



# American Fisheries Society

## Arkansas Chapter

### 2022 Spring EXCOM Business Meeting of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

May 12, 2022

Las Playitas Restaurant, Batesville, AR

Attendance: Christy Graham, Brie Olsen, JJ Gladden, Micah Tindall, Chelsea Gilliland, Allison Asher, Jessica Feltz (via phone)

#### Officer Reports

##### *President's Report – Christy Graham*

Christy welcomed everyone to the EXCOM meeting. Christy provided an update from a recent meeting of state AFS Chapter presidents hosted by the AFS Southern Division president, Jason Olive. Jason highlighted his goals which are to: improve communication throughout southern division, reengage participation in state and divisional conferences and technical committees, and encourage members to nominate people for awards. Christy expressed her appreciation for the meeting, adding that she learned more about the role of Chapter president and other useful information pertaining to AFS procedures. Regarding award nominations, JJ recommended that the Chapter take annual nominees from the AR Chapter award and submit those for the Southern Division AFS awards. Brie recommended since there are a lot of awards available and some awards have lengthy nomination forms, EXCOM work as a group to nominate someone for Southern Division awards. Jessica added that the student nominations are strict and have thorough applications because they mirror the national award nomination process and student awards are often monetary.

##### *Secretary's Report – Allison Asher*

Allison reported that draft minutes were sent out for review, sent to parent society, and officer information was updated with the parent society.

##### *Treasurer's report – Micah Tindall*

Micah reported a slight discrepancy for the balance brought forward than the balance reported at the Chapter business meeting due to pending payments at the time of that meeting. Micah thanked Sean Lusk for establishing an investment account with Edward Jones for the student scholarship. Brie asked Micah to explain the "overcharge fix" line item in the treasury report. Micah explained that a member was charged five times for the membership fee, so the \$40 payout was to reimburse that member for the incorrect charges.

**ARAFS – 2021 EXCOM Treasurer's Report**  
**Covering 2/25/22 – 5/12/22**

<b>Balance Brought Forward (2/25/2022):</b>	<b>\$28,846.99</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
AFS Dues	\$50.00
AFS Parent Society Rebate	\$123.75
Interest	\$4.73
Graduate Fayetteville Credit	\$7.54
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$186.99</b>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,033.01</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Postage	\$11.60
EXCOM/Past Presidents Lunch	\$237.24
Fees	\$7.98
Chapter Tax Prep	\$75.00
Subunit Reimbursements/Awards	\$874.63
Overcharge Fix	\$40.00
Scholarship Funding	\$10,000.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$11,246.45</b>
<b>Balance as of May 12, 2022:</b>	<b>\$17,786.56</b>

### **Appointed Officer Reports**

#### *Newsletter – Jessica Feltz*

Jessica has sent an email requesting content for the newsletters. She has received positive feedback from the student section. However, she is still looking for submissions highlighting a research project. Chelsea added that she reminded subunits to email Jessica if they wanted to highlight a research project. Chelsea also suggested reaching out to Jeff Quinn to highlight his eel research.

#### *Webmaster – Dylan Hann*

Christy relayed the following message from Dylan. Anyone who wishes to have something posted to the website, please contact Dylan. Brie asked about the Wild Apricot and Micah shared that the fee is increasing this year to \$648.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Nominating and Awards Committee – JJ Gladden, Chair*

JJ suggested moving the announcement for the awards nominations to the spring newsletter to increase nominations. Allison asked if a list of previous awards winners could be placed in the website. JJ said he would share the various lists past presidents have compiled and Allison replied that she would work to merge the lists.

#### *Activities and Raffle Committee – Jordan Lindaman, Chair*

Christy read the following report provided by Jordan: Jordan extended a big thanks to everyone who participated in this year's silent auction and raffle, and also everyone involved in making this year's raffle and silent auction memorable. The silent auction brought in \$1,605, while the raffle brought in \$1,646, for a total of \$3,251. As a bonus, the Chapter raised \$493 from surplus SDAFS shirts and pint glasses, for a grand total of \$3,744 raised for our Chapter. Members never disappoint, even with limited attendance, the Chapter was able to raise roughly the same amount if not more than full attendance years. Thanks again, to everyone who put in their time, effort, and money to make this past event very successful!

#### *Environmental Affairs Committee – Dr. Sue Colvin, Chair*

Christy relayed the following message from Sue: AFS is working to get RAWA to the floor before Memorial Day and the Arkansas Chapter sent a letter of support.

#### *Education Liaison Committee – Chelsea Gilliland, Chair*

At our annual Chapter meeting this past February, the EXCOM and Education Liaison hosted a Student Development Workshop to supplement the meeting's theme "We Are All Students". The workshop consisted of a two-part panel discussion along with a catered lunch, and incorporated student feedback from a virtual meeting hosted the previous fall. Chelsea received a lot of good feedback from the Student Workshop held during the Chapter Meeting in Fayetteville, especially given the dicey weather conditions. Providing lunch appeared to be a major advantage for improving attendance. It was requested to continue to offer similar workshops at future Chapter meetings. However, some attendees expressed interest in extending the time allotment of future workshops to allow for further engagement with professionals. There were around 24 student participants, 6 professional panelists, and a number of professionals and administrators that sat in for the workshop. Chelsea is more than happy to continue this effort if it is beneficial to the students.

