

39th Annual Meeting of the Membership of NDTOA

The International Inn Minot, ND 12-05-05

President Don Malcomb called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. He offered a welcome to all and introduced Minnesota State President, Loren Ingebretson, to give an opening address. Loren recited one of his patriotic poems, led us in the pledge to the flag and in singing God Bless America.

President Malcomb reviewed the convention agenda, introduced the State Board members and all guests present. Malcomb recognized past NDTOA Presidents Gene Gehrke, Chuck Thacker, John Oxton and Ken Yantes. A roll call of the counties indicated that a quorum of 22 county associations were present.

President Malcomb called on rules committee member Ralph Olson to present the rules of operation for the annual meeting. **Ralph moved and Grand Forks County seconded a motion to approve these rules. Motion carried.**

President Malcomb called on Secretary Ken Yantes to read the minutes from last years annual meeting. **Pembina County moved a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Burleigh County. Motion carried.**

President Malcomb asked the Audit Committee Chairman, Larry Syverson, to clarify why we had 2 financial reports this year.

President Malcomb asked Treasurer Nolan Verwest to give his financial report. Benson County member rose to a point of personal privilege, was recognized by the chairman and asked if next year our financial reports could be given in a print size that could be read without using a magnifying glass.

President Malcomb asked Barb Knutson to give a treasurers report on the incomes and expenses according to what our by-laws call for.

Renville county moved and Grant County seconded approval of the report as presented by Barb. Motion carried.

President Malcomb then reported of the improved communication with NATaT. He indicated many areas of federal legislation pending that are supported by NATaT that would be good for NDTOA members. He thought our newsletter should cover the finalized action on the rural road signing bill.

The Resolutions Committee Chairman, Vice President Steve Ginsbach, reported that he had 4 new resolutions in hand and that more may come from tonight's committee meeting. All committee recommendations would be handled at tomorrow's policy development meeting.

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The Nominations Committee reported that they had a full slate of nominations for tomorrow's elections of officers and directors.

The Budget Committee Chairman, Don Malcomb, reported that they had met in Finley and again last night. A proposed 2006 Budget will be discussed with the membership at tomorrow's annual membership meeting.

Steve and Ken reported on this year's interim Finance and Tax committee action in Bismarck and the need to be present at future meetings.

There was a 15 minute coffee break.

President Malcomb recognized Kathy Holte from Lowe's Printing, Fred H Meyer from FHM Equipment and NDIRF's representatives Mark Verke and Ross Warner.

Ralph Olson rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized by Chairman Malcomb. He reminded us of the need to change our by-laws or adhere to them concerning the National Directorships, to be aware of the need to visit the law pertaining to residency and voting status of township residents in the townships, to address township road damage done by hunters and the legality of ND cities imposing city sales taxes.

President Malcomb asked Loren Ingebretson to address the membership. He talked of the good programs of NATaT and of how Minnesota Townships benefited by NATaT's existence. Some of the highlights of his talk was the work done on securing a \$1000 exemption for filing pay roll taxes for township officers and of assistance in getting voting machines for their election process at no cost to the townships.

Grand Forks County representative, Max Laird, rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized by President Malcomb. He addressed the need for more education funding to move away from sole dependence on property tax payers. He urged the membership to go back home and talk to the residents of the ND Townships and ascertain what would be a fair shift to other forms of taxation and bring those results back to our next annual meeting.

President Malcomb called on Mark Verke, Risk Management Specialist of the NDIRF, to address the membership. He informed us that there were new road sign manuals and road inspection forms available at the NDIRF booth. He and Ross Warner will be available to answer questions you might have regarding the NDIRF.

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A lunch recess was called by President Malcomb. Awards were presented to Nolan Verwest for 25 years service as State Treasurer and the Mr. Township Award to Eugene Kubat from Sauter Township in Walsh County for his 55 years of service in the township.

The meeting was reconvened by President Malcomb at 1:00 PM. He called on Devra Smestad, Ward County Auditor and Treasurer, to review budgeting and funding of townships in her county. She distributed township budget forms and went through them with all officers present. She stressed the need for all townships to send to the County Auditor their change of officer lists as soon as possible after the township annual meetings.

President Malcomb called on Don Seibert, Ward County Director of Tax Equalization, to review the procedure used in Ward County regarding the role townships play in:

1. Homestead tax decisions.
2. Protests at the County Board of Equalization meetings.
3. Other taxing problems at the county level.

Mr. Seibert held a short question and answer period.

President Malcomb introduced Surrey Township Officers to report on a funding source they had used when funding became insufficient for them. They spoke of their successful requests for emergency funding from the Bank of North Dakota's Municipal Bond Public Financing Department.

President Malcomb called on Barb Knutson to hold a workshop. She reviewed her agenda and called on Ken Yantes to present a program on our Grassroots Policy Development procedures.

