Tues March 26th Chapter Presidents and Advisors meeting Notes

Meeting started at 12:02

Welcome by Michelle and Mary Pearl

Slide on “who to call when” – Website, Michelle & Mary Pearl, Hannah, VMS Help Desk, Agri life First Call

2024 Planning

-Training director roundtable meeting - 10 am Wed Apr 3rd. Meeting will be recorded.

Survey information, development questions, etc.

* Curriculum Survey – there will be two surveys on curriculum. First on how is it being used by your chapter and 2nd – what errors/updates need to be made

Michelle shared how there may be updates needed. Also need to know what setions are being used, is there something else we need, etc

Pin Orders – each chapter needs to have an “entitled” account to access the TMN pins via the online store. (250-2500 hr, initial and recerts, etc. ) Anything 4000 hr and over still goes via the online form that is sent to Michelle. There were several comments in the chat about how and when chapters distribute their pins/awards.

Next TMN Tuesday – April 9th – Virtual Volunteer Fair. 10 am to 1:15 pm.

TMN Tuesday slate pretty full for rest of 2024, but please send in topics that you want to hear about, including training items, leadership and chapter management, etc.

For AT credit, TMN Tuesday sessions need to be viewed in year offered. 2023 no longer accepted for AT credit. In VMS - Record date you VIEW the session, if you view it at a later date rather than the “live event” date.

Virtual Volunteer Fair. 10 am to 1:15 pm. 9 presentations, each 15 mins long. List of sessions was shared in the meeting.

2024 Training Class info – please update Chapter info via the on line form on the State Website.

April – National Volunteer recognition month – several important dates in April shared in a slide.

What is your Chapter planning for April in recognition of volunteers? State will be posting info on social media for chapters to share.

City Nature Challenge April 26th – 29th. Lets help Texas get to the top of the list!! Texas Nature Trackers group will need some help in ID phase the week after.

2024 Annual Meeting 10/24-10/27th in San Marcos. Try to keep this week open so members can attend. Interns are encouraged to attend as well – great way to get AT hours or attend something in place of missed intern sessions.

Slide shared with timelines and “the usual” deadlines.

TMN Tuesday 10/8 – Chapter Project Fair

Comments on a statewide Junior Master Naturalist Program

Some chapters have developed their own “projects” and curriculum, education events, etc. State office wants to create a website with info from various chapters on what they are doing, materials, resources, etc. There is not a lot of CONSISTENCY across what various chapters may be doing now or have done in the past

Why a Statewide “Program”?

* Ensure consistency, branding, messaging and curriculum
* Develop/build sustainable resources
* Developing youth programs is very different – comes with liabilities

Next Steps –( and this will not happen soon) – need funding for a full time position to develop a program.

Chapters should use the term “project” and not “Program” Program implies a statewide, consistent process.

Reminder on State Website links.

LISTSERV is now under “for Chapters” drop down

TMN Tech Tuesday - 1st Tuesday of each month. Counts as AT for your VMS and Website admins/managers, not as “general” at for members.

VMS platform updates – ongoing. Currently identifying fields to transfer to new platform

Report any anomalies to help desk

Please check the banners each Chapter received from Annual Meeting – should have two different banners – one “Explore” and one “Become”

AgriLife Learn Store – new supply of items and shirts

License Plates – at 647 @ Q1 2024. When reach 800, we will get the initial deposit back of $8000.

TMN Endowment - ~$125,000.

President Mtg Questions

* What chapters have gotten a TPWD Coop Grant?
* Bat Project – need to set up project opportunity in VMS for your chapter. Michelle will draft description and make it available, covering the various positions/tasks
* Will also create Wordpress training Opportunity
* “Being Paid to Volunteer” – in general, you may not record VS (volunteer service) time if you are already being paid to do the work. However, there are specific instances where it may be allowed, and Chapters should contact the State office for guidance.

Reminders

* Don’t’ sign contracts $5000 and over – send to State office for review.
* Notify State office of any grants/awards earned

Next Presidents/Advisors meeting will be April 30th