

ITA Board Meeting - 8/23/25 MINUTES

The in-person Board meeting was called to order at 9:27am with the following officers/Board members and guests present: Ryan Ruhl, Mike O'Brien, Andy Day, Joe McCall, John Fink, Mike Vose, Jordan McGinnis, Mark Hebert, Todd Broge, Marty Hatfield, Dave Scifres, Bobby Collins, Neal Graves, and Jimmie Miles. Ed Willenborg arrived at 9:38.

SECRETARY REPORT:

O'Brien presented the previously emailed minutes from the 5/10/25 meeting. Motion was made (Graves) "Accept the secretary report". Second (Day). Passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT:

Previously emailed treasurer report was reviewed. Net decrease in funds of \$2,288.41 from 5/10/25 to 8/23/25. This is primarily due to purchases leading up to the convention. Total balance of \$31,995.36. Our current membership stands at 463. Motion was made (Graves) "Accept treasurer report". Second (Vose). Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The new website is almost done. Beginning to transfer data to the new site, hopefully up and running very soon.

Scifres presented information and examples concerning the lifetime membership SWAG. A majority of the Board agreed to issue a brass membership card along with a 10" plaque (#283) in the shape of Illinois with a white cover to all lifetime members. Trophy Pro Shop will continue to provide the quality services that we have come to expect. They will also take care of mailing these to each individual.

Fink displayed this year's new hats. It was agreed to reduce prices on some existing merchandise to move it.

Graves has been holding ITA property in a storage shed for quite some time. He will be ready to clean the shed out by 9/15. We are to have all ITA property removed from the shed by 10/1/25.

REPORTS:

NTA- The 2026 national convention will be July 23-25 in Richmond, Indiana. The Indiana Trappers Association could use any manpower available while hosting the event.

The NTA has a new president. John Daniel was term limited out. Rusty Kramer from Idaho had been the General Organizer, and he will now take over the big chair. We wish Rusty all the best.

FTA- The national convention in Iowa was very well attended. The 2026 convention will be August 7th & 8th in Macon, MO. East central FTA meeting will be 8/24/25 in Buckley. Chapter 17 fall meeting will be 10/12/25. The Illinois Wildlife Control Operator Assoc fall meeting will be Saturday of the ITA convention.

IFOR- The bill supported by the ITA to allow the DNR to close the grey fox season has been signed into law. Efforts to end furbearer contests were defeated. The annual IFOR membership drive will be at the St Peters Sportsmans Club near Vandalia on Sept 13th.

ELECTION- O'Brien received self nominations from Mark Hebert, Neal Graves, Nick Bohms, and Marty Hatfield for a Board of Director position, from Andy Day for treasurer, and Jordan McGinnis for the position of VP. Per the constitution/policy & procedures, as there are equal or less candidates to positions open, there is no need for an election. The existing Board has the responsibility to elect/appoint the candidates to their respective positions. Motion (Vose) "Elect Hebert, Graves, Bohms, and Hatfield to the Board of Directors for a 3 year term". Second (Day). Passed unanimously. Motion (Graves) "Elect Andy Day as treasurer for a 2 year term". Second (Collins). Passed unanimously. Motion (Day) "Elect Jordan McGinnis vice president for a 2 year term". Second (Graves). Passed unanimously. Motion (Scifres) "Appoint Todd Broge to the Board with a term that expires 10/26". Second (Graves). Passed unanimously.

RULES- Nothing to Report

AWARDS- A handout was presented outlining the various awards given by the ITA. If anyone has any nominations or questions, reach out to Dave Scifres.

CONVENTION- A lot of excitement as the convention draws near. Food and meals are settled, vendors are filling up quickly, and the demo list is almost complete. The convention rate for the hotel will be ending soon. Set up will begin the morning of 10/2. All volunteers are welcome! SOCIAL MEDIA- There has been some good discussion on the facebook page and it continues to be a good vehicle to communicate with members.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION- Graves is doing some education at Jim Edgar as

the opportunity presents. Would consider a kids camp.

CONSTITUTION- Proposed changes to the constitution to remove convention responsibilities from the VP and to require adult membership to vote were tabled. Motion (Collins). Second (Kelley). Passed unanimously.

GRANT WRITING- We are still working on securing grants from the furbearer grant that would allow for kids camps around the state if manpower allows.

LEGISLATIVE- Covered in the IFOR report above.

NEW BUSINESS- The new lifetime memberships will be on sale throughout the convention. The #1 lifetime membership will be auctioned Friday night at the dinner/auction. We may also auction a “pick your number” membership.

BOARD ROUNDTABLE- The subject of ordering window stickers/decals was brought up. It was agreed to order them and include them with a membership. Other issues were identified with various DNR policies including, but not limited to; incidental catches vs. wanton waste, cable restraints, right-of-way trapping, and removal of trapping license information prior to the end of otter reporting season.

ADJOURN- Motion (Day). Second (Graves). Passed unanimously. 11:47am.