



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

December 26, 1999

TO: ALL OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE SILVER SPURS.

Enclosed, for your review and reference, please find a copy of the October 1998 Minutes of our Board of Directors meeting held at Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania. The next meeting of our Chapter Board will be held January 9, 1999 at the Ramada Inn in State College. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday.

Executive Committee: Executive Committee members will meet January 8, 1999 at the Frost Camp in Huntingdon County. We have alot of business to conduct and an overflowing agenda (you can thank Don Heckman). We would like to get the meeting started before 7:00 p.m., if possible. Please, try to make every effort to get there early. **(The Frost Camp is opened to anyone who wants to attend the Executive meeting and/or sleep over.)**

Directions to the Ramada Inn: Excuse me, but all I know is that you travel towards State College, and get on **Business Route 322**. If you're traveling towards State College from the East, the Ramada Inn will be on your left, across from the Autoport. Good luck...

Directions to Frost Camp: From State College, take Route 26 south. Turn left on Route 26 south at the flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Follow Route 26 south up over Tussey Mountain and down the other side. Near the botom of the mountain, turn right off of Route 26 south and **onto RD road towards Stone Valley Recreation Area. Travel approximately one mile. Where the road bends towards the left and heads down hill, turn right onto camp lane. Bear left alongside the 3-car garage and follow the lane back into camp.**

From the Southwest, take Route 22 east towards Huntingdon (do not go to Huntingdon). Shortly after passing Route 45 where it meets Route 22 in Water Street, turn left onto Route 305 towards Alexandria. Follow Route 305 through Petersburg. Continue on Route 305 to Neffs Mills. At Neffs Mills, bear left onto RD road (Route 305 goes right towards McAleveys Fort). Follow RD road pass Stone Valley Recreation Area. Follow RD road to intersection with Route 26. Turn around 180 degrees and back onto RD road. Follow highlighted directions above.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on January 9, 1999. Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Yours for good conservation,

Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation

ENCLOSURE:



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 3, 1998

Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the October 1998 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 9:05 a.m., on Saturday, October 3, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Tim Holtz welcomed everyone to our October Board meeting. Chairman Holtz extended a special welcome and recognition to Wildlife Artist George LaVanish. Under the first order of business, Board Chairman Tim Holtz turned the floor over to George LaVanish. George spoke briefly about the Chapter's print/patch program, and about what the Board needs to consider before moving forward with next year's program. George unveiled an original piece of unfinished artwork for the Board's review and input. George was looking for suggestions which might help to improve the art piece and possible title selections for his work. Much discussion and input was given. It was generally felt that George was given enough suggestions and ideas to consider while working towards providing our Chapter with another top-rated, print/patch program.

Under the next item of business, the ground rules of our meeting were reviewed and explained by Board Chairman Tim Holtz. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty reported that he and Vice President Don O'Brien had attended the PGC Commissioners meeting in July. President Beatty mentioned that he had attended the Governor's Symposium. As reported, President Beatty attended the PFSC convention, and was given an opportunity to speak before the PFSC's Game Committee on the hunting license increase and turkey hunting license issues. Along those same lines, President Beatty made numerous phone calls in an effort to gain support for our turkey hunting license proposal. In concluding his report, Gary mention that his local chapter, the Lakeland Longbeards, had, once again, attained **Golden Gobbler** status at their most recent membership banquet.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Rick Moroney asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the August Minutes. There being no additions or corrections forthcoming, **a motion to accept the August 1998 Minutes as presented was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Don Heckman gave his report for the period ending August 31, 1998. As reported, our checking account balance was \$4882.35, as of August 31, 1998. Our fair market value was \$4375.80, with total assets being \$9258.15. Total revenue for the period ending was \$4302.87, while total revenue for the year-ending was \$68,468.67. Operating expenses for the period ending were \$8672.18, while operating expenses for the year-ending were \$66,795.48. For the period September 1, 1998 to October 3, 1998, the Chapter deposited \$10,653.00 into its account, and had operating expenses for the same period of \$9369.00, leaving a checkbook balance of \$6166.54, as of October 3, 1998. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter Vice President Don O'Brien reported that he had attended the PGC Stakeholders meeting in State College on August 22, 1998. According to Vice President O'Brien the purpose of this meeting was to determine two things: 1.) What are the strengths of the PA Game Commission,? and 2.) What would you change to improve the effectiveness of the PA Game Commission? As reported, approximately 80 people attended the meeting, representing consumers and non-consumers of state game lands, state forest lands, and wildlife resources. Vice President O'Brien provided summary sheets of the results. However, it was noted that, in Don's opinion, this meeting did not generate the results that the PGC was looking for. According to Vice President O'Brien, most of the people in attendance represented the non-consumer public. In Don's opinion, the non-consumer representatives were more interested in finding ways to get money from the PGC or to get funding for the PGC - other than legislative approval or hunting license fees - without contributing from their own end. It was also noted that individual/organizational input was limited and hampered based upon which group of individuals one happened to be paired with during the discussion and input period.

