

Pennsylvania Taxidermist Association, Inc.
Board of Director Meeting - September 19, 2015 - Cabelas @ Hamburg PA

Board Members Present: Bob Hutchinson, Jason Krause, Jessica Simmons, Joe Simmons, Patti Czerniakowski, Rod Connelly, Vince Spellane, Dan Swanson, Matt Zimmerman, Bill Ward, Rich Nagle

Board Members Absent: Tim Jordan

Guests: Becky Snyder, Amy Hutchinson, Ella Connelly, Lisa Flickinger, John Czerniakowski, Benuel Lapp, Keith Flicker, Dee Carley

The meeting was called to order at 9:01am.

Follow-Up:

- Patti Czerniakowski presented the treasurer's report. Patti asked that the board to be mindful of spending as we are a little behind in revenue. Becky Snyder asked that expenses be separated out to reflect better record keeping such as supplies, merchandise for the State convention etc. Jessica Simmons made a motion to approve the treasurer's report - 2nd by Jason Krause - motion carried unanimously.
- Bill Ward reported out on the Cabelas show. There was an increase in pieces entered from 76 last year to 81 this year. The show generated 4 membership renewals and 1 new membership. Cabelas is currently under new management. Bill Ward is planning to meet with the new manager to go over the details of the Cabelas show and ensure no changes are needed. Jason Krause brought up one issue that arose in the past the judges were able to stay after the store had closed and arrive prior to the store opening. The new manager Ron Lay explained that when that happens Cabelas headquarters is notified and the offending store needs to explain why that was happening. Ron Lay explained that anyone helping with the PA Taxidermy show would need to follow Cabelas normal operating hours. Bill & Bridget Ward along with Jason Krause will work on adjusting the schedule to ensure everyone is out when the store closes. The board discussed Cabelas show awards and no changes will be made. Bill Ward reported that the Camp Compass presentations were not done at Cabelas this year as John Annoni had some family issues and was unable to make it. Bill Ward is going to deliver the 3 Whitetail & Turkey fans to the school and have a presentation at the school. If anyone would like to help with Camp Compass mounts please contact Bill & Bridget Ward at 570-754-3407.
- John Czerniakowski contacted the insurance provider to obtain costs for bonding Board members. There were a few options 1.) review the current policy and add the bonding onto it or 2.) obtain a new policy. John Czerniakowski will be contacting the insurance provider for estimates for the two options.
- No new Legislative changes to report.
- Jessica Simmons reported we have President, Vice President and 4 BOD positions open this year. Nominations are due by December 31, 2015. Thus far we have Jason Krause and Vince Spellane for President, Matt Zimmerman for Vice President and Bob Evans for BOD. Please contact any BOD for nominations.
- Bob Hutchinson discussed the idea of having a sports show in festival hall to draw in more public. He contacted 7springs to go over the requirements for doing so. Thus far there are no committed vendors to have a sports show. The PA Game Commission along with the Fish Commission is interested. Bob Hutchinson will continue to look into obtaining vendors. The deadline is set for January to have all vendors for the sport show in place in order to be able to advertise it.
- Bob Hutchinson is working on obtaining the small games of chance license. The BOD will need to supply him with some information to complete the application process. The BOD discussed several different raffle options that will be open to the public. There will also be a raffle for members only; each member registered for the State Convention will receive a chance at prize give away to be used in the vendor area with the option to purchase additional chances. All of the details have not been finalized.

New Business:

- Becky Snyder discussed changes to Special Concessions that 7Springs provides to the PA Taxidermy Association. The Association will no longer receive 1 comp room per 40 utilized (based on the number of room booked for the State convention), 1 standard room complimentary for the Association Photographer, 1 standard room complementary for Association President and the 6 standard rooms at a discounted rate (109.00 plus tax) for the judges. This will change to 13 standard complementary rooms for BOD and 7 standard rooms at a discounted rate (109.00 plus tax) for the judges. (The 1 comp room per 40 utilized was deducted off the final 7springs bill at the end of the State convention which averaged between \$1200- \$1300). The BOD discussed how to compensate for the loss of the discount. Vince Spellane made a motion that elected officer positions and BODs will pay a mandatory \$150.00 contribution to the PTA for convention lodging while at 7springs through 2020. 2nd by Rod Connelly - motion carried unanimously.
- Dee Carley brought up an issue that the PTA currently does not have a credit card machine. The Board discussed several options and for this year Joe Simmons will obtain a Square reader for the Association to use at the convention. The Board will continue to evaluate funds to see if it would be feasible to add the ability to purchase memberships and renew memberships on the website and convention registration.
- Matt Zimmerman is going to contact Frank Kotula for a hands-on fish painting seminar and Roger Martin for a bear shoulder mount. Matt Zimmerman will work on finalizing a seminar schedule for the state convention.
- The board discussed the January meeting. The meeting is scheduled for the same time as the Big Rock Show. The Board is moving the meeting from 9th to January 16th. The location will also be held mid state. John Czerniakowski offered to find a location for the meeting. There will be no overnight lodging provided to the Board for the January meeting.
- The board discussed a membership drive. Last year the board did not send out renewal reminders and the newsletter instead the newsletter was sent to all licensed taxidermists according to the list the Dept. of AG maintains. That caused a delay in the receipt of membership renewals. The board is planning on sending non-members a post card and members only will receive the newsletter. The board also discussed changing from a printed newsletter to an electronic version which would help reduce the expenses of the association; there currently will not be a change to the newsletter. Jason Krause made a motion to send post cards to non members with information about the convention and where to access member renewal based on the Dept AG list of licensed taxidermists and send the printed newsletter to members only - 2nd by Jessica Simmons - motion carried unanimously.

