



Membership Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2020
State College, PA

Members of the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers Association (PCTGA) attended the membership meeting of the organization on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at Toftrees Conference Center in State College, PA. President Chris Botek welcomed those present and called the meeting to order.

Approval of February 2019 Membership Meeting Minutes

The minutes were distributed following the meeting held in 2019.

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 2019 membership meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wagner reported the balance sheet was distributed to those present and asked members to see Ms. Ruggiers with questions. He also noted the Board approved moving the organization to an accrual basis of accounting from a cash basis. This will help PCTGA be able to more accurately look at expenses and income throughout the year.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

Mr. Botek noted the proposed amendments to the Bylaws were distributed to all members within the time required for amendments to be made, as outlined in the Bylaws, and shared the following changes being proposed:

Article III – Board of Directors

1. The direction and management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in the Board of Directors consisting of ~~ten to fifteen~~ nine to twelve members.
2. The Board will consist of the Officers (as defined in Article IV), the Pennsylvania Director to the National Christmas Tree Association (NCTA), and ~~four five~~ to nine eight additional PCTGA members who shall serve as Directors.
3. Directors shall be elected by the membership for a term of three years. The NCTA Representative shall be elected by the NCTA membership and have a term ~~of four years~~ coinciding with the expiration of their term on the NCTA Board.

Article IV – Officers

1. The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary~~;~~/Treasurer and Immediate Past President.
4. The Officers shall automatically succeed to each subsequent position as follows: ~~Secretary succeeds to Treasurer,~~ Secretary/Treasurer succeeds to Vice-President; Vice-President succeeds to President; President succeeds to Immediate Past President. The automatic succession may be interrupted if deemed appropriate by the Nominating Committee. In the event that the Nominating Committee determines it is in the best interest of the organization, each Officer shall be eligible to serve an additional one-year term.
5. The Secretary~~/~~Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the year. The Secretary~~/~~Treasurer must have served at least one full term on the Board.
7. Only Directors elected by the membership shall be eligible to hold the offices of President, Vice President, or Secretary ~~or~~/ Treasurer.

Article VII – Duties of Directors and Officers

3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Association, Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, and shall make a detailed report at the annual meeting and at such other times as may be directed by the Board; oversee the annual budget process with committees and the Board of Directors; review and report the financial status of the Association to the Board of Directors on a regular basis; and perform such other duties incidental to the office as are implied in other provisions of the Bylaws and as the membership or the Board may from time to time direct.

~~4. The Treasurer shall make a detailed report at the annual meeting and at such other times as may be directed by the Board, oversee the annual budget process with committees and the Board of Directors, and review and report the financial status of the Association to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.~~

~~5.4.~~ The Immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and will attend Board meetings, offering advice and historical perspective, when required.

~~6.5.~~ The Board may decide to contract with an individual or company to manage the day-to-day operations of the Association. The contract shall provide a provision for an Executive Director position. That person shall be present at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, and shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Board of Directors by a commercial bonding company. The Executive Director need not be a member of the Association and has no vote but shall serve as a non-voting Officer on the Board of Directors. The duties of the Secretary ~~and~~/ Treasurer may be performed by the Executive Director as directed by the Board of Directors.

~~7.6.~~ The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the management, control, and administration of the finances and programs of the Association.

Article IX – Committees

1.C. A Finance Committee that shall be chaired by the current Secretary/Treasurer. The duties of the Finance Committee will be to ensure the financial management of the organization by overseeing the proper filing of documents and reviewing the profit and loss statement as well as the balance sheet of the organization.

Mr. Botek asked if there were any questions. Mr. McCurdy noted that he does not agree with the change in Article III, Section 3, noting that the PCTGA membership votes on the Pennsylvania delegate not the NCTA membership.

Motion made and seconded to strike the addition of “NCTA” in Article III, Section 3. Motion passed.

Mr. Botek asked if there were any other changes or questions. There were no additional comments.

Motion made and seconded to approve the Bylaw amendments, as revised. Motion passed.

Farm Show Report

Mr. Shealer shared the statistics on the trees submitted for competition and noted 43 cut trees were entered which was a decrease of two from last year; 6 tabletop trees which was the same as last year; 2 container trees which was a decrease of two from last year; 8 exhibitors which was the same as last year with one of them being a non-member; 7 counties were represented which was an increase of one from last year; and there were 2,269 votes which was 943 more than last year. He reported the eight (8) categories with first place winners in each, as follows:

1. Other True Foreign Fir (Nordmann) – Evergreen Acres Tree Farm/Paul and Sharon Shealer
2. Fraser Fir – Evergreen Acres Tree Farm/Paul and Sharon Shealer
3. Any Pine (White Pine) - Crystal Spring Tree Farm/Chris Botek
4. Other True Domestic Fir (Canaan) - Evergreen Acres Tree Farm/Paul and Sharon Shealer
5. Douglas Fir – Bustard’s Tree Farm/Glenn Bustard

6. Concolor Fir – Crystal Spring Tree Farm/Chris Botek
7. Any Spruce (Blue) - Crystal Spring Tree Farm/Chris Botek
8. Hybrid-cross Fir (Korean-Balsam) – Roger Elwell (non-member)

The Grand Champion was a Nordmann Fir and the Reserve Champion was a Frasier Fir, both from Evergreen Acres Tree Farm.

It was noted that the farms from the 2020 state competition qualifying for the national competition in 2021 are Paul and Sharon Shealer and Chris Botek, as they (Shealers) can only take one tree to national. The national contest will take place in August 2021 in Boone, North Carolina.

Mr. Shealer moved on to the wreath contest, noting this is the third year for holding the contest at the Farm Show. There were 15 entries in the wreath competition, a decrease of 6 from last year; 7 exhibitors with 5 members and 2 non-members which is a decrease of 4 non-members from last year; and 6 counties represented which is a decrease of one. He reported the (3) three categories with first place winners in each as follows:

1. Undecorated – Phillip Lobaugh (non-member); 2nd place went to Gary Hague
2. Decorated – Phillip Lobaugh (non-member); 2nd place went to Glenn Bustard
3. Creative Unconventional – Patricia Potter (non-member); 2nd place went to Gary Hague

It was noted that the farms from the 2020 state competition qualifying for the national competition in 2021 are Gary Hague and Glenn Bustard.

Mr. Shealer also shared that the traffic this year was much higher than previous years and additional volunteers will be needed. He added that he and his wife plan to step back their level of involvement and are looking for someone else to step in to oversee the Farm Show activities.

Mr. Bustard then presented the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion tree winners, Paul and Sharon Shealer, with their awards.

Summer Meeting

Mr. Thomas shared the summer meeting will be held at Unangst Tree Farms in Bath, PA, August 7 – 8. He asked Mr. Unangst to say a few words.

2020 President

Mr. Botek introduced the 2020 Board of Directors:

Gregg Eshelman
Russell Wagner
Randy Cypher
Gerrit Strathmeyer
Mark McCurdy
Rick Geissler
Gary Hague
J.C. Hill

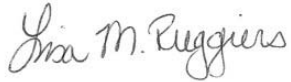
He then introduced 2020 President, Gregg Eshelman. Mr. Eshelman thanked Mr. Botek for his time and energy on the Board and as President of the organization. Mr. Botek was presented with an award of appreciation.

Mr. Eshelman shared he is looking forward to the year ahead serving the organization. He noted it's a great organization to be a member of and he is challenging the membership to help recruit new members. He also introduced and thanked the staff who were present.

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Ruggiers".

Lisa M. Ruggiers
Executive Director