

## Annual Meeting Committee Reports

### **President -**

#### **Treasurer -** Treasurers Year End Report for the 2022-23Year

As we complete the 2022-23 Budget year, I want to thank our Executive Director and her staff for the cooperation and support they have provided to me. The deposit slips and invoices they provide on a daily basis, helps us keep a close watch on our finances. The 990 has been filed by our Accounting Firm Rehmann. They also file all of our 990's so they continue to oversee the financial aspects of our organization.

As you can see both our Income and Expense final numbers were lower than projected. The Officer's meet the end of May each year to try to predict both the final outcome of the current year by reviewing past performance in each account and then make projections for the next year. We tried to make adjustments to the 2023-24 Budget to allow for those fluctuations. A Budget is a guideline and throughout the year adjustments usually need to happen to maintain a positive outcome.

Both the office and myself continue to look at ways to make sure that we are doing everything possible to maintain accurate reporting and manage the funds we have. I am in contact with the office almost on a daily basis.

The Statement of Activity was created to provide you a monthly/yearly update. If you have questions don't hesitate to send me an e-mail.

Mark Pankner Treasurer

### **Secretary -**

#### **Executive Director - karen Middendorp ~**

In 2023, I learned a lot as we tackled the legislative initiatives proposed by the legislative committee and BOD. For some time, the committee structure within MSA and now MISORVA had become quite relaxed. However, over the past three years, we have made significant efforts to reestablish the committee structure.

This has been a major focus for me, and I attend these meetings almost every Monday night.

It's truly working! The committee can hold meetings in smaller groups, receive constructive suggestions, and bring ideas and suggestions to the entire Board of Directors. Are we perfect?

Not yet, but we are making continuous progress.

The Bylaw Committee was highly active this year as it was discovered in January that we were not in compliance with state laws governing our non-profit 501(C)4. The necessary changes were addressed and proposed for a vote to bring us back into compliance. The whole committee and the Board of Directors believe that these changes will facilitate the progress and flow of motorized recreation.

I want to express my appreciation to our Legislative committee for their hard work and dedication. As you may know, our legislation HB 4535 didn't pass the Senate in 2022, which was disappointing. However, they didn't give up and managed to find more sponsors for the legislation. In January, the Board of Directors passed a vote to resubmit the legislation. Now renumbered as HB 4458 & 4459. The committee works closely with our lobbyist firm, Karoub, and they have been instrumental in advancing the bills we support. Since the resubmission, one might expect the meetings to slow down, but these folks continue to educate our sheriff's department, county officials, and others on the legislative agenda. The committee works diligently to consider all aspects that impact our recreation, and they strive to bridge the gap between users.

Brad Beardsley is taking creative steps to increase awareness about the importance of membership. He has attended several open house events, and his efforts are paying off! The membership committee is working hard with the wonderful ladies here in the office. Finding suitable candidates for the positions has been a challenge, but we are confident that we are on the right path. Please join us in welcoming Stacy and Gina. Stacy will serve as our club and commercial representative, while Gina will be responsible for maintaining individual memberships. Take a moment to get to know them by giving them a call. Thanks to the hard work of our membership committee and new staff, our membership is growing! We have welcomed many new members this past year, and the message is getting across.

We have experienced a loss this year with the passing of some of our long-time members. Rick Brown, who served as an MSA President twice, and remained on the Board of Directors as a helpful historian, lost his life to a heart attack this summer. He is deeply missed. However, what concerns me more, is who will take their place?

We have made some changes to the magazine, and the committee is working closely with the

editor to ensure that the articles are relevant and informative. We hope that you have noticed these improvements! The magazine is a significant part of the MISORVA budget, and your dues pay for the subscription. After you finish reading it, please pass it on to a future member or drop it off at a local stop. Your help will enable us to continue providing you with a high-quality publication.

The trail committee has been working hard to keep you informed. Each member is responsible for a specific region and is available to answer your questions through phone calls or emails. They are also building relationships with trail sponsors in their respective regions, so it's a good idea to get to know them if you haven't already.

