**Minutes of the January 25, 2020**

**Annual Meeting of PSCTA**

The meeting was called to order by association president, Bob Moore, with a welcoming of new members to the association. As always, the annual January meeting was well attended and members were happy that the season ended on a high note for all.

**General Membership Meeting:**

**Minutes of the fall meeting:** The minutes of the fall meeting were approved as submitted.

**Treasurers Report:** The final report for 2019 was accepted. Sheila presented the proposed budget for 2020 noting that the budget was adjusted to reflect lower memberships for the coming year. There was discussion about eliminating compensation for some officers of the association, but the membership was in favor of keeping these compensations in the budget. We were all encouraged to help recruit new farms to our association and we will reach out to other farms who are listed on the Washington State License for Christmas tree farmers. The marketing expenses for Facebook will be reviewed at a later date. The proposed budget was accepted.

**Website report:** The PSCTA website was viewed by 9-10,000 users during the months of November and December 2019. Keith Stocker suggested that the website might offer a quick reference for those farms that are open once many farms sell out and dates that farms are open are changed.

**Announcements:**

* Sadly it was shared that Larry Harter had passed away just prior to Christmas. The Harter’s have been long time members of the association and Larry will be missed. The farm will hopefully remain open for 2020, however, no new planting of trees for the future.
* Marty and Mary Kester of Crown Tree Farm had their last season in 2019.
* Ruth Heft has a 6’ tree trimmer for sale
* Seedlings: Silvaseed is cutting back on availability of seedlings. Keith Stocker may have some extra seedlings and Erik Pfaff has nordmanns in pots.
* State of Washington PISCES fees are due for those selling over 400 trees as well as the fee to the National Promotion Board.

**Wilbur Ellis Short Course:** Approximately 8 members from our association attended the course earlier in January. One of the presenters at the meeting was Clark Smith, a manager for the Corteva Company. Clark gave an informative presentation about their product Cleantraxx (herbicide) with a power point presentation. A copy of these materials will be available at the summer meeting for those who were not in attendance at our January meeting. (Harvey Hawken has done some research on the products and is a good source of information.)

**Legislative Report, Brad Tower:** Brad has been our lobbyist for 20 years so this meeting we can all celebrate his support for us! Not much is happening in the Legislature at this time, but there has been discussion about banning the use of Lorsban (Govern) as a pesticide used on our farms. Our lobbyist is working on an exemption for our farms. Brad stayed on for more discussion over the lunch hour.

**New Business:**

* **Election of Officers:** Rich McDonald has agreed to remain Vice President for the coming year and the board members will all remain the same.
* **Puyallup Fair Booth:** We all agree that our booth at the Puyallup Fair has been an important exhibit for the Northwest Outdoors building. PSCTA has participated for many years as an avenue to promote local Christmas tree farms. Over the past couple of years our farms have sold out of trees early so the purpose of getting the primary message out to support local farms may need to be reviewed. We hope to have more discussion at our summer meeting about volunteering for the booth and tree donations. Mike Roosendaal will be attending more meetings of the fair committee prior to our summer meeting.
* **Season 2019** was a fast season for most farms. With Thanksgiving coming late in November several farms opened the week before Thanksgiving this past season. Publicity about the shortage of trees got customers out early and quickly so most farms sold out as early as the end of Thanksgiving weekend. Credit cards are definitely in and those farmers not accepting cards may want to consider this as an efficient method of payment.
* **Our calendar:** a few farmers gave Jan some contact information for products and services. She will in the months ahead compile some information for the group. Highlighting January-mid April: membership dues and fees for the Promotion Board, PISCES and WA Department of Revenue. This is a time for getting your income tax information together for the farm, preparing the ground for planting, planting, placing seedling orders for next year and starting on some initial spraying (weather permitting).
* **Summer meeting:** Our summer meeting has generally been in late July, however, it is suggested that we schedule the summer meeting for the last Saturday in June. This new date may be better for demonstrating sheering techniques for new and seasoned farmers and having some group orders for products from the Kirk company. We will also decide on our participation in the Puyallup Fair for 2020.

**Summer meeting tentatively scheduled for June 27, 2020.** Please contact Bob Moore if you would like to host this meeting. The Double Four Tree Farm is available if no other farm in the south/central steps up.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.