

AOS Board Winter Meeting, January 23, 2016
Lakepoint State Park, Eufaula, AL

MEETING MINUTES

1. Attendance:

Bianca Allen, Harry Dean, Larry Gardella, Greg Harber, Annabelle Markle, Anne Miller (presiding), Bob Reed, Ken Ward (recording), Rufina Ward

-Call to order, 2:35 pm

-Point of business - Initially without a quorum; phone conferenced with Sue Moske to acquire the necessary quorum to vote on motion (Greg Harber, second by Bob Reed) to create a new Membership Services standing committee. Unanimously approved by Board. This also established quorum to conduct additional business, with the appointment of Bianca J. Allen as Chair of the new committee.

2. Fall 2015 board meeting minutes

Minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Officer reports

Treasurer – Rufina Ward presented an informal financial report to the entire Board; currently formal reports only during spring and fall meetings. She sent Anne Miller a more detailed report from 2013-15 to show trends in finances. Generally AOS has been losing funds over the past three years, but the deficit has declined steadily over that time. DIBS donations were sent to Mary Porter (\$691), with a list of donors; current account balance of \$10,462, \$10 less than previous balance. Book sales from store netted \$56. It was noted that libraries get free copies of the YH, except for those paid through EBSCO. AOS also has a CD in reserve of about \$26,000. CD comes from lifetime memberships. There was some discussion of whether to move at least some of the CD elsewhere to be used; consensus was that the penalty incurred to do that was too high.

President - Anne Miller provided a detailed summary of the informal executive committee meeting held in Cullman in December (attended by Ken and Rufina Ward, Anne Miller and Harry Dean). This summary had previously been sent to the Board via email. Anne included responses to the summary from board members in her discussion. Important topics included:

-Modifying responsibilities of Treasurer and related– Following were discussed:

Recommend removing some of the membership-associated responsibilities and moving them under the new Membership Services Committee, including dues notices and reminders, providing a membership list to the Board via digital copy with confidential watermark to better ensure confidentiality (consensus agreement on these), etc.

-Membership issues, including impact on AOS finances:

Strict cutoff for renewing membership - Consensus was to consider dues paid after Oct 1 to be for the upcoming year and continue to use the 1-year grace period for renewal.

Ways to stabilize finances, including dues increase, money-saving measures, etc. – Discussed possibility of raising dues, including one possibility of raising them only for those receiving printed copies of YH (not much support for this). Consensus reached (no motion/vote) was that now, with declining membership, was not the time to increase dues, that we should first study reasons for decline and develop a plan for increasing membership first. In the meantime, look into ways for saving money, including increasing number of members receiving electronic copy of YH (consider changing wording to new members that electronic copy is assumed unless the member states otherwise), gaining committee approval first for funds spent on speakers (and setting a limit, etc.), change financial reporting to 3 times a year (each meeting), etc. Further discussion needed on limiting expenditures (for spring meeting). Should consider looking into drawing off interest from CD to use; Treasurer to look into this for further discussion next meeting.

Rufina mentioned that Sue Moske volunteered to help with the finances and suggested Sue can take over the treasurer position after the winter meeting. (No official vote was made by the Board; however verbal acceptance to take over AOS finances was received from Sue after the meeting).

Point of business – At this point a discussion was initiated concerning the use of Paypal for online payment of membership dues, as a way to facilitate such and better ensure timely payment. Motion to approve use of PayPal by AOS for online payments (Larry Gardella, second Ken Ward): Unanimously approved.

-Membership Services Committee discussion – Bianca Allen will chair this newly established standing committee (see detailed information provided by Anne to Board as to duties of this committee).

-Handling registration (**point of business**): Discussion of establishing an adhoc committee to help Rufina with registration with involvement by treasurer. **Motion made and seconded, unanimously approved.**

-Reconfiguring Public Relations, Social Media and Online Services Committees: Discussed the possibility of splitting PR/social media into 2 standing committees with Lisa Gardener as Chair of PR and Carrie Threadgill as Chair of SM (online services remaining a separate committee chaired by Kathy Hicks). Designed this way to encourage collaboration while bringing in some additional expertise. **Point of Business: Motion and second to do the above (Larry, second Bob) – unanimously approved.**

Vice-President – no report

4. Committee Reports

Conservation – Greg Harber led discussion on providing a statement of support for removal of occupiers of Malheur NWR. Consensus was to provide such (no vote required). There was no DIBS report. It was noted that there were no applicants for Holliman research awards this past year.

YH – no report, other than what was discussed under other reports earlier.

5. Other Business – Annabelle Markle requested establishing petty cash fund for Treasurer. Anne supported the request.

6. Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.