

Mountain High Hikers--General Meeting January 4, 2018

Place and time of general meeting: Sharp Memorial Methodist Church, Young Harris, GA
Potluck Supper 6:00 PM

The general meeting was opened by **President Richard Sullivan** at 6:40 PM. The **President** thanked everyone for coming and offered special accolades to Candy Retter for organizing the event. This event was the rescheduled Holiday meeting which had to be cancelled because of weather.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer:** Doug Yarns, Treasurer, was absent but it was reported that the balance in the account is approximately \$9,000.
- **Vice President:** Pam Sullivan had no report.
- **Secretary:** B J Foster had no report.
- **Conservation:** Darcy Douglas had no report at this time but advised "to be continued".
- **Trail Maintenance:** Bronco Burnsworth reported
 - MHH maintains over 120 miles of trail.
 - The new Byron Reece to Vogle trail will be open for public use soon.
 - Some money has be awarded to reroute the Duncan Ridge, Fish Gap West and Helton Creek trails.
 - The lower trail at Desoto Falls is open.
 - Stay tuned for information about an upcoming back packing trip
 - Give Bronco feedback about any needed maintenance on trails maintained by MHH
 - Recognition of club members who have given volunteer time on trail maintenance (Judy Keane, Gary Carter, Stephen Gales) All received patches recognizing their hard work.
- **Hike Leader:** Tom Sewell reported:
 - * Thanks to Carolyn Sewell, Jerry Carnes and George Owen for their assistance in planning short, long and leisure hikes.
 - MHH had 42 hike leaders this year with special recognition going to Steve Dennison and Ginny Smith who each led 12 hikes and George Owen who lead 11 hikes.
 - Anyone leading 8 or more hikes in a year received a MHH Hike Leader shirt.
 - A detailed handout with additional statistical information was provided regarding hikes such as 120 hikes completed by 1,276 hikers for a total of 7,692 miles.
 - **Membership:** Frank Maloney suggested:
 - * Be looking for some updates on the website that will be coming soon.
 - * The hope is to be able to provide trail maps for as many of the trails that we use as possible.
 - * As of the end of the year MHH has 210 members.
 - **Communication:** No report from Barbara Burnsworth.
 - **Conservation:** No report from Darcy Douglas
 - **Social Director:** Candy Retter had no report at this time.

New Business:

Tom Sewell announced that a Wilderness Safety Class is being scheduled for all hike leaders. It will be free for hike leaders and \$28 for non-hike leaders. Tom will send out

information about the date and will ask MHH to respond regarding their interest. Hike leaders will get first preference.

Tom also announced that the red, long sleeved MHH shirts are available for purchase for \$20. Please let Tom know if you are interested.

George Owen encouraged members to consider attending the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition gathering in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on January 25-28, 2018.

Elections:

Richard thanked BJ Foster and Barbara Burnsworth for their work as Secretary and Communication Director.

The slate of new officers is as follows:

Richard Sullivan, President
Pam Sullivan, Vice President
Doug Yarns, Treasurer
Sue Astley, Secretary
Laurie Colombo, Communications/Publicity
Darcy Douglas, Conservation
Tom Sewell, Hike Leader
Frank Maloney, Membership
Candy Retter, Social Director
Bronco Burnsworth, Trail Maintenance

A motion was made by Frank Maloney to accept the slate of officers. Beth Roberts seconded. All members present responded in the affirmative.

Guest Speaker: We were pleased to have Sara Posey, Hiawassee Programs Manager from Mainspring Conservation Trust as our speaker. She explained the mission of Mainspring is to Conserve the Land, Restore the Water and Connect people to these valuable resources. She spoke specifically about the acquisition of the Fires Creek Project.

As a concluding activity Candy Retter drew tickets for door prizes, some provided by MHH and others provided by a former member.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Richard Sullivan, President

Sue Astley, Secretary

