

Board Members -- Present:
President: Bob Williams
Vice President: Marshall Brown
Treasurer: Jon Jenkins
Secretary: Bill Erskine

Communications Chair: Bob Davis
Activities Chair: Peter Smith
Membership Chair: Gordon Jones

There being a quorum present, Bob Williams called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and gave an invocation. This meeting will be the annual meeting for 2014.

Standing Agenda/Old Business – Treasurer and Committee Reports.

Approval of Minutes: Secretary Bill Erskine presented the minutes for both August and November, 2014. The minutes were approved by the Board.

Treasurer: Jon Jenkins gave the report. No expense or income during November, so the bank balance remains \$8,217. The report was approved by the Board.

Membership: MABA now has 68 paid members. Dues for 2015 are due in January. The Board recently approved lowering annual membership dues to \$15 per year effective now.

Activities: Discussion was held about a spring picnic event, most likely in May, instead of a potluck dinner, and possibly at Shelby Farms, a much closer location for the members to attend. The group discussed mentioning in our communications that attendees are welcome to bring food, but it is not required or expected. Additionally, Marshall Brown volunteered to give a mandolin workshop this year, probably in June. Members are encouraged to wear nametags at meetings and jams, to help us all learn names.

Communications: The MABA website has been updated and webmaster Jim Vinyard was complimented on its quality and improvements. We will send out written reminders about the reduced dues and membership to members for 2013 and 2014 only, about 110 reminder letters. Email reminders will go to all names we have. A new membership form and “Newsgrass” newsletter was passed out for review and comment.

New Business:

1. The group discussed the fact that we have not always followed the bylaws timetables for nominations and elections, the dearth of volunteers in recent years with contraction of the Association who are willing to serve as officers and committee chairs, and the possibility of modifying the bylaws to streamline this process. Elections are supposed to be held in November but last year after much discussion were actually held in December. Bill Erskine mentioned that he does not expect to be able to serve as Secretary for 2015, so after discussion Bob Davis volunteered to be Secretary and Jim Vinyard volunteered to be Communications Chair as well as webmaster. After motion and second, they were elected unanimously by members present. The other officers and Committee chairs agreed to continue in their present positions.
2. It was reported that our long-time bluegrass supporter Miss Erna had not been well lately due to a back injury, and would love to host a jam session at her home. We will follow up with her to see where she is now living and if that would be possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Erskine (DRAFT ONLY 12-13-14)