



2023 IFTN Annual membership meeting

June 23, 2023, 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Chair Heather Gessner called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. There were 27 members present.

Board members who were present introduced themselves to the membership: Heather Gessner, Joy Kirkpatrick, Shane Conway, Abby Wessel, David Marrison, and Wesley Tucker. Unable to attend: Brandon Dirkschneider

Chair Heather Gessner asked for approval of the agenda. Seeing no objections proceeded.

Secretary's report: The minutes from the 2022 annual meeting prepared by Darlene Livingston were included in the documents emailed to all members before the meeting for their review. David Marrison made a motion to approve the minutes, and Heather Schlessner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Joy Kirkpatrick referenced the treasurer's report of income and expenses emailed to the membership. She explained that many of our memberships come from the coordinator training, and a portion of their fee covers the first-year membership. She explained individual revenue and expense items, such as the 2022 face-to-face conference and webinars, and individual expense items necessary to support the organization. Darlene Livingston commended the progress of the organization. Darlene Livingston made the motion to approve the treasurer report, and Shane Conway seconded. Motion passed.

Year in Review: Chair Heather Gessner presented the Year in Review. Highlights included:

- 2022 Annual Conference
- Financial Position and Concerns
- CEU Trainings
- Updates to the Farm Transition Coordinators on the Website
- Formalization of Non-IFTN Training CEU Approval Process
- Updated Database
- 2023 Annual Conference

Proposed Bylaw Changes: Proposed changes include updates to the duties of officers and providing a more detailed procedure for auditing the organization's financials regularly. Gary Linkous inquired if we were a 501c3 and if these bylaws were within the guidelines. Patrick Hatting inquired as to how many transactions the organization did each year. Abby Wessel moved to accept the changes to the bylaws, and Jamie Jacoby seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chair Heather Gessner discussed the coordinator certification maintenance plan so members were aware of how to achieve CEUs to remain certified coordinators.

Chair Heather Gessner discussed membership dues. 41 members paid memberships as part of the conference registration. The total membership is approximately 70. The plan is to reach out to those who chose to attend the conference but did not become a member to see if they would be interested in becoming a member. Heather requested if anyone had a couple of sentences explaining why they chose to become a member to share them with the board to be used in promotional materials. Heather explained that one need of the organization is for someone to help keep records organized, such as donor snap. Hopefully, if the budget continues to improve in the future, maybe we can hire someone to assist with these tasks. Mary Campbell suggested contacting Farm Credit to see if they might help sponsor next year's conference.

Chair Heather Gessner outlined the board's goals for 2023-24, including:

- Farm Transfer collaboration project
- Face-to-face annual conference with 50 participants. Heather asked for input on location and how to keep expenses down. Abby requested the conference be held in Ireland with much applause.
- Maintain the coordinator webpage to keep it up to date.
- Grow the social media coverage.

Darlene Livingston suggested establishing a budget for each year since that is a requirement for 501c3 organizations.

Rachel Henley asked about subcommittees to assist the board.

Election of New Board Members—Each candidate present introduced themselves and explained why they were interested in the board. Five candidates have applied for two open board positions.

Voting was conducted via Zoom's online poll. David Marrison and Rachel Henley were elected to the board. Heather thanked all candidates for their interest in serving on the board.

Chair Heather Gessner asked if any further business needed to be conducted, and seeing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wesley Tucker,
2022-23 IFTN Secretary