Vice President Don O'Brien also provided the Board with a written report of his activities. As his report showed, Don has been very active in working for our Chapter and promoting the NWTf. **Bottom Line:** Don has been doing a great job in setting standards for others to follow.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: No Report.

NWTf REGIONAL REPORT: Senior Regional Field Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman distributed an assignment sheet to the Board for contacting local chapter presidents about submitting local chapter news for publication in "Turkey Talk." SRFS Zimmerman expressed the importance of giving our local chapters a vehicle to promote their chapter activities and accomplishments in "Turkey Talk."

Membership: As reported, Pennsylvania has 12,984 Chapter members.

Super Fund: Our Super Fund balance is \$153,137.00. As noted, this figure does not include receipts from our fall banquets. As a reference, the Chapter deposited \$208,695.00 into our Super Fund account during the 1998 calendar year. During that same period, we spent \$163,718.74 on 98 projects in Pennsylvania.
Bottom Line: A big tip of the camo hat is extended to all our local chapters for their gallant efforts in helping to raise these funds. Our Chapter Board of Directors extend their thanks and appreciation to each of you. Your spirit of volunteerism and dedication has been marvelous - simply marvelous. Thank You!

NWTf Staff: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman reported that the NWTf had hired four more Regional Directors. These new Regional Directors will operate in Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi and a portion of the Southwest Region in the country. It was noted that another Regional Director will be hired for Pennsylvania sometime in the year 2000 - if Jerry can keep RD Larry Holjencin working.

Women in the Outdoors: Jerry reported that the NWTf will be conducting interviews for the Regional Coordinator position of the Women in the Outdoors Program, in Harrisburg, on October 7, 1998. Jerry spoke

briefly about Pennsylvania's upcoming Women in the Outdoors Program. It was noted that 67 women had registered for this event, thus far.

Banquet Program: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman reported that the core-package booklets would be available in early October. Those chairmen who have early banquets should start scheduling their meetings. Banquet chairmen are also encouraged to get their banquet ticket orders in early.

Decoys: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman expressed his concern over the possibility of the Board losing sight of its obligation to provide a decoy for each of the six PGC Regional Districts. It was noted that the Chapter Board of Directors had pledged to provide the PGC with motorized, turkey decoys for law enforcement purposes. Chapter President Gary Beatty assured Jerry and the Board that this matter would be taken care of by members of the Safety Committee, under the direction of Chairman Ron Sandrus.

REGIONAL REPORT: NWTF Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that the NWTF's registration rate for this year's convention is on par with last year's. It was noted that the NWTF had to secure the service of a third hotel to accomodate overflowing registration. Once again, the NWTF will have a star-studded, lineup of entertainers. Registration packets are available. For more information, please refer to "Turkey Call" magazine and to the "Caller."

Conservation Seed Program: RD Holjencin reported that Pennsylvania was the number one participant in the seed program - 4 1/2 million pounds of seed was purchased last year. This is a great program for wildlife - the real benefactors - and a great PR program. This program can open alot of landowner's doors, since the seed can be planted on private and public lands. There have been some changes made since last year: 1.) No one is to call Mr. Johnson - all orders must be made through Kay Morris at NWTF headquarters. 2.) Chapters will be sent an invoice - even if their order is Super Funded or not. 3.) Signed Green Sheets must be received by the NWTF before the seed is shipped. And 4.) the cost has risen from \$.50 per/bag to \$1.00 per/bag. There is alot of corn. If one has a place to store the seed, it's available right now. If one doesn't have a place to store the seed, it can still be ordered now and arrangements can be made to have it delivered at a later date.

JAKES: According to RD Holjencin, there's alot happening with the JAKES program. As reported, in the past, some local chapters took care of insurance needs for their JAKES events by utilizing a blanket-coverage package of their local rod and hunt clubs - without really knowing the full extent of that coverage. Starting in 1999, it will be mandatory to purchase insurance through the NWTF for all Jakes events. **Bottom Line:** This insurance will be cost efficient and will cover all bases. More importantly, it's better to be Safe than Sorry. We have a responsibility as adults to insure that all of our young participants in our JAKES events are fully covered and protected while under our care and guidance.

Field Days: Porter Wagner Youth Field Days will be held June 3 - 6, 1999, in Edgefield. Cost is \$500.00. Spots will be available to local chapters until the end of October. At which time, spots will be opened to the public.

Publication: The NWTF has begun publication of a 20-page JAKES magazine. This publication will be by JAKES for JAKES and fully devoted to the JAKES. JAKES will no longer receive the "Caller." Local chapters should still, however, submit news and information about JAKES events and activities to the "Caller" for publication.

Education Boxes: The NWTF plans to unveil educational school boxes at this year's NWTF convention. Educational material and information will be packaged into wild turkey transport boxes for distribution into the school system. These educational boxes will be geared towards kids in grades 4 - 6.

