

Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2025



President Gary Hite called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The Board meeting took place virtually.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: James Stribny

Also Attending: Executive Director, Valerie Graham.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

President Hite called for motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, OCTA board meeting. Roger Koch motioned to approve; Alan Binger seconded the motion. Motion approved.

TREASURER REPORT:

Alan Binger presented the Treasurer's report. Mr. Binger provided a detailed account breakdown of all accounts. The overview is as follows; Community Bank CD \$11,332.31; National City Checking 3131 \$16,945.35; National City Savings 294 \$24,769.16; Edward Jones account \$10,500.00 for a total of \$63,546.82. Fund balances of General Fund \$43,190.74; Operation Evergreen \$(2,809.02); Research Fund \$10,057.85; Scholarship Fund \$4,325.00; and Scholarship Endowment \$8,782.25. Treasurer Binger stated that \$100.00 was found and was a negative expense. It was a credit from the 2023 summer meeting that was posted as a 2023 date in the porta-pot account. Now the books are short, \$(217.20), and he is certain that it is a similar issue. He further went on to discuss the balance sheets shared with the board covering membership, summer and winter meeting's revenues. He reported OCTA had received a check from MACT in the amount of \$6,809.75 which is our portion of the profits from the summer meeting. Based on the new contract with MACT we were able to receive almost 47% of the profit. There was discussion heard by the board regarding the possibility of inviting vendors to the winter meetings.

Joel Berry moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Amy Galehouse seconded the motion. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS-

OCTA Membership Signs

President Hite reported that he was hoping to have samples of signs to share at the meeting. He was unable to attain them. He will have them for the February 28 meeting in Columbus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

President Hite asked the Board whether there were committees that were no longer necessary and needed to be removed. The decision was made to hear committee reports and discuss them later in the meeting during the reports.

Scholarship Committee:

Roger Koch reported that the committee is a continually active committee. They had not met. However, he wanted to reiterate the change that had been made during the summer regarding the number of times an applicant could apply during their college career. He also shared that the application process is open, and the application deadline is April 15, 2025. He also reported that Bill Cackler wanted to remain on the committee as a non-board member. It was questioned as to whether that request would need board approval. Discussion was heard by the board. It was decided that a committee member is not required to be a board member.

Social Media and Website Committee:

Chairperson Alan Binger reported the following.

Website Updates

- Added the Winter meeting form.
- Added the new membership form.
- Updated the board member listing.
- Added board minutes.
- Reported Makala Graham updates the members.

Social Media

- Posted tree finder.
- Posted farm finder.
- Posted Operation Evergreen

Mr. Binger also reported that at present there is not a chairperson for the website and that he has been making updates. President Hite asked Mr. Binger if he would stay on as chairperson and Mr. Binger did not have a problem with continuing in the chairperson capacity.

Education Committee and Research Committee:

President Hite questioned as to the purpose of the education committee. Amy Galehouse reported that the role of the committee has changed over the years. She further explained that the board would need to decide whether the education committee would have the role of preparing and arranging for future meetings agendas/syllabus and the research committee would follow new trends in the field. She also went on to further explain that since Bill Cackler was the chairperson for both the education and research committees, he tended to group the committees together. Discussion was heard by the board. It was decided that the education committee needed to be joined by a meeting committee and that the Research committee would stand on its own. Bev Keener moved to change the education committee name to Meeting/Education Committee. Motion seconded by Jeff Greig. Motion approved.

Operation Evergreen:

Amy Galehouse reported that there were a few incidents with UPS. She also reported that the ODA had been billed. She has cleared up all situations. She also recommends that in future years, she recommends that we research something to place on the base of the tree for moisture. She has received apologies for the mix-ups with this year's shipment. She also reported that the troops really appreciate the trees and enjoy the notes, ornaments and cards included with the trees. Ms. Galehouse also laughed and reported that she will begin planning in March for 2025 trees.

Meeting/Education Committee:**Winter Meeting:**

Chairperson Jeff Greig reported minor changes to the publicized winter meeting agenda. Tom DeHaus will not be in attendance. May be having Jake Crowley back for a session on taxes. Mr. Greig stated that our meeting dates have been consistent, and we should send out letters to vendors to get more interest in the winter meeting. Valerie reported trying to fill both the irrigation and Tom DeHaus' time slots. She also reported contacting Aaron Wilson who focuses on weather and Curtis Young as possible speakers. Kathy Smith is currently working to find a replacement for the irrigation topic. Mrs. Graham also reported that Marsha Gray will be in attendance and delivering the message from the Real Tree Promotion Board. Valerie reported that gifts have been purchased for the outgoing board members.

Summer Meeting:

Chairperson Greig reported he has been in contact with Matt from Kaleidoscope Farms and a list of topics has been made. Mr. Greig and Valerie intend on having a meeting via zoom with Matt to further discuss the summer meeting. Valerie asked if we should have a back up farm location for 2026 in case the Feisleys decide not to host.

2025 summer meeting - Kaleidoscope Farms, Mt. Cory, Ohio, June 13-14, 2025

2026 summer meeting - Feisley Christmas Tree Farm, Belmont, Ohio

2027 summer meeting Hidden Pines, Clyde, Ohio, (tentatively June 25-26, 2027)

New Grower Sessions:

Chairperson Greig reported the plan is to find out at the winter meeting what the needs are of the new growers, ideas for topics and see if we get additional volunteers to host upcoming events. He also commented on the importance of having sessions sometime in the summer to early fall. Valerie recommended trying to set up dates for sessions so we can place them on the calendar in advance.

Finance Committee:

Chairperson Alan Binger had nothing else to report.

NCTA Report:

President Hite questioned whether this committee should remain. Valerie reported the Matt Mongin agreed to continue in the capacity of Chairperson. President Hite will contact Matt Mongin and have him provide a report at the winter meeting.

Membership Committee:

President Hite reported the need for a chairperson for the committee. Mrs. Graham stated a chairperson is not needed for this committee and the current membership stands at 64 members. Discussion was heard by the board. Roger Koch moved that we cease to have a membership committee. Bev Keener seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Research Committee:

President Hite reported Mr. Cackler had overseen the committee and that Bill was continuing to work on projects. Discussion was heard by the board. Amy Galehouse reported the committee in the past had kept track of the monies donated toward research and the scope of the committee has changed over the years. Dr. James Brown was part of the original committee. President Hite questioned as to whether the research funds would eventually be utilized for Jake Nichol森's research projects. It was reported the fund currently has a balance of \$10,057.00. Moving forward the board needs to list any research completed by a non-university employee or non-certified research as antidotal research to protect the board from possible legal issues.

State Fair Committee:

Chairperson Greig no report. Executive Director, Graham reported there had yet been a commodity group meeting for the fair.

Publications/Public Relations:

Chairperson Gary Hite recommended the removal of the committee. Roger Koch moved that we cease to have a public relations committee. Jeff Greig seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Hall of Fame Committee:

Chairperson Joel Berry reported Dave Reese as the new Hall of Fame inductee. Weather permitting, the announcement and ceremony will be held at the upcoming winter meeting. Mr. Berry is to contact Mr. Reese to learn his preference as to whether he would like to be recognized at the winter or summer meeting.

Evaluation Committee:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS-

No new business. Alan Binger questioned whether the board intended on operating short two members. It was decided that the board would continue to look for replacement members. President Hite expressed his gratitude to Amy Galehouse and another great Operation Evergreen event. Kudos to Amy for continuing in this capacity.

NEXT MEETING-

The next meeting will take place at the Hampton Inn, Friday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Amy Galehouse moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alan Binger. Motion approved.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Keener

Secretary