

**Membership Committee Meeting
December 13, 2007**

Attending: Toni Piaggio, Michelle Caviness, Pat Brown and Brad Phillips

Agenda: To discuss the possibility of charging membership fees.

Pat: we have to make the fee high enough to cover admin costs, but not too high where members feel that they need to receive something in return. If we charge a fee then we will have to have someone monitor who pays and who doesn't. We also need to figure out what we are going to do if someone doesn't pay. Do we contact them asking for the money or do we drop them from membership?

We have right under 400 members currently. If we assume that about half of them will pay the fee and charge a fee of \$15 then WBWG will receive \$3000.00. If we figure a minimum of \$2500.00 a year, is that worth the administration part of dealing with collecting membership fees? Would this amount of money make a difference with the challenges that we are currently facing?

We need to be prepared to let members know what we are going to do with the money. Brad suggests that most members are going to want to know this before deciding to pay a membership fee.

Some of the expenses that we currently have or that we are considering taking on are:

Conference calling numbers for state groups and committees to use to facilitate group work and meetings.

Funding Paypal on the web for donations and membership fees if we decide to collect them.

We need a buffer/cushion for meetings in case something happens.

Wind farm workshop—although this in the long run will bring in money.

Send a person from the education committee to Portland to attend the National Teachers conference where WBWG would present a lesson, pass out materials and promote WBWG.

Fund projects and trainings.

Newsletter

Website

A survey was sent out two years ago asking the membership how they felt about paying a membership fee. Only 35 people responded and those responses were about 50/50. Toni suggests that we try another survey now that we have a better handle on the membership. We could do the survey as a web based using Survey Monkey. We would specific questions such as: Are you willing to pay a membership? If not would you be more willing to make a donation? If you were willing to pay a membership fee what amount would you be willing to pay? (we would include a few amounts or a range of amounts to choose from). Would you prefer to pay with check or credit card?

Brad suggests we preface these questions with an explanation of our expenses and what we plan to do with the \$\$.

Pat suggests we could also make an official request for donations, but that we should be set up to take credit cards first. Michelle updated on the website that Erinn put in a statement on donations.

Toni is going to take a stab at putting together a few questions for a survey and email it out to the committee for input. She will email a draft of the survey out by January 17. If possible she will try and have the questions ready to discuss on the January 9th conference call. Brad will send Toni information on what the operating costs will be.

Brad will report on our meeting during the conference call on December 19. Brad will also check on using a bank to take credit cards on the web instead of using Paypal because paypal takes a 3% cut.

Michelle suggested that maybe during a future membership committee call that we talk about creating a generic welcome letter to new members and come up with a system where we contact the membership to check in or update on what we are doing. Maybe do this once a year to get the membership more involved.