

**Wedgworth Annual Alumni Business Meeting
Held at The Ritz-Carlton – Grande Lakes
Orlando, Florida
Saturday, August 11, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Wedgworth Alumni Board was called to order by President Jeff Lee at 8:32 a.m.

ELECTION OF WLI ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Stephen Basore was elected as President of the WLI alumni Association. Stephen took the stand and indicated it was an honor to be here. He is humbled to be the new President of the WLI Alumni Association. Stephen mentioned that WLI has had an effect on him both personally and professionally. It definitely got him out of his comfort zone. Has learned many things from past presidents and wants to support the program the best he can.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Basore asked for a motion to approve the 2011 minutes which were so moved by Ila Locke and seconded by Nancy McDonald. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Janice Barner reported the alumni balance of \$32,369.74 and made copies of the report available to the attendees to review.

OLD BUSINESS

Dues Report

Janice Barner reported \$3,025.00 were collected to date in dues for 2012.

WLI Alumni Strategic Planning Committee Report

Lisa Lochridge stated the committee has met twice this year. They went through the plan deciphering what the strategies need to be. They have a document in progress. Ila Locke suggested the Strategic Planning Committee have something to the Association by next year's alumni meeting for the general session. Lisa Lochridge said if anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact her. She will keep everyone posted.

Tallahassee Reception

The WLI Reception was held in March during the Florida Farm Bureau Days. A special thanks to Florida Forestry Association. This is always a good WLI Alumni turnout.

WLI Alumni Assistance Fund (CARE Fund)

There was a general discussion from the assembly about what the Alumni Care Fund is and its purpose. President Basore explained to the general population how it came into existence and its purpose. A short discussion ensued and Tracy Duda Chapman felt it would be important to have better written documentation such as a handbook for the need of this fund. President Basore suggested giving an update to the Alumni Association membership of the Care Fund.

Other old business

A discussion from the floor ensued regarding better communication from the Alumni Board to the alumni. Alumni were concerned with not being to voice their opinions/ responses on decisions that are made on behalf of the alumni association as a whole. President Basore acknowledged that the board needs to keep the alumni membership better informed and he would do this more through the alumni website and the alumni newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of WLI Alumni Association Graduate Assistant

Hannah Carter introduced McKenzie Smith as the new graduate assistant who will be working for the alumni association 7-10 hours per week. She is a graduate student at UF. McKenzie came from Texas A&M. She will be doing a lot of behind the scene work for the alumni including the newsletter. McKenzie handled all the registrations for the alumni this year. She is helping out with the Youth Leadership Program this weekend.

Nominations for Class IX

Hannah Carter stated the nomination process for Class IX will begin in March/April. This class will run on the same calendar year as Class VIII did. Selection Seminars will be held in late August and the first week of September, 2013. November will be Seminar I. Graduation will be in August 2015.

WLI Alumni Website and Facebook Page

Mary Frederick shared the website address is WLIANR.com. If an alumni member has anything they wish to be posted on the website, please send it to her via email. Mary's email address is marycfrederick@aol.com. Please update your profile in the directory as a wrong email address will give an error. Mary has instituted a calendar on the WLI website for events. You can add events yourself.

Announcement of New Vice President of WLI

The board has discussed and would like to present Sean Brantley as the new Vice President of the WLI Alumni Association. Stephen Basore made a motion to approve the nomination. It was moved and seconded by Wes Wheeler and Nancy McDonald. The motion passed unanimously. Congratulations Sean!

District Meetings – Election of Regional Directors – Regions II, IV & VI

President Basore directed members to break-out into their respective regions with the even-numbered regions to elect their respective representatives for a two-year term. After the regional meetings concluded, President Basore reconvened the general meeting and asked for regional reports.

Region 1 – Richard Schwab reported that Regions I & II had a combined regional meeting. R. Schwab reported approximately 25-30 alumni were in attendance. There was great food and fellowship.

Region 2 – Darrell Smith was elected as the new regional director.

Region 3 – Sean Brantley reported there was no regional meeting held this year although there were several opportunities for alumni in that region to get together informally on different occasions throughout the year.

Region 4 – Lisa Lochridge and Clay Archey were elected as regional directors for this region. They look forward to planning something for their region.

Region 5 – Ray Royce stated as soon as he has put together something for his region, he will send a notice to alumni.

Region 6 – Jenn Helms-Shelley and Ila Levin Locke were elected as regional directors for their region. They plan to hold several family events in the fall.

Other New Business

Tracy Duda Chapman stated that the program or alumni association does not have any documentation or history of the program for historical purposes. It would be nice to have this somewhere. She asked how this could be researched in order to pull all this together and build on from class to class. Hannah Carter shared that the WLI Office does have some historical information but it does not have anyone who could put this altogether. It was suggested a WLI Historical Committee be formed and Tracy was asked to chair. Bernie Hamel and Rick Roth volunteered to help on this committee.

Tracy Duda Chapman acknowledged she was disappointed and surprised by the award given the previous evening by Class VII in honor of Dr. Long. She stated the enthusiasm is great but the award should have been discussed as a whole and given on behalf of the alumni association, not just one class as Dr. Long was part of every class. A large discussion ensued.

Peggy Green suggested policies and committees needed to be put in place or formed based on previous discussions/concerns of the alumni membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elizabeth Pines provided the membership with a handout regarding a Guide to Florida Voter's: Questions and Answers about Florida judges and judicial elections.

NEXT MEETING

President Basore noted that next year's meeting will be held August 10th and 11th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other old or new business, President Basore adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice Barner
Executive Secretary
Wedgworth Leadership Institute for
Agriculture and Natural Resources