

Minutes
Southern Section A&WMA Conference Call
October 8, 2015

PRESENT: Wade Bice (for Haleigh Barlar), Chris Hurst, Thomas Lotz, Maya Rao, Donald Sodersten, Thomas Wideman, and Justice Manning

The meeting was called to order by Chris Hurst at 2:03 p.m. EDT.

Consent Agenda: Not addressed at this point (see attachment).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total Funds	19,582.30
Investment CD at First Tennessee	\$10,368.96
Available Balance	9,213.34

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Section

Chris provided a summary of his attendance at the Sections & Chapters Council (S&CC) meeting in AZ over the weekend of September 25-27, 2015. The Association is projecting a profit of about \$45,000 by the end of the calendar year if all goes as indicated. Membership is still on a slight decline this year. Election of a Vice Chair for the S&CC closes on October 15. Chairs of **all** local units are authorized to vote; Chris is one of two candidates (**NOTE:** If chapter chairs have not cast their vote for this office, you still have until Thursday, October 15). Discussion of what to do with local (Section and Chapter) Associates was discussed extensively. Since Chris was the lone voice in support of Associates, for the second meeting in a row. We will discuss that further, along with donating pass-through funds back to the Association, later. On the subject of recognition and awards for Sections and Chapters, the Southern Section and the GA Chapter are eligible and will be notified of paperwork to complete. If a Section or Chapter wishes to sponsor part of the ACE (to be held in New Orleans, June 20-23, 2016) please contact Stephanie Glyptis, sglyptis@awma.org, directly so that all of the amount donated will be received by the A&WMA rather than the marketing group. Another activity in progress at HQ is trying to sublease part of the space under contract to the Association since they don't need all of it.

AL Chapter

Wade: The Chapter's Regulatory Update in conjunction with ADEM held on Sept. 24 was well attended; between 150 – 200 persons. The proceedings are posted on the Section web site, <http://www.ss-awma.org/alabama.php>. Wade attended the University of AL Student Chapter meeting on September 29, where about 30 attended. Chapter membership was ~ 20 members this past school year. They have a recruiting drive underway for this school year with membership interest approaching 40 students. Harrison Freeman, chair of the chapter, is concerned about the A&WMA student membership fee of \$35 as most clubs against which they recruit have \$5 or less (free) as enrollment fees. Some of the members, including the Chair, are seniors and the leadership is aware of the need to recruit additional underclassman and prepare them for leadership.

Wade reported that the AL Chapter has been contacted by someone from Samford University about another student chapter. Tim Martin, student Chapter coordinator and the Board, are considering approaching other universities in the Birmingham area and having one Student Chapter among them. Wade has also agreed to pursue the Chapter incorporation in AL as a nonprofit corporation. Justice is to send information regarding this (DONE).

GA Chapter

Thomas: The Chapter had a Brown-bag lunch on September 18 with Tim Trefzer of the GA World Congress Center speaking on sustainability. October 15 is the date of the next GA Tech Student Chapter meeting, when they will have a representative of the Air Protection Branch of the GA Environmental Protection Division as a speaker. Lastly, the financial reconciliation from the Annual Meeting has not been finalized due to some problems with the merchant bank in which credit cards are processed. Katy is working on the problem; Justice agreed to help if he can.

MS Chapter

Maya: A Young Professional sponsored tour of the Lucky Town Brewery was held on Sept. 25. A tour of Ingalls Shipbuilding is planned for Tuesday, October 27. This one will include a free lunch. However, you **must reserve** your spot by Thursday, October 15 at awma.mississippi@gmail.com. In addition, one must be a U. S. Citizen with government identification and wear safety shoes. Maya extended an invitation to other Section members who live near Pascagoula, or who are willing to drive to Ingalls. "Breakfast with a Regulator" is planned for December; more details will be forthcoming. This event likely will be free for Chapter members with guests paying a reasonable fee.

E TN Chapter

Chris reported that he has sent two emails to selected persons in the E TN area regarding another meeting. However, no response has been received from any one.

W/M TN Chapter

Don: Chapter officers had a Board conference call on October 1. A meeting for the chapter is planned for November at the AMEC offices in Nashville. Election of officers for next year is planned for the first week in November. They have a candidate for chapter Vice Chair, Robin Ashe, PCA, and all other officers have agreed to remain in their position. They have renewed their tax exempt status, which had lapsed, and they won't have any additional fees or action until about 3 years. A planned tour of Jack Daniels Brewery for the summer did not occur and Jack Daniels is now requesting a delay until next year. Initial planning for the Section Annual Meeting to be held in TN in 2017 has been placed on the agenda.

