



Midwest Bat Working Group

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Terre Haute, IN

6 April 2012

Attendees:

Rob Mies, President

Brianne Walters, Treasurer

Katrina Schultes, Secretary

Tim Carter

Joe Kath

Al Kurta

Bree McMurray

John Whitaker

(Absent: Dave Redell, Justin Boyles, and Amy Russell.)

Action Items:

1. Membership Committee - member incentive ideas:

- a. Joy O'Keefe will contact Speleobooks and another member will contact BCI to ask about possible member discounts for MWBWG members. [Joy spoke with Speleobooks; they will not be able to participate in our proposal due to other commitments.]
- b. Consider other possibilities (see brainstorming below).
- c. Craft a letter or web posting about the benefits of being a member.

2. Website committee

- a. Solicit state update summaries for website.
- b. Start a job board.
- c. Look into feasibility of having a password-protected members-only section where we can post member contacts and any other appropriate members' content.
- d. Consider setting up Wind, WNS, and Current Research pages as links pages.

3. Consider suggestions from members at business meeting:

- a. Annual Meeting Committee: Consider time-saving measures in future meetings that result in an earlier meeting end on Friday afternoon (for the drive home). Examples: Tie poster session into 1st hour of the social to reduce time on Fri AM; could have board meeting on Wed PM, so that it does not take up time from regular meeting; try state updates as poster presentations and consider round-table discussion of pertinent topics in time slot.
- b. MWBWG could sponsor workshops (1-2 per year) outside of our annual meeting, covering any topic to provide education to ourselves and the public. Could be offered in conjunction with meeting but before or after.
- c. Create a traveling exhibit/poster/booth about MWBWG to put up at other meetings to inform people about our group and to encourage membership.

4. Awards Committee: begin to form the foundation for how student travel awards to MW meeting will work, how students will be chosen, etc.
5. History Committee: pull together info about original Midwest group, the past 4 years, and update with the most recent info.
6. Annual Meeting Committee:
 - a. Add to future meeting registration forms a check boxes whether or not their presentation can be videotaped and/or PowerPoint posted to web.
 - b. Check into when next joint meeting might be (2015?).
7. Nomination and Election Committee: For all future votes, offer a choice to email or mail-in (anonymous) ballot.
8. Rob: Collect receipts from Wisconsin film crew for gas reimbursement.

Meeting called to order at 8:10 AM by Rob Mies.

Welcome the New Board Members

New members are Justin Boyles and Amy Russell (absent). It was a very close race. The Board thanks Gerda Nordquist for her service.

Treasurer's Report:

\$4708 + \$211 (silent auction) + \$86 (social fundraiser) = \$5005

50 members;

71 people registered for the 2012 meeting. Attendance was similar to 2 years ago (~65).

Membership

Rob: we talked about different ways to increase membership and formed committees. Justin Boyles and Amy Russell are nominated to join Membership, and Brianne will help out (she's got the main membership list). 10% discount at OBC and ISU.

Tim: what benefits? We need to craft an email to express this. Newsletter? **CONSENSUS:**

There is not very much support for a newsletter at this time.

Joe: ask vendors here if they would agree to giving any sort of discount?

Tim: large groups offer businesses a lump sum to offer members a discount. It would be difficult for us to do this.

John: can we emphasize and do more for students?

Rob: so, if you join, you are donating to student endeavors? Yes.

Tim: need to recruit students early and involve them. An incentive could be to be eligible for awards, you must be a student member. This is a networking opp. We should recruit students on committees to get experience and contacts. These are resume builders.

Rob: overall suggestion to committee chairs to recruit students. All committee members should be recruiting others.

Al: weekend meeting we could add in students. Tim: we might lose state and feds.

Al/Rob: we could poll the membership to see if folks would be interested in only weekdays or weekends? [This was done at the business meeting; general consensus was to keep as is (Th/F).

Joe: vendors could offer special workshop to members?

Open Issues/Old Business:

Next Annual Meeting

Locations for annual meeting switched around for next 2 years.

April 4-5, 2013 Tim Carter, Ball State U, Muncie, IN (Alumni Center)

2014 Joe Kath – probably at a state park with lodging, in southern IL.

This year, the vendors worked out very well with the demos.

