

Minutes of a Meeting of the Membership
The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences
September 15, 2023 – Denver, Colorado

The meeting was called to order by President Andre Lujon at
The Crown Plaza Hotel in Denver, CO at 6:34 PM

The meeting was attended by the following Board Members and their families as well as 4 members from the general membership.

- Andre Lujan – President
- Sandy Ludlum -Secretary
- George F. Winters - Administrative Director
- Alex Ruger – Board Member
- Amanda Cantrell – Board Member
- John Issa – Board Member
- Japheth Boyce – Board Member
- Neal Larson – Vice president
- Tracie Bennitt – Treasurer

Tracie Bennitt Presented the current Treasurers Report with a checking account balance ending 8/31/2023 of \$124,119.66.

Administrative Director's Report
AAPS Denver Membership Meeting
September 15, 2023

AAPS Tax Filing:

We prepared an accountant copy of our QuickBooks file for 2022 and sent it to Cook, Martin and Poulson in January for review. Because of the successful 2022 Heritage Auction for AAPS, we took in more than \$50,000.00 during 2022 including advertising, and membership dues. The invoices and receipts files are stored in our Dropbox along with past filings back to 2017. Hard copies are stored with the AAPS records both in my office for 2023 with records of prior years, now stored at my home.

2024 Elections:

This coming year there are four Board positions up for election, with the following Board Members completing their terms: Anthony Lindgren, Amanda Cantrell, Japheth Boyce and Walter Stein. There are two Executive Board Members completing their terms, Vice President Neal Larson, 2022-2024, and Secretary Sandy Ludlum, 2022-2024. All AAPS members are encouraged to consider holding officer and board positions.

Nominations are open, and any member in good standing can nominate someone or themselves for any position. We will be balloting using our eBallot.com system for this election, and only those that accept a nomination will be placed on the ballot. Nominations close on the first Saturday in January. Email balloting will go out the following week and remain open for two weeks. Results will be announced during the Tucson Meeting

Tucson 2024 Meeting and Events:

Our 2024 meeting is scheduled for Saturday February 3rd, 7:00 pm, at a new location this year, The Four Points by Sheraton at 7060 South Tucson Boulevard Tucson, Arizona. We hope we can keep the cost at \$35 per meal. If there is an increase, members will be notified in the newsletter. I have emailed a copy of the menu to all Officers and Board Members and have a copy available for review. We are trying to arrange for a shuttle and will let the membership know if it can happen. We do encourage carpooling to the Four Points.

AAPS will again place our booth at the Mineral Fossil Market Place. Adam is a fine host, and people are already finding us at our new location. We plan on manning the booth each morning of the show and allow afternoons to meet with members, collect auction Items and have scheduled meetings.

Heritage Auctions has agreed to help us with an online auction in 2024. We will again collect items during the annual Tucson Mineral and Fossil Shows. Some items will go into our silent and live auctions to be held during the annual meeting; the rest will be hosted by Heritage at a date to be determined. Please choose something to donate and bring it with you to Tucson. Items donated to the auction are Tax Deductible. AAPS will provide a donation letter to be filed with your annual return to anyone making a request.

We do not have a scheduled speaker for 2024. We are still working on this.

2024 Sternberg Medals: no nominations have been received.

2024 AAPS Guide to Fossil Dealers and Events:

We have already started working on the guide. Advertisers have been contacted, and we are selling advertising space. We hope to publish 25,000 copies. Ad copy will need to be received in the AAPS office by November 15th this year because of the extra lead time our printer is requesting. Ad copy not received by that date will not make it into the guide and advertisers will be notified, they will forfeit their deposit and receive a refund if additional funds were paid. Dealer information forms will be mailed with the annual dues notices and must be returned by November 15th. I have canceled our Guide delivery service in Tucson because of rising costs and will take on that responsibility during 2024. We will need to find a new location to store our guide racks after the 2024 show.

Web Sites and Facebook Page:

Both the AAPS and Journal websites are updated weekly as needed. I continue to research state and country legislative sites for additional information that will affect our members. Anything new is shared in the newsletters and on our AAPS Facebook page. There has been no new Fossil Ivory Legislation this year.

Memorial pages for past members and friends of the association are posted as soon as we have information on a member's biography or obituary. Sadly, two new members were added this year, Joe David Taylor owner of Mt. Blanco Fossils and Dr. Donald Wolberg, one of our advisors for nearly a decade.

