

Ohio Christmas Tree Association – Board Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2023



President Jeff Greig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Hampton Inn, 8411 Pulsar Place, Columbus, OH 43240.

President Koch welcomed the board members in attendance, recognizing new board members Bev Keener and Robin Saum.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Joel Berry, Alan Binger, Bill Cackler, Amy Galehouse, Jeff Greig, Gary Hite, Bev Keener, Roger Koch, Matt Mongin, and Robin Saum.

Executive Director, Valerie Graham and Shirley Galehouse were also present.

Absent: Stacie Hopple and Avery Wilcox

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Roger Koch moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2022 OCTA board meeting. Bill Cackler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Alan Binger, Finance Committee Chairman presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Treasurer, Avery Wilcox. Alan reviewed the 2022 financial reports compared to previous years. 2022 was nearly a breakeven year for the operating fund which ended the year with a balance of \$32,400. We are expecting 2023 to be very similar. Bill Cackler moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roger Koch seconded the motion. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS-

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Scholarship Committee:

Chairman Roger Koch presented a written report. The committee met via zoom on February 22. To help get more applicants for the scholarship, the committee is recommending that the scholarship be open to all majors but applicants must be immediate or extended family members of OCTA members or an employee of an OCTA farm. During the judging process weighted consideration will be given to fields that are considered to exemplify the goals of OCTA.

Moved by Gary Hite to amend the scholarship program rules to incorporate the committee recommendations. Bev Keener seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Social Media Committee:

Chairman Alan Binger shared the results of the Facebook posts that had been placed since the October 17 board meeting. The most engaging posts were promoting the winter meeting and the Operation Evergreen program. There are now 786 followers on the OCTA Facebook page.

Website Committee:

Chairman Roger Koch gave an update on the website restructure. The biggest need is for someone to step up to direct Michaela Graham for content updates.

Education Committee:

See research committee report.

Operation Evergreen:

Chairman Amy Galehouse reported that several responses had been received from tree recipients for the 2022 campaign. Preliminary plans are being made for 2023.

Winter Meeting:

Chairman Jeff Greig reported that things are set for the winter meeting to be held February 25, 2023 at the Quest Center. There are 85 registrants which is on par with 2022.

Summer Meeting:

Chairman Jeff Greig discussed plans for the 2023 summer meeting to be held at Greig Christmas Tree Farm on June 23-24, 2023 in Ashtabula County. The tentative agenda was discussed. Duane Berkey and Jim Rockis are both expected to attend and present information. Jeff is also planning a series of sessions on other revenue producing activities for the farm. The registrations fees for the meeting were discussed. It was moved by Roger Koch to increase the two-day registration fee for the summer meeting by \$10 to \$150. Matt Mongin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The 2024 summer meeting will be held at Timbuk Farms, Granville in conjunction with MACT. A site is being sought for the 2025 summer meeting.

Finance Committee:

Chairman Alan Binger reported that the Finance committee had not met. The 2022 financial results were discussed during the Treasurer's Report earlier in this meeting.

NCTA Report:

Chairman Matt Mongin reported that the NCTA meeting will be held in Minnesota in 2023 and Nova Scotia in 2024.

Membership Committee:

Valerie Graham reported that paid 2023 membership to date was 116 which included 10 new members.

Research Committee:

Chairman Bill Cackler will do a session on his research trials at the winter meeting on February 25.

State Fair Committee:

Chairman Jeff Grieg asked the board to consider making some improvements to the booth at the state fair for 2023. Some of the display materials that we have used in the past need to be updated and improved. Roger Koch moved to budget \$750 to update the booth. Gary Hite seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Publications/Public Relations:

April 1 is the deadline for article submissions for the next newsletter. Dave Reese, retired board member has expressed interest in continuing to assist with the committee. Gary Hite volunteered to be the board chairman/representative on the Publications/PR Committee.

Hall of Fame Committee:

Chairman Joel Berry reported that Matt Mongin would be the 2023 inductee into the Hall of Fame. The award will take place at the winter meeting on February 25. Congratulations Matt!

Evaluation Committee:

Chairman Joel Berry had no report for this committee at this time.

NEW BUSINESS-

New Growers Sessions:

After the success of these sessions in 2022 it was discussed having an additional session(s) in 2023. Gary Hite offered to host a fall meeting.

Ohio Ag Hall of Fame:

Gary Hite's daughter has offered to review the nomination application of Dr. Brown into the Ohio Agricultural Hall of Fame which had been unsuccessful in the past.

NEXT MEETING-

Our next regular board meeting will on Monday May 8, 2023 at noon at the Columbus Airport Marriott.

ADJOURNMENT:

Bill Cackler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Matt Mongin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan W. Binger
Secretary