

## 2017 Treasurer's Report

### Greetings to all TCA alumni!

This is my annual note to all of you regarding the financial health of the Trail Crew Association. As you are aware, the association board meets on a quarterly basis and as needed in the event of additional board tasks. As your treasurer I need to make sure that the funds that you send in as dues or donations get accounted for. Here are some general trends (I should note that I am comparing the calendar years 2016 and 2017).

#### **Income**

- Our Income went up this year with the majority of the change in life members. We had 11 new life members this year versus 7 in 2015. We now have a total of 35 life members!
- What does the association do with those dues? They get deposited in our savings account as a reserve. We do not want to spend all those funds in one year. In theory, we should be amortizing those life member dues over 10 years. We have not gotten to that point yet (we need more regular membership dues income!) but hope to get there in a few years.
- We also saw a slight increase in 2017 regular membership dues over 2016 - this is a good sign. We had a total of 34 dues paying members for 2017.
- We already have 24 dues paying members for 2018.
- There has also been an increase in overall income to the association in 2017 of 71 percent. This is largely due to the efforts of Bob Watts and other 1950's alums who made significant donations to fund stove replacements and associated expenses at the Shelburne Lodge.
- Excluding this special funding the association had a 5 percent increase in overall income in 2017.

Thank you to all who are stepping up to pay dues, provide additional contributions, and new life members!

So in total, our income in 2017 is \$11,019.28. \$4,250 of this amount is earmarked for the Shelburne Lodge stove project.

We can continue to increase our income when you pay your dues, make an additional donation, or when you pay dues for someone else you served with during your crew years (yes, this has happened!).

Funds can be sent to me at:

PO Box 100, Washington, VT 05675

We have set this PO Box up so that I can efficiently get your dues into our bank account in Berlin, NH.

As an alternative, you can pay online through our website via Paypal (they take a small bite out of the total).

In an effort to increase our revenue, the TCA Board has authorized the mailing of dues invoices to alumni. This will happen in January/February of 2018. Those of you who have paid for 2018 need not worry as your names will be removed from the list for 2018.

## **Expenses**

On the expense side we have three main categories of expense:

- General operations,
- Chips and Clippings, and
- Shelburne Lodge.

General operations for 2017 includes PO Box rental (our main address in Gorham, NH and our VT dues-paying address), TCA support of the AMC trail crew, Paypal fees, publishing, and the cost of the website. In 2017 our General operations expenses totaled \$1,316.34.

The production and mailing of Chips and Clippings increased about 14 percent to \$639.15.

Shelburne Lodge expenses totaled \$1,966.92. This amount will increase in 2018 with the purchase of new stoves for the Lodge. Roof maintenance/ replacement continued in 2017 with minimal strain on the TCA budget because there were several specific donations toward that project.

## **Bottom Line**

To date, we have a modest gain of \$2,340 for 2017 excluding the Shelburne Lodge Stove fund. That is a 71 percent increase over 2016.

We have a pool of over 300 known alumni on our Chips & Clippings US Postal address mailing list. As I reported last year our budget on average over the past several years has been about \$5,000. At \$35/year that means we need 143 alumni to pay dues which equates to about 41 percent of our gang. Currently we only have about 10 percent of our alums paying dues. How do does the TCA make up the difference currently? Board member contributions and other member general contributions! We have choices to make – if we raise the annual dues to \$50 we could reduce the needed alumni to about 100. **Do you want to see an increase in dues?** Or will more alums step up to the plate and become dues paying members?

In 2019 we will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trail Crew. It will be a great time to celebrate and the board is in the midst of planning this event. We will need financial assistance to make this a celebration to remember - You can be a part of that by joining us at \$35 or more per year.

Until next year...

Foo,  
Peter Jensen- 1976-1979 TM '79  
TCA Treasurer