Brochure: RD Holjencin reported that the NWTF is also developing a JAKES brochure. This brochure will tell the story about the JAKES program - complete with pictures and a membership application.

Banquet Goal: NWTF Regional Directors have set a goal to obtain 100 JAKES members at every banquet. A thermometer-type graph will be used at each banquet to gauge success. Each banquet that reaches the 100 JAKES members goal will receive an incentive gun.

New Chapter: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that a new chapter has been chartered in the Mt. Jewitt area of McKean County. Their banquet is scheduled for January 30, 1999.

QUESTIONS: Several questions were raised on the floor relative to the reports given by Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin. **Seed Program:** It was suggested that information about the seed program should be sent to each local chapter president. Dale Rohm asked if corn from the seed program could be used through a sportsmen's club as winter feed. In reply, Larry Holjencin stated that if your local sportsmen club has enough land to leave the crop stand...that's fine, but they cannot harvest the crop and use it for winter feed, as part of this program. **Important Note:** Our organization does not have much say in how this program is operated. The conservation seed program is governed by the big seed companies. And if this program is not done right, it could really hurt the seed companies - because they'll lose the next year's sales. Therefore, this program has to be done so that it is good for wildlife and good for the seed companies. **Bottom Line:** Every thing that is planted under this program **MUST** be left as standing crops for wildlife. It cannot - **cannot** be harvested. If the guidelines established under this program are not **strictly** adhered to, we will lose our privilege to participate in this program - not just the guilty individual or chapter, but Pennsylvania - everyone and every organization in Pennsylvania, and anyone who looks like they might live in Pennsylvania will lose that privilege. Last year, there was one incident in the entire program, and it happened in Pennsylvania. A farmer in McKean County did not purchase his seed because he got it free from the turkey federation. The seed companies gave us a second chance. We **will not** get a third. Hopefully, that's 'Nuff Said!

It was suggested by Bill Drake and Gary Beatty that the Chapter should consider working with the PGC to expand the seed program into the PGC Cooperative Farm Program, and to work with PGC land managers to have seed planted on state game lands. Bill Drake said he would speak with the PGC land managers to acquire about any interest in participating in the seed program. Reed Johnson mentioned that the chapters in his area of Clearfield County distributed seed to the PGC Regional Districts and to the DCNR Bureau of Forestry Districts.

Education Boxes: It was suggested that the educational box program should be expanded to include junior and highschool students. In reply, it was mentioned that the program was geared towards 4th, 5th and 6th graders because that was the age group where opinions are most formulated. It was agreed, however, that it might be a good idea to consider expanding the program.

JAKES Publication: Ed Kemp asked about the school library package which use to include "Turkey Call" and the "Caller," and contained information and news about JAKES for elementary schools. With the new JAKES publication, would that be included in the package, or would a school level specific package be used? In reply, Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin said that they would contact National about Ed's concern.

JAKES Members: Don O'Brien asked if the goal to sign 100 Jakes was limited to banquets. In reply, it was stated that this program was for members signed-up at the banquets, only.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT: Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake spoke briefly about the timing of Pennsylvania's spring gobbler season. As reported, Bill and Bob Boyd, Assistant Director Bureau of Wildlife Management, put together an information packet for the Sportsmen's Advisory Council. This information was distributed to the Board. As mentioned, Pennsylvania's spring gobbler season is timed to begin after the majority of hens have initiated incubation. Our peak of hatching is about the first of June. Nesting peaks 28 days earlier - the first of May. Pennsylvania's spring gobbler season opens on the Saturday closest to May 1.

Earlier hunting would create additional breeding and nesting disturbance, and illegal hen mortality. The degree of additional reproductive disturbance and illegal mortality caused by earlier timing of spring hunting has not been studied. However, the impacts of intrusions of about 240,000 spring gobbler hunters during the first week of hunting into the heart of breeding season would appear to be substantial.

The peak of gobbling in Pennsylvania is not known. West Virginia's peak period of gobbling is between April 23 - May 1. If gobbling peaks before the start of our spring season, hunter success might be improved, in some years, by moving the start earlier. However, some studies have found that hunting activity suppressed gobbling. Therefore, any improvement in success by starting earlier would likely be minimal, and would probably be outweighed by detriment to recruitment

Timing of the start of the spring gobbler season involves a trade-off between detriment to wild turkey reproduction and optimization of hunter success. We should favor the resource rather than the hunter, particularly when the degree of benefits and harm are not well known, Biologist Drake said. **Bottom Line:** The PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management and the Pennsylvania Chapter favors a spring gobbler season which starts at or near May 1 for those reasons stated within this text.

