

**Mountain High Hikers
General Meeting
December 12, 2016**

**Place and Time of General Meeting: Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church,
Young Harris, Ga.**

Guest Speaker Andrew L. Baker, District Ranger USDA spoke about the National Forest.

**The general meeting was called to order by President Tom Shope at 7:25 PM
President Tom thanked Candy and Frank Retter for organizing the general meeting place,
food, and raffle this evening.**

Updates:

- a) **Foothills Landscape Project** – Although the date is past for input, President Tom believes comments will still be accepted.

Old Business:

- a) **Hike Leader Recognition** – Hike Leader Tom Sewell had recommended to the board to give T- shirts to those leading hikes. Discussion ensued and board members concluded that after leading 8 hikes for the calendar year, a hike leader would qualify for a T-shirt. Tom then made a motion proposing this idea. And this was passed by the board members.

Committee Reports:

- **Vice President** - Pam Sullivan announced that Carol Sewell will be the new Short Hike Leader. The Hike Inn trip will be December 14th and 15th. Rooms were still available.
- **Treasurer** - Doug Yarns gave the treasurer's report.
- **Membership** – Frank Maloney was out of town and Secretary BJ Foster gave the membership report. Total members for 2016 was 181. Geographic distribution by State: **AL – 1, FL-21, GA-130, NC-24, TN- 3, SC-2**
- **Secretary** – BJ Foster had nothing new to report
- **Social Director** – Candy Retter thanked everyone for bringing great food to make this meeting such a success. The next general meeting will be at **Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church in Young Harris. Meeting date is March 9th.**
- **Hike Planner**-Tom Sewell suggested donating funds to volunteer fire fighters in the counties most impacted by fires in this area. The board discussed donations that the club has already made this year (SAWS). The general membership was asked if donations should be individually sent or as a club?
Vice President Pam Sullivan said that she would call the fire department and collect information and bring it to the next meeting.
Tom Sewell told the membership that 34 people were leading hikes.
- **Trail Maintenance** – Bronco Burnsworth handed out awards.

Bronco told the membership that this has been the driest long stretch for trail maintenance! The maintenance crew has been worrying about fires. 2017 will not have an AHS volunteer vacations project this year. Bronco and Tom Shope discussed other projects to shift to and make application for a grant. Tom Shope made a motion to apply for a grant and Bronco 2nd. This was approved by the board members.

- **Communications/Publicity** – Barbara Burnsworth has increased club exposure of MHH into 3 or 4 different newspapers. She continues to look for opportunities to put trail maintenance and hiking into local area papers.
- **Web Master** – Richard Sullivan had nothing new to report.
- **Conservation** – Judie Kean had nothing new to report. This is her last general meeting as Conservation Chairperson.

Nominating Committee - Pam Sullivan and Candy Retter announced prospective board members for next year. Richard Sullivan President, Pam Sullivan Vice President, Doug Yarns Treasurer, BJ Foster Secretary, Darcy Douglas Conservation, Candy Retter Social Director, Bronco Burnsworth Trail Maintenance, Barbara Burnsworth Publicity, Tom Sewell Hike Leader. Former President, Tom Shope, will also attend board meetings.

Bob Ansley made a motion to elect the new and remaining board members.
Hank Baudet 2nd this motion
Motion carried

- *George Owen spoke about the SEFTC conference and hike in Pigeon Forge January 18th-22.*
- *Door Prizes*

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM

*Respectfully Submitted,
BJ Foster
Secretary*