Education Committee

No Report.

Young Professionals

Chris mentioned that the S&CC encouraged involving YP in all local activities to the extent possible.

Membership

Justice: see Consent Agenda for the latest.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Elections:** Two positions, Vice Chair (TN) and Treasurer, on the Southern Section Board will need filling for 2016. Chris asked the Board to be thinking of potential nominees and to notify him or Justice.
- b. **Local Associates:** The S&CC is against local associates because they think that persons are receiving benefits with no compensation to the providing organization, the A&WMA in this case. Planned action seems to be on agenda but no specifics were discussed. See above Section report for Chris' position on this issue and as a result he has reached out to at least two other local units, NY and FL. He will report back at a future Board meeting. So far as he is aware, Associates are not mentioned in the Association bylaws. He and Justice will confirm what the International bylaws say about associate membership.
- c. **Donation to A&WMA:** As noted in Chris' report under "Section," another request from HQ has to do with donating the local units' portion of membership dues back to HQ to assist with cash flow problems until the Association is on a sounder footing financially. More information will be presented in the upcoming newsletter and the Board will discuss the issue further on the next call when hopefully a quorum will be present.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Annual meeting debriefing:** See GA Chapter report above.
- b. **Tax Exempt Status:** Southern Section, A&WMA, is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. However, GA does not accept us as eligible to be tax exempt; it has more restrictive conditions for which only about six organizations meet. By being a 501(c)(3) organization the Section can accept tax exempt donations. Plus, some states will allow tax exemption on sales. We still must meet certain deadlines and reporting requirements to maintain the exemption. Justice to verify the time frame for this year (2014 fiscal tax year).

The **next meeting** is scheduled **November 12, 2015 at 2 pm (EST)**. .

The meeting was **adjourned** at approximately 2:57 p.m. EDT.

Action Items:

1. Justice to provide internet links to Wade Bice for registering the AL Chapter in the State as a nonprofit corporation. (DONE)
2. Justice to try to assist the GA Chapter with "unlocking" the bank account by contacting the former Treasurer.
3. Justice to determine the deadline for filing required report for maintaining Section tax exempt status.
4. Chris and Justice to confirm whether the Association bylaws address Associate members.
5. Justice to publish and distribute a newsletter during October. Some of the above issues will be described for the general membership.

October 8, 2015
 Consent Agenda
 Southern Section AWMA

Item #1: Secretary's Report and Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the September Meeting were sent to the web master on October 6 for posting.

Item #2: Treasurer's Report

Total Funds	19,582.30
Investment CD at First Tennessee	\$10,368.96
Available Balance	9,213.34

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:** Data from HQ remain inconsistent. For example, at the end of August the Section had 258 members. For September HQ download show 247 members but only 8 memberships lapsed, which would result in 250 members. In addition, downloads show 12 new members but these do not register (they are on the member roster) in the total member numbers. No one seems to be able to explain these inconsistencies.

Item #4: Old Business

- a. The GA Chapter will provide a status report on the finances from the **Annual Meeting** held in Callaway Gardens August 19-21.
- b. **Tax Exempt Status:** Each chapter is requested to report on whether they have any outstanding questions regarding applying for a not for profit status within their state. This apparently is necessary to obtain tax exempt status under the IRS umbrella.

Item #5: New Business

- a. Chris will appoint a nominating committee to obtain candidates for the vacant offices upcoming in the Section for 2016. These are: Treasurer and Vice-Chair (TN).
- b. Chris will share information on Local Associates obtained at the recent Section & Chapters Council meeting in Phoenix. In addition, he will lead a discussion on whether the Southern Section and chapters want/should make any changes in its current policies.
- c. Membership pass-through funds are sent to local Sections for distribution on a regular basis. In light of the Association's financial predicament, they are requesting that local units donate these pass-through funds to the A&WMA to assist with overcoming the financial shortfall. Regardless, because of the cash flow problems, HQ will not be

sending the funds for the end of 2014 and all of 2015 until late in the first quarter of 2016.

d. Other?

Item #6: Next Meeting Date and Time

The next Board meeting will be a conference call on November **12, 2015** at 2 p.m. EDT (1 p.m. CDT).