

## LTAHA Board of Directors open meeting

December 5, 2021

A quorum of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Trappers and Alligator Hunters Association here forth referred to as the LTAHA, met at 1 pm on Sunday, December the 5, 2021 at 1000 Hodges Loop, Florine, LA 71429. Members in attendance were Justin Ebarb, Charles Sturgis, Homer Gibson, Clint Johnson, Chad Mire and Tony Howard. Absent were April Lemoine, Ryan Shaeffer and Steve Hughes.

The meeting was called to order with a word of prayer by President Tony Howard, followed by review of the current bank statement from Regions Bank. A motion was made by Homer Gibson and seconded by Charles Sturgis to accept the bank statement as printed as our financial report. Motion carried.

The floor was opened for discussion on the President goals for 2022. This discussion led to agenda item five, the overhaul of the LTAHA web site as follows. Add link to Facebook, remove Store Link, remove box to Store Link on all pages, update LDWF Regulation page to PDF link, update content on regulation page (no severance tax), remove dead link to online license purchase, put "submit email address for more information" button on home page, repair link to "Education Coordinators" email link and correct Ryan Schaefer's email address to @gmail. Tony Howard will work with Hawk Mountain to make these changes and updates.

Consideration was given for the amount of funds to be dedicated for a hard copy mail out news letter for 2021-2022. Clint Johnson made a motion to allocate \$450 for at least 200 hard copy mail outs with a second by Homer Gibson. Motion carried.

Clint Johnson gave an update about the LTAHA Facebook page and explained that it was LA trappers not LTAHA. Clint will attempt to start or change the name to the LTAHA page. Clint asked if April Lemoine could help administer the site and Tony Howard will contact April at earliest convenience.

An open discussion was held on agenda item seven. After much discussion, the following "Aims and Goal Statement" was accepted for publication with a motion by Homer Gibson and seconded by Justin Ebarb. Motion carried.

The aims and purposes of this organization are:

1. To develop leadership for the advancement of the best interest of the trappers and the fur industry as a whole.
2. To inspire in our membership a desire to practice the ethics of true sportsmanship toward others who wish to enjoy the recreation pleasures of the outdoors.
3. To impart adequate knowledge concerning the necessity of conservation.

4. To cooperate with the duly recognized conservation organizations in the furtherance of the objectives of the trapping community.
5. To advocate a comprehensive research program regarding the conservation of native furbearing animals.
6. To cultivate a feeling of goodwill and mutual understanding through a proper respect of the rights of landowners at all times.
7. To eliminate unnecessary cruelty in the employment of traps.
8. To discourage and eliminate unjust and fraudulent trade practice in the marketing of raw furs.
9. To aid and cooperate with law enforcement agencies.
10. To oppose, demand revision or repeal of any law or regulation which is biased or discriminative toward the trapping community.
11. To oppose any proposed legislation which would impose unreasonable restrictions on the taking of furbearing animals, or the sale of the pelts thereof: to demand the revision or repeal of any existing law or regulation of the same nature.
12. To oppose any individual or any organization or combination of organizations whose activities are motivated by avarice or whose interests or designs are detrimental to the interest of the trapping community.

An open discussion was held on the rank and level of instructors who participate in the education program. Many ideas were covered including probationary period for new instructors who enter the program by attending their first "Instructor Work Shop" and commit to the first season with attendance of at least two (2) one day work shop and one (1) three-day workshop and be a member in good standing. Much more discussion was held on the instructors rank and level program. No action was taken on this item at this time and more discussion is required.

Instructor rank logos were discussed and ideas floated about designs. Randall Williamson's wife will be consulted for design on tee shirts.

Per the LTAHA by-laws the 2022 convention date was set for April 9, 2022 at Woodworth LA provided the date can be reserved for event.

Consideration was given to the purchase of plaques for the private land owner who have allowed the education program to use their property for the educational purposes. Clint Johnson, Justin Ebarb and Homer Gibson will secure these plaques accordingly. Clint Johnson made a motion with Homer Gibson seconding the allocation of \$100 per plaque for three land owners. Motion carried.

Chad Mire suggested that he may be able to have ice chest embossed with the LTAHA logo as donations from his company and present the ice chest to the land owners. Tony Howard will get the LTAHA logo to Chad for this project.

Tanya Sturman with LDWF made a suggestion that our membership options could include a family membership. Further discussion on the membership will be needed to consider the amounts charged for all of our memberships.

With no other business to discuss a motion was made by Homer Gibson to adjourn with a second from Clint Johnson. Motion carried.