Presidents’ Meeting

28 September 2020

1:00pm-2:

**-preview of Webex videoconferencing platform**

-going to be using this for the Annual Meeting

-encourage members to download the platform ahead of time

-video and audio will be switched off when participants join each event

-rely on Q&A box (*not* chat)

-questions go directly to all panelists, but do not become visible to all participants until panelists answer in the Q&A box

-**Annual Meeting**

-trying to get as much information out as possible to make it easier to attend virtually

-Webex platform will look a little different (see above)

-800+ people signed up!

-attendee experience

-use app to find links and schedule of events and registered sessions

-hyperlink that says “join Webex”

-MP working on a video tutorial to send to all participants

-pending projects

-video intro to the app (MP)

-hosting coffee hours for attendees and members to test Webex and troubleshoot

-Week of Aid

-demonstrate the flow of how an attendee would participate from October 14-17

-AT for the Meeting

-sessions watched LIVE will count

-sessions watched as RECORDINGS will count

-recordings will stay on the app for six months

-contact info for instructors will be on those recordings

-registration

-800+ registered

-closes October 2 at 5pm

-still $55 for the entire meeting

-swag boxes for first 250 registrants have gone out

-awards and contest deadlines

-project fair – October 1

-chapter advisor, video, and photo/media contests – September 30

-if a chapter nominated someone for the Chapter Advisor award last year

but they didn’t win, feel free to re-submit again this year

-Michelle will send last year’s applications back to those chapters

-Virtual Nature Venture

-$35 entry (separate registration)

-fundraiser for next year’s event

-come up with your own challenge or activity and post photos with your swag

-print a bib, wear your medal, etc

-thanks to Gulf Coast Chapter!

-field sessions day

-October 13, 9am-5:30pm

-recorded and shared afterwards

-also October 8 at 8am – Mercer Botanic Gardens tour

-TMN AgriLife bookstore has additional items for sale

-masks, gators, ear pods, water bottles, fleece blanket, etc

-Jr Master Naturalist survey deadline extended to October 1 (Carolyn L – [heartwoodpres@gmail.com](mailto:heartwoodpres@gmail.com) or [heartwoodjrmn@gmail.com](mailto:heartwoodjrmn@gmail.com) )

-request for chapter videos/ pictures deadline is October 4 (Donna Cole – [donna@donna2112.com](mailto:donna@donna2112.com) )

-other chapter events

-device sharing

-scholarships

-virtual socials

-Town Hall Meeting

-Saturday at 8am

-similar to presidents meeting, but for all members

-will replace the October presidents’ monthly meeting

-survey to discuss what to discuss (deadline October 9)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/tmn2020townhall>

-Awards Ceremony

-all milestones from past year (October 2019-October 2020) held Saturday at 3pm

-videos throughout the meeting

-how can the award ceremony be more interactive and celebratory?

**Virtual Volunteer Fair**

-650-900 participants

-highlighted 40+ projects

-recording of the fair is posted on the TXMN website

- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/virtual-volunteer-fair-september-2nd-2020/>

-currently updating reporting guidelines for VMS

-will host another fair in spring 2021

**Chapter review of CMOP**

-not COVID-based changes

-state office currently reviewing and compiling updates through November

-anticipate having the final document ready by end of 2020

-spring updates March-May review period for 2021

**Webex accounts**

-six regional accounts for chapters to use

-some are getting very heavy use

-have had to ask some chapters to move to other accounts to reduce overlap

-please do not change account name (keep it to regional name)

-use a region-specific profile photo (not a personal photo) to represent the account

-check the calendar before setting up meetings

-multiple meetings can overlap by 15 minutes at most

-more than 15 minutes can cause one meeting to be kicked off

-personal room has a “meetings” button to show what’s already scheduled

-please use this before adding another meeting to avoid overlap

-how-to training videos for Webex accounts have been suspended for the fall

-thank you for your patience!

**WordPress Training**

-suspended until further notice

-still have access to previous trainings

<https://txmn.tamu.edu/wordpress-trainings-recordings/>

**Return to Service Guidelines**

-no changes since last meeting

-50% capacity of space for group meetings

-50 people max for all meetings

-face coverings required

-follow all local guidelines first and foremost

- <https://txmn.tamu.edu/welcome/covid-19-response/>

**Citizen Science Guidance**

-sent July 30

-introduce ahead of Annual Meeting

**Recertification Requirements**

-policy hasn’t changed (40/8)

-COVID recognition…what does this look like?

-initial certification policies haven’t changed

**DEI**

-what are we specifically being asked to do?

-no specific charge for chapters

-try to continue the DEI conversations

-forethoughts, not afterthoughts

-what can the state office do?

-quarterly half-day “working groups”?

**EOY Process**

-how are you handling elections?

-Martha Cray from Alamo Area will share in follow-up email

-how are you handling awards banquets/ holiday socials?

-meeting later/outdoors

-meeting via Zoom

-sign-up for members to pick up pins and awards

**Questions**

-how do we handle annual audit by committee?

-photocopy of financial records (though a little risky)

-single shared document with virtual sharing

-four member group is meeting

-special Slack channel to discuss

-are there more VMS trainings available?

-yes

-schedule is on VMS helpdesk site

-are masks required?

-must follow local ordinances

-we are still under a state mandate to wear masks in public (unless org is exempt)

-can we have more than 10 people at a volunteer event?

-refer to local guidelines (50 people / 50% capacity max)

**Upcoming Meetings**

-no Presidents’ meeting in October

-Annual Meeting Virtual Town Hall instead

-November 2 – 1pm

-December 7 – 1pm

-will return to Zoom for these meetings

**Brief Webex Platform Demo**

-direct link is on website, also shared via email

-login protected

-must use same name and email used when you registered

-will send a verification code

-only active for 24 hours

-will have to get a new code each day

-check your profile (add a photo!)

-hexagon in top left corner takes you back to the home page

-Activity Feed

-similar to FB posts

-add photos, comments, etc

-social wall

-#TMNannualmeeting

-attendee list (all registrants and app registrants)

-connect with other attendees

-speaker list

-contact info, bio, and schedule for all speakers and presenters

-join sessions

-click “view webex” button in program description

-password will be listed by each description