WCO Sighting Survey: Biologist Drake reported that this year's statewide index value (19.1 turkeys seen/1000 miles traveled) was about 15 percent above the 1997 index value (16.5 turkeys/1000 miles), but was still below the 1994 and 1995 state index values (19.7 and 23.1). The 1998 index values in the western half of the state (TMAs 1A, 1B, 2, 3, and 6) were above their 1997 index values, while those in the eastern half of the state were generally lower. This data suggest that fall 1998 turkey populations should be slightly above 1997 levels, and that western populations should be better (relative to 1997) than eastern populations - perhaps, due to better spring reproduction. According to Bill, everything looks extremely good. We should have, without any question, a very good fall harvest. And, if everything comes together, we should have, perhaps, another record this year. I'm not predicting that because we have alot of mast on the ground, which should make locating turkeys a little more difficult, Drake stated. But the birds are there, and the possibility does exist.

Turkey Management Plan: As reported, a draft of the wild turkey management plan for Pennsylvania has been distributed to appropriate involved agencies, individuals, and members of the PA Chapter Board of Directors for review and comment by October 23, 1998. Final revisions and adoption of the plan will be completed as soon as possible upon receipt of final comments. Assistant Director Bob Boyd of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management reviewed portions of the plan with the Chapter Board. Information and input was given on some safety and education objectives. Much discussion took place, and some concerns were expressed - particularly about how much time was being allotted for turkey in the PGC HTE courses. However, it was unanimously agreed that the management plan was very well done, and thoroughly addressed the needs of the wild turkey through the goals and objectives within the plan. Thanks and appreciation was extended to Biologist Bill Drake for his efforts in formulating and putting together the wild turkey management plan.

COMMUNICATIONS: Under the first item of communications, it was noted that the Chapter had received a notice from the Wildlife Legislative Fund, mentioning that our dues needed to be renewed. This information was forwarded to Chapter Treasurer Don Heckman, who was directed to mail a check to the Legislative Fund.

Board Chairman Tim Holtz reminded the Board that letters of support for the NWTf Roger Latham Award should be addressed to Dr. James Earl Kenamer, but should be mailed to Bill Laird, our nominee for the award.

Don Heckman commended Rick Moroney for his efforts in getting out communication letters on behalf of the Chapter. In showing their appreciation, the Board gave Rick a round of applause for his efforts. Along those same lines, Biologist Bill Drake expressed his appreciation for the letter that Rick wrote to the PGC Commissioners, relative to the proposed release of turkeys in TMA 7B. Bill also expressed his thoughts in stating that more value should be place on the effect that Board members have in their support of the PGC, and their active role in the political arena. You guys are there. When I needed you, when the Game Commission has needed you, and when the resource has needed you, you guys have been there. And you have been there for all the right reasons, Drake said. If it wasn't for the right reasons, you wouldn't be affective. But you have been affective. Because you've always been there for all the right reasons. And I think it's important to point out that you guys have been politically involved. You guys are really making a difference in the management of the wild turkey resource here in Pennsylvania. And you're making that difference when it really counts - when things get tough. And I just think that that's something you guys don't talk enough about. I just want you to know that your efforts are recognized, and that we (the Game Commission) appreciate it, Biologist Bill Drake concluded.

Bill Laird thanked those Board members who wrote letters of support for his nomination for the Roger Latham Sportsmen Service Award. Bill also provided a summary of his accomplishments to assist those who had not written a letter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Youth Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that there is a new pin and a certificate being made up for JAKES. These items will be used to show appreciation for the accomplishments of individual JAKES members.

Safety Committee: Chairman Ron Sandrus reported that another 5000 safety rulers were ordered. In cooperation with the PGC, the Chapter had 10,000 safety posters made, and were in the process of distributing those posters.

Gun Raffle: Chairman Ed Kemp informed the Board that the gun raffle wasn't doing as well as in previous years. Some discussion took place to clarify matters relative to the gun raffle.

Land Acquisition: Chairman Boyd Enos reported that his committee was looking at the possibility of purchasing 13,000 acres of Georgia Pacific property in Clearfield County. There was some concern that the PGC would not have the money to purchase this property. It was noted that Georgia Pacific had sent a proposal to the PGC offering 5000 acres at a cost of \$200.00/per acre.

State Convention: Chairperson Doe Medvec provided the Board with a written report. Convention information will be included in the winter issue of "Turkey Talk."

Habitat Committee: Chairman Rudy Kovacina provided the Board with a written report. Rudy's report showed that there were 43 spring projects funded at a cost of \$101,051.59. In addition, 5 fall projects were funded at a cost of \$5956.93, for a total habitat expenditure of \$107,008.52.

Promotional Items: Chairman Skip Sanderson provided a written report. According to Skip's report 5 chapters have sent checks in support of the Make A Wish Foundation. Other chapters have made inquiries. Skip indicated that, due to computer problems, some local chapters did not receive a letter explaining the program.

Relative to promo items, Skip mentioned that his committee ordered 5000 more safety rulers. It was noted that Skip had received a flurry of requests for the rulers, as a result of our ad in "Turkey Talk."

