

The Village Birders Annual Meeting
March 22, 2014

President, Ken Uslabar called the Annual Meeting of the Village Birders to order at 9:02 am on Saturday, March 22, 2014 in the Rita Hayworth room of Paradise Recreation Center. There were 41 members present.

Ken introduced Lyn Comans, Nominating Committee Chair. Lyn placed the following names in nomination: Ken Uslabar for President, Bob Martin for Vice President, Dan Hewins for Treasurer and Pat Power for Secretary. Each nominee stood and provided a brief bio. There were no nominations from the floor. Steve Norton moved to close the nominations; his motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. The secretary asked for motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented. The motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote.

Peg Condon, outgoing Vice President, gave her report based on her 1 ½ year tenure. She presided over a few meetings in the absence of the President and has assisted officers and chairpersons on occasion. Peg helped with the Outdoor Expo booth and is using her expertise to organize volunteers for this year's participation in our booth at La Hacienda Rec Center on March 29 and 30.

Steve Norton provided an insight into his responsibilities as Treasurer for the past 4 years. He said the Treasurer's books are open for members' scrutiny.

Secretary, Marcy Klepinger presented a copy of the Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting for anyone who wished to read it. A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote to approved the minutes as presented.

Linda Felker is the Chair of the Field Trip Planning Committee. This committee plans the weekly field trips and lines up the walk leaders. Members of the walk committee are Paul Nistico, Pat Power, Kris St. Germaine and Margie Thalberg. Linda thanked past committee members Gert Schaefer and Mary Lou Miller. She also stated that the walks would not be possible without the dedication and expertise of the trip leaders and thanked Jim Dinsmore, Barb Gay, Alice Horst, Paul Nistico and Steve Norton. The committee welcomes suggestions for new venues and new ideas and is always open for questions and to discuss concerns regarding the walks.

Alice Horst reminded those present about the upcoming birder picnic to be held on Sunday, April 27 at Lake Panasoffke; bird walk to begin at 8:00 am and picnic will begin at 11:00 am. Alice would like anyone who is planning to attend to sign up on the sheet which is circulating today.

Membership Chair, Kathy Hansen, reported that we now have 239 members.

Elaine Kersey, Education & Program Chair, recapped our year of programs. In October 2013 Tim Francis spoke on Purple Martins and his work establishing and maintaining their colonies. Al Roush told about his involvement in the Whooping Crane migration through his farm in Indiana at our November meeting. At the same meeting, Alice Horst and Barb Athanasiou presented pictures and stories about the annual birding event in Magee Marsh/Crane Creek in Ohio. In January, Bob and Joyce Schmid presented their pictures and tales of birding New Zealand. Norm Lantz gave a presentation entitled "Who Said That" at our February meeting. Next up, in April, Rich Harlan will speak on his experiences on the Appalachian Trail. Elaine announced that Alice Horst will be taking over the Chairmanship of the Education & Program Committee. Elaine thanked those who have shared their passion and birding skills by speaking at past meetings.

Our website Chair, Barb Athanasiou, shared a chart of hits. The chart shows the number of hits our website is receiving, with over 10,000 in March. Barb works with Charlie Martin to create a brochure for distribution to members. This brochure includes a list of officers and committee chairpersons with contact information along with our Calendar of Events plus other helpful birding information.

Charlie Martin, Yahoo Site Chair, reports that the site appears to be a success with members sharing information and pictures of birds. Charlie continues to update members emails and purge the site of outdated information.

Steve Norton, as Historian and Bird List person, keeps several lists of bird sightings. His lists include First Sightings, Yearly Sightings on Walks, and Composite List of Sightings and are available for members to peruse.

Ken Uslabar asked members to rise and applaud the work of outgoing officers and chairpersons. After the recognition, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am. Those present were invited to stay and enjoy coffee and donuts and socialize.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Klepinger