Rob: Each year, hosting it will get easier, because we can use the existing SBDN forms, cut and paste announcements, etc.

Brianne: the vendors came to her, which made it easy.

Next year, get vendors to pay \$500-750. For this extra sum, they could be allowed to do a workshop. (This year, 3 vendors paid \$500 and 3 paid \$300).

Tim will be looking into best hotels, venues for social, etc., for 2013 meeting. There's a Best Western near the Alumni Center, but it may not be best one. Next nearest are 0.5 mi or so away.

Do we want to consider another joint meeting? 2015?? Discussion needed with other groups. We have been having this meeting the same dates, but don't want other hosts to think they have to use these same dates. **DECISION: April is our meeting month.**

Website:

What do we want it to do, that dictates what we put on it.

Rob: Laura Hohmann has been providing updates, although not the fastest, but she has done a good job.

Tim: be careful of putting up contact names and numbers. Content should be kept to what we can keep up with (stuff that does not need really frequent updates).

Rob: what's the purpose of the website? We'll ask the membership too.

Tim: Purpose is to provide answers to questions. What do you need to know about this organization? History of the group, when's the next meeting, how/why to become a member, join list-serv, basic contacts.

Membership list? Password protected for members only?? We have to check with webmaster to see if we have that capability. Could we stick to just state contacts instead of full member list?

We could contact NASBR and western group, to find out how they handle posting contacts and see what their experiences have been.

New Business:

Awards Committee

What award for first place student award?

Tim: SBDN does \$150 for each of 3 awards: overall colloquium award (best student oral presentation) – paid by meeting host; best bat talk & best poster paid by SBDN.

Joe: best poster and best oral presentation.

This year there are 5 student talks and 6 posters.

Tim: we could start at \$100 level since it's a small meeting.

Rob: **DECISION: let's keep it at \$100 for now.** For this meeting: cash award and certificate.

What about a student travel award?

Tim: SBDN has an application in spring for student to go to NASBR \$500. We could offer a scholarship(s) to attend our own meeting.

Rob: would like to get more students here. Maybe \$200-250. John and Joe are on this committee.

Tim: they should begin to form the foundation for how this will work, how students will be chosen, etc.

History Committee

What do we want this to entail?

Tim: For SBDN, they have a running history. Every host is required to write a quick summary with photos. We met in X place, this time, had these talks, gave out these awards, had a social here, etc. Other suggested items to track: Previous board members for what years? Committee chairs for what years? Year of bylaws and other important dates. Possibly a summary by president each year. Get things recorded now! Brianne & John can give a blurb about 1st 2 years, and Joe knows the original history and can supply Katrina with info.

Non-Profit Status

Rob: how easy, what do we have to do?

Tim: For SBDN, they had a law student do it for them, so don't know how hard/easy it is.

Tim: the con is we become autonomous and we might lose free access to facilities and would need to have our own bank accounts. This year, we went through OBC. They added a \$1 charge to pay the fees to accept credit cards. This worked just fine.

Tim: Annual reporting: taxes. As long as we don't bring in more than \$25,000, it's an easy 1-page form. Above that and/or if you have 1 big donator, you have to do extra paperwork. SBDN pays \$550 to an accountant to do taxes, because they bring in >\$25K with blitzes.

NASBR went for a long time without doing non-profit status.

DECISION: For now, we choose to leave things as is and not file for independent non-profit status. That means we keep our affiliation with ISU. Brianne: that means we are stuck with ISU treasurer. Everyone is OK with that. Continuity is good.

Business Meeting Agenda

Discussed and developed.

Other Topics

- Rob: we will reimburse the video crew from Wisconsin for gas, since they are performing a service for us. They will submit receipts to Rob.
- John: do we want to send out a CD of presentations and talks? Tim: we have a video of all presentations that is essentially better than a CD. It will be posted on website.
 - Add to registration form, whether or not they want their presentation videotaped and/or PowerPoint posted to web.
- Al: voting for board members is not anonymous. Is that a problem? We could offer a choice: respond to email and a mail-in option. AGREED.

The next planned Board meeting will be at the 2013 annual meeting at Ball State University in Muncie, IN.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 AM by Rob Mies.