

Revised Minutes of the Ouachita Mountain Hikers Members Meeting November 19, 2015

Executive Board members present: Debbie Van Veghel, Marilyn Hall, Jeannie Eichler, Rick Ericson, Tom Calhoun

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m., Garland County Library, Hot Springs. Approximately 35 attending

President's Remarks

Debbie convened the meeting by introducing new hikers and then asking for feedback on the recent overnight hike to Devils Den State Park.

Treasurer/Membership

Jeannie Eichler reported the following:

Current balance of OMH Checking Account: \$4419.99

Current Membership: 307 paid members, of which 38 are hike leaders, 95 are Lifetime members, and 38 have completed the Ouachita National Recreation Trail.

Debbie noted that our enrollment now encompasses members from ten different states, with several from Louisiana and Texas.

Secretary/Historian

Rick reminded the attendees that the latest club photo album has been published and that two copies were available for review on the table at the back of the room. He also pointed out that the album could be reviewed via a link contained on the club's website. Rick encouraged anyone interested in purchasing an album to contact him in order to take advantage of promotional discounts he frequently receives.

Vice President

Marilyn discussed her recent efforts to find a new T-shirt vendor, with the objective of locating one that could provide them less expensively and with a wider array of colors. She noted that remaining inventory of Trail Hanky wick-away T's was dwindling and that the few remaining XL and XXL were discounted to \$5. Marilyn announced that she had purchased several new long sleeve polyester shirts in "safety orange" through Sew Perfect, a local (Jessieville) vendor. These were to be sold for \$20 each and were available for purchase at the back of the room.

Marilyn displayed additional sample T's available through Sew Perfect. The colors of these 100% polyester Vapor Apparel shirts are identical to those we've purchased in the past and come in blues, tan, light green, terra cotta, and the neon safety orange. The price to club members would be \$16 for short sleeve shirts and \$20 for the long sleeves, and would require purchase of a minimum of six per each size ordered. She also displayed a lighter weight shirt which she described as a 50/50 blend of cotton and polyester. These shirts are available in a variety of colors, would be less expensive, and do not require a minimum order. However, she noted that sometimes the lighter weight shirts have been more easily damaged by briars. There are no shipping costs when dealing with Sew Perfect inasmuch as the club would pick product up at the vendor's location.

Marilyn asked the attendees to provide her with feedback and suggestions that would guide future purchases.

Hike Chairperson

Debbie reported for Dave Tedrahn that the spring hike schedule has been developed and would soon be published. She noted upcoming highlights in the current schedule, including: an OT maintenance day next Saturday; a trek to Sam's Throne led by Jeannie Eichler; an overnight trip to the Buffalo National River in December; the OMH Christmas Party on December 10; an end-of-the-year hike with Jim Gifford up Forked Mountain; and the First Day Hike sponsored by Lake Ouachita State Park on New Year's Day.

Debbie noted that we still need additional hike leaders, and reminded us that as incentive to take on those responsibilities, the club awards new leaders with a Hike Leader T-shirt (cranberry red, in cotton).

Trail Maintenance – No report

Publicity Chairperson - No report

Old Business – None

New Business

Debbie announced that new club officers are traditionally elected during the November general membership meeting and assume office on January 1 of the following year. She explained that when the latest version of the OMH By Laws were approved, the club voted to separate the positions of Secretary and Historian. The Secretary position would therefore be open for nomination for 2016. **Debbie presented the nominating committee's proposed slate of officers for 2016:**

President:	Debbie Van Veghel
Vice President/Program Chair:	Donna Hill
Secretary:	Susan Holick
Treasurer/Membership:	Jeannie Eichler

Debbie then asked for nominations from the floor. Receiving none, she asked for an "aye" by those in favor of accepting the slate as proposed. **The slate was unanimously accepted.**

Evening Program

Marilyn introduced Master Naturalist Bill Toland. Bill gave an abbreviated but interesting presentation on the Master Naturalist program, which, among other subjects, trains its candidates in trail construction and maintenance.

Conclusion

Jim Gifford reminded the audience that he was still taking reservations for staying overnight at the lodge on the summit of Mount LeConte when the club again visits the Smoky Mountains in May. He stated that only a few slots remained.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Ericson

Rick Ericson, Secretary