

**31st SINGLES IN AGRICULTURE
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
January 21, 2017
Victoria Palms Resort
Donna, Texas**

The National Singles in Agriculture met at the Victoria Palms Resort in Donna, Texas. A prayer was given by Carollynn Fink (IL). President Max Johnson (IA) led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

National President Max Johnson (IA) introduced the National Board of Directors present: Dave Fritts (IL) Vice President; Lorraine Armstrong (IL), Treasurer; Cindy Ruskamp (NE), Nominating Committee Chairman; Mary Murray (IA); attending by phone were Karen Sartain (IA), Office Liaison, and Doug Hecksel (MN), Membership Recruitment Chairman.

The meeting was called to order by President Max Johnson (IA) at 9:11 a.m.

Roll Call of States – Cindy Ruskamp (NE): 9 states were represented: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.

Annual Meeting Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Cara Maschmeier (OK) that the Agenda be approved. Patricia Specht (IL) seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Cara Maschmeier (OK) moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Patricia Specht (IL) seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Lorraine Armstrong (IL) read the current balances, which combine for a total of \$22,333.87 (\$4,147.55 – checking; \$585.00 – scholarship; \$589.76 – publicity; \$18,191.32 - savings). Lorraine explained that the past year had been a challenge, as she had inherited many incomplete records and files. She had to learn how to use Quicken, as well as maintain a hand written ledger of income and expenses, as well as keep files of all bills paid. She regularly keeps track of each chapter, and urged that all chapters cash checks received from national upon receipt. Chapters need to meet the due dates for their financial paperwork. She noted that the organization had filed to change the tax year from a fiscal year to a calendar year. On an encouraging note, she informed the group that the checkbook balance is more than double this time last year. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Audit Committee Report – Carol Jones (IL) and Roberta Berwanger (IL) conducted the annual audit on September 1, 2016. Bank statements, check book and receipts were not available from the previous national treasurer for period from July – November 2015. All bank statements, check book, and receipts were in order for period from December 2015 – June 2016. They recommended that the organization use a reimbursement form with receipts attached going forward.

Membership Committee Report – Cindy Ruskamp (NE) presented the report from Emilie Wacker that our membership numbers are at 241, with 222 regular and basic memberships, 2 coded memberships, and 17 associate memberships, for a total of 241 total memberships representing 18 states. Of these 241 members, 28 were new memberships, and chapter memberships totaled 263.

Emilie has logged roughly 300 hours throughout 2016 in her role as Membership Committee Chairman. At this time, Cindy announced the membership contest winners: chapters increasing at least 10% since last annual meeting were in this order: Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, Rocky Mountain, and Indiana. As a reminder, there are several memberships due for renewal from both December and January.

Office Liaison Report – David Fritts (IL) presented the Office Liaison Report for Karen Sartain (IA). In December 2015, Karen had submitted a BINGO game, which was approved by the national board. One card received was filled in its entirety, with a prize of \$75 going to Donna Chumney (TX). After complaints at last year's national convention about the OTBF being sent out on time, it was noted that the OTBF requires news and updates from many places which does not always arrive in a timely fashion, so a new rule is being enforced: all contributions must be to the Office Liaison prior to the 20th of the month preceding the publication of the OTBF, with no calls or reminders being sent. This year, the board has had five new national board members. Karen has met with Rhonda McPeck and Lorraine Armstrong multiple times throughout this year as the previous national treasurer did not provide bank statements, receipts, or check register, plus the computer that had been her responsibility was returned corrupted. Kudos were given to Lorraine for perseverance and getting through the difficulties entailed by these circumstances. Following preparation of a budget created by Karen and presented in June, the board cut dues to \$25. In the fall, Karen proposed sending letters to previous members who had not renewed for the last two years. The packet included the new membership rate, a list of the national officers, a calendar of events and the Texas annual meeting flyer; 106 letters were sent out in November. Five out of 10 chapters have increased memberships by 10% or more. Karen recapped a discussion with Office Depot/Office Max, during which she obtained quotes for what printing the OTBF would cost. Office Depot/Office Max quoted \$2.62/page (11x17 is what is used for the OTBF), for a total of \$18.34, plus 3 cents each for staples. Two hundred fifty copies of the OTBF would cost \$4,592.50, reduced to \$3,885 due to quantity, per issue. By using our own copier, which has a copier maintenance plan that includes the ink whether black or color, costs SIA \$490.00 per issue. This would be an annual cost of \$1960 by using our own versus \$15,500 from Office Depot/Office Max, so a huge savings. The website is continuing to grow and contains helpful information for those interested in SIA, including the Scholarship application, the secretary's report, treasurer's report, and membership report, as well as many pictures in the scrapbook. Please continue sending copies to Karen. Karen has combined the membership form with the liability form so that we have easier access to the copies. Last year, prior to the annual meeting, she bought and made magnetic name tags, which are reused for each of the national meetings and allow her to reuse the names for each. Karen has aimed to accomplish three things with her position on the board: openness; transparency; and engagement. She feels she is closer than ever to reaching those goals as she fulfills her remaining year as a national officer. She is excited to be working with the new board members in the coming year.

