MWMA board meeting minutes, 5/24/24, dinner hour meeting, CST.

In attendance: representatives from Void Morris, Ann Arbor Morris, Bells of the North, Pullman Morris and Sword, General Hardware, Uptown on the Lakes, The Braggarts, Minnesota Traditional Morris, River Rats, Braintrust Morris, Brackleberry Morris, at-large member.

The board approved the minutes

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer said the organization is continuing to work toward the goal of having $50K in the bank, which is enough to cover the costs of one Ale. Currently, there is about $20K saved.
The treasurer said the 2024 financial aid requests were the highest yet, with about 20 percent of ale attendees requesting some kind of financial support. The board executive committee, which decides financial aid awards, was unable to fully fund everybody who asked. Instead everybody received a partial financial aid grant and was asked to contribute some money of their own toward their ale fees.
The president brought up a concern she received from a community member, that some people who were attending the ale on financial assistance were not active members of a team. She said under the current financial aid system and its emphasis on confidentiality and need-based awards, it is impossible to ascertain the role someone plays on a team and why they might be coming to the ale.
The Braintrust rep suggested the board consider the financial aid model used by the Youth Traditional Song event, which is to award partial grants only. The rep also pointed out that only giving financial aid to musicians or dancers poses a hardship for families, where one partner may be attending the ale primarily as a caregiver.
No action was taken on changing the financial aid policy.

Committee reports:
The nominations committee presented a slate of board member nominees representing Maroon Bells, Uptown-on-the-Lakes; Oak Apple; Marquette;Capering Roisters / River Rats; Brackleberry; Void Morris and a member at large. The current secretary agreed to continue until a replacement is found.
One nominating committee member said she would like to rotate off as soon as a replacement is found.
The board approved the slate of candidates.

Social media committee: new members have been trained and received access to the appropriate social media accounts, mostly in support of publicizing the Ale

Maintaining a Respectful Environment: The committee said four new members are present at the Ale and that the committee plans to begin cycling off existing members.

2025 Ale: the 2025 Ale will be at Camp Lakamaga in Minnesota, which is less expensive than Camp St Croix. Camp Lakamaga does not have food staff on site so we will have to find different options for food.
The 2026 ale site and host are still undetermined.

There was discussion about choosing one site and holding the ale there year after year like the Marlboro Morris Ale does. Another suggestion was to move to a model of ale organization where the ale was put on by a committee of people who are not necessarily from the same team as was done in 2024.

meeting adjourned, meeting length 1:17.