- Bob Hutchinson discussed the September board meeting. The September meeting is costing the Association at a minimum of \$2,000. The meeting has been held there to have a second general membership meeting during the Cabelas mini show. Becky Snyder researched and according to the 501(C)6, Roberts Rules and PTA By Laws there is no requirement to have 2 general membership meetings. The requirement is that the association has 1 general membership meeting generally held at the annual convention to allow for members to voice their concerns to the BOD. Jason Krause made a motion to have 1 annual general membership meeting held per year as per Roberts Rules and 501C6 requirement. However, members are encouraged to contact BOD any time or attend a BOD meeting. - 2nd by Joe Simmons - motion carried unanimously.
- Jessica Simmons discussed making a requirement that all elected officers and BOD have email to be able to communicate with the BOD on topics that may arise using that email. Jessica Simmons made a motion as a requirement to hold or run for elected officer or BOD position you must have a valid email that you will check/respond for communication purposes- 2nd by Joe Simmons - motion carried unanimously.
- The BOD discussed the judge's fees. Jason Krause, Matt Zimmerman and Bob Hutchinson were contacted by members with concerns that the fees were too low. The judge's fees were changed to \$300 flat fee with \$10 each piece judged over 30 at the June 6 2015 meeting after concerns were brought to the attention of the board at the March general membership meeting. Vince Spellane made a motion to change the judge's fee to \$400 flat fee, Air Fare (including transportation from the airport to the host facility) or gas and tolls (not mileage), lodging, 1 banquet ticket (plus an additional ticket if their spouse attends the banquet), \$100 gift card for meal expenses, and \$100 for a seminar - 2nd by Rich Nagle - motion carried unanimously.
- Joe Simmons discussed an offer from Michigan Taxidermy Association to have reciprocal membership. Allowing members of each association to attend the annual convention without needing to pay membership dues (all convention fees would need to be paid). Becky Snyder provided that we have 30 out of state members and currently there are none from Michigan. Bob Hutchinson suggested that we open this up to all associations; Becky Snyder suggested that the PTA could recognize other associations even if they do not recognize the PTA membership. Rod Connelly suggested the PTA look at Maryland and Virginia to create a regional show. John Czerniakowski added that this would be a great idea if membership enrollment at other associations was up but, membership enrollment is down at all associations. The board decided to reevaluate this after the 2016 convention.
- Becky Snyder addressed vendor booth space increases. These spaces will be increasing next year and will increase \$5 each year. The BOD discussed options of increasing the booth space fees each year or increasing the fees now to accommodate the upcoming contracts at 7springs. The BOD agreed to increase the vendor booth space fees to \$225/\$125 and \$15 for electric.
- The BOD discussed policy changes with regards to member's eligibility to compete. Dan Swanson made a motion to change 3 policies - Any member of the Sate Association is eligible to compete regardless of position held paid/unpaid within the association; Any member of the state association can write for a judge as long as the member is not competing in that category; The competition Chair position will be eliminated and assumed by the Competition Coordinator and the Board of Directors as the Competition Committee - 2nd by Vince Spellane - motion carried unanimously.
- The board discussed the awards for the competitor's award currently the payout is Masters 1st \$2500, 2nd \$1250, 3rd \$750 with an entry fee of \$80 and Professional 1st \$1500, 2nd \$750 3rd \$500 with an entry fee of \$50. Jason Krause made a motion to change the awards to Masters 1st \$2000, 2nd \$1000, 3rd \$500, Professional 1st \$1000, 2nd \$500 3rd \$250 and eliminate the entry fee. - 2nd by Jessica Simmons - motion carried unanimously.
- The board discussed a few reminders, to recognize the judges at the banquet, recognize BOC winners at the banquet and, if there is a special presenter for an award to be sure they present that award.
- Jessica Simmons made a motion to adjourn; the meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted
 Jessica Simmons
 Board Secretary

11-4-15: Jessica Simmons motioned to approve the minutes – 2nd by Joe Simmons – Motion Accepted – 9 YES, 2 ABSENT