Super Fund Committee: Habitat, Safety and Land Committee Chairmen developed a general guidelines information packet which will be sent to all local chapter presidents.

District Directors: District Directors Mark Davis, Bill Laird and Don O'Brien provided written reports of their activities. As reported, some of their many activities included:

- * Attended Governor's Symposium on North American Hunting Heritage in Hershey.
- * Attended Chapter President's meeting in State College.
- * Attended banquet meetings, and worked at membership banquets.
- * Attended PGC Stakeholders meeting in State College
- * Met with Legislators, wrote letters, and made phone calls relative to hunting license increase.
- * Delivered information packets about turkey hunting license to Game and Fish Committee members at the Capitol.
- * Attended Coalition meeting.
- * Instructed turkey hunting safety for HTE.
- * Manned booth at sport and outdoor shows

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, Lyle Gillespie brought some information to the Board about the cost and design of a display booth. It was noted that the Chapter had expressed an interest in purchasing a display booth for use at our state convention and other events. Some discussion took place. It was a consensus of the Board that the Chapter should purchase the display booth which was being endorsed by Lyle.

Hunting License Increase: Don O'Brien spoke briefly about where we're at, and where we need to go in regards to gaining support for a hunting license increase, and a turkey hunting license. Along those lines, Don Heckman mentioned that Chapter members had been invited to meet with members of the House Game and Fish Committee to voice our opinion, relative to a turkey hunting license. In addition, Heckman reported that the fall issue of "Turkey Talk" would contain a lot of information about the turkey hunting license, and our Chapter's plan to gain support for that license. Further, it was noted that the PGC gave our Chapter permission to reference the wild turkey management plan in our efforts to gain support for a turkey hunting license. By way of an unexpected turn of events, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs said it would not object to a turkey hunting license if it was part of the general hunting license increase package. Much discussion took place about this subject - particularly the cost of a turkey hunting license. Following this drawn out discussion, it appeared to be a consensus of the Board that the Chapter's number one priority was to secure a general hunting license increase. Second: To get a turkey hunting license included in the general hunting license increase package. And Third: The Chapter would not concern itself over the cost of a turkey hunting license, but would support a cost ranging from \$0.00 to \$10.00.

Governor's Symposium: Don O'Brien spoke briefly about the Governor's Symposium. It was noted that our organization was represented better than any other organization in attendance. Of special note, Chapter Board Member Dan Roessner and NWTf Executive Vice President and CEO Rob Keck were speakers at the symposium.

Local Chapter Loans: Larry Holjencin assured the Board that he and Jerry Zimmerman were working towards getting the money back which the Chapter loaned, as start-up funds, to local chapters. It was noted that Treasurer Don Heckman had received some of this money as a result of Larry's efforts.

Home Page: Don Heckman reported that two press releases were put on the Chapter's home page, the local chapter listing had been updated, and that Don is waiting for the next press release to put it on the home page.

Sportsmen's Coalition: Don Heckman reported that the Coalition plans to meet on October 20, 1998. The Chapter would pay its dues at this meeting. It was also mentioned that the general hunting license increase would be a topic for discussion on the Coalition's agenda.

Youth Field Days: It was reported that Past President Howard Meyers wrote a letter, stating that a Youth Field Day event held in his area did not receive a Chapter print. After some discussion, it was determined that this event took place during such time as the Chapter was having problems coordinating the shipment of prints.

Wild Turkey Management Plan: A motion to support the 1998 draft copy of the turkey management plan and to encourage Executive Director Don Madl to sign the plan was made by Rick Moroney, seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried. Along those lines, Rick Moroney agreed to write a letter to the PGC, expressing our support of the wild turkey management plan.

First Bird Patch: Larry Holjencin reported that George LaVanish would be willing to work with the Chapter to help secure a new first bird patch. It should be noted that George did not, necessarily, agree to do this patch for the Chapter. However, he would agree to help steer the Chapter in the right direction by making suggestions and providing contacts of individuals who might be interested. Youth Chairman Bill MacKereth agreed to work with George LaVanish on this project.

Northeast Technical Committee Meeting: Don Heckman inquired whether the Chapter would receive any information about the results of this meeting. Bill Drake and Bob Boyd said they would provide some information to the Chapter at a later date.

Task Force: Don Heckman reported that the Task Force had met on October 1, 1998. As reported, there are several items which the Task Force is working on, relative to the suppressed turkey population in TMA 7B. Don mentioned that the Task Force had developed a four-panel pamphlet, which is titled: Why there is no South Mountain turkeys. According to Heckman, the Task Force has identified four items to consider, in concern for which direction the Task Force will follow in the future. These four items under consideration are:

- 1.) Do nothing on TMA 7B, and let nature take its course.
- 2.) Do we support no trapping and transfer of turkeys...close the fall season, and begin research.
- 3.) Do we support trapping and transfer...don't close the fall season, and no research.
- 4.) Do we support no trap and transfer...don't close the fall season, and begin research.

