

# Ohio Christmas Tree Association – Board Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2025



President Gary Hite called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom call.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Joel Berry, Alan Binger, Amy Galehouse, Jeff Greig, Gary Hite, Roger Koch, and Matthew Perdulla

Absent: Bev Keener, Robin Saum and James Stribrny

Also Attending: Executive Director, Valerie Graham

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Roger Koch moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2025 OCTA board meeting. Amy Galehouse seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Alan Binger presented the Treasurer's report. The general fund balance is down from January 1 to \$40,004 due to smaller than normal winter meeting revenues and slow membership renewals. The Operation Evergreen Fund shows a balance of \$7,016 which is considerably lower than one year ago when the balance was approximately \$12,000. The Scholarship Funds have both increased with the endowment now over \$11,000. Memberships are currently at 117 which is behind the 2024 membership total of 142. Roger Koch moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jeff Greig seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

### **Member Signs:**

Gary Hite reported that the new OCTA farm signs are completed and located at his farm. They will be passed out to members at the 2025 summer meeting or 2026 winter meeting. Each farm will receive one sign. They will not be mailed to members.

Additional signs are available. Jeff Greig moved to sell additional signs at a cost of \$15 each. Matthew Perdulla seconded the motion. Motion approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

### **Scholarship Committee:**

Roger Koch reported that seven applications have been received and the committee will meet to choose a winner by the June 1 deadline. The plan is to award one \$1,000 scholarship. In the past few years an anonymous donor has offered to donate money to allow for a second scholarship. There has been no indication that this donor will make this offer for 2025.

**Internet Presence/Social Media Committee:**

Chairman Alan Binger reviewed the updates that have been made to the website and the posts that were made on the Facebook page since our last meeting. There are currently 1037 followers on the OCTA Facebook page which is up from 1023 in February.

**Operation Evergreen:**

Chairman Amy Galehouse had no updates for Operation Evergreen at this time.

**Meetings/Education Committee:**

Chairman Jeff Greig discussed the 2025 Winter meeting. The feedback from the meeting was excellent. A discussion was held regarding attendance and possible reasons it was lower than in previous years.

The Summer meeting agenda and other summer meeting issues were discussed. The meeting will be held at Kaleidoscope Farms in Hancock County. The Reese family has had significant input on the agenda for the meeting. There is still discussion on whether there will be a children's program.

The 2026 summer meeting will be held at Feisley Family Farm and the 2027 meeting will be held at Hidden Pines Christmas Tree Farm.

**Finance Committee:**

Nothing further to report.

**NCTA Report:**

Chairman Matt Mongin sent a written report that mentioned a new management team for NCTA and also the 2025 national meeting to be held in conjunction with the Michigan Christmas Tree Association and the Mid America Christmas Tree Association on July 25-26 near Cadillac, MI.

**State Fair Committee:**

The state fair contest is on with the same location and setup as last year. The new building is still under construction. More details to be coming.

**Hall of Fame Committee:**

Chairman Joel Berry reported that Dave Reese's award will be presented at the summer meeting. Nominations for the 2026 inductee are currently being accepted.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**New Growers/Other Educational Meetings:** There was considerable conversation about additional meetings and educational opportunities for new growers and other members in addition to our two regular meetings. The concept of having "twilight meetings" in various locations throughout the state was discussed. More discussion will be held on this topic at the summer meeting. We will need to find hosts for these sessions.

**2026 Winter Meeting:** There was further discussion on the 2026 winter meeting, including location and date. It was moved by Matthew Perdulla to hold the meeting on February 21, 2026 at the Quest Center with March 7 as a second choice should February 21 be unavailable. Jeff Greig seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**NEXT MEETING-**

No date was set for the next OCTA board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Gary Hite declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan W. Binger*

Secretary Pro Tempore