

MTA Membership Meeting
March 23, 2014
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan

The membership meeting of the Michigan Taxidermist Association was called to order at 2:45 p.m.

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

Board of Directors Present: Doug Aven, John Crabb, Keegan Crabb, Rob Haysmer, Jeremy Kennedy, Justin Pohl, John Proctor, Les Thomas, Orlando Villarreal and Jonathan Wright.

Others Present: Kathy Proctor-Membership Coordinator.

Welcome – Joe Miles welcomed everyone.

Membership report given – Currently have 231 members that include 15 new members signed up at the show.

Thank yous were expressed to the many helpers at the convention.

1. 2014 Convention Review:

- a. Discussed that 3D Wildlife Art was added – did great for its first year with 15 entries.
- b. Discussed that we will be reviewing Wildlife Art to connect with Art institutions.
- c. Discussed that the scoring used was 1, 2, and 3 which received mixed reviews from judges.
- d. Discussed that the total amount received from the auction was down.
- e. Discussed that there were some issues with hotel due to change in ownership.

2. Other Business:

- a. Fischer Insurance presented to the membership insurance packages that they have put together especially for taxidermist.

3. 2015 Convention:

- a. Date of next year show – March 18-22, 2015.
- b. Summer picnic – suggestion to have it in mid-June and make it a weekend outing with possible carcass casting seminar.
- c. Fall membership meeting will be September 21, 2014 in Midland. Also, in Midland during that weekend is an Antique and Collectible Festival – come make a weekend of it.
- d. Discussed that the judges policy was changed that no longer have a two year commitment.
- e. Professional/Masters Judges suggestions:
 1. Whitetail judges:
 - a. Jody Green – ask back
 - b. Gene Smith – ask back
 - c. Vincent Fleming – ask for 2016 convention
 - d. Mark Gonnering – ask for 2016 convention
 - e. Bill Yox
 2. Mammal judge:
 - a. Ken Walker – ask for 2015 convention
 - b. Wendy Christensen
 - c. Marcus Zimmerman

- d. Manny Chavez
- e. Ashley Barrett
- f. Bill Lancaster
- 3. Fish judge:
 - a. Terry Weick – ask for 2015 convention
 - b. Don Frank
 - c. Jeff Compton
 - d. Rick Krane
- 4. Bird judge:
 - a. Cory Caruthers – ask for 2015 convention
 - b. Danny Owen
 - c. Tony Finazzo
 - d. Dale Manning
- 5. Habitat judge suggestions:
 - a. Mark Nagy – ask for 2015 convention
- f. Novice Judges suggestions:
 - 1. Whitetail judge:
 - a. Chris Carls
 - b. Curtis Cook
 - c. Doug Aven
 - d. Mike Zank
 - 2. Bird judge:
 - a. Calvin McLeod
 - b. Jonathan Wright
 - c. Steve DeBoer
 - 3. Fish judge:
 - a. Chris Teague
 - b. Paul Borkowski
 - c. Ron Acker
 - 4. Mammal judge:
 - a. Ann Euler
 - b. Mike Doyle
 - c. George Elekes
 - d. Carolin Brak-Dolny
 - e. Jean Roll
- g. Suppliers suggestion – add a map on the back of the seminar/information schedule.
- h. Seminar suggestions:
 - 1. Nyala with Dennis Harris
 - 2. Artistic base work
 - 3. Skinning hands-on
 - 4. Public education seminar for the general public – maybe incorporate with Hunt of a Lifetime and Dream Makers mounting by adding an MC.
- i. Wednesday paid hands-on seminar was NOT worth having.
- j. Public vote – possibly have a Public Best Choice and this award would be sponsored by Show Span.
 - Volunteers to count the votes: Curtis Cook.
- k. Awards – Discussed the new direction for personalized awards for Best of Category-Professional, Best of Category-Masters and State Champion awards. Voted on and passed.

4. Election Results:

Officers

Joe Miles – President
Doug Veldhuis – Vice President
Pam Onken – Treasurer
Pat Walker – Secretary

Board of Directors

Doug Aven
Debbie Budzynski (New)
Randy Budzynski (New)
Mike Butler (New)
John Crabb
Jeremy Kennedy
John Proctor
Les Thomas
Orlando Villarreal
Jonathan Wright

5. Other:

- a. Discussed mounts and entries to be taken out starting at 5:00 p.m.
- b. Show breakdown today after mounts/entries are picked up – anyone may stay to tear down and pack the trailer.
- c. Discussed that Show Span offered available space at the Novi Sport Show for end of February-early March. If you would like to take advantage of this contact Joe Miles.
- d. Discussed that CBM books are available – one per membership.
- e. Research Mannikins Taxidermy certificate – winner is Ron Acker.
- f. Membership drawing, \$25 – winner is Randal Waites.

With there being no other business of the Michigan Taxidermist Association Membership the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

ACTION: Motion made by Jeremy Kennedy to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Doug Aven. Motion voted on and passed.

Respectively Submitted;

Pat Walker, Secretary