

MTA Membership Meeting  
September 29, 2013  
Midland Center for the Arts, Midland, Michigan

The membership meeting of the Michigan Taxidermist Association was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

Officers Present: Joe Miles-President, Doug Veldhuis- Vice President, Pam Onken-Treasurer, Pat Walker-Secretary.

Board of Directors Present: John Crabb, Rob Haysmer, Justin Pohl, John Proctor and Jonathan Wright.

Absent: Doug Aven, Keegan Crabb, Jeremy Kennedy, Les Thomas and Orlando Villarreal.

Others Present: Kathy Proctor-Membership Coordinator.

Welcome – Joe welcomed everyone to the meeting and the new facility.

Next year will try to reserve this facility again but maybe a week earlier, Sept 20-21, 2014. During this weekend is the Michigan Antique & Collectable Festival. Also, you can visit the Midland Gardens and the museum.

News – Wyatt, son of Tom Jaakkola, he is doing some better.

Terry Weick's son, Nick, had a blood clot in his shoulder. He is currently in the hospital.

Orlando Villarreal's wife was in a car accident.

Glen Polley's wife is dealing with shoulder issues.

Doug & Kelly Veldhuis are going to be grandparents.

Kelly Agren & husband welcomed a baby boy...Congratulations!

Treasury report – Treasurer announced balance amounts from each of our accounts.

Membership report given - currently have 183 members.

Future Meeting Dates -

Board meeting December 8, 2013  
Jeremy Kennedy's home  
9580 Silver Creek Rd. Whitehall, MI

Winter Membership January 5, 2014  
VFW Post #5602  
2195 W. Fleck Rd.  
Six Lakes, MI

Board meeting February 9, 2014  
John Crabb's home  
8859 Cork Rd., Morrice, MI

Convention March 19-23, 2014  
DeVos Place  
303 Monroe Ave. NW  
Grand Rapids, MI

1. Old Business:

- a. Discussion about the 501C3 status – moving ahead, all information is at the accountant.
- b. Discussion about that the "Why Join MTA" flyers were sent to the Michigan tanneries and they are distributing to taxidermists by inserting in shipments. Some members have received it in their shipment.
- c. Website update – Discussion about work continues on the re-development of our website.
- d. Fischer Insurance – Discussion that this insurance agency is putting together a package specifically for taxidermist.

2. 2014 Convention:

- a. Commercial division – Discussion that John Proctor will connect with participating taxidermist to display their business cards by their mounts.
- b. Judging writer auction – Discussion about writing spots that are needed to help judges during judging, will auction off at the Winter Membership meeting.
- c. Discuss Judges –

1. Novice:

Whitetails – Justin Pohl and Don Gadille.  
Fish – Randy Budzynski and Bill Willis.  
Mammals – Carolin Brak-Dolny and asking Jan VanHoesen.  
Birds – Larry Fitch and Charlie Walker.

2. Masters:

Whitetails – Jody Green and Gene Smith.  
Fish – Bob Berry returning.  
Mammals – Wendy Christensen.  
Birds – Jim Kimball returning.  
Habitat – Kurt Ainsworth returning.

- d. Hands On Seminars – Discussion on scheduled seminars, carving seminar with Josh Guge, molding and casting with Terry Weick, and snake mounting seminar with Dan Hudzik
- e. Seminars – Discussion about an all-day seminar that is open to all registered show members, scheduled for Thursday, March 20, mounting a life size grizzly bear with Dennis Harris. Doug Veldhuis is working on other convention seminars.
- f. Suppliers – Discussion that 120 suppliers have been sent letters and 2 have responded.
- g. Friday Night – Discussion that there will be another surprise event. Plan to drop the music.
- h. Banquet – Discussion that Brenda Sears will coordinate and banquet rooms are reserved.
- i. 2D Wildlife Art – Discussion that our first year was a success. We are looking for sponsorships.
- j. 3D Wildlife Art – Discussion that will be adding to the show. Wildlife art will be moved down on the main level alongside of the escalators.
- k. Veteran Mounting – Discussion on Veteran mounting, 6 MTA members going to their local VFW/American Legion to offer a free mount for veteran. The club may auction it off to raise funds or choose to give to a veteran someday. This program is being managed by Doug Aven and Curtis Cook is connecting with suppliers/taxidermist. Mounting at show will happen on the main level.
- l. Hunt of a Lifetime Mounting – Discussion that mounting will happen at the show.
- m. Discussion on judges' bags – for 2014 giving a tackle box filled with items they can use-Kelly Veldhuis is handling.

3. Other Business:

- a. Dream Makers – Discussion on possible hunt. Doug Aven will handle.

- b. MTA Wear & Promotional Items – Discussion that have enough in current stock, possibly add lanyards.

Pan Fish Competition Winner – Doug Veldhuis...Congrats!

Membership attendance raffle was drawn, winning member - Kevin Syperda, was not present to win so next membership meeting raffle will be worth \$75.

Auction will happen immediately following membership meeting.

Stay for today's seminar – Snow-Water-Ice given by Joe Miles.

With there being no other business of the Michigan Taxidermist Association Membership the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ACTION: Motion made by John Crabb to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Proctor. Motion voted on and passed.

Respectively Submitted;

Pat Walker, Secretary