



**ILLINOIS STATE CHAPTER
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION**



Gerald Lively- President
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4th Quarter Agenda – January 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gerald Lively, Greg Shaffer, Steve McNeil, Dr. Reich, Mike Lowder, Wayne Prather, Jerry Bois, Heath Jordan, Michael Howie, Eugene Sterns, Terri Lively

Staff:

Jeff Ravenscraft, Cindy Spillman, John Burk, Luke Garver

Guests:

Mike Polhamus, Matt Dixon, Mary Dixon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kent Bushman, Todd Batten

Pledge of Allegiance

A Moment of Silence for all our service men and women serving domestic and abroad protecting our freedoms and for all those in harm's way.

Self-Introductions (Rollcall): Board, Staff & Guests

Secretary's Report from June Meeting/Phone Conference: Kent Bushman – Approved and sent 9/29/23.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve McNeil - State Balance -\$129,259.86; 4th Quarter Expenditures – \$11,498.03; 4th Quarter Deposits – \$133,673.06 A complete summary will be handed out. Motion to approve. Mike L 1st – Terri L 2nd - Attachment A

SUPER FUND SUMMARY: John Burk – Balance/Report See Attachment B. \$16,000 set aside for Hard Dollars. Chapter Recruitment over budget due to having over 5000 members and cost of printing and design of mailers. Need to approve \$14,465 addition to the budget line item. Need to raise the JAKES an additional \$2000 to \$6,000. Motion by Steve McNeil Second by Jerry Bois.

NATIONAL STAFF GUESTS: Jason Burckhalter Co-CEO (marketing/Fundraising) and Berry Woods National Director of Event Fundraising. Due to weather, they were unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **Regional Field Staff Report:** Cindy/Jeff/Brian Gray – State Membership Numbers; Calendar Update; Ongoing Events, New hiring of RD's, Statewide raffle, High school scholarships.
Cindy – FY 24 Every RD needs to bring back 2 new chapters. Jan 8 Spring Green Sweepstakes. Early bird Jan 8 thru Jan 31.

Jeff – Savanna and Kishwaukee Areas to try and revive chapters. Constant Contact is how Jeff got feedback. Count for events 1108 nationwide pre-covid around 1500 events nationwide. See Attachment C

- 2) **Regional Biologist Report:** John Burk; **District Forester:** Chase Seals; Forester: Stacy Lindemann

See Attachment D

- 3) **IDNR Report:** Luke Garver – Attachment E – We need to get better communication to get the Brood Survey completed. Options Magazine, Facebook, State Website. Fall Turkey Results hit bottom of the barrel and permit sales are down also. Archery harvest is holding steady along with permit sales. Brood Survey Results Poults to Hen Ratio 2.37.

2024 will be a big Cicada hatch throughout the whole state. Last Hatch 1803

HB4237 which will legalize .410 bore for Turkey Hunting. Proposed as Wildlife code so as soon as passed it will be legal. Sponsor Harry Benton

- 4) **Social Media Report:** Heath Jordan – Report on recent activity; Web Page, Facebook, Instagram, Nat'l Upgrades Chase wildlife profession of the year. Need to be careful as to trigger words and pictures when posting on Facebook. No gun pictures will be accepted when showing off the harvests this year.

Gather all cell phone numbers and email addresses for every attendee at your events.

- 5) **Land of Lincoln Scholarship:** Dr. Reich 3 recipients this year with only 4 applications received. Need to figure out how to get more motivation from college students.

- 6) **2024 LOL Rendezvous:** Jeff/Mike/Gerald – Games/Raffles. Need workers for various games/raffles. The rest will assist in the walk-through and veterans' recognition. **2025 LOL Rendezvous:** TBD?

Gerald Lively big thank you to Mike Lowder for setting things up.

Mike Lowder Doors open at 5:30 Dinners at 7:00 Setting down approx. 6:45.

Assignments are distributed.

- 7) **Other:**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **IFOR Report:** Dr. Reich - Update Meeting in 2 weeks. SAFETY Act update trying to get it before the supreme court. Illinois State Chapter is a Member of IFOR. Can look at state police website for list of guns on the SAFETY Act List.
- 2) **Wheelin' Sportsmen Report:** Michael Howie\Cindy – Update Michael is the National Wild Turkey Federation is the Wheeling Sportsmen Coordinator of the Year Award. And we will receive the National Partnership of the Year Award. Touch of Nature hunt – Deer Hunt was the greatest hunt that he has completed. Will speak tonight at banquet about the hunt. 54 hunters at the hunt. 26 new hunters. Setting up a booth at Illinois Deer Classic and will be at the Illinois Deer and Beer Fest also. Turkey Hunt at Polk County this spring. Possibly spreading out to the north for Deer hunts.

- 3) **JAKES and STH2 Report:** Heath Jordan – Update - 2024 JAKES Hunt; Trailers Supplies
32 kids applied for the 25 spots. Had 2 move out of state so selected 2 replacements. All seasons are covered with hosts. Still not receiving many if any hunter's safety numbers. (We should be capturing numbers from hunters' safety classes being hosted by local chapters.)

The trailers need supplies total is \$2000.

- 4) **Board Seat Elections/Officer Elections:** Six board seats will be opened for election. Those include expiring terms for Gerald Bois, Mike Lowder, Jeff Erb, Dr. Robert Reich, and Todd Batten. Three incumbents responded with their desire to run for re-election. They are Gerald Bois, Dr. Robert Reich, and Todd Batten. The other two incumbents are not running for re-election. There is also one vacant one-year Board seat. Three applicants were received for the three open seats. The three applying for the open board seats were Matt Dixon, Jim Garver and Mike Polhamus. Additionally, all state board officer positions will expire in 2024. The Officers elections will be held after the general board election. General board election by ballot.

Gerald Bois	yes	1 year term
Dr. Robert Reich	Yes	3 year term
Todd Batten	Yes	3 year term
Matt Dixon	Yes	3 year term
Jim Garver	Yes	3 year term
Mike Polhamus	Yes	3 year term

Officer's elections by nominations/ballot.

President Greg S nominated Steve M, Mike H. Nominated Heath J. Mike Lowder Closed Nominations Terri L Seconded the motion. New President Steve McNeil

Vice President Wayne P nominated Greg Shaffer Mike H Nominated Heath. Mike Lowder Motioned to close Nominations Mike H Second. New Vice President Greg Shaffer

Treasure Doc nominated Terri Lively Mike Lowder Motioned to closed Nominations Mike H Second. New Treasure is Terri Lively

Secretary Steve M Nominated Kent B. Mike Lowder Motioned to close Nominations Mike H Second. New Treasure is Kent Bushman

- 5) **Other Business:**

Chase Seals was awarded IL Pheasants Forever Wildlife Professional of the year for 2023.

Wayne P. Brought up about bad experiences with the hotel and how things are being handled. Need to look at different hotels.

- 6) **Next Meeting:** Mar.17th Time: TBA

Future meetings: June 23rd *10:30am, *Scheels? Sept. 8th Superfund Meeting *10:30am, *Scheels?; *Jan.11th? 9am *TBD.

*Times and Places are Tentative and will be announced later prior to Meeting.

Greg S motioned to have all meetings in person without the option of virtual meetings. Terri L second.

Motion to adjourn 1st - Terri L 2nd - Mike P Time – 12:00pm