Wisconsin Traditional Archers

Annual meeting 2/25/23

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

1. The meeting was called to order by President Chuck Cote at 9:06 AM
2. The roll call was taken by Teresa Cardinal. The following Directors were present: Chuck Cote, Perry Anderson, Doug Curler, Pam Pralle, Tim Cardinal, Don Braun, and Teresa Cardinal. The following Directors were absent for this meeting: Joe Brehm, Chris Thielman, Melody Haege, Mark Toso, and Stephanie Neuman. The terms of all but Joe Brehm were complete today.
3. Chuck Cote read the mission statement: “The mission of the Wisconsin Traditional Archers (WTA) is to promote responsible and ethical bow hunting practices, support other archery organizations that do the same, bring together those interested in traditional archery equipment and skills and to ensure the continuation of the traditions and skills passed down by our traditional archery forefathers.”
4. Secretary’s Report – The minutes of the last meeting were not present per Chuck Cote. The minutes were sent to the Board Members previously for corrections and approval.
5. Treasurer’s report – Treasurer Doug Curler handed out a financial package showing the bank statements, the Vanguard Funds detail and the ledger of revenues and expenditures from the checking account. The beginning balance of the checking account was $34,941.34 on 12/31/21. Ending balance of the checking account on 12/31/22 was $36,937.92. Vanguard funds balance as of 1/1/22 was $58,758.58. As of 12/31/22 the balance of the Vanguard funds was $48,723.21. The balance of the Vanguard funds as of 2/17/23 was $51,042.95. (See attached)
6. Question was raised by Greg Szalewski regarding the lines for shooting expenses. Doug Curler looked this up on the laptop and these expenses are for the payments to clubs holding traditional only shoots and for the targets for the state shoot.
7. Motion made by Tim Cardinal and seconded by Ernie Boyd to approve the Treasurers Report as presented. Voice vote motion carried.
8. Committee Reports
9. Membership – Pam Pralle reported memberships are doing well. We currently have 476 members in the WTA. Karen Hoffman thanked Pam for all her hard work and for doing a great job.
10. Banquet – Tim and Teresa Cardinal stated that the Banquet starts today and a huge THANK YOU to all who have helped in any way. They will be chairpersons for next year also. There is no new information now. Tim and Teresa would like input on this event to help make it better and run more smoothly. Tony Carpenter encouraged a round of applause to thank Tim and Teresa for their hard work and for taking over this year and for next year.
11. Old business: Chuck Cote read a prewritten statement of information for the membership.
12. We lost our webmaster this past year.
13. We have acquired our own IP address.
14. We are using Wild Apricot
15. We own our IP address and Name.
16. We are now able to manipulate our own website.
17. Doug Curler has been keeping our calendar up to date with shoots and information.
18. We are now using Affinipay instead of Paypal and all is working well and better.
19. We are growing on FB and Instagram
20. This year is our first banquet in a couple of years.
21. Our board and members have worked and put in effort to improve the WTA.
22. Store – Doug Curler stated the women’s shirts and tank tops are now available. The men’s tank tops will be arriving soon. (Tim Cardinal stated the men’s tank tops will be called Tater skins.) If members wish to own a sweatshirt like the one Doug was wearing, they will need to place their order and prepay. All orders for sweatshirts must be preorders and can be purchased as hooded or pullover. Please see Doug Curler for order placement and payment.
23. Old Business –
24. Newsletter – Chuck Cote encouraged discussion regarding a newsletter to the membership. Chuck does not want to send too many emails but wants to communicate well. Tony Carpenter suggested doing newsletters on an as needed basis. Mike Theis suggested putting it on the website as an option to click on to go to any newsletters. Teresa Cardinal stated we need people to use the website. Chuck Cote stated we have ninety some members that have no email on file. Mike Theis stated that Wild Apricot can do a subset to be able to send a newsletter. Chuck Cote encouraged members to go on the website. Ernie Boyd asked if there was a way to communicate /respond to others on Wild Apricot. Chuck Cote stated interaction was available on Facebook only at this time. Chuck Cote informed us there is still work to do to develop and operate Wild Apricot and we will continue to work on it. We are working to make sure emails are working. Please share your email with us so we have correct information on our membership information and keep it up to date. George Heinrich stated he does not have an email but would still like to receive any newsletters/communications. Chuck Cote stated it is both expensive and manually time consuming to mail information. Pam Pralle informed the members that many of the life members do not have email or phone number listed and possibly not up to date. Please get good information to Pam Pralle.