Communication with the subunits has been sparse since the Chapter Meeting; however, Chelsea did have the opportunity to connect with a lot of subunit members.

Spring Science Fair volunteer requests were distributed to the subunits; however many of the fairs were cancelled or switched to virtual interfaces at the last minute. Chelsea has not received input for subunits regarding their attendance. Many subunits are still recovering from the global pandemic and are actively trying to recover from its detrimental impacts. As such, communication has been slow but Chelsea has and will continue to approach with persistence.

### **Subunit Reports**

#### *Arkansas Tech University*

President: Autumn Henry

In November the ATU subunit held officer elections and since then has had several volunteer opportunities with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Big Buck Classic, and several local fishing derbies. The biggest volunteer event was helping take part in the Prairie Creek Pumping Station clean up located at Bona Dea in Russellville. Throughout this semester the subunit has also had several trivia nights and hosted a few cookouts. The biggest fundraiser event, Beast Feast, took place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was an event where members cooked wild game and had silent auctions to raise money for the club. Several of our members attended the American Fisheries Society meeting this past February and met different individuals who work for Game and Fish. Overall, the club has had a very busy and successful semester and is looking forward to the fall semester and the things the club will accomplish then.

#### *University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff*

President: Derek Owens

No activities to report. Subunit members have been busy with fieldwork and classes.

## *University of Arkansas*

President: Kearstin Findley ([kmfindle@uark.edu](mailto:kmfindle@uark.edu))

Vice President: TBD

Treasurer: Sarah Sorensen ([sfsorens@uark.edu](mailto:sfsorens@uark.edu))

Secretary: Leah Bayer ([lbayer@uark.edu](mailto:lbayer@uark.edu))

### Plans for Next Year:

- Recruit other members and select a vice president
- Hold quarterly meetings – scheduling TBD
- Attend the Arkansas AFS Meeting 2023
- Volunteer at river clean up
  - Kings River Watershed Partnership
  - Annual Illinois River Cleanup
- Outreach event(s) in Northwest Arkansas
  - Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese – Stroll the Atolls Event
  - Fishing derby (AGFC)
  - Local public schools
- Fundraiser possibilities
  - Calendar, t-shirt, stickers
- Organize a travel award fund for future AFS meetings
- Getting in touch with University of Arkansas Museum for specimens to take to outreach events

## **Old Business**

### *Meeting Recap*

Christy said she was pleasantly surprised by the number of people who made it to the annual Chapter meeting given the weather. Micah reported that 76% of members who registered attended and that the Chapter didn't lose money due to the canceled rooms. However, the Chapter tried to help get rooms transferred to other members who hadn't booked a hotel room prior to the meeting. Due to hotel policy, this wasn't a straight forward process and thus two people were charged for the same room. Since EXCOM had requested the member keep the room in order to transfer it to another member, EXCOM voted to reimburse the member that was charged for the room but didn't stay in the room. Christy added it was great that people were able to record talks, which avoided cancellations in the program.

## **New Business**

### *2023 Meeting Planning*

Brie asked about the first steps to planning the annual meeting and Christy recommended setting a date and then identify meeting locations. Christy added that further discussion regarding the annual Chapter meeting typically occurs at the fall EXCOM meeting. Brie indicated she was leaning toward locations near an active subunit. She also asked about the timing of other AFS meetings and EXCOM discussed the pros and cons of adjusting the timing of the Chapter meeting. JJ suggested looking for hotels that allow outside catering to have more flexibility when budgeting for food. Excom also discussed previous meetings where outside food and beverage had been allowed and pros and cons of potential meeting locations, including state parks, locations within dry counties, and universities. Christy added that the AR Chapter of the Wildlife Society is interested in a joint meeting. The group discussed universities with active fisheries and wildlife subunits that could help with a joint meeting.

### *Donation Requests*

Representatives from Virginia Chapter AFS asked the Chapter to sponsor the upcoming Southern Division of AFS 2023 meeting. JJ motioned to sponsor \$500 to SDAFS and Micah seconded it.

### *Chapter Workshops and Activities*

Dustin Lynch is offering to host the crayfish workshop again. The crayfish workshop, followed by a crawdad boil, will be May 26. EXCOM decided to pay for food expenses for the workshop.

EXCOM discussed potential Chapter activities to increase member engagement with the Chapter. These included competition based activities for subunits. Suggestions included a river clean-up competitions with a traveling trophy a quiz bowl event, and a sunfish fishing tournament. Suggestions for the Chapter included adding another professional development opportunity outside of annual Chapter meeting, hosting virtual presentations quarterly, and a summer fishing competition housed on the brag board. EXCOM decided to begin with quarterly presentations via zoom, which may included research presentations by Chapter members, asking other winners of best presentation awards from other states to present, hosting mini workshops, and having question and answer sessions with professionals for students. The length of presentations would be 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions, or 30 minutes for mini workshops and question/answer sessions. Finding a time to accommodate the all members could be tricky, but Micah suggested that these presentations be recorded and uploaded for others to view later. These activities would be coordinated with the help of the activities committee.

Brie began a discussion regarding the Chapter's social media accounts. She asked if brag board posts could be shared to social media. Jessica added that the Chapter has 86 followers on AFS Instagram. Brie asked if two devices can be logged in at one time. Jessica replied yes and said she would find out who else was an administrator for the social media accounts.

JJ motioned to adjourn the meeting. Micah seconded.