

Horticulture Inspection Society - Western Chapter

Business Meeting Minutes – 2016 Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM

Friday, October 14, 2016 – 9:00am MST

Attending: Jack Wilkins – President; Bethany Abrahamson – Vice-President, newly elected co-editor and in-coming President; Cheryl Smith – Secretary; Ruben Arias –Acting Treasurer; Bill Segura-Co-Chair, Albuquerque; Beth Eiring-MT-newly elected Treasurer; Josh Plunkett-MN; Benita Matheson-WA; Nick Bieser-NV, newly elected Website editor; Diego Lozada-NV.

President's Report –

1. Jack 'passed' the gavel to Bethany who is now the new president.

Secretary's Report-

1. Approval of Minutes from Oct. 4, 2016 – Jack- 1st., Bethany- 2nd, approved.
2. Cheryl to send minutes of Business meeting to all attendees. Ruben has sent a list of all attendees to Cheryl.

Treasurer's Report –

1. Beth Eiring is the newly elected Treasurer and she is already been put on as a signer on the credit card account.
2. \$124 made on the silent auction.
3. Ruben will tally up expenditures, such as Walmart, office Depot, vans, etc. and submit a report by the next conference call.
4. Marlea is still on the account and needs to be removed. Melissa we thought had been removed but is still on the account also.
5. Ruben will get Jack reimbursed for attending the Southern Chapter meeting.

Old Business –

1. Wayne Dixon from the NPB paid for his own registration. He has not asked for reimbursement. We paid for his wife on the tour day. We'll let stand as is.

New Business-

1. AZ has deferred to host the annual meeting until 2018. WA has definitely accepted to host in 2017 and already has ideas.
2. Ruben is on his way to the Central Chapter meeting next week and they have asked him to give a summary of our meeting. Funds were already approved.

3. Bethany will be submitting her travel request today to attend the Eastern Chapter meeting in April. Funds have been approved.
4. Bethany assumes the role of president and is also elected as co-editor to learn the job from John. Official election of that position will be at next year's business meeting and Bethany has expressed high interest in assuming the full position. Beth Eiring -MT elected as the new treasurer. Nick Bieser-NV elected as new website/facebook editor.
5. Jack now becomes immediate past president and therefore Ruben no longer fills an official position.
6. Motion: To elect Ruben Arias as an Honorary Member-Jack-1st; Cheryl-2nd - Passed. Honorary members' membership dues are usually waived and registration at the annual conference is at a reduced price.
7. Bethany has submitted a survey to Cheryl. Cheryl has sent it to all attendees including the speakers.
8. Bethany to get address of speakers to Cheryl to send out Thank you notes. Cheryl will try to make a Thank you card with the WHIS logo on it.
9. Motion: to approve a National HIS conference every 5 yrs. in lieu of our own regional meeting; Jack- 1st., Bethany- 2nd, passed.
10. Much talk on gaining and retaining membership:
 - a. Write a letter to your SPRO thanking for the opportunity to attend, how beneficial it was and how beneficial it would be for other inspectors to attend.
 - b. Have a member of our committee give a presentation at the up-coming Western Plant Board meetings each year. Our Deputy Plants Director says that it is still undecided for this next year. Should be Alaska. They are waiting to hear from them. If not, then probably New Mexico.
 - c. Cheryl does have all the western states SPRO's , plus many other state officials and USDA officials on her email list as well as all past and present memberships, etc. Please give her any others that you think she should have.
 - d. Discussion on annual conference registration fee. Western - \$100, Central - \$165 or \$175, Southern - \$220. We are currently receiving \$5000 in NPB funds every year that compensates for any deficit from fees paid and expenses on the annual conference. Leave ours the same for now while we are receiving the NPB funds to help encourage more attendance.
 - e. Discussion on membership dues. All Chapters charge \$20 for membership. Discussion about a possible switch to an all-inclusive single payment for as many memberships that a state wants to do. States that have a lot of

inspectors would be getting a much better deal than states that only have a few inspectors. Also, this might increase membership but states would still have to pay registration fees for the annual conference, therefore still limiting actual attendance at the annual conferences.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Conference call 10:00 MST, 9:00 PST

Meeting adjourned: 10:25 MST

Respectfully submitted on November 4, 2016 by Cheryl Smith.