25. Youth Program – Chuck Cote would like to see us get a youth program going again. At most shoots it appears the kids have bows already so having a loaner program at shoots does not seem to be an effective means to engage youth at those venues. Chuck stated we may need to start small. Cheryl Braun commented that she does believe a loaner program may be effective as it would make the equipment available. If a loaner program were implemented, she believes it should be on an application basis and would need to be renewed each year. She stated this based on a women’s shoot where twenty-one women attended, twenty shot archery that day and six were new shooters but there was not enough traditional equipment available. Cheryl Braun would like to see us have a loaner program for the equipment WTA owns. Tony Carpenter reiterated that having equipment available is the first step. Mike Theis recommended club participation – loan to clubs for availability and we can reach out to other clubs. Tony Carpenter agreed with Mike and believed there would need to be a traditional archer responsible for the equipment to oversee the use of the items. Mike Theis guarantees we will promote the use of traditional equipment. Perry Anderson would like to see us directly give to one person through clubs that have traditional archers who will participate and oversee the usage. Doug Curler could send a letter/email to clubs for interest in participation. Ernie Boyd wanted to know if there was any support for a club that wants to start a traditional group. Chuck Cote stated there is nothing at this time for starting traditional groups/clubs. Doug Curler volunteered to mark a map of where the clubs are that support traditional shoots and will put this on the website and in the Stump Shooter. Tim Cardinal stated there are more and larger traditional only shoots as time continues. Pam Pralle requested a round of applause for Doug Curler and his work of putting out information for the traditional shoots.
26. Scholarship – Chuck Cote did not have background regarding scholarships given in the past. Currently we are not offering scholarships. Chuck would like to get feedback and information from the membership. Brian Tessman shared his knowledge of the previous scholarship program. It was managed by UW Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. The coordinator responsibilities were changed to part time and then eliminated altogether. Brian Tessman stated that Buck & Bear have reinstated the scholarship management. Tony Carpenter shared that there are no problems with the scholarship program at Isaac Walton student chapter. The student chapter does all the work. Chuck Cote inquired if membership in the chapter was required, and Tony Carpenter stated it was not required. Brian Tessman verbalized he was willing to work with Tony Carpenter if WTA wishes to bring back the scholarship program in one form or another. Jerry Heckel wanted to know what the scholarship was for. Chuck Cote stated it was part of what we have done in the past as a charitable organization. Brian Tessman expanded on the question sharing it was originally for a Junior in college, enrolled in a Natural Resource college, to be given to someone who would be working in the environment with the interests in alignment with WTA mission. Mike Theis would like to see us continue with a scholarship but will need to determine how we give the scholarship and the amount we wish to give in that scholarship. Tony Carpenter believes in the future we need to give any scholarship to an individual(s) who are pro-environment and pro-hunting. George Heinrich suggested we put the announcement/application information in the Stump Shooter and would like to see us give two (2) scholarships to kids. Bruce Haukom agreed with George Heinrich. Jerry Leveille does not believe we need to go through or to a particular college but would need to know the parameters for any scholarship we would give from WTA. Most often the scholarships are sent directly to the college of the winner to be applied to their schooling. Most applicants for the scholarship should come from our own membership or those with whom we have contact. Teresa Cardinal would like any scholarship not to be limited to one school. Jerry Heckel would like to have any scholarships consider tech schools as possibilities for scholarship also. Jerry Leveille reiterated that scholarships in the past have been given to someone who is pursuing an education beyond high school. Jerry Heckel would like to see whomever we would give scholarship funds, have hunter safety and to be in agreement with us and working with us toward the mission of the WTA. We would need to set good parameters.
27. Doug Curler thanked those who have contributed articles for the Stump Shooter. Five (5) people have sent articles for the last issue. Anyone can contribute. Please send articles/pictures/information to Doug Curler for publishing.
