

MINUTES OF FALL TSA BUSINESS MEETING

16 October, 2011

(Convened at Texas Cavers Reunion at Flat Creek Ranch, Johnson City, TX). Submitted by Denise Prendergast

Officers Present: Mark Alman, President; Ellie Thoene, Vice-Chairman; Michael Cicherski, Treasurer; Denise Prendergast, Secretary

Officers Absent: None

TSA Members and Cavers in Attendance: Katie Arens, Ron Ralph, Bill Russell, Orion Knox, Joe Ranzau, Allan Cobb, Heather Tucek, David Ochel, Dale Barnard, Don Arburn, Karen Masters, Andy Edwards, Mike Harris, Jay Jordan, Mark Gee, Ann Scott, Ed Sitch, Lori Harris, Mallory Mayeux, Jon Cradit

Welcome and Introductions/Chairman's Report: (Alman). Alman convened meeting at 8:25 am. Apologized for early meeting time but has a 5 hour drive home.

Vice-Chairman's Report: (Thoene). Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report: (Prendergast). Minutes from the Spring Meeting were distributed. It was asked if any corrections were necessary, and no one said yes. A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: (Cicherski). Cicherski handed out a Treasurer's Report for the 3rd quarter of 2011.

- o Through 10/1/2011, the TSA had assets of \$10,600.71.
- o There was an unbudgeted expense during the past year consisting of the production of the 2005 50th Anniversary *Texas Caver* (\$801.47). An error by the editor in its printing led to an additional unbudgeted expense of \$475.75. Also, its distribution cost \$44.25. A donation of \$300 helped to offset these costs.
- o Another unbudgeted expense was a donation of \$400 to the Greater Houston Grotto to host the NSS Board of Governors meeting.
- o Cicherski is concerned that the TSA is not sticking to its budget and thinks this is contributing to the steady decrease in assets.
- o He thinks a TSA/TCMA membership table at registration would be good.
- o He will do an end of the year financial report soon and post to the Texascavers email list.

Standing Committee Reports

TSA Projects— (Alman). Jim Kennedy absent, so Alman read a report by Marvin Miller about Government Canyon. The last project weekend was rainy and not much was accomplished. Alman said that Longhorn Caverns is a promising project. There will be a trip there soon. Alman said that the Inner Space Caverns folks want cavers to work during the week, so that project is on hold. Alman said that Brian Vauter is working with the owners of Natural Bridge Caverns to set up a new project. Ranzau said that paper work for the Hill Country State Natural Area and Devil's River project is being finalized, and it should start up in January or February. Tucek said that a new bat cave gate was recently installed at Colorado Bend State Park, and the regular project will start up in November.

TSA Website— (Alman). Butch Fralia absent. Alman said that Fralia had paid for a year of web hosting. Ranzau suggested we ask them for a reduced price which he had gotten for TCMA.

TSA Officer Elections – Ron Ralph asked for nominations from the floor for the officer election. There were none, and the nominations were closed. He handed out ballots for paid TSA members only. He said 2 people could not make TCR and he was mailing then ballots. Voting to close on Thursday and counting ballots on Friday.

Membership Committee— Alman said we need a chair for this committee. He will do it if he loses to Don Arburn. Prendergast asked if lifetime membership was an option, and Ranzau said it is not a good idea for a small organization which provides a publication. Ideas for automatic mail outs for expiring memberships and an on-line membership database management system were discussed. Arens, Zappitello, and Tucek might know how to do this. Prendergast volunteered to email out reminders to expiring members each month.

Conservation Committee –Not discussed.

Safety and Techniques— (David Ochel). Ochel said he's working on a vertical gear article for *The Texas Caver*.

Publications— (Alman). Ranzau asked about the cost overrun for the 50th Anniversary issue and Alman said it was because the first file submitted had missing pages.

TSA Store – (Lee Jay Graves). Graves not here. Arburn discussed new Texas bat sticker.

Old Business

Alman said not much to discuss about 2011 TSA Spring Convention in Bracketville. This might be Ellie's last year as Vice-Chair.

New Business

New Committee — (Julia Germany). Germany not here. Alman said that a new Fundraising/Grant committee has been established. Send her project ideas so she can look for grants.

2012 TSA Spring Convention — (Thoene). Thoene said it will be in March or April. She is still looking at sites, and will announce details soon.

TSA Brochure and Membership Drive – Alman said Thoene and Jill working on a brochure but would like help with content. Karen Masters volunteered to edit it.

Winter Business Meeting – Alman asked if people think a Winter Business Meeting is really necessary since it is so close to the fall and spring meetings. A motion was made to cancel the Winter Business Meeting. Seconded and motion carried.

Announcements

None

Adjourn Meeting

Alman made the motion to conclude meeting at 9:07 am. Seconded and motion carried.