Ken spoke on the history of how and why we have this unique process. He also covered how the process works, from an idea being born in a township officers mind to becoming ND Law.

Barb followed with a detailed lecture on what the duties and responsibilities of a township officer are. She covered the following topics:

1. Township levies and how they work.
2. Allowable compensation of township office.
3. Township meeting procedures.
4. A host of other do's and do not's according to the ND Century Code.
5. An open forum of questions and answers on township problems was held.

President Malcomb called on Tom Moe for a legal report and an open question and answer forum on the legal responsibilities of and problems of any officer present. Tom

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urged all to read chapter 58 of the ND Century code as it pertains to township laws.

President Malcomb then reviewed tonight's and tomorrow's convention agendas and called for a recess of this meeting until 9:00 AM Tuesday. The meeting recessed at 5:20 PM.

During the recess period we held our Annual Awards Banquet and gave the following awards:

The Legislator of the Year Award to Representative Wesley Belter and a plaque to Don Malcomb for his 4 years of service as NDTOA President.

December 6th, 2005 The 39th annual meeting of NDTOA reconvened at 9:01 AM. Loren Ingebretson, Minnesota State President, led us in the pledge to the flag and in singing God Bless America.

President Malcomb called for old business. There was none.

President Malcomb called for new business. There was none.

President Malcomb called on the Resolutions Chairman. Steve proceeded to handle 4 resolutions that were passed by the Resolutions Committee. A copy of these are attached.

Grand Forks County moved and Trail County seconded a motion to suspend the rules to handle resolutions from the floor. Motion carried by over the 2/3 margin required.

Grand Forks County moved and Trail County seconded a motion for consideration of new resolutions 5, 6 and 7. Motion carried. Resolution 5 and 7 passed but 6 failed; copies of these are also attached.

President Malcomb called for consideration of the 3 proposed by-law changes.

Pembina County moved and Grand Forks County seconded a motion to approve by-law change #1 which was:

on page 2 of our by-laws in the 5th paragraph from the bottom direct the Executive Board to establish the position of a full time Executive Secretary/Director of Governmental Relations position and have the Executive Board figure out how to fund it. Motion carried unanimously.

Trail County moved and Burleigh County seconded a motion to approve by-law change #2 which was:

On page three in the bottom paragraph increase the dues by \$50 per township member to be used for funding the full time Executive Secretary /Director of Governmental Relations position. Motion carried unanimously.

Grand Forks County moved and Bottneau County seconded a motion to approve by-law #3 which was to allow the voting delegates at this annual meeting the authority to change the by-laws with out notification of the members in the

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Grassroots newsletter 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Motion failed.

President Malcomb asked for the final budget considerations discussions.

Grand Forks County moved and Pembina County seconded a motion to amend the proposed salary for the Executive Secretary /Director of Governmental Relations to be raised from \$32,500 to \$35,000 and \$6000 be added for health benefits for the same.

Motion Carried.

Several other budget committee changes were made as found on the attached budget form for 2006.

Grand Forks County moved and Pembina County seconded a motion to approve the budget as amended with these suggested changes. Motion carried.

Grand Forks County rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized by President Malcomb. Grand Forks County recommended that a greater emphases be placed on electronic communication, suggesting that our web site be updated more frequently and that the newsletter be made available as soon as possible on the web site. Grand Forks also indicated an urgent need to bring our accounting system out of the stone age and into the 21st century using the computer accounting systems available today.

President Malcomb then opened the nominations for President of NDTOA.

Nominations Committee nominated Steve Ginsbach and Chuck Thacker for President. Both candidates were allowed campaign speeches.

Hettinger County moved a motion seconded by Trail County to cease nominations and to vote by written ballot.

Motion carried.

Written ballots were handed out to all qualified voters. The results of the election showed Chuck Thacker was elected president for the next two years. .

Chairman Don Malcomb asked for nominations for Vice President.

The nominating committee nominated Joanne Abel for Vice President.

Benson County moved a motion seconded by Trail County to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Joanne. Motion Carried.

District director elections were held and it revealed that Larry Syverson was re-elected in district #3. Barb Knutson was re-elected in district #5 and in District #1 Floyd Miller was re-elected for 2 more years.

Chairman Malcomb surfaced the need to address our national directorships.

Grand Forks County moved a motion seconded by Trail County to have our Executive Secretary serve as NATaT Director and the Executive Board appoint an alternate for the 2006 year.

Motion carried.

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Grand Forks county asked Secretary Ken Yantes to read a couple of new business items for consideration by the Executive Board.

Grand Forks moved a motion seconded by Burleigh County that these be handled by the Executive committee in the future. (a copy of these items is attached to these minutes)

Motion Carried.

Trail County moved and Burleigh county seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Chairman Malcomb adjourned the meeting at 11:38 AM

Respectfully Submitted

Ken_____

Secretary NDTOA