



Hi everyone,

Spring may be just around the corner here but it is definitely a bigger corner in North Idaho! Sunshine on the mountains broke through rain and snow squalls and the mornings were definitely on the chilly side.

For those unable to attend the State Convention in Bonners Ferry, you missed a great time. Selkirk Chapter did a fabulous job putting it all together and hosting it at a great facility! The Kootenai River Inn is located right on the banks of the Kootenai River, just three miles from the Canadian border.

The board meeting got right down to business with all the usual reports. BCHI decided to tackle a possible state dues increase at a later time. George Bain, USFS Region 1 Director of Recreation talked about trails and addressed lots of questions including use of chain saws. Resolutions were discussed and Sawtooth Chapter in abstention agreed to host the September board meeting but not the 2015 Convention. Heartland Chapter stepped up to take their place, thus keeping us on track.

The Convention started with a great invocation by Phil Ryan...who would have thought! This was followed by a bit of history and humorous welcome from the mayor of Sandpoint. Bill Conger's resolution on the insurance issue passed but only after some heated discussion at both the board meeting and convention as well as some after-hours politicking. Robbin's crowdfunding project also passed and BCHI's donation of \$2,500 has been made.

Squaw Butte's calendar resolution created a lively discussion. It was ultimately defeated but we sort of expected that. Once again, 2,000 will be ordered but I found it interesting that when the 2015 calendar commitments were made, 6 chapters are taking the same as they did the previous year, 5 chapters are taking less than the previous year, 2 chapters were not there to commit and **only 1 chapter** increased their commitment. Just goes to show you can lead a horse to water but....

However, the **big news** is that a new chapter, the Palouse BCH located in Moscow was granted conditional acceptance under BCHI pending minor wording changes to their Bylaws. They will have full voting rights at the next board meeting and should receive their Charter at the 2015 Convention. **They also agreed to commit to 150 calendars!** So we are right back to having about 1800 in calendar commitments. The other big news is that interest has been expressed for creating another new chapter in the Pocatello area. Phil and Joe Brinkman from Eagle Rock are working on this.

A representative from the Zoetis Company addressed viruses and worms in horses and what products they offer to horse owners. The North Idaho Trapper discussed his work to investigate wolf, cat, and bear kills and showed various snares and traps and the best way to release these devices.

Chapters' displays were outstanding. Once again Twin Rivers BCH took first place, receiving \$250 and the coveted chain saw trophy. Treasure Valley came in second and took home \$150 with BCH of North Central Idaho taking third place and \$100. I will announce the photo contest winners at our meeting so be sure to attend to hear the good news.

Selkirk Chapter held both a silent auction and live auction and had lots of door prizes. Everything we donated was well received and I hope they made some money to offset their expenses. The banquet was buffet style and everyone left with smiles on their faces so it was either because of the great food or multiple trips to the no host bar.

Heard the weekend trail ride here was good. We'll have a report at the meeting so see you there.

Kay Ryan, President