

**MINUTES
SOUTHERN SECTION A&WMA CONFERENCE CALL
AUGUST 17, 2016**

PRESENT

Justice Manning, Maya Rao, Kelley Spence, Laura McCarthy, Joan Sasine, Desiree Howell, Cynthia Walaitis, Tom Lotz, Dallas Baker, Pleas McNeel, Betty Ruth Fox, Don Sodersten,¹

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Maya Rao at approximately 2:33 p.m. CDT and roll was called.

CONSENT AGENDA

See attached.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

See Consent Agenda. The July Meeting Minutes were approved by the Board, with minor corrections. Tom made a motion to approve and Dallas seconded it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

See Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Section Report:** No report.
- **Alabama Chapter:** No update.
- **West and Middle TN Chapter:** Update provided by Don Sodersten.
 - The Chapter social event at the Nashville Sounds game (local minor league baseball) was held on July 24 and it was well attended.
 - A brown bag lunch on the topic of natural gas powered cars is scheduled. The presentation will be held in Mid-West TN (Trenton) on August 24. Justice offered to post the meeting info on the website.
- **Mississippi Chapter:** Maya provided the report for the MS Chapter.
 - There were no Chapter activities in July.
 - The Chapter is busy prepping for Annual Conference:
 - The agenda is now final.
 - Fourteen exhibitors have committed to attend. There are still exhibitor spots open, so if you know of anyone, pass their name along to Maya.

¹ The members present represent a quorum.

- There are 70-80 attendees signed up and they are expecting two additional big groups to register soon.
 - Maya noted that you can still sign up for the social activities if you are not attending the conference.
 - The minimum obligation for the hotel rooms has been met.
- **Georgia Chapter:** Joan Sasine provided the report for the GA Chapter.
 - The Chapter is planning a brown bag lunch on the Use of Drones in Environmental Assessments.
 - The Chapter is working on planning their Annual Conference: they are almost done with the agenda, have air and waste topics, have a keynote, and registration is open on GA website. Maya suggested adding a link on the SS website to the GA Chapter website.
- **Education/Scholarship:** Pleas McNeel provided the report.
 - MS Chapter awarded one scholarship.
 - A link to the six applications for the Section scholarship has been sent to the evaluating committee (Chris, Andrea, Wade, and Justice). Anyone else is welcome to join the committee.
 - The question of whether the Southern Section would want to pay for travel expenses for the winner to attend the conference was posed to the Board. The members were in agreement to pay these expenses. Betty Ruth moved to pay expenses up to \$500 and Joan seconded the motion.
 - The MS Chapter will waive the registration fees for MS scholarship winner and Section scholarship winner.
 - For next year's scholarship, discuss changing the focus of the scholarship from graduate to under graduate; Pleas suggested putting together a committee to investigate and noted that this would be a major change from the past.
- **Young Professional:** Laura McCarthy provided the report. A golf outing is being planned. In addition, a Mentoring Breakfast is being planned – more details to come. Justice offered to send a list of YP members to Laura.
- **Membership:** Justice Manning provided the report.
 - Justice sent emails to lapsed members. Membership at the end of July was 239. Justice will send out a report to the Board via email.
 - Maya asked a question – is it possible to have memberships all expire at the end of year? Dallas addressed the question by noting that it would be very difficult to get everyone on the same renewal schedule; it's been brought up at International before, but has never gone anywhere, and as it was determined that it would not be feasible; Justice suggested that Maya write up a proposal (written justification) and send it to the Board President.
- **Conference Update:** Betty Ruth stated that the MS Chapter is very excited about the conference. Sign up for the social activities will be available on the website tomorrow.

- **Website Update:** Maya provided the update.
 - Website training will likely be after the conference.
 - Justice stated that he likes the lighthouse picture much better than the smoke stack picture on the home page.
 - The TN Chapter (as the hosts of the 2017 Annual Conference) will get to choose the home page photo at the beginning of the year.
 - Maya asked for feedback about the website. Kelley stated she used the website for the conference registration and it worked well.
 - Maya noted that the funds that are paid through the website for the conference are immediately deposited to their account, which is helpful.

- **Other Topics:** there were no other topics brought up for discussion.

- **NEXT MEETING:** Maya took a poll of the Board to determine the best day/time for the September meeting. It was decided to hold the September meeting in person over dinner on Thursday, September 22. The time and location will be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Item:	Responsible:
1) Provide list of YPs to Laura Mc.	Justice (DONE)
2) Send updated info to Maya & Pleas to post on the website.	All Board Members
a) Add link to GA Annual Conference	(DONE)
3) Designate a Chapter representative who will have access to post items to the SS website.	Chapter Leaders
4) Arrange for website training with Chapter representatives and SS designees.	Maya Rao

ATTACHMENT 1
CONSENT AGENDA

August 17, 2016
Consent Agenda
Southern Section AWMA

Item #1: Secretary's Report and Meeting Minutes

Past meeting minutes have been posted to the website (<http://www.ss-awma.org/minutes.html>).

Item #2: Treasurer's Report

Total Funds	\$14,626.49
Investment (CD at First Tennessee)	\$10,379.35
Available Balance	\$4,247.14

Item #3: Committee Reports

- a. [Section report by Chair]
- b. [Alabama Chapter]
- c. [GA Chapter report]
- d. [MS Chapter report]
- e. [E TN Chapter report]
- f. [W/M TN Chapter report]
- g. Education/Scholarship
- h. Young Professional
- i. Membership report
- j. A&WMA International Report

Item #4: Old Business

Item #5: New Business

Item #6: Next Meeting Date and Time

Will likely be in person at the Southern Section Annual Meeting in Biloxi, MS. Time and location TBD.