

Notes to the IBBA Membership

As the information in this packet indicates, this year's annual meeting will be in south Texas. The Rio Grande Valley is an excellent site for birding and banding. I hope you can make IT. Most migration banding stations should be winding down and this is a great time to network with our banders. You will get a chance to band or see the banding of many species that most of us rarely work with.

There will be several items for the membership to discuss and deal with at this meeting. The first is a change to our Bylaws concerning the terms for Board members. The Board believes that it was changed years ago but we cannot find it in the Annual Meeting minutes. There was a year when the secretary at the time lost the minutes on his trip home and we believe that the change occurred at that meeting. The old Bylaws stated that Board members could only serve one three-year term. For over 10 years we have followed the policy of allowing the Board members to serve two terms. It will be proposed to change Article V, Section 5.3 to allow Board members to serve two terms before stepping down.

The second item has to do with our dues. Currently, IBBA regular dues ARE \$20 per year, which is the lowest of the three major banding associations. Brent Ortego, our treasurer, tells us that NABB currently is costing us between \$22 and \$23 per year, so we are losing money. It will be proposed that Regular Membership dues be raised to \$25-\$30 per year. We are also looking into the possibility of electronic NABB which would allow us to lower dues for those who would choose that option.

Along with Regular Membership comes a problem with the Life Membership. Currently a Life Membership cost \$400, and many of our Life Members joined with only \$100 cost. Since CD rates are running less than 2% and have been for several years, this fund is not generating enough money to cover Life Membership costs of NABB. For many years, this account made money through CD's and we have funds to cover current costs, but we are told this fund will run dry within the next few years at the current rate. An electronic NABB may help this some but we will need to raise the Life Membership rate. It will have to go to between \$1000 and \$2000 payment in order for CD rates to cover the cost of NABB at \$20-\$25 per year.

Finally, we will be electing our 2012 Board. All current Board officers have agreed to run for another year. However, Linda Tossing, our secretary, has reached the maximum of five years in office and must step down per Bylaws. Linda has done an outstanding job and we hope to have her back on the Board in the future. Dana Ripper, Director of the Missouri River Bird Observatory, had originally agreed to run for a Director position, but she has now agreed to run for the position of Secretary. Two Directors have reached the end of their terms. Nelson Hoskins of Ottumwa, IA, is finishing his second term and must step down. Nelson has served IBBA for many years in various positions, and we thank you for your efforts. Eric Soehren, of Alabama, is finishing his first term as a Director and has agreed to run for a second. We are looking for a new Director. If you are interested or think you know a member who could help IBBA, let me know.

See you in Texas!!!

H. Thomas Bartlett, IBBA President
Tiffin, Ohio
hthomas.bartlett@gmail.com