



**Directors:** Art Cottrell, Lisa Gilmore, Keven Graham, Ken Krueger, Mike Lesiak, Steve Shapiro,  
**Ex Officio Director:** Willie Beshire; **Emeritus Directors:** Jeff Berg, Wally Bock, Joe Hammon, Ed Michael, Gregory Prosen, Marvin Strauch, Doug Vanerka, Joseph Vitti

**Officers:** Dave Carlson, President; Dan LaFave, Vice President; Jack Potts, Treasurer; Carol Hennessy, Secretary

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

On Wednesday, January 10, 2024 7:06 PM, the OBTU Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at the Downers Grove Public Library and via conference call (Zoom)

### **Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Present:**

Dave Carlson, President  
Dan LaFave, Vice President  
Jack Potts, Treasurer  
Carol Hennessy, Secretary  
Willie Beshire  
Wally Bock  
Lisa Gilmore  
Keven Graham  
Ken Krueger  
Mike Lesiak  
Ed Michael  
Greg Prosen  
Steve Shapiro  
Marvin Strauch  
Joe Vitti  
Jim Dickens

### **Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:**

Art Cottrell

### **Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused**

### **Members present:**

Annie Vitti

### **Call to Order:**

D. Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

### **Approve Minutes From the December 13, 2023 BOD Meeting:**

A motion was made by L. Gilmore and seconded by M. Lesiak to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion passed.

C. Hennessy brought up the issue of our existing lending library. Over the course of many years of chapter purchased DVDs to lend out to our member. Members could check out the DVDs at the General Membership Meetings and return them during the following month's meeting. Since



Covid, the lending library has not been in operation. Dale MacDonald is in possession of the DVDs. She asked if we should continue the lending library or if we should use the DVDs for fundraising. The consensus of the Board was to poll the membership at next week's meeting.

On a side note, J. Dickens offered to sell the vintage bass lures that were in the chapter's inventory on e-bay with the proceeds coming back to the chapter.

### **Order of Business:**

The order of business was approved without objections.

### **Reports:**

#### **President's Report**

D. Carlson reported that we received notice about the payment that is due for our shared post office box with the Illinois Council. The cost is \$332 per year with our shared cost being half of that. He is just keeping the Board apprised of this expense.

D. Carlson briefed the Board about the recent Illinois Council discussion about investing some of its monies into CD's. In regards to spending some of this money, D. Carlson wanted to request that Council continue to financially support TUDARE.

E. Michael provided some background on how and when the Council raised this money. When this money was raised the Illinois Council made an agreement with the Environmental Fund that the money we raised would be spent in Illinois. He felt that it was reasonable for the Council to reimburse the chapters for their expenses to TUDARE, but not reasonable to donate to TUDARE for projects in Wisconsin. He also explained that historically the Council does not fund projects on the ground. He added that in the past the Council did invest in CDs, but did close them down. He recommended that if the Council proceeded with investing in CDs, it find a local bank to work with. The Board briefly discussed the pros and cons of purchasing CDs.

The Board discussed the email that it received from Jim Schmiedeskamp alleging misconduct by one of OBTU's members. The consensus of the Board was to contact TU National for its guidance on the matter.

#### **Leadership Development:**

C. Hennessy reported that we are ready to proceed with next week's Annual Meeting. K. Graham and John Martyn have agreed to run for the OBTU Board of Directors and the current officers have agreed to run for re-election.

#### **Financial Development**

C. Hennessy reported that she sent out a brief spreadsheet listing the items that we currently have on hand for future monthly raffles and for future holiday parties. She gave J. Dickens a USB flash drive with copies of our fundraising drive letter, letters to Village officials for waivers



bonds for our monthly raffles and holiday raffles and spreadsheets of our inventory. She thanked J. Dickens for volunteering to serve as the new Financial Development Chair.

J. Dickens stated that he will be sending out a one-page action plan for the upcoming year for Financial Development. He welcomes the Boards thoughts and comments.

### **Treasurer's Report**

J. Potts reported that he sent out the first cut of the budget to the Committee Chairs. This is consistent from past years. We will have a substantial conversation at the February and March Meetings before the budget is approved later this Spring. For this year he had budgeted a deficit, but we always come out ahead at the end of the year.

J. Potts reported that he sent out the December Financial Reports yesterday. There are no unexpected expenses and are consistent with what we had budgeted. There was a \$6,000 gain in the Endowment Fund that was recorded this month. The Balance Sheet has healthy balances.

M. Lesiak asked if he needed to do something to do the internal audit/reviewing. J. Potts responded that he will have someone from the bank show him how to set up the viewing options so that M. Lesiak will then be able to do the periodic reviews.

### **Programs:**

S. Shapiro reported that he has the speakers lined up from January through April. This month's speaker is Jason Randall. He will be joining us for pizza at Gulliver's prior to the meeting. The meeting in May is currently open. Since Central Park West may be closed for remodeling he is exploring our options. These options include host some type of fly fishing clinic for kids or women, or to do a used gear swap.

He does have other speakers as fall backs. There are folks from the University of Wisconsin that are involved in genetic studies of Brook Trout.

S. Shapiro reported that Seth Waters, Dark Waters Fly Shop received our check for speaking at our November meeting at a very short notice. He was grateful for the payment.

### **Membership:**

K. Krueger announced that we are set for our Adopt-a-Highway in Wisconsin. He is coordinating one of the trash pick-up days to coordinate with the Fall Nature Nooks Trip. W. Beshire stated that the Fall Trip is scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. This was the only weekend available at Nature Nooks.

The Board discussed when to schedule the first trash-pick up. The consensus was to schedule the trash pick-up on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The DuPage River Clean-Up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

K. Krueger reported that he and others are looking to put together a Veterans Program. They are exploring the option of working with Healing Waters. Tyrone Clark, (who won the Lamson Fly Reel at the Holiday Party) has volunteered to help organize this program. Ty is a local veteran



and is involved with the American Legion in Elmhurst. He is helping us organize a fly tying event at that American Legion.

The Board briefly discussed locations where to do the fly fishing. They include a spot near Lockport and the Des Plaines River in Riverside.

**Communication:**

W. Beshire told the Board that A. Cottrell has been very involved with helping him with our communication efforts. He has sent out the Constant Contact messages and has updated the calendar on the website which includes the dates for the Schaumburg Fishing Show (January 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>) and the Tinley Park Fishing Show (February 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>). The dates for both Fall fly fishing trips are on the calendar as well.

W. Beshire reminded the Board about the joint fly-tying venture with the Sierra Club down in Peoria (March 17<sup>th</sup>). Robert Rowe was very instrumental in setting up this event.

D. Carlson reminded the Board about other events that are coming up. They include the Driftless Symposium March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – a two day Zoom presentations and the North Central College Film Festival on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Education:**

M. Strauch reported that M. Lesiak updated the flyer for the Youth Fly Fishing Program and has submitted the dates to be put on the website calendar. The date for Stream-Girls meeting is still in the works. In addition, Steve Carlson has been in touch with the Pokegan Tribe in Michigan to do a Stream Kids program. The day for that program is in June or July.

M. Lesiak reported that Kodie Kowitz, a guide from Feenstra Guide Service, is coming in to do an all-day Fly Tying event on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Conservation:**

K. Graham reported that the Conservation Committee had a call last week. The Committee is working on the prioritizing the projects.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by D. LaFave and seconded by L. Gilmore to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: February 14, 2024  
Date

Carol Hennessy  
Carol Hennessy  
Secretary