Along those lines, Don indicated that he thought it was the position of our Chapter to: Not support trap and transfer of wild turkeys into TMA 7B, close the fall season, and begin research. **Bottom Line:** Our Chapter would probably support either Item 2 or Item 4, depending upon which direction the biologists want to take. It is apparent, now, that research will be required to solve the mystery surrounding TMA 7B. And that's the most important thing - identifying the problem and taking measures to correct the problem.

In concluding his report on the Task Force, Don mentioned that he would love to see the Chapter working towards establishing a Task Force for each of the Turkey Management Areas. I think it's a good idea to get this Chapter involved - not in the decision making process - but in bringing the Bureau of Forestry and the Game Commission together. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time the Game Commission and Bureau of Forestry personnel ever worked together down on the South Mountain, Don said. As a result, there's really been some good discussions and some good action items coming out of this that have not taken place between Game Commission and Forestry personnel, in the past. I just think that it would behoove our Chapter to use TMA 7B as an example, and start something up like this in other management areas, Don concluded.

Chapter Logo: Don Heckman wondered aloud about the status of our Chapter logo. Don expressed concern that the logo needed to be finalized - so that money could be budgeted, and so that work could begin on 25th anniversary items utilizing our new logo. Some discussion took place, and it was determined that Jerry Zimmerman was seeking input from NWTF about getting a new logo for our Chapter. Unfortunately, Jerry had to leave our meeting early on other organizational business, and was not available to provide an update.

Youth Field Days: Update to the Youth Field Days report given on page 7 of these Minutes. Dan Roessner reported that the prints had all been delivered, and that everyone should have gotten their prints. Dan mentioned that there was a problem in getting the prints delivered prior to a few Field Days events. Steps are being taken to correct the problem so that it doesn't occur again next year. According to Dan, part of the problem is trying to track down the dates for certain events in several different regions. For example, the Northeast Region reported that it would have 4 events, but did not report the dates for those events. **Bottom Line:** Our Chapter must rely on the various PGC Regions to provide the necessary information. However, during the discussion which followed Dan's report, it appeared that Dan has identified the problem, taken steps to correct the problem, and we really don't foresee a problem in the future.

WCO Award: Board Chairman Tim Holtz reported that Jerry Zimmerman has had some preliminary discussions with the Game Commission about our proposal to provide an award for WCOs and Landmanagers.

Scholarship Fund: Rick Moroney reported that Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin have had discussions with our local chapters about starting a scholarship fund. As a result, it has become apparent that there is a lot of interest among the local chapters to participate in a scholarship fund. Our Chapter's involvement with the scholarship fund will be as follows: Each local chapter who elects to start a scholarship fund will initiate a scholarship fund selection process for their area to determine an individual(s) for funding. The Chapter will ask each local chapter to provide the name of that individual or individuals that they have chosen for a scholarship. The Chapter will then select one individual from all those individuals chosen by our local chapters. This individual chosen by the Chapter will then receive additional funding from the Chapter. **Special Note:** Whatever the local chapters decide to do in determining the amount of funding to be given and

the type of selection process that they wish to use is totally their responsibility and decision to make. However, it is in the best interest of our Chapter and our NWTF organization that those individuals selected for a scholarship fund **must** be a hunter. It is important to note that just because an individual choses to work as a wildlife biologist that doesn't necessarily mean that they are not an anti-hunter. We encourage all of our local chapters to do the right thing, and to make being a hunter a mandatory part of their selection process.

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, history was made. The calendar date was duly marked, and the exact time was checked. Therefore, let it be recorded, and forever known that on Saturday, October 3, 1998 at 2:23 p.m., during a Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors meeting at Warriors Mark, Don Heckman said:

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, I have to apologize to the Pennsylvania State Chapter Board. At this meeting, I have no New Business to report.

Also, let the record show that Don's statement was followed by a loud, uninterrupted round of applause from the Board. And let the record show that this applause was followed by Board members dropping their heads in slack-jawed, disbelief.

Porter Wagner Field Days: Chapter President Gary Beatty reported that he had received a letter from NWTF about the Porter Wagner Youth Field Days. The Board was made aware of the information contained in this letter. **A motion to have the Chapter provide sponsorship funding for two youths to participate in the Porter Wagner Youth Field Days event in Edgefield was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.** Some discussion took place, regarding the Chapter's selection process of determining which two youths should receive our sponsorship. It was decided to use the same method as used in the past. However, it was agreed that the selection process needed to be reviewed, in hopes of discovering a better, less time consuming method.

Super Fund Requests: Chapter President Gary Beatty expressed his concern over some of the requests that he has been receiving for funding Youth Field Day and JAKES events. Gary's main concerns were:

- 1.) Some local chapters were not including the number of youths for their event on the Green Sheet request form.
- 2.) Some local chapters have been working together on a cooperative youth event. Unfortunately, each chapter involved has been making a Green Sheet request for the same event.
- 3.) Some local chapters are attempting to create another Christmas for the kids by giving away too much product. According to Gary, the idea of a youth event is not to create another birthday or Christmas for the kids by giving away so many presents, but rather to introduce those kids to the outdoors, turkey hunting and conservation.

