

SDTA board and members met March 23, 2014 at the Heritage Theater inside of the Watertown Event Center. Those in attendance were: Kyle Monteith, Wes Koehler, Derick Wenck, Sean Simpson, Larry Whirlledge, Travis Roberts, Dale Houser, Larry Wold, Aaron Reiling, Matt Peterson, Devin Hursman, Ron Stoppeworth, Jason Smith, Eric Newman, Jeffrey Johnson, Joachim Speldrich, Clate Soukup, Alex Ogren, Lance Johnson, Branden O'Hare, John Willer, Felicia Cammack, Tyra Caster, Tyler Erickson, Jamie McNutt, Rob McAlpine, Tom Hansen, Ronn McDaniel, Bubba Sell, Justin Bach, Glenda McNutt, Kyle Schlessler, Shawn Hanson and Shane Augeson.

Wes Koehler presented information about the organization and individuals writing to express their opinions on opening the SD deer archery season the 1st weekend in September. This would bring in whitetails with velvet and benefit our businesses. Letters can be emailed to wildinfo@state.sd.us for the organization we should state how many members we have and what our purpose is for the organization. Kyle Monteith will write a letter from the association.

There was clarification on the combined artist and commercial classes. Combined artist there will be no limit for 2015 on how many taxidermist work on the entry. Remember, for both these classes your entry is entered for only the one award. They cannot be entered for habitat challenge, species challenge etc.

There was discussion on placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd place ribbons in the commercial class. After discussion we decided to keep it as is. If you want to be placed, enter the professional class etc. Commercial class is not judged the same as the Masters, Professional, Novice...

A motion was made by Wold, seconded by Houser to fix rule # 7 – take out the first sentence. No freeze dry mounts, grasses, plants and other small creatures used to enhance habitats are allowed. There has been a lot of confusion this year on the grasses and plants.

John Willer purposed a scholarship program to all of us. He will donate \$250.00 and any other taxidermist can match him and then the association will match that total for a scholarship up to \$1000 per year. No other taxidermist matched John at this time so John will give \$250.00 and the SDTA will give \$250.00 for a scholarship. You will register for this the same time you register for the show. You MUST participate in the show in order to be eligible and must be 18 years or younger. The board and John will pick the winner after setup on Thursday night. This will be awarded Saturday night at the banquet. You can use this money for any continuing education to better your taxidermy skills. The board and John will get together to create an application and full rules.

It was discussed to have the vendor area open at the banquet. It was also decided to leave open a time frame for them (nothing else is going on). Advertise discounted specials better. Have vendor area closed during seminar times.

People want only 4 seminars over the weekend.

A discussion was had by all to raise our pay for judges. A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by McDaniel to pay a straight rate of \$1255 per judge. This will cover judging and a seminar. We will also pay for their hotel rooms.

There was a brief discussion on getting together as a group this summer to work on taxidermy projects to sell at auction. This would be a fundraiser for our association. At this time no one was interested.

Jeff Morris will be coming up to Shane's house to host a deer seminar. Glenda will send out an email to all members as the time gets closer. Jeff would like 5 people, \$400 each.

Kent Reedy will be coming to Kyle Schlessers house to host a bird seminar. Glenda will send out an email to all members to when this will take place. Kent would like 3 people, they must mount the same species, and cost will be \$400 per person per day.

Larry Wold was the winner of this year's species challenge; Larry picked a crappie for the species challenge next year. It has to be a 360°, can be replica or skin mount, black or white crappie.

We discussed some judges for next year; Kyle will be working on those contracts.

We discussed Watertown for the location again next year and everyone agreed. Watertown is a great location and made us feel so welcomed. We would like to thank everyone from Watertown for doing such a fantastic job!

Kyle proposed that the board dress up nicer for the banquet, suit jackets is a must. He would also like to see the members do so as well. Absolutely no sweatshirts or t-shirts. We have to take pictures of all our winners with their awards and these end up in newspapers, magazines, web etc. Please help us make the SDTA look professional.

With nothing further to discuss we voted for new board members.

Board Member – 2 year term, nominations were: Tyler Erickson, Wes Koehler and Jeff Mikel. Tyler and Wes won.

President – Kyle Schlessler was the only nomination

Vice President – Shane Augeson was the only nomination

Secretary/Treasurer – Glenda McNutt was the only nomination

Remember we would greatly appreciate everyone's help in tearing down. Drive safe and see you again next year.

We drew for the \$200 gc to Research Mannikin, winner was Justin Bach.