



Washington Fly Fishing Club

September 12, 2023
Zoom Board meeting

	OFFICERS			COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
Danferd Henke	President	P	Bill Neal	Awards	
Jim Beck	1st VP - Membership	P	Robert Thorpe	Conservation	
Neal Hoffberg	2nd VP - Programs	P	David Ehrich	Creel Notes	
Jim Goedart	3rd VP - Fundraising	P	Neal Hoffberg	Education	P
Kurt Peterson	Treasurer		Pat Becker	Fruit & Flowers	P
Shelley Scheff	Secretary	P	Robert Thorpe	IFFF Coordinator	
James Emswiler	1 st Ghillie		Michael Nolan	Outings	
Paul Buehrens	2 nd Ghillie (non-voting)			Photographer	
	TRUSTEES		Lily Cutler	Publicity	
Dave Spratt	Past President			Raffle	
Pat Becker	Trustee	P	Pete Baird	Senior Advisor	P
Jay Deeds	Trustee	P	Jim Goedhart	Webmaster	P
Gary Bergquist	Trustee		Eugene Bloundel	Webmaster	
Chapin Henry	Trustee	P	Chuck Ballard	WFFC Heritage	
Tom Neu	Trustee		Marcia Kinsinger	WFFC Foundation	
John Gravendyk	Trustee		John Gravendyk	Youth	
	GUESTS		FFI Coordinator	Neal Hoffberg	P

P = Present

President

Danferd Henke opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with 8 officers and trustees.

Approval June Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes were approved.



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BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT Danferd Henke

Dan reported that the website committee is underway. He has recruited several members to help with the effort. He would like Jim Goedhart to serve on the committee as well in order to pass information regarding the website along to the new members.

TREASURER Kurt Peterson

Kurt was not present.

MEMBERSHIP Jim Beck

Jim reported that the club has 123 members. New member applications have been slow (may be normal for this time of year). He has received 16 bogus applications and 2 legitimate applications over the past few months.

A discussion commenced regarding how the club can recruit new members. Jay Deeds reported he reached out to two new members regarding an outing and he received no response. Jay suggested re-starting the sponsor system. He and Jim G feel the benefit of this system is that new members have someone they know at the meetings which may improve attendance. Neal is not in favor of the sponsorship system. He feels it serves as a gatekeeping measure and gives the impression that the club is elitist. Dan suggests using the title "mentor" rather than "sponsor". Neal also notes the majority of the club's members are older and this may not attract younger people. He adds that the membership of FFI and other clubs is in decline. He feels this may represent differences in generations. Jim adds that there are 350 members in the club's meet-up group and no one comes to the outings. Chapin suggests lunch meetings but Dan says this may make attendance worse.

PROGRAMS Neal Hoffberg

Neal reported that Molly's casting class was great. He is going to ask if she will teach again in the future. Mac Brown is confirmed for this month's dinner meeting. Neal has also confirmed two additional speakers for next year's dinner meeting calendar. Lynda Mapes will be speaking again. Jim G suggests inviting other clubs to that meeting as Lynda draws a lot of interest. Additionally, Earl Harper has been confirmed as a



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future speaker. He is a previous member who has started a travel agency focused on fly fishing.

FUNDRAISING Jim Goedhart

The Holiday Dinner is in the works. Jim shared a spreadsheet outlining confirmed auction items. There is a great collection this year and more items are expected. The live auction items are particularly exciting. The auctioneer has the club's fundraiser "penciled in".

Committee Reports:

Conservation Robert Thorpe

Robert was not present.

Education Neal Hoffberg

Classes are done for the year.

Fruit and Flowers Pat Becker

Scott Hagen has passed away. His memorial service is scheduled for September 15th in Sumner. Pat asks if anyone is willing to say a few words about Scott at the next dinner meeting. Several people volunteer.

Outings Mike Nolan

Mike was not present.

Hood Canal outing is scheduled for September 16th.

The Big Twin outing is scheduled for October 14-15. The Big Twin campground owners are holding a large camping area for us near the dock which will be nice.

The final outing of the season will be Wet Buns at Penrose State Park on November 4. Mike was able to secure the group site reservation. Jay Deeds will prepare dinner.



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Publicity

The publicity committee is in progress.

Youth **John Gravendyk**

John was not present.

Heritage **Chuck Ballard**

Chuck was not present.

FFI **Neal Hoffberg**

No update.

WFFC Foundation Interface **Jim Goedhart**

No update.

Webmaster **Jim Goedhart**

No update.

Creel Notes **Dave Ehrich**

No update.

OLD BUSINESS:

Holiday Party Donations for Live and Silent Auctions - We still need donations!

Jim presented a spreadsheet of the items currently secured. More items are welcome.

Fly Tying

Not discussed

WFFC Hoodies - available at the next meeting to those who ordered.



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Location of Meetings and Cost of Meetings

Dan questions if we are meeting in the correct geographic location. Would Seattle be better? The drawbacks to Seattle are that venues will likely be expensive and it is difficult to find a location that is convenient to everyone. The Seattle Tennis Club was suggested but the location and the price are not desirable. Mercer Island, while not in Seattle, is easy to get to and fairly centrally located. However, the VFW has raised their price to \$450/session and catering has also become more expensive.

Jim suggests a raffle to raise money in order to off-set the rising cost of meetings. Neal likes the idea of a raffle but notes that a strong connection to desirable raffle items is needed. Jim suggests creating a “store” on the club’s website where items can be sold in order to raise money. Chapin suggests creating a rental program for flotation devices and equipment. Both of these suggestions require more people-power than the club is able to support at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Officers and Chair Positions Becoming Open

Open positions are Creel Notes, Webmaster, Fundraising, and 2nd Ghillie.

Nominating Committee

The club must first select a nominating committee for next year’s officers. We need 5 people who are currently not members of the board. Bill Neal, Chuck Ballard, Jim Young, Jim McRoberts, and Dick Brenning were suggested. Dan will reach out to these individuals.

Holiday Party Ticket Cost

Dan would like to decrease the cost of the Holiday Dinner from \$100 per person to \$75 per person. He hopes this will help boost attendance.



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Member Survey

Dan suggests creating a survey to find out members' preference. He believes that this may provide information about what members are looking for in the club. Shelley volunteered to help with the survey.

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm. This is a week later than usual because the club president will be fishing on the first Tuesday of the month.

Shelley will not be present at the October board meeting or dinner meeting as she will be out of the country.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 by Danferd Henke.

Respectfully submitted

Shelley Scheff,
WFFC Secretary