

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING NOTES

May 28, 2024

- Upcoming Presidents Meetings:
 - June 25: regular meeting
 - July 9: Joint TMN Tuesday
 - Aug 27: regular meeting
 - Sept. 24: regular meeting
 - October's meeting is at the TMN Annual Meeting; Thursday Oct 24 11:30-2pm.
 - Nov. 12 and Dec 10 will both be Joint TMN Tuesdays

- Reviewed the "Who You Gonna Call?" slide.
 - First stop for most things: the TMN Website txmn.tamu.edu
 - VMS helpdesk for all things VMS
 - AgriLife First call for website

- Congratulations and well done to Hannah, 6 months on the job! See the slide for all her accomplishments to date.

- Reminder to look at the TMN 25th Anniversary Report! There is a great deal of information, great photos and more in this.

- Brochures
 - The last printing of 15,000 statewide brochures lasted 10 years; the new plan is to use Canva templates that can be customized to each chapter and printed by the chapter. There seems to be a lot of interest in this.
 - Other Canva templates planned: Training Completion Certificate, rack cards, social media templates.
 - The Training Completion Certificate is for chapters to print and use if desired; these will not be signed by the State office.
 - The Canva templates will be accessed via the Chapter Resources webpage, along with links to Canva tutorials. Expect a rollout over the next few months.

- TMN Training Class Survey, emailed to all chapter presidents and training directors
 - Class survey to collect information about how each chapter runs their training; due May 31. One entry per chapter. Most chapters have already submitted this.
 - Speaker Master List, due June 30
 - One entry per speaker

- 2024 New Training Class information – be sure to update this with your chapter’s plans.
- TMN Curriculum Survey
 - The survey on how we use the curriculum is now closed.
 - The survey to collect errors and updates will remain open while the curriculum is developed.
- TMN Tuesdays: next is June 11 on “Safety in the Field”
 - Reminder that all these are recorded. Members can receive advanced training credit for watching recordings for programs in the same calendar year.
- Reviewed Countdown Timeline for the 2024 Annual Meeting.
 - Chapter Presidents please share these dates with your chapters.
 - ~First week of July: Agenda
 - ~First week of August: Registration opens.
 - See the slide and the TMN Annual Meeting webpage for other dates.
 - The state has received many great submissions for field sessions and presentation speakers.
 - Showed and discussed the Skeleton Agenda. One update is that the Chapter Leadership Lunch (aka Presidents Meeting) will be on Thursday Oct 24 11:30am – 2pm with lunch served.
 - Lodging info is now on the website: Embassy Suites by Hilton in San Marcos. Book early!
 - Contest & Awards entries due Sept. 14
 - Chapter Advisor Award can be given to an individual or to a team of advisors
 - Chapter Project Fair: 1) short written paragraph by Sept. 15; 2) a live 20-minute PowerPoint presentation at the October TMN Tuesday on October 8.
 - Chapter Video Contest was discussed.
 - Photo, Art & Media Contest – the state uses some of these in their publications and social media.
 - Sponsorships are welcome; see the website for details.
 - Vendors: see the form on the website
 - Curriculum Bulk Orders can be picked up at the Annual Meeting. Information about ordering will be sent out in mid-August.
- State TMN Website txmn.tamu.edu is the place to find nearly everything you need to know.

- TMN Listserv – anyone can sign up for this. Note that members can post to the listserv. It is a moderated listserv so everything is reviewed before it is posted.
 - Advanced training topics shared on the TMN Listserv still need to be approved at the local chapter level as some may not be appropriate for your region of the state.

- **TMN VMS Updates: new information was shared.**
 - Changes to the Administrative “back end” of VMS are taking place.
 - VMS admins were sent info on updates being made such as to the TMN Certification Status fields
 - Moving to three administrative roles
 - Let your VMS admins know to report any anomalies or weird / different things to the help desk. One tip is to log out and back in before reporting an issue to see if it goes away.
 - New: Onboarding module will include things like a mini-training module explaining the program, standards of conduct etc; for people new to the TMN program, not for existing members.
 - Question from chat: will a person need to do the VMS onboarding before applying for a chapter training? Michelle will look into this.
 - Head-up that VMS Opportunity signups will change to an “Opt In” format as compared to the current configuration which is “Opt Out”
 - Note: this is not a complete VMS system rebuild; just new features and modules of Samaritan not previously available.
 - There will be training sessions for VMS Admins and members at the appropriate time.
 - All chapters have submitted the requested photo for the VMS front page. Thanks!

- Other slides that have not changed since last month: AgriLife Learn Store, TMN License Plate, TMN Endowment

- **Please remind your membership:**
 - The Texas Master Naturalist title, your chapter name and your program / chapter membership should never be used in connection with advocacy or to invoke policy.
 - The TMN title and certification should never be used for personal gain or profit.

- Presidents Questions Submitted
 - The North Texas Chapter thanked those who shared information on what their chapter does for DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion / Accessibility) and JEDI. There is an invitation to any interested chapters to participate in a zoom call on June 12.
 - “Service” in your own backyard, yes or no?
 - Michelle answered this: If it’s on your own property, and it’s stewardship and management, even if it’s a project that is otherwise being conducted by the chapter or an effort that is being conducted on public land but you’ve chosen to implement it on your own property, that is not volunteer service.

- Attendees were then welcomed to ask additional questions.
 - Can we pick up pins at the annual meeting? Mary Pearl answered: Yes. Higher level pins will be available. Will check on how other pins will be handled.
 - An attendee reported that the group rate for the TMN annual meeting is not showing on the website. Mary Pearl: yes this is one of many issues. I am checking into all of these with the hotel and will send out more information when I have it.
 - Does picking up trash on your daily walk count under Keep America Beautiful? Michelle: Casual picking up of trash in your neighborhood is a nice thing to do--our environment thanks those who do and we are happy to have created a concerned citizen to do so but litter pickup up while out on one’s personal daily walk does not fit our service guidelines and policies. The service needs to be part of an official planned event that several people can participate in while also fitting program policies.
 - Does doing the Bat Monitoring project in our backyards count for volunteer service hours, or is it disallowed per the previous comments about service in your own back yard?
 - in the case being discussed, Craig Hensley helped the chapter identify the best spots for bat monitoring and one spot happened to be in a member’s back yard.
 - Craig spoke up and confirmed that in some cases the backyard location(s) were chosen and recommended the time for this should still be counted for the Bat Monitoring project.
 - Michelle and Craig will discuss the details offline. This may be addressed in the next update of the Community Science guideline document.