

## NYSLA Fall Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2014 at the Miranda home, Deposit, NY

In Attendance: Gretchen Cicora, Dave Engasser, Tim Keech, Chip Arthur, Kevin Moynihan, Erica Schreiner, Mary Reeder, Peg Engasser, Nancy Keech, Katie Miranda, Jason Miranda, Hunter Miranda, John Reeder, Devin Merkley, Steve Mikloiche, Eric Mance, Chase Luedtke, Chris Cicora, Ken Taber, Rick Ostrander, Ann Ostrander, LaVonne Mikloiche.

Vice President Steve Mikloiche called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m. congratulating Peg Engasser and Dave Engasser on being the 2014 season champions.

### Reports from Officers:

Treasurer LaVonne Mikloiche stated we had \$17, 376.12 in March, 2014. For the Stony Creek show, the Association had to pay jack & jill and handicapped underhand prize money so we only made \$90. For Macedon Center, the Association paid for the wood turning and women's axe throw so our net receipts were \$270. Other expenses for the year included mileage pay outs, purchase of new drivers, trailer inspection and supplies and miscellaneous supplies. The sale of promotional items, shirts, hats and stickers, earned \$392.00. All shirts and hats have been sold. Stickers and bracelets remain. End of season balance is \$18,257.45.

Secretary Nancy Keech reported that Brandan Kelly from Morrisville State College is trying to get a timber sports program going again. Bob Melville took a large number of photographs of the Churchville competition and has given us a CD of them to use. Trish Laube sent an inquiry regarding membership shirt production. Three requests for possible new shows/demonstrations were made, David Miller from Canaan Campground in Hubbardsville, Joseph Hasenkopf from Crystal Brook Resort in Round Top and Chris Foote from The Apple Station Winery in Cayuga. These contacts were forwarded to President Rob Spry. There were various requests for specific information from our website and Facebook page including equipment purchasing, saw and axe sharpening and how to get started as a competitor. Nancy asked that members respond to these requests for information. We received thank you cards from the Macedon Center Fire

Department for participating in their event and from Shannon Hennessey, President of the ESF Woodsmen team thanking us for use of the sawing stanchions at the October 11 meet.

#### Reports from competition Contact Persons:

Marathon – Dave Engasser stated there will be a show again in 2015 but 2 weeks earlier, on a Sunday, on a black top parking area instead of partially frozen turf. The events will be the same except wood sizes will determine if there is single buck or bow saw. It will most likely be limited to the 2014 top competitors. There is a possibility it will become a 2 day event in 2016.

Bath – Matt Marks will be the new contact person taking over for Julie Miller. Matt reports via Dave E. that a wood supply, wood turning and dumpster are currently lined up.

Owego – Gary Hammond emailed us. “I ran into the guy who handles the Fair finances. (NYSLA) is being used as an example for how an attraction should be run.” There has been lots of positive feedback which will hopefully result in a bigger crowd next year. Details will be forwarded as they are available.

Hancock – Jason Miranda stated that everything went well. They would like to try something new next year, possibly involving water... Rick Ostrander stated they are looking for more non-food vendors. Please have any vendors contact the Hancock Fire Dept. Rick also asked if we could hand out cards promoting the event.

Stony Creek – there was a conflict between the events approved for the entry form and what the Chamber actually paid out. Better communication between Rhonda from the Chamber, our contact person Jake Bederian and the NYSLA treasurer and secretary will prevent the same problems next season.

Churchville – Paul Pfenninger (not present) would like to step down as main contact person. Nick Wall might be taking over.

Macedon Center – Kevin Moynihan will be assisting Chris Henning. The crowd was still too close for safety. There has been discussion of a potential “pro-am” event. Nancy passed on information from Suzanne Airy that next year all amateur day participants will be required to pre-register.

## New business:

Official NYSLA shirts will again be purchased and worn by competitors. It was decided we will continue with the green tee, black men's tank and an alternate version of the maroon women's tank. LaVonne Mikloiche will be placing the shirt orders, taking over for Julie Miller. Members wishing to have their name printed must have their membership form in by January 15, 2015. Members will be required to pay \$5 per shirt for postage if they want them mailed.

