



Present:

Gary O'Neil, President
Ronny Nelson, President-Elect

Jesse Neumann, Cert. Liaison

A.J. Thibodeaux, Treasurer
Rebecca Johnson, Past President
Kirsten Schneider, Vice President

Garrett Ryerson, Director
Meaggan Reid, Director
Kenney Shook, Director
Bill Green, Director

Rachel McGregor, Director
Haywood Morgan, Director
Amy Heath, Director

Dr. David Appel, Director

Jaime Thibodeaux, Director
Courtney Blevins, COR Liaison

Gene Gehring, ISAT Exec. Dir.
Megan Wood, Program Mgr.

Absent:

Penny Whisenant, Director

I. Call to order

- a. President O'Neil called to order the ISAT Board of Directors at 10:00 AM on November 30, 2023. A quorum was declared present.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. **R. Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 2023 meeting and the September 2023 meeting, H. Morgan seconded and the motion passed.**

III. Executive Director Report

- a. Gehring highlighted the Quick Stats and discussed the change in leadership over the year while noting the success of the transition in regard to servicing the association management contract.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. **Educational events.** Schneider reviewed the 2024 Schedule of Events. She noted there is currently the Masters Series on tree appraisal open for registration and several TRAQ events. Schneider is currently securing a date for Education Committee meetings in 2024.
- b. **Texas Tree Conference.** Nelson reported that the TTC23 was a success and provided the survey results from attendees, exhibitors, and speakers. Nelson shared that meetings for TTC24 will begin in January and is looking forward to another successful conference.
- c. **Texas Tree Climbing Championship.** Schneider shared that the committee has been looking for a site for the 2024 event, most promising are a few parks in North Texas. She will also work to have a plan for the trailer to be wrapped before the event. Rescue Randy has a new head and will be fixed by the event.
- 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 1,631 Facebook, 737 Twitter and 379 Instagram and 35 LinkedIn followers.
 - iii. **Membership.** J. Thibodeaux submitted a report that noted that there 1,223 ISAT members. A drop occurred due to an intentional change in registration for events, beginning with the Texas Tree Conference. She presented a request for funding to attend three events in 2024 that align with mission and vision: National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting, TNLA Trees in Action, and Utility Arborist Association Trees & Utilities Conference.
 - iv. **Outreach.** Mark Bird was suggested to continue filling this role given his interest in the Day of Service project. O'Neil will reach out to him.
 - 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 1,428 Certified Arborists, 73 BCMA, 133 Utility Specialists, 68 Municipal Specialists, 22 Certified Tree Climbers, 4 Aerial Specialists, 420 TRAQ, 391 TOWQ, and 162 WRRQ.

e. Research + Scholarships

- i. **TREE Fund Liaison.** A. Heath made a motion to reallocate the annual donation of \$5,000 to TREE Fund to the ISAT TREE Fund riders and to the scholarship fund but continue to send the funds raised from TTC Heads or Tails to TREE Fund, K. Schneider seconded and the motion passed. A. Heath motioned to remove the last motion, K. Schneider seconded and the motion passed. A. Heath made a motion to no longer provide TREE Fund a formal, standing donation of any amount but instead use funds to support ISAT TREE Fund riders and funds raised through TTC Heads or Tails to support TREE Fund annually, K. Shook seconded and the motion passed.
- ii. **Students & Scholarships.** R. Nelson provided a report that student representation at the Tree Conference was positive and will continue working to steward the relationships.
- iii. **Financial Assistance.** K. Shook provided a report that the committee had not met since the last board meeting but has an agenda to work on in 2024 and will begin meeting again in January. **K. Schneider made a motion to allocate \$4,000 to the Climb to the Top Scholarship Committee to complete their work in 2024, K. Shook seconded and the motion passed.**

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

g. **Executive**

- i. **Governance.** G. O'Neil provided a report that the Executive Committee is continuing their work and will look forward to continued progress in 2024.
- ii. **Nominations & Elections.** R. Johnson provided a report that nominations and elections in 2023 went well, all Board positions are currently filled. She discussed the continued need for a succession plan and her goals for continuing to fill Board positions in 2024 through stewarding and clear communication with members and candidates.
- iii. **Awards.** R. Johnson provided a report that awards in 2023 went well but implementing an improved process for feedback submission on those nominated for an award.
- iv. **Treasurer.** A. Thibodeaux provided a report that as of November 9, 2023 the Chapter has \$330,169.40 in Liabilities and Equities and a net income of \$46,755.21. He presented the 2024 proposed budget.
- v. **COR.** C. Blevins provided a report that ISA has updated their bylaws for review by Chapters and upon the bylaws approval, Chapters will have one year to update their respective bylaws to incorporate the transition from COR to Leadership Council.

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

VI. **New Business**

- a. **Adoption of work plan.** J. Neumann made a motion to accept the 2024 Work Plan, K. Shook seconded and the motion passed.
- b. **Adoption of budget.** R. Johnson made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget, J. Thibodeaux seconded and the motion passed.
- c. **Tree Planting Day of Service.** R. McGregor presented a concept for a tree planting day that ISAT would provide funding for and source out with a requested budget of \$15,000, J. Thibodeaux seconded, and the motion failed.

VII. **Executive Session.** G. O'Neil requested Executive Session. **G'O'Neil made a motion to allocate \$9,200 to TeAM for a successful 2023 year, A. Thibodeaux seconded and the motion passed.**

VIII. **Next Board Meeting: March 6, 2024 in Waco, TX**

IX. **Adjourn.** J. Thibodeaux made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26am, A. Thibodeaux seconded and the motion passed.