



Present:

Gary O’Neil, President	Garrett Ryerson, Director	Dr. David Appel, Director
Ronny Nelson, President-Elect	Meaggan Reid, Director	
Jesse Neumann, Cert. Liaison	Kenney Shook, Director	Jaime Thibodeaux, Director
A.J. Thibodeaux, Treasurer	Bill Green, Director	Courtney Blevins, COR Liaison
Rebecca Johnson, Past President	Rachel McGregor, Director	Gene Gehring, ISAT Exec. Dir.
Kirsten Schneider, Vice President	Haywood Morgan, Director	Megan Wood, Program Mgr.
	Amy Heath, Director	Guest: Sarah Campbell

Absent:

Penny Whisenant, Director                      Bill Green, Director

**I. Call to order**

a. President O’Neil called to order the ISAT Board of Directors at 10:41 AM on March 6, 2024. A quorum was declared present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

a. **A. Thibodeaux made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 2023, November 2023, and Executive Director Search Committee meetings, Johnson seconded and the motion passed.**

**III. Executive Director Report**

a. Gehring highlighted the Quick Stats and thanked the Board for selecting TeAM as the association management company. Gehring reviewed the six sections of duty: (1) Board of Directors support, (2) legal/policy support, (3) event management, (4) financial management, (5) organizational operations, and (6) chapter liaison.

**IV. Committee Reports**

a. **Educational events.** Schneider and Gehring reviewed the 2024 Schedule of Events. Gehring noted the registrations that are currently open for 2024. Schneider noted the topic for the 2025 Masters Series event will be on soil science/microbiomes and the committee is looking at March/April for the workshop.

i. **Climb to the Top Scholarship Fund.** Shook provided a report that the committee will begin meeting in March to develop a process for submitting an application and to review applications as well as marketing tools to alert membership of this fund.

b. **Texas Tree Conference.** Nelson reported that the TTC24 committee has been meeting with success; most of the speakers have been secured and plans are progressing well. Nelson noted that the Utility Academy on Wednesday will be switched to an EHAP workshop due to UAA’s Conference in Fort Worth two weeks’ prior.

c. **Texas Tree Climbing Championship.** Schneider shared that the committee has selected Waxahachie as the site for TTCC24 and plans are progressing. All registrations for the event are open. Workshop with Phillip Kelly on May 16, Climb on May 17, and Masters event on May 18. NATCC MOU has been signed and returned to ISA but no other information for planning has been discussed.

**d. Member Services**

i. **Newsletter.** Dr. Appel presented the topic calendar for 2024 and asked for article submissions.

ii. **Digital and Social Media.** McGregor reported there are regular postings to 1,657 Facebook, 739 Twitter and 412 Instagram and 34 LinkedIn followers.

iii. **Membership.** J. Thibodeaux attended online so Wood reported that there 1,250 ISAT members and 148 ISA members. The 2023 Annual Member Survey results were presented.

iv. **Outreach.** No report

v. **Credentialing.** Neumann reported that there are several exams scheduled for 2024 that align with certified arborist prep courses. He also presented that there are 1,463 Certified Arborists,

78 BCMA, 144 Utility Specialists, 72 Municipal Specialists, 19 Certified Tree Climbers, 4 Aerial Specialists, 430 TRAQ, 391 TOWQ, and 162 WRRQ.

- vi. **Spanish Language Training.** Heath reported that the first Bilingual Workshop in DFW was a success with 130 attendees. The Spanish language Training Webinars will start in March and the committee currently has three months filled: March: Intro to Arboriculture, April: Soil Science, May: Oak Wilt.

e. **Research + Scholarships**

- i. **TREE Fund Liaison.** Heath made reported that there is currently one Texas rider for Tour de Trees 2024 but no request for sponsorship has been made yet.
- ii. **Students & Scholarships.** Shook provided a report he has assumed chair of this committee and is working with previous chair Nelson to learn more about the committee and the activities it does to support students.

f. **Advocacy.** No report provided.

g. **Executive**

- i. **Governance.** O'Neil provided a report that the Executive Committee is continuing their work and will look forward to continued progress in 2024. The association management contract was awarded to Texas Arborist Management/Gene Gehring and the contract is being reviewed by an attorney.
- ii. **Nominations & Elections.** Johnson reported that in addition to the one-year term positions, there will be four open director roles in this year's nominations process. She discussed the continued need for a succession plan, board policy manual, board position descriptions, and her goals for continuing to fill Board positions in 2024 through stewarding and clear communication with members and candidates.
- iii. **Awards.** Johnson reported that the awards committee will begin meeting during March and she intends to advertise the awards process better this year to garner more applications and interest.
- iv. **Treasurer.** A. Thibodeaux provided a report that as of February 29, 2024 the Chapter has \$271,172.58 in Liabilities and Equities and a net income of (\$22,580.69). He did note that a large deposit arrived on March 2 which put the organization in the black by ~\$40,000.
- v. **COR.** Blevins provided a report that ISA had a comment period open to components that ended on March 1, 2024 but no other information has been released on CoR's transition.

V. **Old Business.** No old business was addressed.

VI. **New Business.** No new business was addressed.

VII. **Executive Session.** No Executive Session

VIII. **Next Board Meeting: July 10, 2024 in Waco, TX**

IX. **Adjourn.** A. Thibodeaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm, Morgan seconded and the motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Wood