**COUNCIL MEETING**

**8/31/23 @ 7:30 PM**

Officers: president Mike Huber, VP Steve Coxon, Treasurer Ian Eggert.

Council members: Andrej Spec-, Bob Watson, Jeremy Bozarth, Matthew Rush, Melanie Holmes, Mitch Wendel.

Appointees: Auction Mike Hellweg, Editor Micah Issitt, Show chair Lora Watson.

Guest: Charles Harrison and Chuck Bremer

Late: Secretary David Steele

**SECRETARY**

David Steele read the Minutes from the August 3, 2023 meeting. A motion to approve was made by Mike Hellweg and was seconded by Ian Eggert. The motion passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Council meeting is Oct 4, Nov. 1

The deadline for Darter submissions is Sep 1.

Next swap is Sep 9. Next auction is Nov 4

**OLD BUSINESS**

Audit Committee

* Audit Committee Chairman Mike Hellweg made a report on the attempt to perform an audit of the treasury records from FY 2022 and 2023.  A copy of the preliminary report was sent to all MASI Council members this afternoon.
  + Due to the sheer chaos of the records, and the amount of supporting materials that are not properly recorded or just plain missing, he was hoping that getting the bank statements and Treasurer's reports would be enough to help him reconstruct the records for FY 2022 and 2023.  He then realized that the checks had not been registered or recorded in any way, and were not issued in any sort of sequence, so there was no way to tell if those checks were written at all (due to the chaos of the few records that were available); if they were written, to whom they were written, and, most importantly, for how much.  This makes us completely unsure of how much outstanding debt (in the form of outstanding checks) that we have, and if receipts submitted had all been paid, and if so, to whom the money went and for what the items purchased were used.  In short, he realized it would probably be a waste of time as any attempt at recreating the accounts would be very incomplete at best.
  + After consulting with Ian and Mike Huber, he made a proposal that to limit our exposure, we set aside $2000 in our current checking account, and move the rest to a new account not linked to the original account.  We would then keep that old account open for two years in case any old checks were submitted for payment (our bank is supposed to reject any checks submitted for payment after 6 months, but that doesn't happen all the time).  Almost all checks are written to MASI members, so we will notify our members that they need to immediately cash any outstanding checks received since May 1, 2023, or resubmit any older checks to our Treasurer for replacement with a new check.  Lastly, that we essentially restart our Treasury records with July 1, 2023 as the beginning of Ian's official term and go from there.
* Ian made the motion to approve, and Mitch seconded.  It passed unanimously.

Advertisement and Social Media - Mitch

* No news to report

Corresponding Jeremy---,

* No news to report

Members & Welcoming Bob

* 1 member trying to figure out if they were active or inactive, and inquired about bowl shows
* Looking for volunteers for hobby days

Swap Mitch—

* Vendors still coming, saltwater vendors hopefully will be brought in.

Auction Mike Hellweg

* Registration for auction for members starting 10/14
* Non-members 10/21

BAP and HAP Mike Hellweg

* No news to report

Exchange Matthew

* No news from David, will have update next meeting

Library/Points Tabulation/Refreshments Mike Huber

* NN2R

List Master Micah

* No news to report

Speakers Steve

* No news to report

YouTube Channel Matthew

* Created quick guide on hosting live stream in case coverage is needed
* Inquired about storing the guide
  + Mike Huber said he has a safe place for storage
* For YouTube, Matt would like to put up older content
  + Specifically the “Get to know speakers” series
  + Fish room series
  + DIY videos
    - Overall hope is to expand on the playlists
  + Mike Huber asked about MASI member highlight/fish room tours
    - Channel only has 3: Charles, Melanie, Steve
      * Mike Huber said there are a lot more on YouTube somewhere

Web master Charles

* No news to report

**NEW BUSINESS**

A question was asked on whether the dates been confirmed yet for swaps and auctions? To which the answer was yes.

Steve Coxon stated Jon Butkus had a new photo/picture for us to utilize

Discussion to support and award Little Egypt Fish Club was considered

* $500 to help maintain the tanks for the kids
  + A lot of work was done to engage kids
    - The goal of the tank project’s focus is on community engagement
      * Discussion shifted on how to support Litte Egypt to help set up tanks for the schools kids

A broader discussion regarding marketing, community engagement, and community support was brought for by Steve Coxon and Matthew Rush

* Matthew volunteered the an idea to create stickers with MASI logo that also had our website and/or QR code.
* Another member offered the idea to focus on expanding MASI’s education and how it woul be good to have a simple form for the requester, so we can review those support requests in a centralized manner

Another engagement idea was to utilize and put in place a donation event for kids during Fishy Days

Another idea for community engagement to expand outreach towards teachers in classrooms that are interested in it

* An update on Fishy Biz’s donation that purchased 30 tanks and stand was provided by Mike Huber.

A Motion was made by Mitch and 2nd by Steve to approve the $500 for Little Egypt. Motion Passed.

David asked about a committee for community engagement – Mike Hellweg said there used to be an education committee, but lack of interest shuttered the committee.

* Mike Hellweg reiterated the need for an education program lead
* Mike Huber stated that he will broach the topic of volunteers to take part in education program
* Idea for creating community engagement and branding marketing

Mike Huber asked Mike Hellweg on Florida convention (AKA/ALA)

* Will be in Tampa, middle of May
  + This helps us plan for our May 4th pavilion event
    - Like last time, we will have food and refreshments brought in
      * Everyone brings in side dish
        + Melanie will try to ensure no duplicates of potato salad

Starting at 11am like last time.

Mike Huber shared that he will check the van and how much room under the seats

* Back to 21 people for trip, so packing efficiently is crucial
  + Limited to something that will fit under the seats
    - Lora updated that she got the tickets for Branson aquarium, and put call in to Springfield aquarium and awaiting call back, will call back Tuesday.

It was confirmed that MASI is adding electronic payments on PayPal

We have a new P.O Box address

Lora made motion to adjourn, Melanie 2nd, adjourned at 9:22