

# LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2020 -- MINUTES

At LFA Office & call-ins

Called to order at 10:05 by State Chair Kamram Abdollahi, via phone call-in.

Present were: Buck Vandersteen, George Ramsey, Eugene Austin, and Bill Wieger, Buddy VanHoof.

As call-ins: Abdollahi, Holly Morgan, George Tilley, Neils deHoop, Michael Crosby, Yadong Qi  
Marcus Rutherford, Ashley Long, Tim Holland.

MINUTES of the last meeting on November 15, 2019 were recognized as having been promulgated by email, and with no corrections, motion to approve, passed.

Need was recognized for member to take minutes in the absence of Fred Hagaman, Wieger volunteered.

### CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

- National Convention: LASAF attendance/participation was significant and successful, with attendance at about 30 including members, and students from 3 schools. Several were involved in various activities, including the forwarding of a diversity initiative.
- 2020 convention is to be in Providence, Rhode Island, Oct 28 – Nov 1. Intent is to think ahead to best take advantage of opportunities provided.
- Southern University Accreditation. A team from SAF National will be on campus March 9 - 12 for purpose of accrediting the Urban Forestry Degree. Any support from state professionals is most welcome as may be requested. School has won approval across several investigations to date. This visit is the one that determines if diplomas can be granted.
- SU is in collaboration with National Diversity & Inclusion Working Group.
- Survey's for Louisiana attitudes was mentioned, with an apparent need for regular member motivation. Survey directed to young professionals was conducted in '15. Ashley Long agreed to look into possibilities that could produce meaningful results.

AWARDS to Louisiana members tied in with the National Conv were noted, as Fred Hagaman as Fellow, Michael Blazier as Presidential Field Forester.

AWARDS per committee judgement, at this time, for presentation at the Tri State Meeting, (ie awards presented in calendar year '20) were cited by Buddy VanHoof, Chair, as: Outstanding Service to Forestry '19 = Shaun Tanger; Distinguished Service Award = Neils de Hoop; Spark Plugs -2- as Ed Robichaux, & Kenneth Ribbick; Tech Outstanding Student = Conner Killian.

For the recommendations, motion made to approve, passed.

- 50-year membership tenures in 2019 were noted as Jim Barnett, Jim Granskog, and Merlin Smith.
- Bill Siegel was mentioned as individual worthy of long term recognition for policy attention & direction.

NEW WEBSITE. Ashley reported that a draft exists, but needs further work, with goal to have working by Tri State. Holly Morgan agreed to help. Maintenance across time was emphasized, with a manager in some form needed. Also, pictures are needed as reasonably up to date visuals.

- Facebook as related attention. Some kind of 2 sites, info scarce. One is a Holly connection. Morgan and Qi will pursue reliable info and possible usefulness.

TRI STATE CONVENTION – TX + LA + MS, March 31 thru April 1 morning.

- Copies of shell, or "jacket," "brochure," "flyer," observed. Wieger stressed that all substantive and descriptive information is only available by clicking on to the link to the Texas/eForester link which is midpoint on the agenda page, and easily overlooked, about which he cautioned in the development of the announcement.

- Each state is to promulgate the announcement to its membership. Dave Haywood will be contacted to issue a blast to all of the state email.
- Wieger will meet with Dave to establish the blast, and attempt to include the substantive info as a direct link, without having to go thru the TX site; and to include an alert to check for link.
- USPS mailing will be made thru the LFA of the jacket or brochure.
- Forest Resources Float - Wieger proposed that the float be displayed “front & center” in the Crawfish event area; as a unique opportunity to display the actual unit to members of LA, plus TX & MS – as opposed to just pictures.  
We have adequate funds to engage a truck, and possibly shuttles could be arranged. Will check with Holiday Inn for approval to occupy such space

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- '19 End of Year -- \$17,640 income, \$16,246 expenses. \$15,000 transferred to another CD.  
Move to accept, approved.
- 2020 projected as \$16,350 income, \$19,325 expenses. Eugene advised that the income should be greater as associated with the Tri State.
- Motion by Wieger to allocate \$1,000 to the Southern Forest Heritage Museum for operating funds.

#### CHAPTER CHAIR REPORTS:

- North -- Eric McConnell: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to be meeting at Tech, as “Impacts of Nursery Practices.”
- Piney Woods – Eugene Austin: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> to be meeting at noon at Toledo Town, as “drones.”
- Central -- Bill Wieger: Have been attempting to establish logistics for the subject of BMP’s review in process of issuing new edition.
- Southeast – is planning for a field meeting, TBA. Also search is on for replacement for VP as replacement for Shaun Tanger.
- LA Tech – some planning for attendance at Conclave in North Carolina.
- LSU – had successful Christmas tree sale; practicing for Conclave; some to participate in woodsman’s At Winnfield in spring.
- SU – Planning process for 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

MEMBERSHIP -- Tim Holland reported that 92 renewal-encouragement letters sent out. Have difficulty accessing National website for cross-references. Experienced 10 bad addresses which are probably relocation students.

POLICY –

TECHNOLOGY -- Dr. Michael Crosby has issued one or more newsletters, need degree of success of receipts. He is involved with an initiative in Ruston working toward a tree assessment and replanting program as aftermath of tornado.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT -- deferred.

OLD BUSINESS –

NEW BUSINESS -- Teachers Tour planned for \$450 contribution.

- TRILLION TREE PLANTING: Wieger displayed a podcast of Jan 21<sup>st</sup> describing “Pledge by President Trump to join a 1 trillion trees initiative launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.”
- Microsoft is exploring some sort of initiative to pay landowners to defer harvest of trees for year or so in order to maintain carbon sequestration retention. Evidently the growing stock of Louisiana is a target. Further info = ?

\*

\*

\*

\*