



**IWLA National Directors Board Meeting  
Teleconference  
February 27, 2021**

**Call to Order**

The National Directors Board Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM, February 27, 2021 by President Kelly Kistner.

**Logistics**

Janette Rosenbaum, Strategic Communications Manager, explained the logistics of how the League's first-ever National Board of Directors electronic Board Meeting would operate.

**Roll Call**

The Roll Call was conducted and 62 National Directors were present constituting quorums for both the meeting and on proposed changes to the national By-Laws.

Present

Kelly Kistner, IWLA President, Vicki Arnold IWLA Vice-president, Scott Meyer, IWLA Treasurer, Jim Storer, IWLA Secretary, Dan Arico (for Russell Alls), Bill Arnold, Michele Bell, Dale Braun (for Dean Knight), Jim Buiter, Rick Cerwick, Robert Chapman, Michael Chenoweth, Jill Crafton, Pat Crouse, Jeff Deschamps, John Detisch, Michael Fuge, Shawn Gallagher, William Gordon, Elaine Graham, Richard Graham, Miles Greenbaum, Stephen Grodetz, George Guyant, Keith Halper, Mike Horsman, Jack Johnson, Bill Kelly, Patrice Kistner, Jodi Labs, Kenneth Lefebvre, Rachel McBride, Lisa McIntyre, Craig McIntyre (for Jay Samuelson), Pamela Meara, Rodger Mettenbrink, John Monahan, Leslie Monostory, Ronald Moore, Dawn Olson, Earnest Padgette, Jill Padgette, Charlie Palmgren, Bob Pavlick, Michael Peterson, Jim Piatetski, Pam Pierce, Barbara Pritchett, Herbert Pritchett, Don Robertson, Gary Schwartz, Wes Sheets, Richard Sommer, Mike Stout, Marion Striegel, Marj Striegel, Conrad Strozik, Brenda Swartz, Jim Sweeney, James Trommatter, David Zentner and Dave Zieverink

Absent

Mark Boddicker, Chuck Clayton, Tom Ditty, Jeff Farkas, Rod Frost, Jim Madsen, Sally McIntyre, Gary Meade, Joe Menke, John Rust and Tom Terfler.

Staff

Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Janette Rosenbaum, Strategic Communications Manager, Mary Rubin, Director of Member Programs and Earl Hower, Chapter Relations Director

Guests

Kim Russell, Luann Noll and Ray Powell

**Agenda**

Kelly Kistner, President, presented the Agenda for approval. Jodi Labs motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Ernest Padgette seconded the motion. Mr. Kistner asked for discussion and being none called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Kistner presented the Minutes of the National Directors Board Meeting held on February 14 and 15, 2020 in Fort Myers, Florida. Mr. Kelly asked for any suggested additions or corrections and being none, he accepted the February 14 and 15, 2020 Minutes as presented.

## **Staff Report**

An internet link to the written Staff Report had been provided to all of the national directors in an email prior to the meeting. The link opened a twelve (12) page written report. The report contained a Summary of Accomplishments since July 2020, Finance and Administration, and Conservation Programs and Activities including the Agricultural Program, Water Program, Missouri River Initiative Program, Chapter Relations, Fund Raising, Membership and Communications.

## **League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Vicki Arnold, Vice-President, noted that the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a great opportunity to share with the League's chapters and members and for the Izaak Walton League of America to be a leader in conservation into the future.

Kelly Kistner President and Jodi Labs, Executive Board Chair, encouraged everyone to take the accomplishments from the League's past and to use them to help the League move forward. Ms. Labs noted that the Executive Board is using a consultant to help with a second century vision. All of the national leaders need to be involved in helping the League move forward.

