

The Annual Meeting of the Iowa woodland Owners was called to order by the outgoing President, Paul Millice, at 12:35 pm. The meeting was held during the Fall Field day at Farley, Iowa. The host was Dale Bouvers. Paul then introduced the incoming President, Russ Glime. He also introduced Billy Beck, the Iowa State Forestry Extension Director. The minutes from the last annual meeting were passed around for members to read. Russ reported that there was \$12,364 in our checking account. He gave the membership report stating 496 members for 2019. The voting for the Board Members results were Ed Kocal, 120, Al Rathje, 108, Craig Semler, 78, and Paul Morf, 58.

Paul then reported on upcoming issues in the Legislature of Iowa. The Senate File #5 will come up at committee meeting this fall. This is a dire concern for our membership because the elimination of the Forest Reserve Program will cause a new level of taxation for most of our members who own forested property. The Forestry Bureau has been eliminated and now our representation is diminished. Paul said that we are now using a lobbyist to help us decipher what is going on in the Legislature and keep our interests active. Paul Tauke, the former Forestry Director for the State of Iowa, has written what is called The White Paper to explain what the consequences are for the loss of the Forestry Bureau. Most people are unaware of all that is happening with the Legislature. Paul and Russ will put on the website what Senators and counties are most affected, and their contact information.

The signposts at the State Fairgrounds were reported on. They are placed near trees on the grounds for identification and also give the public our website.

Chuck Semler reported on the \$1,000 scholarship that the IWOA gives every year to an Iowa State University forestry student. He said it is a good investment, and any person can donate funds for this purpose. The Board Members can direct you on how to donate.

Larry Wiley reported that 4 new members joined at the Field Day, and \$415 of hats, books, and signs were sold. Russ said that our Field day today was excellent. Members of the Iowa Nut Growers attended, including Mary Ellen Miller, the Vice President. The Spring Field Day is being planned for somewhere in the middle of Iowa, possibly at the the White Rock Conservancy. Paul Millice reminded everyone that it is a good thing to volunteer to serve on the IWOA Board of Directors. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm. Then Paul presented the Tree Farmer of the Year Award to Dale Bouvers, which was a plaque of the state of Iowa with his name and IWOA on it. There were many door prizes, including 8 very nice trees given by Kevin Kelly.

Ann Schneckloth, secretary