

MSSFA Annual Presidents Meeting
MUCC Headquarters, Lansing, Mi.
January 24, 2009

Meeting was called to order by President Rick Balabon at 10:05 am. 34 members were present.

1. **Presidents Report** (Balabon)... Rick emphasized that the MSSFA has been in business for 40 years and that economic hard times are putting a downward pressure on membership numbers. The state board of directors is practicing ongoing SWAT (strengths, weaknesses, and threats) analysis in an attempt to sustain our organization. Rick asked the local chapter presidents to submit a synopsis of their yearly special events so that we can feature them in the state newspaper. He also emphasized that we need to enhance our attention to stream and river fishing.
2. **Membership** (Balabon)... The chapter membership chairperson is very important. We are streamlining the process in the state office to make new and renewal membership processing more timely and effective. The new state membership director is Greg Gumbrecht. All membership documents should be sent to: MSSFA Membership, Post Office Box 408, Davisburg, Mi., 48350-0408. The local chapter membership rolls will be available to each membership chairperson on the MSSFA state website through a distinct chapter access code. Chairpersons can cross check their members name and address for accuracy so that our members get the service they deserve.
3. **MUCC Affiliate**... The changes to the MUCC chapter and organization affiliation rules were discussed. The new rules, which take effect in October 2009, require that each local organization chapter pay a sum of \$5.00 for each member on the rolls. In return, the MUCC affiliate member receives an individual membership # which will provide access to The MUCC Out-of Doors magazine via the internet. A hard copy of the magazine will require an additional contribution of \$13.00 for each member that wishes it. Thus, the cost for a chapter with 100 members would be \$500.00/year. So far, one MSSFA chapter (Metro-West) has opted to join in the new program, 4 chapters have not decided, and 7 chapters have opted out.
4. **Newspaper**... The MSSFA owns the state newspaper. Andy Pelt acts as the advertising manager. Debbie French is responsible for the book-keeping with the help of QuickBooks software. Current accounts are in the black. Debbie French is also the managing editor, so if any local chapters have content that is publishing worthy, please send it to Debbie. There is always a need for more local news and story content. Digital pictures are also welcome. Debbie emphasized the need for human interest stories from the local chapters that are related to fishing... especially if they concern children or charities. It is our newspaper...Make Good Use of It. The postal issues regarding bulk mail/non-profit status have been challenging. We continue to work with the US Postal Service and the States Attorney General Office to fix the delivery time variances.
5. **MSSFA Website**... The state website is providing an advertizing section which includes the use of Hotlinks. The fee structure is in the state newspaper "Show Issue".

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm

Many thanks go out to Steve Haddad for providing an excellent lunch of salad, stew, and bread.

Respectfully yours,
Gerald Sickon, MSSFA Sec.