

## **MTA General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Forestview Middle School, Brainerd MN

January 22, 2022

General Membership Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Brian Fischer

**President Remarks:** Welcome by President Fischer and introduction of the BOD/Staff. Moment of silence for those passed in the past year. Thank you to our service people past and present.

**Secretary Report:** Approval of the July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, General Membership Meeting Minutes.

***Tom Schmoll motioned to approve the July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021; general membership minutes as written. Dan Collins seconded the motion, motion approved.***

**Treasurer Report:** The Treasurer presented the current financials - Income statement as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and Balance sheet as of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Current checking and savings account balance is \$306,425.82. This includes two CD's that were transferred to Crow Wing Power Credit Union to obtain a better rate of return. One CD is \$20,151.32 for a one-year term and one CD is \$134,586.19 for a two-year term.

***Buzz Neprud motioned to accept financial statement Tweety Highland*** seconded; motion approved.

2022 Budget update by President Fischer: after 3 years of doing a budget the MTA now has a great handle on the financials and things are looking really good. Having a budget keeps the board in line and creates a checks and balance within the organization to keep financials in the positive.

**Membership Report:** President Fischer presented the report to the General Membership on behalf of the Membership Coordinator. Current membership is at 2356. 130 members are youth.

Membership recruitment winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place goes to Eric Maijala sold 18 memberships, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Karen Shoemaker and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Bert Highland.

**Sustaining donor program:** President Fischer provided an update from Denise and Leon Windschitl. The total patches sold for 2021 was 126 and money collected was \$4,690. A total of 59 previous years patches were purchased in 2021. For 2022 patches the money will be donated to promotions and marketing the MTA.

**Legal Counsel:** Gary Leistico presented at the general membership meeting. It's been an interesting last year. A number of groups sued state of MN over capture of lynx. Many legal actions going on around the county if anyone's has questions or concerns reach out to Gary. Membership is important when judges are reviewing cases, so it's a good thing to see increasing membership numbers. Talk to your legislators because that really matters when they go to vote, send emails, letters or call. Wolf committee meeting held

their first in person meeting; overall makeup of the committee is favorable to wolf management. Science heavily supports there should be wolf management in the state.

**MOHA Report:** Randy Goldenman presented a report; there will be no trapper's day at the capitol this year. The bills going into session will be extremely damaging to trapping if they get passed. Randy encouraged members to contact your legislators to express your concerns to them. Put the bills name under the subject, you don't have to say much, just bring it to their attention that you oppose the bills. Watch the website and Facebook page with information about the bills.

**DNR Report:** Conservation Officer Scott staples presented a report on behalf of Conservation Officer Jason Abraham; a trapper's survey in 2023 will be available, if you have any questions to add to it let your directors know to send them to Jason. They are open to putting new stuff in on the survey. Doesn't seem like there will be any changes to trapping seasons, if you have concerns about season dates please send comments to Jason.

**Trapper/Youth Education:** Shawn Johnson provided report. Shawn encouraged members to get the word out about applying for scholarships. Applicants are very low and we have the money to give out. Applications are on website and in the newsletter. Fair season is coming up if anyone is hosting a booth at a fair/show etc. get ahold of Shawn for pamphlets to hand out. We received donation checks for a couple groups specifically tagged towards youth; we will be using that money to create youth handouts to be presented at fairs and shows.

**Tanned Fur Project report:** no report from Tim Caven. Craig Hilburn presented update on pelt day. Pelt day will be at 1500 309th Ave Princeton, MN 55371 March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, doors open at 8 am all are welcome to come, and help and enjoy the day to learn new tricks of the trade. Activities include putting up fur for the tanned fur project, lunch is provided. \$500 was donated to be used for fleshing beams to go to youth attending the pelt day. Look at the Facebook page for any other updates

**FTA Report:** no report. **NTA Report:** no report. **Education Raffle Report:** no report

**Event Awards:** Fur handling contest- 1<sup>st</sup> Dale Jindra, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walt Gessler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jerome Blazevic

Leon Windschitl encouraged members to get youth involved in the junior review fur handling, there were no junior contestants. Consider mentoring a Junior trapper in the contest.

Biggest Furbearer Contest- Heaviest Coon: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Zieroth 33.2 lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Wilken 31.2 lbs.

Longest muskrat tail: 1<sup>st</sup> Greg Leaf 10 3/8", 2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Leaf 10 1/4", 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Nalezny 10"

Largest Beaver tail- 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Nalezny 22 0/8", 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Golden 21 7/8" 3<sup>rd</sup> Eric Maijala 20 3/4"

**Fundraising:** There are still some calendars left to be purchased. Moving forward with Trapper Warrior 99 Club; the first 99 to sign up get to be a part of the club, participation

is \$100. Being a part of this exclusive club helps support the MTA and recognition will be posted in the newsletter.

**New Business:** A member brought up is it worth it for the MTA paying for a Conservation Officer to attend trapper's college. President Fischer shared the thanks and how valuable it was from the 2021 conservation officer who attended the trapper's college. Discussion was held.

**Reminders:** Duluth Boat, Sport, Travel Show/Deer Classic February 17-20, 2022, Minnesota Deer & Turkey Classic March 11-13, 2022. Next general membership meeting August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, time pending, Wadena, MN

**Summer Convention Update:** August -4-6, 2022, at the Wadena County Fair Grounds. All demos will be under a roofed area. As of now there are 2 food vendors set up. Moving forward with renting a dunk tank for fundraising, looking for volunteers to sit in the tank. Wadena development authority is giving \$1500 for advertising.

***Bruce Lotti motioned to adjourn meeting and Alan Golden seconded, motion approved.***

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Katelyn Jindra, Secretary