

“On the Vine”

February 8, 2020
Annual Board Retreat Synopsis

Meeting held at the Mandarin
Garden Club in Jacksonville



Juliet Rynear, Executive Director

Brief business:

- Gave an update on membership and landscape brochure orders/status.
- Encouraged everyone present to take newly printed 2020 conference brochures and extra copies of the Palmetto and distribute them to the members and the public.
- Shout out to Ixia Chapter members Ginny Stibolt for her donation to produce the 2020 Conference Brochure and to Adam Arendell for designing and completing the brochure.

Presented the **2019 Year in Review**

- Juliet announced that the volunteer hours for 2019 were 19,055. At \$24.09/hour that is equivalent to \$458,082. Education hours were 13,245 and the FNPS Board has contributed \$85,000 (with several board members still needing to report).
- Juliet provided Chapter Volunteer highlights for 2019 which included:
 - Advocacy!!!
 - Policy Advocacy Handbook
 - Field trips for legislators
 - MCORES (Policy Committee)
 - Plant community rescues
 - Rare plant monitoring
 - Plant propagation
 - Restoration work
 - Protecting & monitoring roadside plant populations
 - Public events & Partnerships
- Juliet gave a **progress report on the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan Goals:**

Goal A Increase Revenue by 10%-20% & Diversify Revenue – the society is making great strides as the year-end fundraisers have done well and the society is diversifying its income stream.

Goal B Build Organizational Capacity – the hiring of an Executive Director, Director of Communications and at this Feb. 8th meeting hiring a part-time TorreyaKeepers Coordinator.

Goal C Upgrade Website to Support Organizational Structure – a lot of work done by member Shirley Denton and our new contractor Skvare. For 2020 FNPS hopes to program new online membership forms (household, business), and for 2021 and beyond to setup conference registration through CiviCRM.

Goal D Improve Annual Conference by increasing attendance, sponsorships, partnerships marketing to diverse organizations and expand workshop offerings.

- Juliet discussed building a strong FNPS foundation and working on goals for 2022 and beyond.

FNPS Lobbyist Sue Mullins provided updates to various legislative bills now in Tallahassee and discussed the recommended FNPS positions for each one.

Kara Driscoll, Council of Chapters Chair led the following discussions:

- Announced reminders to the Chapter Representatives to subscribe and receive post updates from the forum when the agenda and reports are available.
- Reminder to the chapters to find a proxy to attend the meetings and that representatives are required to attend a minimum of 4 meetings per year. Attendance is taken at the meetings.
- Encouraged Chapter Reps to check and/or subscribe to the Board Meeting forum and stay updated on the issues that are covered and discussed at the Board.
- Reviewed feedback from the last August retreat meeting. Some key themes included:
 1. Strengthening communication between the Board and Chapters, between Council and Chapters, and between Chapters,
 2. The benefits of networking and sharing ideas/successes/failures of Chapter activities during in-person meetings
 3. Supporting and strengthening Chapters and Regional Chapter groups
- Emphasized the continuing discussion on advising the FNPS Board of Chapter wants and needs and helping to appoint members to fill committees.
- Led a discussion on crafting the purpose of the Council of Chapters with the help of the retreat attendees. After much discussion, the following purpose was voted on by those attending:

“The purpose of the Council is to facilitate communication among the Chapters and with the Board. It serves as a conduit of information that supports and strengthens the FNPS Chapters in their pursuit of the FNPS

mission and elevates local and regional issues and shares solutions throughout the Society.”

- Under New Business discussed **creation of regional chapter in-person meetings:**
 - Planning those meetings
 - How Chapters can work together and what the Council can do to support regional groups
 - Discussion of collaborative efforts (current examples)
 - Question - what regional help does each Chapter need?
- Kara reminded Chapter Reps about the next Council GoToMeeting
 - The meeting will cover roundtable topics that the Council Could not cover during the in-person meeting, specifically:
 - Adding to the Council Speaker’s Bureau
 - Defining and refining the Council’s key 2020 goals
- Called for nominations and volunteers for Council Vice Chair and Council Secretary
 - Proposed that these positions be open to past Chapter Reps or any member interested in guiding and serving the Council. After discussion, most attendees agreed with this proposal.
 - Thus, the positions for Council Vice Chair and Council Secretary will be open to current Chapter Reps, past Chapter Reps, and any member interested in serving the Council.
 - After asking for candidates from the attendees, Wayne Baker (currently Sea Oats Chapter but will be moving to Paynes Prairie in May) volunteered to run for Council Vice Chair.

FNPS Board Meeting Highlights:

- President Susan Carr announced that after the financial tally for 2019, FNPS had no deficit for 2019. The end of the year appeal was very successful, at least 3x the amount received in past years.
- FNPS will not undergo a formal audit for 2019 due to costs and the Board thought that a full audit would not be necessary for 2019.
- Treasurer Bonnie Basham will engage a CPA to prepare the IRS 990 for 2019.
- Exec. Director Juliet Rynear presented updates on the following projects:
 1. Warea land acquisition and work to be done by contractors (fuel reduction and prescribed fire).
 2. Silver Glen Springs project to select plants and minimize erosion affecting the spring.
 3. Update on the TorreyaKeepers project and Board vote approving the hiring of a part-time coordinator to lead this project.
- Policy Chair Gene Kelly referred to FNPS Lobbyist Sue Mullins’ legislative summaries earlier in the day. Summaries will be posted on the FNPS website under Policy and on Facebook.
- Gene updated the Board on the status of the proposed FNPS Florida License plate.

- Education Chair Wendy Poag provided updates on bookmarks and brochures and the pricing scales for chapters interested in ordering.
- An updated draft of the FNPS by-laws was posted on the Forum.
- Council Chapter Chair Kara Driscoll moved to have the CofC Charter be amended to update the Council's purpose. The Board approved the motion.

Sunday Fieldtrip to Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve

A great time was had by all attendees!

Watch the video documenting our trip here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFFBVc53Gzw&fbclid=IwAR1azNJ7mQ-dsUbF4JZyZ9vcuVdgsMHyHIzy891O1_GQTcpuwWu3G-HjKOA