Publicity Committee Report – Mary Murray (IL) reviewed the past year's publicity for national events. She noted that for the national convention in Donna, Texas she had advertised in the Winter Texas Times and the Welcome Home, Winter Texas. The Texan ran an article in their calendar of events in January. She also placed a 1/8 page ad in the Welcome Home Winter Texan for \$100.00. For the Summer event in Lynch, Nebraska she had sent notices to the local paper, and for the Indiana Fall event she had sent a press release to the South Shore Convention Bureau. Mary had spent \$253 for the year.

By-Laws Committee Report – David Fritts (IL) stated that there were no changes or additions at this time.

Scholarship Report – David Fritts (IL) announced that there will be two (2) scholarships to be awarded for 2017.

Nominating Committee Report – Cindy Ruskamp (NE) reported that board members eligible for re-election, Emilie Wacker (KS) and Doug Hecksel (MN) had agreed to run for another term. Additionally, Carol Jones (IL) and Cara Maschmeier (OK) had agreed to run for the three positions open. Barbara Stofflet (WI), Elaine Hillard (OK), Diana Aldrich (NE) and Judy Droddy (IN) had agreed to run for the nominating committee positions. Cara Maschmeier moved that the report be accepted; Roberta Berwanger seconded. Motion carried.

Election for the National Board of Directors and Committees – Nominations from the floor were opened. Beth Whelan (IL) moved that nominations be closed. Pamela Fjeld and Jan Maves seconded. Motion carried. Gerald Dorn (NE) moved that the nominations be closed. Dean Brown (KS) seconded. Motion carried.

Elected to the National Board of Directors were Emilie Wacker (KS), Doug Hecksel (MN), and Cara Maschmeier (OK). Next year's nominating committee will be Elaine Hillard (OK), Diana Aldrich (NE) and Judy Droddy (IN).

Unfinished Business – Max Johnson announced that hugs and goodbyes would occur during the dance. Cara Maschmeier distributed copies of the flyer for the 2017 Summer Celebration to be held in Pawhuska, Oklahoma June 15-18, 2017. Other events were announced.

New Business – Max Johnson presented a certificates of appreciation to Mary Murray for her contributions to SIA and the national board. He also awarded, posthumously, a member of the year to Gary Johnson.

The national board had voted to refund several registrations due to both extreme weather situations and an urgent surgery.

Pam Fjeld suggested that a committee be formed to help plan activities. Mary Murray also stated that it is extremely important that registrations be received in a timely manner.

With no more business, Jan Maves (IL) moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:02 a.m. Carollynn Fink seconded. Motion carried.

The next national event is to be held in Pawhuska, Oklahoma June 15-18, 2017, followed by the Fall Festival in Mineral Point, Wisconsin September 8-10, 2017. There are currently no bids for 2018 National Events.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Ruskamp, SIA National Nominating Chairman.