

OSAF Executive Committee Update - Feb 2010

Foresters,

As chair of the OSAF publicity committee, I have been asked report to you the discussions and decisions made by the executive committee. Executive committee chairman Joe Friend wants members of the OSAF to be better informed about decisions made by the executive committee and the directions in which the OSAF is moving.

The first thing many want to know is who comprises the executive committee. The committee members are:

Joe Friend, Executive Committee Chair
Randy Holeman, Chair elect
Rob Ficklin, Secretary-Treasurer
Craig McKinley, Past Chair

Committee Chairs:

Larry Nance, Auditing Committee
Craig McKinley, Communications and Website Committee, Membership Committee
Ray Boutz, Council Members, Fellows and Awards Committee
Tom Kuzmic, Education Committee
Steve Burgess, Foresters' Fund Committee
Bob Levins, Historian Committee
Robert McFarland, Nominating Committee
Sayeed Mehmood, Policy and Legislative Committee
Randy Holeman, Program Committee
Jon Barry, Publicity Committee
Rod Will, Tellers Committee

Division Representatives:

Roger Griffin, Oklahoma Division Chair
Nancy Young, Arkansas Division Chair

The executive committee met in Van Buren, Arkansas, on February 19th. Significant decisions and reports were made on the following topics:

As of January 29th the OSAF checking account contains \$11,903.88 and the Forestry Enhancement Fund contains \$1,498.00. The checking account balance includes a \$610 dues disbursement sent by SAF covering all or parts of 2008 and 2009. The national office said the disbursement was the result of some adjustments they had to make to their bookkeeping, but they were unable to provide any details about the disbursement. Due to the lack of information from the national office, Randy Holeman, secretary/treasurer for 2009, had no information to guide distributing the disbursement among the divisions and chapters. The dues disbursement will be placed in the OSAF operating fund.

The OSAF web site is being moved to the national SAF server, so it is currently unavailable.

Craig McKinley is working with a consultant in Washington, DC, to put the finishing touches on the web site and get it running. They hope to have it up within two or three weeks.

The OSAF executive committee is continuing to plan a joint meeting with the Great Plains SAF and the Missouri SAF. The target date for the meeting is sometime in the fall of 2011. Location to be determined.

Two or three years ago, the National SAF office changed from conducting elections on paper ballots to using electronic ballots on the SAF web site. Regional societies, state divisions, and chapters have the opportunity to use the national office's electronic balloting. The OSAF has already made this change, and state divisions are moving in that direction. The SAF requires that we submit names of candidates and biographies to them by mid August to be on the October ballot. If you wish to nominate someone to run for an office at the OSAF level, please get the nomination and a biography to Robert McFarland by mid July so he'll have time to process those and get them ready to send to the SAF. Division and chapter nominating committee chairs should also get prepared nomination packages to Robert by the end of July. The national office charges the OSAF a fee for participating in the electronic balloting, however the fee is a fraction of the postage cost for paper ballots. Division ballots submitted with the OSAF ballot are covered by the fee paid by OSAF. For more information, contact Robert McFarland at robertjmcfarland@yahoo.com.

To facilitate electronic balloting and getting information to members, we need to get email addresses for as many OSAF members as possible. If you know someone who did not get this email, encourage that person to send his or her email address to Rob Ficklin at ficklin@uamont.edu to be included in future emails to OSAF members.

Most of you are probably aware of the Foresters' Fund maintained by the OSAF and supported by a silent auction at the annual OSAF convention. Currently half of the funds raised by the silent auction are sent to the national Foresters' Fund and half are retained by the OSAF for our Forestry Enhancement Fund. Awards are made from this fund to support projects in forestry education conducted in collaboration with the OSAF. Up to two projects can be funded each year with an award of up to \$500 per project. If you wish to apply for an award, contact the OSAF chair to receive an application form. Application deadline is March 1st for a given year, and final decisions will be made by the OSAF executive committee.

If you have any comments or suggestions relative to this newsletter, please contact me at jbarry@uaex.edu.

Publicity Committee Chair
Jon Barry