

Minutes

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

January 17, 2024, on Zoom

Voting Members Present:

Noel Ocen, President
Quyen Edwards, Vice President
Margo Rebar, Treasurer
Gail Simmons, Secretary
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Beth Bradburn (Newsletter/Website Editor, At-large)
Jessica Hagen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Mel Luna (Program Chair, Publications Chair, At-large)
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)
Paul Laferriere (Community Projects Co-Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)
Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair)

Voting Members Absent:

Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Jessie Davis, Immediate Past President
Mike Weis (At-large)

Non-Voting Members Present:

Jason Ballew

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President-Elect Noel Ocen
2. The Minutes of November 15, 2023 were moved by Kathy, seconded by Beth, and approved unanimously, with minor changes.
3. The Treasurer's reports for December 2023 and January 2024 were moved by Kathy, seconded by Beth, and approved unanimously. The 2024 Budget, approved at the November 2023 meeting, was presented in final form.

4. Old Business

- a. The election of officers and At-Large members was moved by Kathy, seconded by Paul, and approved unanimously. The following have been elected to serve for 2024:

President - Noel Ocen

Vice President - Quyen Edwards

Treasurer - Margo Rebar

Secretary - Gail Simmons

At Large - Beth Bradburn, Jessica Hagen, Mel Luna, Mike Weis

- b. Noel introduced new members serving on the EC: Ester Ruohonen (Chair, Membership Committee), Paul Laferriere (Co-Chair, Community Projects Committee).
- c. The Program Committee will take on the responsibility of planning the upcoming 25th anniversary celebration. Additional EC members Quyen and Kathy will join.
- d. Wild Ones National has adopted new By-laws and has assigned our chapter a lawyer who will work with us to assure that our Operational Guidelines are congruent with the new By-laws. Noel will be meeting with the lawyer soon and will report back.

5. New Business

- a. EC members should send updated contact information and Committee Rosters to Gail for inclusion in the 2024 Contact List.
- b. Quyen will reach out to the Kalamazoo Nature Center for more information on sponsoring the Robin Wall Kimmerer Event in July.
- c. KAWO has been making efforts to advise the Hays Park Community Project being funded by Rotary.
- d. Noel has been in conversation with Chad from Hidden Savanna Nursery about working with him on a Plant Sale for 2024. She will have more details at the next meeting.
- e. Noel proposed the creation of a Member Mentorship Committee to help connect new members to more experienced members. There will be future discussions between Ester and the current Membership Committee, Dave and the Site Visit Committee, and longtime member Ann Klobucar as to how this might best be implemented.
- f. Quyen requested that EC members send short Bios and Photos for the website and other social media.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Ester) – Jason Ballew is working with Ester to hand off the Membership Committee. Jason reported that we currently have 260 members, compared to 192 at this time last year.
- b. Program Committee (Mel) – All programs for 2024 are now live on the KAWO website.
- c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) – KAWO is co-sponsoring a Birds and Blooms event at the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery on February 17. She is in touch with a student environmental group from KAMSE and may propose creating a Youth Committee of KAWO. O&E will be tabling at the January 31 meeting of the Kalamazoo Conservation District.
- d. Monarch Group (Mike) – no report.
- e. Hospitality (Kathleen) – no report.
- f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – no report.
- g. Site Visit Committee (Dave) – no report.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Upcoming proposal to commission artwork for KAWO's 25th Anniversary, from local artist Olivia Mendoza (<https://www.oliviamendozaillustration.com/>) (Quyen)

8. ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy and seconded by Paul. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

The Next Meeting: February 21, 2024 on Zoom