AAPS Records:

All AAPS bills, invoices, bank statements, bank deposits, check copies, receipts, and membership applications for the past 7 years, continue to be kept as both hard and digital copies. Original copies are now stored at my home in Logan, Utah and my family is aware of their location. Digital copies are stored in our Dropbox system accessible by the executive board members (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer).

Financial records are stored using QuickBooks, accessible by both the AAPS Treasurer and Administrative Director through the Qbox system. This system allows the sharing of the current records to be viewed and edited by both individuals. In addition to the Qbox backup, the records are also backed up on a *My Passport Drive* in the director's office, that was donated by David Kronen, owner of BoneClones Inc.

Membership:

While we did lose 11 members this past year, we have brought in over 36 new members this calendar year. Application submissions have been higher than normal due to our social media posts and a letter writing campaign to new potential members. We currently have about 375 paid memberships.

We continue to offer Landing Pages for business members that do not have a website. This was approved by the Board and includes design and hosting of the webpage. We have three Business members that have taken advantage of their membership benefit; Lost World Fossils, Fossils Inc and Triceratops Cheyenne River Ranch, these pages are linked to from our business member's page. Several other business members have contacted us about developing pages for them.

AAPS Memberships:

AAPS maintains memberships through the director, in the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), the Mid-America Paleontological Society (MAPS) and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) and this year we added Fossil Basin Institute and attended their meeting in Kemmerer Wyoming.

Newsletter

We have worked very hard to make sure a newsletter has been sent at least every 6 weeks. John Issa has been reviewing the newsletter before they are sent.

We still have an issue with members not opening the newsletter. I will include a message about the newsletter when I mail out the membership dues invoices later during September.

Reviewing the last three newsletters that were sent, while we average a 70% open rate, there are at least 70 AAPS members that read the newsletter very sporadically, perhaps once or twice a year. Some have not opened an email in over a year. We need to do a better job at getting our newsletters to the membership.

Paleontograph:

New issues of the Paleontograph were loaded onto our server and are available on the AAPS Journal. Publication of the Paleontograph has ceased, but all back issues will remain available.

New Grant and Grant Applications:

Notifications of our grants and scholarships have been posted on our Facebook page and shared with a number of academic groups. I'm hopeful that we will again receive a number of grant and scholarship applications to be presented in 2024.

Anti-Commercial and Private Collecting Comments

2023 has again seen increased criticism of the sale of fossils in auctions, mostly from Dr. Thomas Carr and his constituent members of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology on social media. The AAPS continues to need to do a better job of sending rebuttal letters when these articles appear.

Respectfully Submitted

George F. Winters, Administrative Director

AAPS Photo Scale

The new AAPS photo Scale has been approved by the board and will be available for sale by Tucson 2024.

Commemorative Plaques

Earlier in the day the Board determined that George should pursue development of the implementation of a plaque to be presented to members or member businesses who have significant longevity in the AAPS. George will research our records for businesses and members who have been members for 25 and 50 years. He will also in the future ask for years as member on future dues notifications.

Dinosaur Skull Photograph

George put out a call for a high-quality photograph of a dinosaur skull for the 2024 AAPS Guide Cover.

Membership Contest

The Black Hills Institute won 2 Dinner Tickets at the Tucson Annual Meeting and Auction for sponsoring the most new members (12) and Tony Lindgren won the drawing from among all members who sponsored a new member and received 2 dinner tickets.

Gary Olsen Memorial

At the Board meeting Tracie Bennitt reported that Geoff Notkin wished to sponsor a Grant or recognition for Gary Olson. The board stated that we are open to this project and that Goeff should develop further how this should be implemented. The meeting was thrown open to a discussion of a possible memorial. The consensus was that a project to continue in some form Gary's work with schools and children would be appropriate. George and Tracie will coordinate with Goeff and discuss possibilities.

Denver Speaker Series

There was a discussion of the Board's decision to pursue the implementation of Japheth Boyce's suggestion for a Denver Show speaker series open to the public since we have use of the theater for the entire Denver show. The decision to proceed was affirmed by those present.

Enhancing Service to Members

President Andre Lujon is asking the membership for ideas of what services the AAPS can offer members to improve their businesses.

Neal Larson moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Tracie Bennitt.

With no objections Andre adjourned the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel 'Sandy' Ludlum, Secretary 9/20/2023