

Minutes of the Southwest Chapter of Utah Friends of Paleontology Meeting — November 20, 2013

Opening: For his last time, Steve opened the meeting at 7 p.m. and welcomed the 20 attendees.

Minutes: Elisabeth read her Minutes of the previous meeting on September 18. They were voted on, seconded, approved, and entered as such into the record.

Treasurer's report: As Linda was out of town, Steve submitted her Treasurer's report indicating that there had been no income nor expenses made, so the ending balance was the same as in September: \$1,200.28.

Christmas dinner: Steve reminded those present to also check the column on the list of attendees if they wished to have a potluck get-together on Dec. 13, as we had to have at least 20 people to justify our expenses. At the end of the meeting, 16 people had signed up, and 5 more added their names a few days later.

New Officers: Steve thanked Melinda Hurlbut and Sandra Sandberg for taking over the offices of President and Treasurer respectively for our SW Chapter. As of this date the office of Vice-President is still vacant.

Annual Meeting: A reminder of this year's annual meeting to be held in Vernal May 30 - June 1 hosted by the Uinta Basin Chapter. It will include the showing of a state-of-the-art facility, an 8,000 sq. ft. storage and lab area that was added to the Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum. Dale Gray, the Uinta Basin Chapter's President, was the key consultant for all relevant designs.

David Slauf: One of our most loyal members was awarded a prize of \$500 for exceptional volunteerism by the Pay it Forward Program sponsored by Mountain America Credit Union and KUTV. David plans to donate \$100 to the SGDS Museum Lab.

Branch donation: A vote was taken to donate \$500 for the SGDS Museum Lab to help purchase a more powerful computer that can handle photogrammetry software donated by DSU in order to make 3-D images of tracks, especially to document those which are deteriorating outside. This could also help to make casts and sell them in the gift shop. The amount of \$500 was voted on and approved.

Speaker: Steve introduced Jim Kirkland, our speaker for the evening. He is the State Paleontologist at Utah Geological Survey and advisor of the UFOP State Office and the Great Basin Chapter. His presentation was titled:

"A new Ankylosaur from Aragon, Spain: Is Spain the next Utah?"

Utah has the best record of dinosaur fauna, but Spain has (since Franco's demise) been catching up. The biggest Paleontological museum in Europe is situated in Teruel, a small town of 30,000 people in the Pyrenees. It is the "Paleontology Hall of Fame" and has developed a theme park in 2001, opening another 12 museums since then and functioning as a training museum. Nearly 24,000 visitors come in every year to see the 9-5.3 million year old fossils from the Land Mammal Age within the Miocene: Primitive giraffes, horses, dogs, camels, cats, rodents, etc. Jim ended his interesting presentation indicating differences and similarities between the Spanish and the North American *ankylosaur*, e.g. scapula and ischia.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Submitted by Elisabeth Nipperus, Secretary, Southwest UFOP Chapter – January 15, 2014

