**Minutes of PODS Executive Committee Meeting- October 29, 2014**

Seven members attending including: Chris Wuestefeld, Ken Ziegler, Phyllis Rummel, Laura Griffith, Michael Penn Smith, John Hoag and Winifred Simon.

Laura Griffith, Secretary and Interim President, called the meeting to order. An agenda for the meeting was passed out to all attending.

A brief discussion on the clarification of the Immediate Past President’s role on the Executive Committee. The position of immediate Past President will be filled by the outgoing President through the present President’s term. In the event of the present Past President vacating their position before the term is up then the Immediate Past President will stay on the Executive Committee through the next elected President’s term. If the President has vacated his/hers seat on the Executive Committee they will not become the Immediate Past President.

This discussion led us to the issue of filling the vacant seats on the Executive Committee for President and Vice President. Because Lesley Martin has made the decision to leave her role as President without notice to the Executive Committee it was agreed that Laura Griffith (Secretary) will be the interim President for the remainder of the calendar year. This is due to the fact there is no Vice President at this time and the Secretary falls next in line.

Doug Gephardt has agreed to be nominated for the Vice President position. The Executive Committee will announce his nomination at the November meeting and he will be voted in at that time. We will also reach out to Doug to see if he has any interest in the President position.

There are two Executive Committee seats that are up for reelection in November. The Secretary and Committee Manager seats are available for reelection. We have had no interest in current members in filling these seats. Laura Griffith has agreed to continue her role as Secretary to keep some continuity going while trying to fill the President/Vice President seats. Ken Ziegler has also agreed to stay on as Committee Manager. These nominations will be presented to the members at the November meeting and a vote will be taken at that time.

A motion was made by Michael Penn Smith to have the Executive Committee solicit members for the vacant board and committee seats. Chris Wuestefeld seconded the motion and all agreed. Michael Penn Smith will contact Doug Gephardt to confirm that he is still interested in the Vice President position.

Ken Ziegler will stay on as Committee Manager. His duties consist of coordinating the committees, helping the President and Vice President to recruit committee chairpersons, and to help with the committees and make sure that everyone understands their job and is doing their job.

The PODS by-laws need some updating in order to include the new Executive Board position of Immediate Past President, clarification of duties, and some clean up. Chris Wuestefeld motioned to have this updating done by Laura Griffith and Michael Penn Smith. John Hoag seconded and all agreed. All changes will be presented to the board and the members.

The discussion of a membership due increase was next on the agenda. If the increase is made what are we needing the money for? One of the reasons for the dissension among the Executive Commiteee when this subject was brought up prior to this meeting is a lack of understanding of why we needed to raise dues. Given that we are in a period of change with empty Executive Committee seats it may prove best to leave the dues as is for the time being. A vote was put forth on whether to raise the dues – all said nay to a dues increase.

Ken Ziegler motioned to have Michael Penn Smith write up a dues schedule to document the membership dues, pro rate dues, and the family discount. It will also document the $5.00 renewal discount offered in January to all members. Chris Wuestefeld seconded the motion and all agreed. A Renewal Committee was formed by John Hoag and Phyllis Rummel as members. Ken Ziegler has offered to help.

Should we accept credit cards for membership fees? John Hoag will look into Square and the costs associated with using it. If the charges are minimal we can just add them to the dues. This will give the members another option to pay for their dues. All agreed to this.

Agenda item concerning our social media sites: There is a need for updating on the Yahoo Groups/Facebook and Google Plus sites. Phyllis Rummel, Chris Wuestefeld and Laura Griffith have agreed to help in monitoring and updating the Yahoo Groups and Facebook pages. Chris Wuestefeld and Laura Griffith have agreed to monitor and update the Google Plus page.

The PODS website needs to be updated ASAP. Should we take down the existing site? Do we find a new host server for the site? Do we delete the existing content? It was agreed by all that we would pay any fees associated with getting a new host server. In the meanwhile we will put a notice on the existing website that it is “under construction”.

We will get with the Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce and the City of Dripping Springs to see what they would like from us as far as getting images from events to them. Under Lesley Martin’s presidency there was a move to use a shared software for both the photographers and the City and Chamber. While it was a great idea unfortunately it did not work for everyone and there was a breakdown in communication. So, to move forward we need to see what will work for all and provide the easiest, fastest and simplest solution. DorRae Stevens will reach out to the city and chamber to see if we can negotiate something to their liking. That will be followed up by either the Interim President and/or Vice President.

Where is our TV Monitor? Is it still at Mazama’s and is it being used? Chris Wuestefeld will drop by and check it out.

Who is responsible for sending out thank you notes to speakers, guides, etc….? That should be the duty of the Programs Chairman.

Christmas Party 2014: There was a motion to have a potluck dinner for the party this year. All agreed except for Ken Ziegler. Majority rules and we will have a potluck this year.

Where will we have the party? Ken Ziegler has asked for the space at the DS Ranch Park arena that we used last year. They will give us a decision around the 11th of November. There are a couple of other locations that we can look into if that falls through.

As of this moment there are many seats that need to be filled in both the Executive Committee and the other committees. The PR Committee, the Website Committee and the Meeting Programs Committee all have seats that need to be filled. Michael Penn Smith will start calling members to see if there is any interest and we will move forward from there.

This concludes the Executive Committee meeting.

Minutes written and submitted by Laura Griffith, PODS Secretary.