Mr. Kistner asked for volunteers for a committee to help with working on the Second Century planning. Ms. Labs stated that a survey will be going out soon to see what everyone thinks the Second Century direction should look like. Mike Stout, PA, volunteered for the committee and stated that we should understand the particulars of each chapter. Jill Crafton, MN, noted that soil, water, air and wildlife are everywhere including urban areas and that perhaps we should pull together around the ecosystems concept instead of a rural and urban focus. Ms. Labs asked if the national directors are willing to pull together and help make the decisions to get League members engaged and moving forward. She stated that what we really need to decide is if we are all going to work together in order to move forward. Bill Kelly, ID, commented that in the last 100 years the country has become more urban but that clean water and food still come from the rural areas. Jack Johnson, IA, stated that it is all about chapters and individuals. The committee needs to sit down with chapters to see what they want to work on.

## **By-Laws**

Kelly Kistner turned the meeting over to Ernie Padgett, By-Laws Committee Chair. Mr. Padgett explained that the proposed By-laws changes submitted by the Executive Board had been distributed with more than the required amount of lead time before the meeting. He noted that there were two new sections on a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative logo and the ability and methodology for cancelling in-person Mid-Winter Meetings and National Conventions because of pandemics and other limited disasters, and numerous grammatic and clarification edits. Three proposed amendments to the proposed By-law changes had been submitted prior to the meeting. Mr. Padgett asked that the proposed By-law changes first be voted on and then the proposed amendments be considered as individual changes.

## **By-laws Proposed Changes**

Ernie Padgett, in the name of the By-Laws Committee, motioned that the proposed By-laws changes be adopted as presented. Jeff Deschamps seconded the motion. Mr. Padgett asked for discussion and being none called for the vote. The motion carried.

#### Amendment to Section 2.4

Mr. Padgett presented the proposed By-law change presented by Miles Greenbaum, MD. The proposal was to strike section 2.4 and insert the following: "2.4. On occasion of an historic event, the Executive Board may design and propose a specific logo commemorating that event. Approval of that logo would then be subject to a vote by the Board of Directors. Following approval by the Board of Directors, such logo is authorized for use in lieu of the emblem, button and slogan provided for in Sections 2.1 - 2.3 above including, but not limited to, uses described in Section 2.2."

Miles Greenbaum motioned to approve the proposed by-law change to section 2.4. Mike Fuge, WI, seconded the motion. Mr. Padgett asked for discussion. Mr. Greenbaum stated that by-laws should not contain anything pertaining to one-time events or operations. By adopting the proposed the amendment it would allow for any historic event and would not be a one-time operating rule. Mr. Padgett asked for further discussion and being none called for the vote. The motion carried.

#### Amendment to Section 7.2

Mr. Padgett presented the proposed By-law change presented by Gary Schwartz, MN. The proposal was to insert "During all virtual meetings, a delegate will only be able to cast one vote." Mr. Padgett then explained that the proposal could not be considered at this meeting because it was a new concept or issue and needed to be submitted as a separate by-law change. Mr. Schwartz accepted the decision and asked how to submit the resolution for the national convention. Mr. Padgett explained where he could find the process in writing.

#### Amendment to Section 15.4

Mr. Padgett presented the proposed By-law change presented by Rick Graham, OH. The proposal was to change the date by when conservation resolutions need to be submitted for the Convention. Rick Graham motioned to change the text to "Effective January 1, 2022, any proposal for a conservation policy or resolution that will require action at a national convention must have been submitted to the national office of the League by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May prior to the national convention." Mike Fuge seconded the motion.

Mr. Padgett called for discussion. Mr. Graham stated that the League is a grass roots organization and the divisions needed time to discuss issues and develop resolutions at their conventions. The newly adopted date would require the Ohio Division to move the resolutions process to their January meeting. He also believes that having the date five months in advance of the national convention will make it difficult for division and chapters to work together. Mike Chenoweth, FL, stated that the newly adopted date would make getting issues accepted by the national convention 1.5 to 2 years late for Florida legislature action. Jill Crafton, MN, and Jeff Deschamps, MD, explained that their state legislatures needed even different timing to work with and that all of the states are different. Jim Storer stated that the League's Executive Board can, and has in the past, adopted conservation policies between national conventions in emergency type situations. Jodi Labs, Executive Board Chair, explained that the reasons for the newly adopted date is to get more people involved, the Mid-Winter Meeting date is easier for everyone to remember, give staff more time to work on the resolutions, help solve the site

specific and local only issues in other ways, allow resource committees more time to work on the issues, and give the delegates time to talk to their chapters about the proposed resolutions.