Our first-ever ORV Dirt Workshop was held this year at Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club and was attended by over 70 people. We extend our gratitude to the Ogemaw Hills Club for their invaluable assistance. The committee collaborated with manufacturers to bring in equipment that could aid in trail maintenance. Many of the longstanding snowmobile clubs are teaming up with the area ORV clubs to present a more robust workforce. As times evolve, we must also adapt and combine forces to make our recreation better and safer for everyone.

Despite the trying times we have faced over the past year, our organization has managed to thrive. The Board of Directors is composed of dedicated recreationalists who are passionate about improving what we have already accomplished. These volunteers attend meetings and generously donate their time and money to benefit the user groups. While attending six meetings a year may not seem like a lot to some, it is a significant commitment fueled by passion. I commend all the members, both those who have held their positions for many years and those who have recently joined. It takes everyone's thoughts and ideas to find the best solutions.

I have been appointed to represent snowmobilers on the Michigan Trails Advisory Committee (MTAC), which is the umbrella organization over all the advisory committees. In these meetings, all user groups are represented and work together for progress to coexist with one another. Michigan has thousands of acres of accessible land, and putting all the users together on trails is not always the safest alternative. Therefore, MTAC's primary focus is to ensure the safety of all users.

Working with the other user representatives has been a great experience. The equestrians and

non-motorized users also have trails that they are embracing to make their recreation better. I am committed to making Michigan a better trail state, and in this effort, I believe we all win! I am also part of the Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW), which is an active committee committed to maintaining the funding formulas and the best use of resources. The SAW members have a strong relationship with the DNR partners, and this collaboration shows in our recreational progress.

As I look forward to the coming year, my goal is to promote acceptance among all user groups. It's important that we all respect each other's views and interests, and find ways to enjoy the outdoors without interfering with one another.

## Standing Committees

**Legislative ~ Paul Anderson** 2023 MISORVA Legislative Committee Summary It's been a rough year for all of MISORVA and that goes for the Legislative Committee as well. Although we've worked to get things done the wheels of politics moves extremely slow.

Below is a summary of what we've worked on.

1. **HB 4459** Wheeled Vehicle legislation has reached a point where hard dates are the only way to accomplish keeping the trails safe. Law enforcement as well as our grant sponsors are in favor of this change.

Co Sponsors - Pat Outman, Jay DeBoyer, Tom Kunse, John Roth, David Martin

Meeting Friday October 13th. If passed at the October 2023 MISORVA BOD meeting we will be removing "(b) The trail is snow covered, and the snow is groomed for snowmobile use." From Page 9, Line 2

Latest Activity:

4/25/2023 HJ 35 Pg. 478 introduced by Representative Alabas Farhat

4/25/2023 HJ 35 Pg. 478 read a first time

4/25/2023 HJ 35 Pg. 478 referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

4/26/2023 HJ 36 Pg. 497 bill electronically reproduced 04/25/2023

2. The HB 4021 ORV Sunset clause removal. Below is the latest activity. Representative Jenn Hill 9/26/2023 passed; given immediate effect Roll Call # 309 Yeas 95 Nays 14 Excused 0 Not Voting 1 9/26/2023 transmitted

9/27/2023 REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS, JUDICIARY, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

10/10/2023 Committee Meeting in Lansing

3. Camp Grayling Expansion update – We stood against the expansion and to my knowledge it was not going to be allowed to happen. Some form of compromise was on the table but I've not heard if anything further has happened. 5. Moving forward I would like to start working on a few items that I feel needs attention.

1. Examine the laws in regards to logging and how it affects our trail systems.
2. Provide a means to the users of our trail system to identify who is responsible for each trail system. This will allow problems to be reported quickly.
3. Push for trail maps to be covered by the program and placed at intersections throughout the trail systems where one does not already exist. I believe this will be Cycle and 50's ORV trails mostly.
4. Single ORV permit
5. Equipment purchases on the ORV side, how?
6. We will keep our eye on "Keep the UP Wild" and their crusade to designate another 50,000 acres of land in the Western UP as "Wilderness".

### **Membership ~ Brad Beardsley 2023 Membership Committee Annual Report.**

In 2023, no new membership offerings were introduced, but the committee has discussed a few ideas that must be addressed during upcoming meetings. As always, we set up our booth at Snowmobile USA, which was a big draw for permit sales. We were able to educate many snowmobilers about the importance of their membership for motorized recreation and how it helps us to achieve our goals. We were very close to achieving our target for new memberships. The show required a lot of hard work, and we extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped out.

We had a booth at the Nelson's Speed Shop Sno Motion show where we could sell several trail permits and a few memberships. Most attendees were diehard snowmobilers who were already members, many of whom were life members. However, we did have the opportunity to explain our mission to a few new snowmobilers, which is where we gained new members.

Myself and another member of the Board of Directors recently attended the first-ever Leaders Fest in September, which was held at Leaders RPM. As it was an ORV show, we did not sell trail permits, but we did interact with visitors and addressed their concerns regarding ORV in the state. The show also helped me realize that many motorized recreation users need to be made aware of MISORVA and its purpose, even though they have many questions and concerns about the ORV situation. The attendees we talked with don't feel the need to join MISORVA, which is not due to any bad publicity that the organization has received from other groups. In fact, most of the visitors had never heard of MISORVA. Leaders Fest has the potential to grow in the future and help create more awareness about the organization.

Our membership card's KEY card sponsors have been a bright spot this year. Thanks to the hard work of our office staff, the number of companies participating has more than doubled in just the second year. The staff also did a mailing to those with contact information, including past members and customers who bought items from our website. This effort brought in additional memberships.

**Publication ~ Brad Beardsley** We want to inform you that some changes have been made to the magazine, and the committee is working closely with the editor to ensure that the articles are relevant and informative. We hope that you have noticed these improvements!

It's important to note that the magazine is a significant part of the MISORVA budget, and your dues pay for the subscription. Once you finish reading it, we kindly ask you to pass it on to a future member or drop it off at a local stop. Your help will enable us to continue providing you with a high-quality publication. Thank you for your cooperation and continuous support.

### **Trails**

- ❖ **Region 1 ~ Todd Blanchard**
- ❖ **Region 2 ~ Vacant**

## Other Committee Reports

- **ACSA~ Karen Middendorp-**
- **Charity ~ Kaye Houk** - Thanks to all the clubs that responded, by filling in the questions on Survey Monkey, in reporting your Charity/volunteer hours. Unfortunately, only 13 clubs responded. Hopefully we can do better next year!

- **Bylaws ~ Todd Maschke** ~ Annual Bylaw Committee Report

By now many of you have had a chance to review the work the committee was tasked with.

I want to thank those that came forward with ideas and suggestions. Many of the Bylaw revisions are to bring us back into compliance with state law. Some of the changes bring continuity between the membership meeting and the Board Meetings. Others expand on those already adopted by adding things left off that should have been there.

We have added an electronic meeting, voting and notification clause to represent the electronic era. These things were allowed under the Covid restrictions due to state law and the governors's Emergency Orders but as of October 2, 2020 were no longer able to be used. State law requires that if you plan to utilize these electronic forms you must have it in your Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation. MISORVA does not have it in the Articles of Incorporation and it is thus easier to add it to the Bylaws.

We addressed what constitutes a quorum at a board meeting as the current 10% does not meet the required state minimum for a board meeting.

We did change the meeting frequency from the old 2 meetings set long ago to at least 4. Many of us can recall early January as many felt 4 meetings was not an adequate amount and it was later decided by the board to go with 6 meetings a year. The new Bylaw rule just represents the minimum. The board can still add more. This represents an even split if you would, for Snow & ORV.

Last fall a president and vice president were elected by accident from the same district. In an attempt to fill the position with what the Members felt the best candidate we unfortunately violated our Bylaws. It was a Bylaw rule made while this association was MSA and at that time things were a bit different structurally. That has been removed so the best candidate can be elected for either position.

Term limits have been changed. Under the current 4 term limit you could have the situation where a person has hopefully served on a standing committee, served as Vice president, then president then past president. Twelve Years. Even the most enthusiastic person, after looking at a 12 year commitment it could entail may refuse to run. Again this prevents the best candidate from coming forward.

We have moved some of the stuff that should be given to the board to control such as attendance to the policy manual. Since the meeting frequency is set by the board annually the attendance policy may also need to be adjusted. The board should be empowered and able to react to situations that present themselves. The membership as a whole will hopefully understand that the board needs the ability to act upon some issues in a timely fashion. Waiting for the ability to react once a year is not a viable solution.

We also made all presidential appointments subject to board approval. This again is to empower the board. You, the member, have put your trust in your district delegate.

They are responsible for the direction this association takes.

There was concern brought forward as to job descriptions of the officers. This will be added spelled out more clearly in the policy manual. Again the policy manual can easily be placed in the policy manual to allow it to be changed by the board to meet ever changing demands. It takes a majority vote of the board to add to a policy or add a new one. It takes a 2/3 vote to change. It can be done at any Board meeting.

We clarified things that the Bylaws stated and made it hopefully easier to understand. Some things still need to have legal wording while others not so much.

I also want to thank the committee. We had some good discussions from various points of view. The committee did not go forward until every member was in agreement. Some items changed a few times until we arrived at what you see. I hope the Membership accepts what the committee has brought forwards.

This has really been a challenging year for MISORVA. Having 6 months to work on a task like this makes it tough. The Committee along with Karen was meeting more than once a month to get this to you. Karen and Jim have spent many hours helping to explain why things were the way they were in the Bylaws. Karen and I spent countless hours working on these and Karen has taken the time to find a way to present the changes to you.

I want to remind everyone that you can reject or accept each item individually (each section as its own vote), or you can choose to accept all as presented.

If you do not like the change on a certain section than it will go unchanged and stay as it currently is.

- **Public Relations ~Mike Keith** Our public relations committee didn't achieve the level of activity we had hoped for this year. One of the reasons for this is our need for more members to join us. Our primary goal is to write informative articles for our magazine and social media platforms. Additionally, we are actively promoting MISORVA by engaging in social media campaigns with the aim of educating the public and attracting new members.

This year, we covered a range of topics including safety gear, MISORVA's lunch with legislators, preseason maintenance, and adjusting trip plans due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Our committee holds a quarterly meeting on Zoom, and we communicate via email as needed. You don't need to be a skilled writer like Ernest Hemingway to contribute ideas. The magazine editor will work their magic with our input. We are currently seeking new members who can provide fresh ideas for the committee to promote MISORVA, ORVing, and snowmobiling.

- **Friends of the Forest ~**

- **Ottawa ~ Ernie Reimann -**
- **Hiawatha West ~ Keith Churill**
- **Hiawatha East ~ Roy Hart**

2023 was a good year in Hiawatha East. Thirty seven (37) miles of DNR designated ORV Route were approved; Trout Lake to Strongs, Strongs to Hulbert, and Bay Mills to Strongs. Planning, persistence, cooperation, and perspiration by members of Chippewa County SORVA, USFS Trail Specialists, DNR Trail Specialists, Sault Ste. Marie Snowmobile Association & Chippewa Snow Chasers achieved the goal of connecting these communities. Signing, brushing and grading of the routes were completed. An 8200' stretch of Trail C (Soo to RACO ORV Route) was improved through ditching, brushing, sand removal/replacement with compaction of large and small slag stone. The

trail was crowned for better drainage. Thank you to Stub's Trucking and Excavating of Brimley for timely completion and quality of the project.

A new center pass through gate was developed and installed by members of Chippewa County SORVA and Sault Ste. Marie Snowmobile Association just east of Raco on Trail C. Bid proposal for additional new gates has been developed.

Bids to improve (as described above) an additional 8700' of Trail C between Brimley and Raco yet this year is due by October 12th.

Special recognition to Charlie Steffens, Secretary CC-SORVA, P.J. Costa, DNR Trail Specialist, Rex Hyrns, Chippewa Snow Chasers, Steve Lawson & sign crew, Sault Ste Marie Snowmobile Association for their leadership and tenacity in developing and maintaining trails in Hiawatha East.

- **Hiawatha East**
- **Huron ~**
- **Huron Manistee ~**
  
- **Dirt Grading - Steve Haver ~**
  
- **SAW ~ Snowmobile Advisory Council – Don Britton**
- **ORVAW ~ ORV advisory Workgroup – Keith Lynch**

### **Board Member Updates**