

**Revised Minutes of the Ouachita Mountain Hikers Members Meeting and  
30 YEAR CELEBRATION  
March 17, 2016**

**Executive Board members present:** Debbie Van Veghel, Donna Hill, Susan Holick, Jeannie Eichler, David Tedrahn, Ralph Butler, Tom Calhoun, Rick Ericson

**Attending:** Merchandise coordinator, Marilyn Hall; Jim Gifford, Presenter of award

Call to Order: 6:02 p. m. , Garland County Library, Hot Springs

**Attendance:** more than 75 members, past and present

**President's Welcome:**

Debbie Van Veghel convened the meeting by welcoming guests, new members, and past members. "This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year (2016) of OMH and a Celebration of History."

**Introductions:**

Ingrid Woodward—joined the OMH August, 1989

Paul Thomas—the first Vice President of OMH—created OMH bi-laws

Renate Springsted

Ann Haase

Meggie Brown-Burks

Paula Wallace

Charline Knight

**Treasurer/Membership**

Jeannie Eichler reported the following:

Current balance of OMH Checking Account: \$4691.00

Current members: 344

Hike Leaders: 36

Life members: 97

OT finishers: 70

**Audit Report**

Pam Harrison, Ralph Butler, and Linda Branim concluded that all receipts, deposits, vouchers and disbursements were account for and validated. The original audit report was submitted to the Secretary and is appended to these minutes.

**Announcements**

Ouachita Challenge Biking event will be Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3, 2016

Buffalo River Overnight: April 12-13-14

Smoky Mountain NP: May 8-14

Rocky Mountain National Park –August 22-27

Rick Ericson reported that the summer trip to Colorado is going forward, but without a trip leader. Rick will lead six days of hiking for the 8-9 members who have signed up so far and are looking for lodging, on their own, in Estes Park.

More information about these trips can be found on the OMH website.

Rick Ericson, Historian, made the announcement that he will be retiring at the end of this season (June, 2016) A replacement has not been found.

The National Park Iron Ranger Challenge is being held to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national park system. Details will be added to the web site.

### **Audience Participation:**

\*“Trail Diversions” was the name of the original OMH newsletter. Charline Knight has provided a complete set of these to the club.

\*Bill Humphreys began this publication in 1986.

\*Paula Wallace was recognized as a charter member by Jim Gifford. She has been an Active member for all 30 years and served in every capacity. Since 2000, Jim Gifford has logged 700 miles hiked with Paula. She has hiked in 18 states, hiked 1900 miles of Appalachian Trail, hiked Pikes Peak, Grand Canyon, Dawn to Dusk leader of Rabbits, backpacked numerous places, and more.

\* Ann Haase told some true stories of event during their EARLY YEARS hiking adventures.

### **Trivia:**

OMH started with 20 members.

In 1993 there were 75 members.

In 1995 there were 100 members.

In 2014-16: over 300 members

Bylaws changed 6 times since inception: 1986, 1990, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2015.

Club logo is the original logo.

Unique events: 1994—present day --Welcome Back Hike

1999—First Hike Flash—compliments of Nelson and Kay Ford

2002---present day-- Dawn to Dusk Hike

2008---Fun Tathalon

2014 - Lake Ouachita Vista Trail was completed by the Trail Dogs

1992-93--- Hunt’s Loop Shelter was built

2016— 9 Shelters should be completed by the Friends of the Ouachita Trail.

OMH has had 6 hike Chair Persons and all 6 Chair Persons were present.

A slide show was presented by Dave Tedrahn and Jim Gifford. It was a compilation of Jim Gifford's first 20 years and Rick Ericson's last 10 years. This slide show will be available for viewers to see on OMH website under "Club History".

### **Old Business:**

#### **Upcoming Leadership Change**

John Burns has advised Debbie Van Veghel, president, that after heading up the HSNP trail maintenance for the last few years, he would like to step down after the spring hiking season.

Debbie announced that **Bill and Christina Lammers have agreed to take over the leadership of the club's volunteer trail maintenance in HSNP starting in the fall, 2016.**

**John has done an outstanding job** spearheading our HSNP volunteer program, which allows the club a way to "give back" to the local trails.

Thank you to Bill and Christina for volunteering to step up to this volunteer opportunity. Thank you John Burns for a job well-done.

Reminder: Saturday, March 26, 2016 is the last scheduled HSNP trail maintenance for the season.

### **Conclusion**

Debbie thanked all who came to this 30 Year Celebration.

Refreshments were served.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

### **Summary of motions, proposals, and votes of interim meetings January-March 2016:**

**OMH Proposed T-shirt order: 2-16-2016** In addition to the board-approved order of 38 club shirts in various colors/sizes, the **board also approved (passed resolution) an additional order of 16 red shirts to be worn by hike leaders.** Besides a shirt that is given to each hike leader when they become official-- after leading their first hike, the shirts can be available for purchase by current hike leaders at the normal price of club shirts.

**OMH Special Recognition-issuing lifetime memberships: 3-3-2016** The **board voted to discontinue giving out any more lifetime memberships at the present time,** with the votes being 1 opposed and 6 voting to discontinue the award.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Holick*

Susan Holick, Secretary