins) "Move to adjourn". Second (Scfries). Passed unanimously.