



**Illinois  
Native  
Plant  
Society**

## *Illinois Native Plant Society*

P.O. Box 60694, Chicago, IL 60660

### **Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of the General Membership of the Illinois Native Plant Society and President's Address, Saturday September 30, 2023 during the Annual Gathering hosted by Central Chapter in Springfield, Illinois**

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Membership Business meeting. I hope you all had a wonderful day and made a lot of memories. And that you share photographic proof.

The meeting is now called to order at 6:50 pm, sit up straight if you feel the need, or not.

Our bylaws call for three specific bits of business at the Annual Membership Meeting. The members must vote on issues related to dues at the Annual Meeting, this is a simple checks and balance for an organization. The next two are a treasurer's report and a membership report

#### First item

- The ballot vote today: The proposed 2022 to at least 2026 disbursement rate to chapters shall be 25% of their membership dues received the previous year by members listing that chapter as their primary chapter.
- Results of the ballot, the ballot has passed 44 to 0, this meets the minimum 5% of the membership attending the Annual Gathering.

#### Second item

- Treasurer's report
  - The end of 2022 consolidated INPS financial report shows that the total organization had a balance of \$223,563.84
  - Of this amount, the State treasury had a balance of \$90,550.15, the rest being held by the seven chapters.
  - Currently the State treasury uses all of our yearly income (mostly dues and some donations) in support of the Erigenia, the Harbinger, the State grants program and basic business expenses.
  - On a side note, I want to point out the State has a General Liability insurance policy that all the chapters can access if a chapter-led event requires a Certificate of Liability.
- Membership Report
  - The latest report states we have 654 members in good standing, including new members joining us for this Annual Gathering.

- The membership numbers for each chapter in 2023 were reported at the Annual Meeting. See below for the membership report from July 10, 2023 (My apologies for how it copied.)
- The simple thing to say here is that we need to retain new members better. Our survey results, from earlier this year, showed 22% of our members have been members 1 to 5 years, the number halves to 11% after that, but if they remain members for ten years, they tend to stick for many more years.

The INPS is at a point where next level growth is possible, even imperative. Folks in this room know what the opposite of growth is and none of us want to see stagnation or decay. I'm not ready to see the decomposition of this marvelous bunch of people and years of work.

We, in this room and in our membership, are the people that KNOW native plants.

Many of us in this room are not botanists, many are. But I've heard the average Illinois citizen cannot identify 10 trees. My husband, Floyd, tells me that when he interviews seasonal workers for the Forest Preserve District, he asks them to name 5 invasive plants, many fail to name one.

My friends, you are the brain trust for the native plants of Illinois.

The mission of the INPS, is to educate to conserve and appreciate our native flora. At the board level, we can have a maximum of 20 people, including our chapter presidents, to get the work done. And it is all on a volunteer basis. But we need more people willing to help.

We need folks with public relations/membership retention skills. We need grant application writers to bring in funds to develop educational opportunities

If we explore coalition building, as Nico spoke about last night, we need members accessing their professional networks to build that coalition. We may need to contribute funds to cover attorney or other professional fees in this endeavor. To do this, the State Governing Board is working to set up Legacy giving, to accept retirement account disbursements with tax deduction benefits and other giving streams.

In 2024, we will have elections for State board secretary, State Treasurer, and Membership Chair. We may also need an at-large board member or two. We hope to find candidates with the skills and knowledge and experience in nonprofit work to bring the INPS to the next level. Perhaps you can fill one of these needs.

But we always appreciate folks willing to work on committees at the board level. And we love great ideas for the INPS, but ideas bear fruit in implementation.

More information on the application process for the board positions will be available soon on the website and through an email to the membership.

After consulting with a fellow board member, we have figured out it is the Northeast Chapters turn to host the Annual Gathering in 2024. Tag, you are it.

Thank you for your attention.

The 2023 Annual Membership Business Meeting is now adjourned at 7:15 pm

### INPS Quarterly Membership Report: 07-10-23

- To date for 2023, we have **618 total** members, including **153 life** members, **108 new** members, and **357 renewing** members.
  - Compare to **439 total** memberships (179 fewer) by **July of 2022**.
- Since April, we have received **two new \$500 life memberships** from Central and Forest Glen Chapter members (three life memberships in 2023 to date). One new life member was a Research Grant recipient in 2018.
  - All information in the database is up to date.
- Contact Anna ([inps.membership@gmail.com](mailto:inps.membership@gmail.com)) if you need access to the spreadsheet or membership info for your chapter.

#### 1. Members by Chapter

<i>Chapter</i>	2016	2017	2018 2019 2020 2021	2022	2023
<b>At Large</b>	9	14	9 5 4 6	4	4
<b>Central</b>	111	128	115 142 111 135	158	145
<b>Forest Glen</b>	40	48	44 42 43 44	44	42
<b>Grand Prairie</b>	21	29	22 24 27 30	28	27
<b>Kankakee Torrent</b>	20	27	33 31 32 30	34	27
<b>Northeast</b>	145	191	156 203 221 261	267	245
<b>Prefer not to affiliate</b>	5	5	4 4 4 5	9	10
<b>Quad Cities</b>	22	28	26 24 22 25	20	29
<b>Southern</b>	112	129	108 104 82 103	106	89
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>517 579 546 639</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>618</b>

#### 2. New Members by Chapter

*Chapter* 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

<b>At Large</b>	3	6	1 1 0 2	0	0
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<b>Central</b>	16	27	21 37 13 23	39	27
<b>Forest Glen</b>	2	5	6 6 5 4	8	2
<b>Grand Prairie</b>	4	7	6 7 13 9	10	4
<b>Kankakee Torrent Northeast</b>	0 18	5 46	12 8 8 8 26 63 65 88	6 82	4 48
<b>Quad Cities</b>	0	4	4 2 4 4	1	9
<b>Southern</b>	24	22	14 13 18 11	20	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>90 137 126 149</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>102</b>

**3.MembersbyType**

<i>MembershipType</i>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018201920202021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Sponsored</b>	n/a	n/a	n/an/an/a1	0	0
<b>Student</b>	6	13	16171621	18	18
<b>Regular</b>	210	293	247285256310	320	291
<b>Family</b>	75	86	60755674	83	75
<b>Supporting</b>	37	43	27364849	58	47
<b>Patron</b>	8	12	1391421	29	23
<b>Life</b>	135	140	143148149152	149	153
<b>Institutional</b>	11	9	8667	8	5
<b>Business</b>	2	3	3314	5	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>517579546639</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>613</b>