Mr. Padgett asked for any further discussion and being none called for the vote. The motion failed.

Mr. Padgett turned the meeting over to Kelly Kistner, President.

### **2022 Mid-Winter Site**

Mike Fuge, Site Committee Chair, presented two options for the 2022 Mid-Winter Meeting. The sites were the South Point Hotel Casino and Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada for \$151.00 a night and the Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers, Florida for \$184.00 a night. Both sites are for February 17 through 19, 2022. The Executive Board Meeting would be on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the national directors Board Meeting would be on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Les Monostory motioned to hold the meeting at the Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers, Florida on February 17 - 19, 2022. Jodi Labs seconded the motion. Mr. Kistner called for a vote. The motion carried.

### **Retaining Members**

Mary Rubin, Director of Member Programs and Earl Hower, Chapter Relations Director gave a presentation on retaining members. Ms. Rubin noted that 2020 was the highest year for new members since 2016. She also stated that normally 50% of new members do not renew for a second year. Mr. Hower provided information on actions that can be tried to retain the new members. Information was provided on the support that the national office can provide to help chapters retain existing members. A discussion was held on the issues involved in retaining and recruiting new members. Kelly Kistner stated in summary that getting people to stay for the conservation and for national collective conservation work is important.

### **2021 Convention Update**

Mr. Kistner stated that a survey had been sent to the national directors that are usually the large majority of the attendees at national conventions. The survey result showed that 70% of potential attendees will not go to an in-person convention in July 2021 and 20% of the remaining 30% might not go depending on the state of the pandemic in July. With those numbers in hand, the Nebraska Division discussed the situation with the hotel and determined that the only way to avoid financial penalties in the tens of thousands of dollars was to cancel the 2021 in-person meeting and to contract with the hotel to hold the 2023 national convention there. So, the Executive Board voted to cancel the 2021 in-person convention, hold an electronic convention and to hold the 2023 national convention in July at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska.

### **Candidates for national offices in the 2021 Election**

The following individuals announced that they will be running for the corresponding position.

- President -- Vicki Arnold
- Treasurer -- Scott Meyer
- Secretary -- Jim Storer
- Executive Board 2 Year Term -- Herbert Pritchett
- Executive Board 2 Year Term -- Richard Graham
- Executive Board 3 Year Term -- Jack Johnson
- Executive Board 3 Year Term -- Mike Fuge

- National Director At Large -- Rick Sommer

### **Unfinished Business**

#### IWLA Endowment

George Guyant asked if the independent IWLA Endowment could have time in the 2021 virtual Convention to conduct their usual business meeting like they have in the past in-person meetings. Mr. Kistner assured them that League and the Endowment can work together and make that happen.

#### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Advertising

Vicki Arnold asked if the national staff can help chapters and divisions to set up the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary information on their websites. It was noted that some of the information for that use will be ready soon.

#### Mid-Winter Meetings

John Detish stated that if all of the Mid-Winter Meetings were held virtually it would save chapters, divisions and individuals a lot of money. Several comments were made on the pros and cons of that concept.

#### National Awards

Gary Schwartz and Rick Sommer stated that the national awards nominations are due soon.

#### IWLA Endowment Grants

Mike Stout asked about the IWLA Endowment and the grant application rules and decisions. Mile Greenbaum and Jodi Labs explained that the Endowment is an independent corporation and it handles their open program. Like any non-profit the grant decisions consider all of the issues related to non-profit rules and regulations. The grant information is on the IWLA Endowment's own website. Gary Schwartz stated that last year the Endowment had requests for twice as much funding as money available.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business to discuss Kelly Kistner, President adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.

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James D. Storer, Secretary