

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m. Board members present were Carissa Lovett, Katie Spicer, Andrew Hoffman, Scott Bergeson, Kate Bergeson, and Ellen Lunsford. Baby Eloise Bergeson was introduced as our guest.

The January minutes were approved; Katie made the motion and Scott seconded.

Lucinda was not present to give the membership chair report.

Phil was not present, but sent the treasurer's report ahead of time; there is \$8,784.10 in the checking account, and \$2,923.67 in savings.

Conservation and Education report – The Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act was discussed. There have been several unfortunate bird fatalities across the country; a hawk owl was killed in the Pacific Northwest, and 2 Whooping cranes from the Louisiana Flock were killed in Texas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Operation Migration is being discontinued.

Recently completed events were the January 20th member meeting with speaker Alan Bruner on Bird Populations, and the January 23rd Birding with WVAS with bird netting.

Board meeting dates for 2016 are March 3rd, April 7th, and May 5th at the Grand Travers Pie Company. Member meeting dates for 2016 are February 17th (Jim Speer), March 16th (Mark Booth), April 20th (banquet), and May 18th (picnic).

The next upcoming public events with WVAS involvement are the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12th-15th, and Birding with WVAS on February 20th and March 19th. A field trip to Goose Pond will be on April 3rd. Earth Day at White Violet Center at St. Mary of the Woods is April 16th, and volunteers are still needed. Emily's Walk at Wabashiki wetlands will be on April 23rd in honor of longtime member Emily Herrington, who passed away late last year. April 30th is the bird feeder workshop at Dobbs; volunteers are still needed.

WVAS currently has 368 likes on Facebook.

New business – Board nominations are still needed. Katie and Scott are developing a flier to post on the ISU campus to draw more college-age members.

Goose Pond has asked for a donation to help support the Bio Blitz; \$100-\$300 was requested. Andrew made the motion to donate \$200 dollars, and Katie seconded. The motion carried.

The Midwest Bird Fest will be held Saturday, May 21st at Hawthorn Park at the Burkeybyle shelter and the amphitheater. It is free and for all ages.

The menu was selected for the banquet at the Saratoga. All entrees are served with a salad and double smashed potatoes unless otherwise specified. The choices are Chicken Francese, Pork Chop with Apple Rum Sauce, Breaded Catfish, and Fettuccini Alfredo (served with salad only).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next board meeting is Thursday, March 3rd at Grand Traverse Pie Company.