

Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 22, 2023 – Waco Convention Center, Waco

Present:

Rebecca Johnson, President Gary O'Neil, President-Elect

Jesse Neumann, Cert. Liaison

A.J. Thibodeaux, Treasurer Mark Bird, Past President Ronny Nelson, Vice President Garrett Ryerson, Director Kirsten Schneider, Director

Kenney Shook, Director

Rachel McGregor, Director Haywood Morgan, Director Amy Heath, Director Priscilla Files, Director Penny Whisenant, Director Jaime Thibodeaux, Director Courtney Blevins, COR Liaison

Gene Gehring, ISAT Exec. Dir. John Giedraitis, ISAT EED Megan Wood, Program Mgr.

Absent:

Heather McKnight, Editor

I. Call to order

a. President Johnson called to order the ISAT Board of Directors at 8:05 AM on September 22, 2023. A quorum was declared present.

II. Welcome

a. President Johnson welcomed all attendees at the annual members' meeting during the Texas Tree Conference and shared appreciation for their attendance.

III. Executive Director Report

a. Gehring thanked the sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, Conference Committee, and Conference Committee Chair O'Neil for their work and dedication to bring together the 2023 Texas Tree Conference. Gehring also highlighted several standout events from 2023 while sharing a few events in the planning stages for 2024. The budget for 2023 was noted to be in excellent condition. A. Thibodeaux commented that the budget YTD 2023 showed a record number of exhibitors and sponsors and the Chapter is in a very strong financially stable position to serve members.

IV. Recognition of Committee Chairs

a. President Johnson thanked committee chairs and recognized the 2022-2023 Board of Directors

V. New Business

a. Farewell to Board from ED Emeritus Giedraitis

i. Giedraitis shared a presentation of Quick Stats during his tenure from 2012-2023. Highlights included an increase in revenue, 30 events in 2023, 72 webinars available, a successful Texas Tree Climbing Competition, an increase in email subscribers and emails sent, an increase in members, and an increase in all credential holder categories. Giedraitis thanked Caitlyn Pollihan, ISA ED & CEO, for her support over the years and recognized the past presidents that served with him. The Board of Directors and Gehring presented Giedraitis with a special gift to share their appreciation.

b. ISAT Year in Review

i. President Johnson noted that Gehring had sufficiently covered the year in review

c. Recognition of 2022-2023 ISAT Officers and Directors

i. President Johnson noted that she already recognized the Board but provided each Director and Officer with a gift of appreciation for their service over the past year

d. Installation of Gary O'Neil as ISAT President

- i. President Johnson presented that Gary O'Neil had been voted as the new 2023-2024 President of the Board of Directors of Texas Chapter ISA. She formerly installed O'Neil as the new President. O'Neal shared his appreciation and sincerest gratitude for this opportunity with the members and Board.
- e. Recognition of Rebecca Johnson for service as ISAT President

- **i.** O'Neil presented Johnson with a gift of appreciation for her service and leadership during the past year.
- f. Recognition of 2023 Texas Tree Conference Committee
 - i. O'Neil thanked the Committee members including the Urban Forestry, Commercial, Utility, and Spanish Track Chairs, the Academy committee, Arborist Social Chair, and the many volunteers who brought together an outstanding record breaking conference.
- g. Installation of new ISAT Officers and Directors for 2023-204
 - i. A motion to fill Kirsten Schneider's remaining year as a Director with Kenney Shook was made by A. Thibodeaux and seconded by Schneider and the motion passed.
 - **ii.** O'Neil installed the 2023-2024 Board of Directors and welcomed new Directors Meaggan Reid and Bill Green.
- VI. Questions and comments from the membership
 - **a.** Member Kevin Belter inquired about ISAT sponsoring a National Oak Wilt Conference in conjunction with Texas A&M and other chapters.
- VII. Next Board Meeting
 - a. November 2023 Board Retreat
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 8:55am

Minutes submitted by Wood