

**Tennessee Park Ranger Association
Board Meeting – November 2nd 2009**

**Natchez Trace State Park
10AM Central, Monday, November 2nd, 2009**

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call and Attendance

Present: Jeff Nicholson, Jane Polansky, Crystal Rich, Keith Wimberley, Erin Medley, Ray Cutcher, and Ryan Forbess

Absent: Warren Douglas, Mike Pitts, Lucinda Burnham, Chris Padgett and Bill Knapp

III. Reading & Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Ryan Forbess covered last meetings minutes.

IV. Treasurer Report:

- Discussion of Membership. We are currently at 60%. Last mailing reminder got several more memberships paid. Discussion of using paypal for membership dues in the future. Paypal option is currently up on the TPRA.net website.
- Account Balance & Reimbursements: Expenses for month included a \$50.00 memorial for Bettye J Bayless, \$232.35 was deposited from April Welch for the NAI reimbursement. \$400 was transferred over to the Paypal account to serve as a minimum balance.

V. Committee Reports:

Elections & Nominations : Chris Padgett asked the board needs to reach out to some individuals that we think would make good candidates and try and recruit them to serve.

▪ Awards

- Ranger of the Year: the board needs to decide on what gift we are going to give the ROY nominees and also gifts for those who have retired and how we are planning on recognizing the retirees. I was planning on using the same company for the ROY plaque. If you can have the board vote on and approve dollar amounts for the gifts that would be helpful. The board decided to use the same gifts as last year for the ROY. Sending no more than \$100.00. ROY nominees could receive a gift like a small plaque costing no more than \$200 for all the nominees.

Ryan Forbess read the Ranger of the year nomination application and voted to approve it to be sent out to the field.

- Retirement Recognition: The board voted to give the retirees a shadow box containing either their badge and brass or something similar. Its been awhile since we have done a shadow box so we need to get a cost on them soon.

Tommy Evans , Dale Mabry and Glenn Hatfield are the retirees.

- Fitness Program Ray Cutcher said that he and Lucinda needed to send out reminders for volunteers at inservice. The board said it would be helpful if Mike Carlton announced at the beginning of inservice that participation in the fitness program was mandatory.
- Membership
Jeff Nicholson received 25 knives, a Backpack and a camelpak as giveaways to the membership. Possibly getting more before inservice so there could be a drawing or used as rewards for participation in the fitness program. The board agreed to try to find more donations before inservice. Jane Polansky pointed out that we should get a form together when we receive donations.
- Web Site \ Newsletter -Please let the board know that the paypal thing has happened and seems to be working well. It gave us some headaches but finally got it. Thanks to Jane for getting all the info to me. I divided the payments into the gold plan (dues + flower fund), the silver plan (just dues), and associates plan -this name came from our bylaws and i used the exact phrasing from our bylaws on it. This is for non ranger/managers who want to help us out. NON VOTING PEOPLE, Such as Fran and LaRae .

-Ive changed the forums into approving each user by an admin. Self approval was letting to many spam freaks in.

-I'm disappointed i didnt get the sort, srt, and fireteam pages on. Ive requested information and hoping it will be completed this week. I have the pages decorated and ready to rock, just need the actual info. We have tried to get this done since may. I've now sent out some emails of my own asking questions and like i said by the end of the week they should be there.

-I've applied to Godaddy.com for them to take over our tpra.net domain name. This takes us out away from Ipower and makes paying for the domain much easier each year and will give me less headaches. This may make an issue with paypal where i have to redo the code. I wont know until it swaps over. If so, within a day it should be fixed.

-I updated a lot of the info, contact numbers, email addresses, how to apply, and some of the current issues.

- Still want to do a kids section and i now have access to an arcade as well that i can attach.

-Wanted to ask the board what they thought of doing a picture contest to replace the big TN flag on the home page. Maybe give away a prize of 25 bucks or a free membership for a year? I want it to involve either a ranger in the photo or a rangers equipment, such as badge, campaign hat, Collar brass etc. We could announce it at In-service i know we have a lot of people who like to do photography. The flag actually came from ranger mike hodge.

- Planners Lucinda last meeting said she would work on the planners. The board voted to approve spending \$650.00 on the planners.

VI. New Business

- Brat 09'
 - Special thanks to Jeff Nicholson, Chris Padgett, and Mike Robertson for helping out at BRAT and representing TPRA.
 - Canoe and Pontoon Boat rides were a success. We were able to take in 745.00 to be used for the Training scholarship
 - Plans for next year? The Ranger Association would like to continue its involvement with the BRAT. If we need to take on a greater responsibly at BRAT we would be happy to do so. The board discussed the possibly of doing a shorter version of BRAT (3 days long). That idea was tabled.
 - Other fund raising ideas to supplement the training scholarship for 2010 were discussed. A 5K race or trail run was suggested.
 - Follow up on revenue we share with CTC. Savings from rental trucks and shower truck should total \$7500.
- In service plans
 - Fitness program
 - Board Meeting
 - Dinner night presentation

VII. Next Meeting:

Jan 11, 2010 after supper. The board will meet briefly to make sure everything is together inservice and deal with any last minute changes. Annual board meeting is tentatively set for the second inservice after the Ranger association presentation during supper. We will have to followup with Shane to see which day that is on.

VIII. Adjourn: