Minutes of the Region 13 Business Meeting, June 18, 2021

President Bob Stassen called the 2021 Region 13 Business Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on June 18, 2021, in Bentonville, AR with 20 members present. The minutes from the Region 13 meeting in Baton Rouge in 2019 were accepted as written.

Ed Herringshaw, regional treasurer, provided a financial report. Our regional balance as of April 30, 2019, was $28,653.93. We had no regional meeting or financial activity in 2020 due to the covid virus. As of April 30, 2021, our bank balance is a similar amount to that in 2019, $28,981.16. The main source of income during this time period was the proceeds from the 2018 regional plant auction in the amount of $1460.00 and the primary expense was for the regional newsletter, the ARKLA. That amounted to $1031.96.

 President Bob requested that regional members send to him photos of their gardens for inclusion on the Region 13 webpage.

Bob also announced that we will attempt to have the Region 13 Popularity Poll voting exclusively electronically this year.

A location for our Regional meeting/convention in 2022 would be in LA, possibly in Alexandria or Shreveport although other LA locations suggested as possibilities might also work out as well. The 2023 Region 13 meeting would also be held somewhere in LA while it’s planned that the 2024 meeting would be held in AR. Please speak to other members of your local club and ask them to consider hosting a regional meeting.

We need for all members of Region 13 to carefully consider serving as a regional officer. Bob will remain president through 2024 and then we will need a new leader after that. Also, immediate needs at this time are for two members to step up and assume the roles of Regional Newsletter Editor and Regional Publicity Director. Also, we will need a new Treasurer when Ed Herringshaw decides to step aside from those duties. In order for Region 13 to prosper, we need for members to lend their expertise to leadership roles.

Finally, with current interest rates stuck at extremely low rates, our regional funds are not earning much sitting in a bank account. Bob volunteered along with Errol Nabb to look into perhaps investing part of our club funds in a bond fund that would be safe but provide some additional returns on our investments.

There being no further business to discuss, the Region 13 2021 Business Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m., a PowerPoint presentation by Pat Larsen, of Conway followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Doug Beecher.