Along those lines, President Beatty will be sending each local chapter president a set of Super Fund guidelines. It should be noted that the Chapter is responsible for following the guidelines set forth by NWTF. These guidelines permit approval for youth events based on \$5.00 per/youth participant, with a maximum of \$500.00 per/event. **Bottom Line:** The Chapter and NWTF certainly encourages all local chapters to conduct JAKES events and/or to participate in Youth Field Days events. The significance and importance of introducing our young people to the great outdoors cannot be overstated. However, when one considers the number of events which are held in Pennsylvania, and the amount of funding which is available, then, there is a need, in some cases, to use a little more prudence in the decision making process on how that event is conducted.

Art Print: Wildlife Artist George LaVanish had displayed a stamp print for the Board to consider using as supplemental art for our membership banquets. Some discussion took place, and it was determined that Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin would test market 5 or 10 pieces to see how well they do.

Paradise Ranch: Chapter President Gary Beatty received a letter and a brochure from the owners of Paradise Ranch in Centre County. They were interested in knowing if our Chapter would be interested in purchasing a special hunt and/or outing to be used for fundraising purposes. This information was passed onto the Board, but there was no decision made on the matter.

Information and Education Committee: Bill Laird suggested that the Board might want to consider establishing an Information and Education Committee. Although no discussion took place regarding Bill's suggestion, the Executive Committee was taking it under consideration.

Membership: Bill Laird suggested that the Board might want to consider becoming an associate member of the PA Deer Association, and possibly some other conservation groups. Although no decision was made, it was suggested that we should consider a sponsor membership rather than an associate membership.

Sopchick Print: Bill Laird mentioned that Bob Sopchick was working on a three-piece artwork series which profiles a gobbler, a hen, and a deer. It was suggested that the Board may want to consider purchasing some of those. Relative to his suggestion, Bill was asked to bring examples of the artwork to our meeting in January.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Bill MacKereth mentioned that he wanted to have a Youth Committee meeting before November, and he was hoping that that would be suitable to his committee members. Bill reported that he had contacted Editor Larry Smail about putting an ad in "Turkey Talk" for our First Bird patch. It was noted that these patches could be obtained through Dennis Strawbridge. Bill also mentioned that he had made copies of the application for the Porter Wagner Youth Field Days art competition. Bill indicated that he would be putting these applications into the schools in his area. In addition, Bill was planning to have an application published in the next issue of "Turkey Talk."

Regarding our First Bird patch, Bill was given permission to seek help and possible artwork from Larry Smail and Dan Crist. It was suggested, however, that Bill should talk to George LaVanish first, since he had already been approached by the Board.

Officers: Board Chairman Tim Holtz mentioned that we were still looking for officer candidates for the positions of Vice President and Secretary. It should be noted that Chairman Holtz did not have to seek cover in order to avoid the onslaught of volunteers.

Greenwood Lodge: Although not formally confirmed at the time of our meeting, it was announced that the January 8 - 9, 1999 meetings of our Executive Committee and Board of Directors would be held at the Greenwood Lodge in Clearfield County. **Special Note:** As a result of the drought experienced this year in Pennsylvania, the Greenwood Lodge owners were forced to close their camp during deer season, due to a lack of water. Therefore, the lodge will not be available for our meeting. **Chapter Executive and Board Meetings:** Our Executive Meeting will be held at the Frost Camp in Huntingdon County. Our Chapter Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m., on Saturday, October 3, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

July 20, 1998

TO: ALL OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE SILVER SPURS.

Enclosed, for your review and reference, please find a copy of the June 1998 Minutes of our Board of Directors meeting held at Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania. The next meeting of our Chapter Board will be held August 1, 1998 at Warriors Mark in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday.

Executive Committee: Executive Committee members will meet July 31, 1998 at the Frost Camp in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., on Friday. **(The Frost Camp is opened to anyone who wants to attend the Executive Committee meeting and/or sleep over.)**

Directions to Warriors Mark: From State College, take Route 26 south to Route 45 west, continue straight through flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Go 6.5 miles and turn right towards Pennsylvania Furnace. Go 3 miles and turn left onto Dry Hollow Road. Go 3 miles to Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve.

From Altoona, take Route 220 north to Tyrone exit. Follow Route 453 south for 1/2 mile and turn left onto Route 550 north. Go 6 miles to Village of Warriors Mark. Continue on Route 550 for 1.25 miles and bear right off of Route 550 at Y. Go 2 miles to Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve.

