

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING

January 30, 2024

### NOTES

#### Chapter Presidents Meetings

- Meeting Format – monthly, noon start, nominally one hour.
  - WebEx format – links for all 2024 meetings sent at once.
  - See deck/website for dates – four will be held jointly with TMNTuesdays.
  - Meeting recordings, PPT decks, and notes will be posted on the website.
  - Counts as Volunteer Service in VMS, under Administrative.
- Transitions –
  - Chapter leadership transitioning with the New Year; Welcome new presidents and advisors in 2024.
  - Be sure to work with Chapter VMS admin to update your officer/director/committee chair VMS contact data...all names and contact info is pulled from VMS...needs to be correct or you'll miss out.
  - Chapter board retreats for goal setting and visioning are happening in January and February.
- State Office Contacts
  - Michelle & Mary Pearl
  - Hannah Ferguson – Welcome! Liaison between chapters and state office. With a focus on communication between chapters and state office as well as the website and social media.
  - Who You Gonna Call? See cool slide...broken out by website vs Michelle & Mary Pearl vs Hannah vs VMS Helpdesk vs AgriLife First Call...very useful tool.
  - See deck/website for TMN staff contact information.

#### 2024 Planning

- Governing Documents – Chapter governing documents were updated in late 2022, adopted by the Chapters in 2023. Will be reviewed and updated on three year cycle. Next revision, if needed, will be available in 2026. 2024 is year 2 of the cycle. Suggestions for changes welcome. Use the link on the website. Updated Marketing & Brand Guidelines coming soon. Hannah is working on them. In the meantime, use the current version by using the search function on the website.
- Pins Ordering
  - Relatively new process for ordering recertification pins and most milestone pins. Order online! To place orders, Chapter entitled account must be set up. Not a process open to the public.
  - Slide in deck shows Chapter that already have set up new title accounts.
  - For milestones of 4,000 hours and higher, you must work with Michelle – specific info needed. See the form on the website.
- TMNTuesdays
  - Western Diamond Rattlesnake pin is 2024 recertification pin. And the February 13 TMNTuesday is all about the western diamond rattlesnake.
  - See online TMNTuesday FAQs. Good stuff.

- TMNTuesday recordings posted on the website. Can be viewed for AT only during the same calendar year as they were recorded. That is, reviewing 2023 recordings can no longer count for AT.
  - Ideas for TMNTuesdays are welcome.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 2023
  - The wall-sized timeline debuting at the annual state conference is being recreated in a web version...coming soon to the website.
  - Similarly, website versions of the storytelling panels have been posted on the website...check em out.
  - Chapter anniversaries – We also want to celebrate Chapter anniversaries. In 2024, seven Chapters are celebrating anniversaries ranging from 10 to 25 years – share and learn from them ideas about how to celebrate your Chapter anniversary.
- Spring Trainings – In order to respond to questions from the public regarding where and when TMN Training is offered, staff maintains a page on the website with details. Please share your chapter's info using the link. Also, see the Texas maps showing which Chapters are offering spring 2024 Training.
- April 2024 – very busy month
  - Volunteer Recognition Month, Virtual Volunteer Fair, Earth Day, National Volunteer Week, City Nature Challenge
- Virtual Volunteer Fair – Save The Date... April 9. Be a part of this showcase of virtual and distance TMN volunteer service project opportunities. Share proposals for items for the Fair.
- Annual Meeting – Set for October 24-27 in San Marcos. Lotsa local sites for field trips on either side of I35. Stay tuned for more info next month.

### **Chapter Resources**

- State Website
  - We call the “kitchen sink.” Always start here. TMN News. Calendar. ListServe. VMS HelpDesk.
  - Website has been under bot attack for a few weeks. Security measures are in place while the attack continues. For example...the temporary human verification to log in. TechTuesdays are on hold for now due to ongoing attack and staffing challenge. Bear with us, please.
- Regional WebEx
  - WebEx accounts were set up for chapters to use I. six regions during the pandemic. Three of the accounts went unused for a full year and have been cancelled. The remaining three accounts can be shared with Chapters in the account-less regions. If you need access, contact Michelle.
  - Also, if you use the WebEx meeting recording feature, be sure to download the recording to a local server pronto if you wish to keep it. The recordings are wiped each month from the regional accounts.
- Word Press – If you're looking for WordPress help, consider YouTube. Good stuff out there.
- VMS update is underway. In the background. Totally “behind the scenes.” Invisible to users. After 10 years, there are a lot of updates to make and new features to be added. Roll out is not til late fall at earliest. Training for new version will be provided. We repeat, there is no impact to users during the upgrade.
- Owl Loaners – Camera/mic combos that are useful to host WebEx/ZOOM events are available for loan. Contact us.

- Check the TMN displays received from the state office. There should be two distinct panels. One entitled BECOME and another entitled EXPLORE. Some Chapters have two of the same, so check em out and advise which you need.
- Be aware of phishing and scams. Very common across the state. Typical approach is for one chapter officer to receive a text or email message asking the other to purchase gift cards because they are not able to do. The scammers ant the names and addresses off your websites. Don't fall for it. Always call the "sender" to confirm email or text message. Likely they know nothing about the request. Best practice is to only handle business regarding Chapter funds in-person...not email or text.
- TMN Merchandise
  - Two kinds...State-offered items and Local Chapter items. All variety of branded items – shirts, hats, etc – are available from the AgriLife online store. Restocked as needed. Items sourced locally by Chapters must have state office approval and satisfy brand guide before being produced by local vendor.
  - Pop-up store for "limited time" offerings. Like annual meeting tee-shirts or anniversary items.
  - Curriculum is also available. Bulk order discounts but shipping is not insignificant.
- TMN License Plate – Get yours! Promote the program and help fund it at the same time. So far, 624 are out there. When we hit 800, state office gets it deposit back. Buy now!
- TMN Endowment – Up to about \$125,000. Yay! Give when website is back up. Call Mary Pearl with questions.

#### **Roundtable & Calendar Check**

- Review deck/meeting recording for answers to some good questions. Send Michelle and Mary Pearl.