

Highlights from TU's 50th Anniversary/Annual Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan, August 17th-23rd, 2009

- Fundraising workshop by Larry Richardson, TU Tennessee:
 - Comment that most non-profits are less successful at fundraising because of reliance on volunteers and not professionals
 - Quality volunteers are better than quantity. Experienced volunteers are best. Be sure to prepare/train them; set the right expectations; provide mentors.
 - Sell sponsorships to local merchants, i.e., even though they may not have a fishing-related product. Ask them to underwrite the purchase of FF product or service (example: mortician who buys fly fishing outfit donation).
- A number of presentations of recognition for TU on its 50th Anniversary were given:
 - TU recognized by Casting For Recovery for its ongoing support for breast cancer survivors
 - Recognition read into the Federal Register by the Michigan Senator.
 - TU Canada also congratulated TU in the US for its accomplishments.
 - Representative Stupek acknowledged TU's accomplishments in a resolution read in the House of Representatives.
 - Also received accolades from the National Forest Service and Boy Scouts of America.
 - Environmental side-note: because of TU's record of environmental success, it is uniquely able to go onto Superfund sites without assuming financial liability.
- From separate Council Chair meeting:
 - New FAQ document from TU on Risk Management. Common misperception around Waiver Release forms ... these do not hold up in court. In addition to TU National's general comprehensive liability, Chapters can purchase a medical rider to this policy. Because a single event (e.g., stream cleanup, banquet) costs \$300 and a full year's coverage for a list of events is \$500, the latter makes most sense. Contact at National on this is Andy Snyder.
 - Treasurers Note: filing IRS Form 990 is now mandatory, and need to completed by 2/15/2010. Copy to be sent to TU National as well.
 - New requirement from TU National: ALL Chapter and Council officers and board members MUST be paid up members of TU.
 - Next round of chapter assessments to take place this fiscal year, as we start our rechartering process in 2010. Using Chapter Effectiveness Index tool again. National Leadership Council 'owns' this process and tool.
 - Emphasis also this year on completing Council and Chapter strategic plans. Templates to be available on the TU website (Leaders Only/Tackle Box)
 - TU National has been working on revising the template for Council and Chapter bylaws. Likely to see review of Chapter existing bylaws in 2010. Chapters are asked to forward a copy of their own bylaws to TU National Bylaws Committee (contact Steve Brown, TU Tennessee Council).
 - TU National hired Franklin Tate to new position as Dir of Youth Programs.

- Reminder that Chapters and Councils are not permitted to make donations to other organizations if they do not have 501(c)3 non-profit status.
- There also is a limit to what non-profits can spend on lobbying
- Chapters and Councils asked to be informed when TU executives are visiting their areas.
- Some discussion around National covering expenses for Council Chairs to attend TU annual meeting, especially for the smaller state Councils having only a couple hundred members.
- TU Trout Camps:
 - These week-long sessions for youth are run very successfully by several Chapters/Councils (e.g., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maine, Virginia).
 - Proposed training session in Sept or Oct for any Chapters wanting to run their own Trout Camps
 - Once trained, representatives would work at an existing Camp before launching their own the next year.
 - For insurance purposes, may need to label these sessions as something other than 'camps'.

Other CT Council Notes from July meeting:

- Statewide planning continues on the Hammonasset Festival (Oct 3-4) as the Council's main celebratory event around TU's 50th Anniversary.
- Housatonic thermal refuge projects postponed this year because of continued heavy rainfall and high flows. Still looking to obtain release of the \$18K from donors to the Housatonic legal defense fund to be able to spend on this project.
- Still no replacement for Kirt Mayland. However, the good news is that Liz Maclin was finally able to post the position requisition.
- Bobbi Kurman's new book, "Fishing Without Falling", has been published, detailing where to fish in Connecticut for people with limited mobility. Available to Chapters for \$13 per copy.
- Next Council meeting is October 28th, when the annual officers' election will be held.