Promotional shirts and hats have all been sold. There was discussion as to the value of offering these items and how to sell them. It was agreed the items both promote our organization and generate income. LaVonne will place an order, separate from member shirts. Members will be asked to help sell shirts during breaks in the completion. Our long time promotion committee volunteer Eva "Ma" Mikloiche is sorely missed both for all her hard work selling and organizing the merchandise as well as her friendship.

Ricky Mikloiche has a "shirt gun" to launch promotional items. This information should be passed on to the show contact person so merchants can donate items to be "shot".

Chris Cicora stated that Dave Johns requested being allowed to share announcer duties with Jon Preston so they could both compete and announce. Discussion included the original decision to pay the announcer so the announcer would focus on announcing, not competing. Also, the announcer would be guaranteed to earn the \$125 fee, not rely on prize winnings. If two people were to split the task concerns revolved around the two show format – not all event are in both shows and there is not always an even split in the number of events in the two shows. Tim Keech felt it is important to have good announcers and would a compromise ensure this. It is currently up to the contact person to find an announcer. At the spring meeting we will vote on: whether the announcer fee can be split and can the announcer compete. This will also apply to the head judge as the current practice is that the head judge cannot both compete and judge.

Peg Engasser did a demonstration on how NYSLA could use the Wufoo website for online registration. Fees for the service would depend on the number of users, number of forms generated and credit card use. Peg would be willing to develop the online entry forms and monitor the results for a fee of \$125 per show. There

is a possibility that we will try an online entry form for a show in 2015 to determine if members support this. To see what the site offers and to try a free demonstration, go to [www.wufoo.com](http://www.wufoo.com).

Remember the election of officers will take place at the spring meeting. The tentative date is Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at FLCC's Muller Field Station on Honeoye Lake. This is pending confirmation with FLCC.

Dave Engasser asked if the PA system could be borrowed by an organization like we lend out equipment. The Relay for Life at the Marathon Maple Festival is in need of a PA. It was agreed that Dave would be the responsible contact person and allow them to use it.

Matt Marks phoned in a request that we consider a discounted, one-time fee, paid in January to register for all events for the season whether competitors attended all events or not. There was discussion on the need to then have a competitor versus "social" membership as not all members compete. LaVonne and Nancy presented potential problems with registration paperwork and having sufficient funds for each show to payout all the necessary monies.

Devin Merkley suggested a way to help out new members just starting out competing professionally. He asked what could be done to make more payouts, possibly to 7<sup>th</sup> place, so there was a more likely chance that more competitors took home some prize money. Currently it is the contact person's responsibility to work with the event's committee to find sponsors for all prize money. Devin suggested finding a corporate sponsor that could advertise at the competition or on shirts (providing there was no conflict with individual sponsors). He asked if there is a generic letter that is currently sent to request funds. There is not. Peg Engasser volunteered to help Devin create a letter.

LaVonne Mikloiche stated there is a need for a new corded microphone and for protection for the speaker cords that get stepped on. All were in favor of her purchasing the necessary equipment.

Dave Engasser stated the lock system on the trailer is not functioning well. He suggested using spinning combination locks so anyone can use the lock and not have to worry about lost keys. Cost is approximately \$17 each. All were in favor of Dave making this purchase.

The question arose as to whether the trailer needed any maintenance. Dave Engasser volunteered to check it out since it is at his home and make any necessary repairs. It was also discussed as to whether there was unnecessary equipment in the trailer that we no longer use and could be stored someplace to reduce the weight load.

LaVonne Mikloiche brought up the need to move forward on building safer hot saw guards. There was discussion about the safest materials, metal and Plexiglas, and design. Steve Mikloiche stated he can get the metal and wood necessary to fabricate them. Mary Reeder motioned that Mikloiches make a prototype to bring to the spring meeting and the membership would vote on whether to make more. All were in favor.

Kevin Moynihan raised the issue of the standing block stands have still not been made. It was agreed we should have 4 stands that could accommodate wood from an 8x8 up to 13" rounds. Mary Reeder motioned, Tim Keech seconded, all were in favor that Kevin makes them using Dave Engasser's prototype.

Chris Cicora suggested we change our point system to include "show up points". It can be discouraging to go to competitions and still end up with zero points at the end of the season. Competitors would receive one point just for competing in each show. Nancy did not feel this would be difficult to add on to the scorekeeper's duties. The membership will vote on this at the spring meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m. to enjoy an impressive feast.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Keech

NYSLA Secretary