

ITA Board Meeting - 5/10/25

The in-person Board meeting was called to order at 9:30 with the following officers/board members and guests present: Ryan Ruhl, Mike O'Brien, Joe McCall, Dave Scifres, John Fink, Tim Kelley, Kent Weil, Jordan McGinnis, Mark Hebert, Neal Graves, Jim Lierle, and Jimmie Miles.

SECRETARY REPORT:

O'Brien presented the previously emailed minutes from the 1/23/25 meeting. Motion was made (Weil) "Accept the secretary report". Second (Graves). Passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT:

Previously emailed treasurer report was reviewed. Net decrease in funds of \$2,595.55 from 1/23/25 to 5/10/25. With a total balance of \$34,283.77. Our current active membership is 434.

Meeting paused 9:38-9:45.

Bob Collins arrived 9:45.

Motion was made (Weil) "Accept treasurer report". Second (Fink). Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The 2025 fur sale ended with a positive balance of \$548.82. There were 24 lots of fur, with some new faces in the crowd. A "thank you" was given to everyone who was there to help out. A lengthy discussion was held to try to determine how to get more people involved. Changing locations is made more difficult due to a lack of help. It was decided a poll will be placed on Facebook at a time when there's a lot of activity to get feedback from the membership. The rules will be rewritten to include some carcass animals of particular value to the taxidermy trade. We may also include a demo at the convention as to how the entire auction day goes, and a banner informing members of the prices paid. After discussion, a motion was made (Graves) "Return to Krile auction house in Strasburg for the 2026 fur auction" Second (Hebert) motion passed 6-4, with 1 abstaining.

Motion was made (Weil) "Use the Effingham Co Fairgrounds in Altamont for the 2026 Annual Convention on October 2nd&3rd for a cost of \$1300 plus \$500 clean up deposit" Second (Fink). Passed unanimously.

Motion was made (Scifries) "Use the same raffles as last year with the previously approved gun list". Second (Weil). Passed unanimously.

O'Brien has located and emailed all of the Policy and Procedures that have been approved to this point.

REPORTS:

NTA- The 2025 national convention will be in Harrisonburg, Virginia. 2026 is set for Richmond, Indiana. The Chicago fur ban was defeated with the help from the Black Caucus. NTA continues to fight for trappers across the nation.

FTA- FTA chapter meetings will be held 8/24 in Buckly and 10/12 in Union. The national convention will be 7/25-27 in Spencer, IA. FTA college is 9/7-13 in Wolcottville, IN.

IFOR- The ITA and IFOR continue to be in lock step with various bills. The grey fox bill is front and center as we try to help protect the remaining population. IFOR is starting a PAC Fund and, at this time, we can receive matching funds to any donation that we make. A motion was made (Kelley) "Donate an amount equal to ½ of our annual IFOR dues to the IFOR PAC Fund". Second (McCall). Motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION- Anyone wishing to run for an office or director position shall self nominate to the secretary before July 1 per the constitution. O'Brien will send reminders to anyone up for reelection.

RULES- Nothing to Report

AWARDS- Scifres presented a handout detailing the 6 awards that may be handed out annually, and
(emailed the list of known hall of fame recipients.

CONVENTION- We have secured a block of hotel rooms for the convention and should be posting details on Facebook soon. There was discussion considering giving the convention committee a budget to operate under.

SOCIAL MEDIA- Kelley requests pictures of any community outreach done by the ITA so they can be posted on the website. The new website should be done before the convention.

OUTREACH&EDUCATION- The more places we can set up a table and be visible to the community, the more members we can get, and the better it is for our organization. Currently we are looking at 5/30&6/1 in Godfrey, and 6/7 at Pere Marquette State Park. Any member who is available to help out, is encouraged to do so. We were made aware of various DNR workshops that we are encouraged to attend as well. Thanks to all those who helped out at the IL Taxidermist Show in Springfield where we were

well received. Motion was made (Graves) "Attend the 2026 IL Taxidermist show, and present the same 2 awards as we did this year". Second (Scifries). Motion passed unanimously.

CONSTITUTION- Nothing to report

GRANT WRITING- We now have full access to our grant writing materials. We are confirming our tax exempt status.

LEGISLATIVE- More discussion on the grey fox bill.

Kelley left at 11:20

NEW BUSINESS:

After discussion, the membership already has the ability to buy additional years of membership if they desire. There's no need for a 3 yr option.

After a robust discussion, a motion was made (Fink) "At this time, a Lifetime Membership without subscription shall be \$300. Lifetime members shall receive a plaque and rigid membership card". Second (McGinnis). Motion passed unanimously.

It was agreed that the excess funds from lifetime memberships should be placed in a separate account. At the 10/26 organizational meeting we may establish a financial committee to oversee this.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at the Ballard Nature Center 5253 East US HWY 40 in Altamont, IL on August 23rd at 9:30AM.

BOARD ROUNDTABLE- Options for outreach include duck drawings and the redneck fishing tournament.

Fink to price 144 embroidered hats.

Hot Frog Designs to possibly provide an online event to sell our merchandise.

Motion to Adjourn Graves). Second (Weil). Passed unanimously.