

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 15, 2009

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the second monthly meeting of the 2009 summer season to order at 7:00 PM on April 15 in the meeting room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Twenty one members attended and Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie noted that many members had not yet received their copy of the March Newsletter and motioned that the reading of the minutes be tabled until the May meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Tom Lott read a detailed Treasurer's Report for the period Sept. 18, 08 – Apr. 15, 09. He also provided the officers with a copy of a March 09 bank statement regarding the status of ELOSTA's accounts at Alliance Bank in Syracuse. After expenses there is \$13,137.86 in the savings account, \$1918.17 in the net pen account (savings account), and \$706.40 in the checking account (**\$15,812.43**). Copies of Tom's report were also available to the officers and Board members present. The motion to accept Tom's report as presented was seconded and unanimously approved.

Charlie asked Mac MacKenzie to comment on ELOSTA's current membership status. The data base is carrying a total of 384 individual records which include 83 former members who are no longer available or interested? These names will be moved to an archive file in August after the 09 renewal period has passed. The remaining **301 active members** include 18 complimentary and 22 advertisers. For comparison purposes the membership roster in 08 was 330. (Not bad considering energy and economic constraints)

Doug Fuegel expressed his concern regarding the cost, time involved, and effectiveness of sending a second renewal notice to those who failed to respond to the January mailing. Only 14 out of 80 responded. His motion to forgo future follow-up mailings was tabled pending review by the Board of Directors.

Mac Mackenzie was asked to give a brief report on the status of ELOSTA's website. www.elosta.org. The site is generally maintained on a continuous basis as information becomes available or is offered. Mac deferred with regard to providing specifics until the May meeting. The general opinion that the website could be improved with a more interactive format (blog) was also discussed. However, there were no suggestions from the floor regarding personal involvement or contribution to such an endeavor if implemented.

The website discussion led to the on-going issue of ways to improve upon ELOSTA's image and membership interest. The usual suggestions to conduct seminars and hold flea markets were raised and dismissed as generally non-effective "preaching to the choir" type activities. Mac suggested more person to person interactions that

expressed an outgoing attitude with an open exchange of “on the lake” information. Jerry Lougnot suggested more involvement in local fishing derbies such as: “The Little Salmon River Challenge” at Mike’s Marina on July 25th. We will follow-up with Beth for her ideas.

Jerry Lougnot reported that all four of the children sponsored by ELOSTA to attend DEC’s environmental summer camps have been accepted. The tuition totaled \$1300.

Charlie Ames commented on member returns from the survey that was included with the membership renewal applications. That information will be provided in the Newsletter.

A general discussion from the floor followed. Issues of interest include d, among others, current fishing conditions on the lake and the insignificant fines being levied in response to violations of the fishing regulations. In general paying a fine appears to be the cheaper alternative to purchasing a license.

President Ames thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM. Next meeting is at 7PM, May 20 at Gander Mountain in Cicero. As always, walk-ins are welcome. ***Mac MacKenzie***