28. New business –
29. Chuck Cote presented the need for a trailer to keep WTA owned items safe/secure/stored/accessible. Items currently are housed in many places for the state shoot, banquet, bow jam, etc. We may have a member who is willing to allow us to park a trailer on their property, so all property is in one place. Chuck Cote believes it may cost between $6k to $7K for a new trailer. We do not often make big spends on items, but this would be one for consideration. Greg Szalewski stated he has been in favor of this previously and is in favor of purchasing a trailer currently. Greg believes a steel frame with trim would work well for our needs. Joe Laasch believes we could move items from one place to another more easily. Teresa Cardinal would like to see the items be at one location where everyone knows and then the trailer can be moved as necessary due to changes in leadership and membership. **Jim Frank motioned to purchase a trailer and George Heinrich seconded the motion to approve the Board to purchase a trailer for WTA items. Discussion followed with Jerry Leveille recommending purchasing a new trailer and Jerry Heckel stating this trailer would help with ease of life as items would be organized as well as publicity/advertising as the trailer would be moved from place to place on the roads. Motion Carried.**
30. Decoys – Chuck Cote read an email sent to Perry Anderson from Michael Melgaard of the WI DNR requesting a contribution for custom robotic deer decoys. Michael stated the current price for a standard decoy is $2,100. They are looking for additional support from others to combine the funds given from multiple organizations to get two (2) decoys at a price of $1,900 each. Bruce Haukom informed us that we have purchased two (2) in the past and have also given some we have repaired. Perry Anderson stated he believed this was about four (4) years ago when this was done. Bruce Haukom wanted to know if we had any issues financially, we need to consider prior to making any decision. Teresa Cardinal suggested we wait to consider until after all the numbers are tallied for the current convention/banquet. Doug Curler stated we do not make much from the convention/banquet. Mike Theis reminded us that raffles make money and we do have some maintenance items we have to spend funds to satisfy but we are a non-profit. We should not be stashing funds for a long time as we do not wish to be on the IRS radar. We need to stay with our mission and need to be wary of simply building funds. Mike continued that we need to consider expenses for future conventions/banquets. Mike Theis stated that the board will decide. Stephen Klein raised the question if this possible expense is in line with our mission as an organization. Jerry Leveille stated the word ethics. Stephen Klein expanded that he believes ethics is doing the right thing regardless of the outcome when no one is watching. We need to teach good ethics. Karen Hoffman thanked Stephen for seeing the importance of teaching, and the need to spend the time to teach ethics and build the right kind of culture so enforcement would not be necessary. George Heinrich believes we received some publicity from the prior contribution as we were featured in articles in other publications. Perry Anderson would like us to consider the political statement we may be making also – against poachers but we need to think about education vs enforcement.
31. New Directors – Chuck Cote reminded the membership this is a normally planned event where half of the current Directors’ terms are over as of this meeting, and we need to choose six (6) new Directors or revote in some of those already serving for an additional 2-year term. Chuck Cote has asked if there are members willing to serve as Directors. The following Directors’ terms are complete: Perry Anderson, Chris Thielman, Melody Haege, Mark Toso, Stephanie Neuman, Don Braun (completed a vacated Director spot for remaining year). Don Braun is willing to serve as a Director for a two-year term and Chuck Cote would like him to continue. **Bruce Haukom motioned, and Brian Tessman seconded to approve Don Braun as a Director for the next 2-year term. Motion carried.** The following are nominees for Director positions: William Rice Spann, Brandon Ferrier, Eric Zuleger, Cliff Gregg, Mike Spitzer, and Cheryl Braun. Brandon Ferrier and Eric Zuleger were not present at this meeting. Chuck Cote asked the other four (4) to stand so the membership could see who the candidates are who are present. **Mark Putra motioned, and Stephen Klein seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for the four (4) members present and willing to serve as Directors. Motion carried. (William Rice Spann, Cliff Gregg, Mike Spitzer, Cheryl Braun).** We are short one Director and Don Braun asked Chuck Cote if there were others present in the general membership meeting who would be willing to serve as a Director. Chuck Cote directed the question to the membership. Jim Frank stated he would be willing to serve as a Director. **Don Braun motioned, and Tim Cardinal seconded to approve Jim Frank as the final Director to the board. Motion carried.**
32. Doug Curler reminded the members that if they did not want to be posted in the Stump Shooter, they would need to let him know.
33. Chuck Cote reminded the Directors there would be a Director’s meeting after this meeting is adjourned.
34. Jerry Leveille motioned, and Brian Tessman seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Braun – Recorder for this meeting.