Directions to Frost Camp: From State College, take Route 26 south. Turn left on Route 26 south at flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Follow Route 26 south up over Tussey Mountain and down the other side. Near the bottom of the mountain, turn right off of Route 26 south and **onto RD road towards Stone Valley Recreation Area. Travel approximately 1 mile. Where road bends towards the left and heads down hill, turn right onto camp driveway. Bear left alongside large building and follow lane back into camp.**

From Southwest, take Route 22 east towards Huntingdon (do not go to Huntingdon). Shortly after passing Route 45 where it meets Route 22 in Water Street, turn left onto Route 305 towards Alexandria. Follow Route 305 through Petersburg. Continue on Route 305 to Neffs Mills. At Neffs Mills, bear left onto RD road (Route 305 goes right towards McAlevys Fort). Follow RD road pass Stone Valley Recreation Area. Follow RD road to intersection with Route 26. Turn around 180 degrees and back onto RD road. Follow highlighted directions above.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on August 1, 1998....

Yours for good conservation,

Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation

ENCLOSURE:



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 6, 1998

Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, the June 1998 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 9:06 a.m., on Saturday, June 6, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Tim Holtz welcomed everyone to our June Board meeting. Chairman Holtz extended a special welcome and recognition to our newly elected board members: Carl Mowry, Lyle Gillespie and Greg Dreibelbis. As well, acknowledgement was extended to our special guests: Ron Fretts, NWTF Board of Directors; Howard Meyers, past Chapter President and past member of the NWTF Board of Directors; and Terry Hyde, past Chapter Board of Directors member. Ground rules for our meeting were reviewed and explained by Chairman Holtz. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty welcomed everyone to our meeting. Greg Dreibelbis, Lyle Gillespie and Carl Mowry were welcomed to the flock as new members of the Chapter Board of Directors. President Beatty also extended his thanks to Rich Weaver, Sam Truxell and Dave Blakley, recognizing their commitment and dedication as past Chapter Board members. President Beatty extended special thanks and appreciation to Bill Laird and Don Heckman for serving as chairmen of this year's state convention. Special thanks and appreciation was also extended to all convention committee members and to: Michaux Yellow Breeches, Mason Dixon, Fort Chambers, Stony Valley, Adams County Longbeards, and the Perry County Strutters chapters for all their help and efforts in making this year's convention a success.

As reported, Chapter President Gary Beatty has stayed in touch with Don Heckman and others in regards to the PGC's proposal for a second bird in the spring season. President Beatty sent letters to state Senators asking them to separate politics from their responsibility to fill vacated seats on the PGC's Board of Commissioners. In other business, President Beatty represented the Chapter at the POWA breakout session held in Warren, PA. In concluding his report, Gary mentioned that, thus far, spring banquet results appear to be on schedule to surpass last year's figures. We've had some new banquets and the number of new members being generated at these new banquets has been nothing short of amazing, Gary stated in conclusion of his report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Corrections and additions were made to the March 1998 Minutes as follows: Under Public Broadcasting on page 18, it was recorded: ...commissioned by the PGC to do a 13-part series on the wild turkey in Pennsylvania. This was corrected to read: ...commissioned by the PGC to do a 13-part series on **wildlife** in Pennsylvania.

Under Comment - President Nittany Valley Longbeards Greg Dreibelbis on page 11, paragraph 2, it was recorded: ...would support a two tag system - one spring tag and one tag for spring and fall.

This was corrected to read: ...would support a two tag system - one spring tag and one tag for spring or fall. There being no other additions or corrections made to the March 1998 Minutes, a motion to accept the March 1998 Minutes as corrected was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Don Heckman gave his report for the period March 1 to May 31, 1998. As reported our checking account balance was \$11,573.83, as of May 31, 1998. Our fair market value was \$4375.80, with total assets being \$15,949.63. Total revenue for the period was \$17,467.85, with total revenue year to date of \$57,850.99. Total expenses for the period were \$19,326.58, with total expenses year to date of \$49,486.32. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter Vice President Don O'Brien submitted a written report of his activities to the Board. It should be noted that Don has been very active in carrying out the goals and objectives of our organization. His list of activities does not show many open dates when Don is not promoting the NWTF in one way or another. Along those lines, I think a tip of the camo hat is in order.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: No report.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported Super Fund deposits were \$129,529.00, with expenditures of \$130,675.00, leaving a current balance of \$104,351.00. RD Holjencin mentioned that we are experiencing a record-breaking year in posting Super Fund numbers. Larry thanked all the local chapters for their help and efforts in generating Super Fund dollars at membership banquets.

Membership: Current figures show Pennsylvania with 9783 adult and 3167 JAKES, for a total of 12,950 members. The Wisconsin Chapter has 12,043 members. The South Carolina Chapter has 10,666 members. It was noted that some of the spring banquet membership numbers were not included, as banquet reports had not been finalized.

Porter Wagner Youth Field Days: RD Holjencin reported that Sam Huff of the New Wilmington area and Brandon Traugh from the Danville/Col. Mont Gobblers Chapter area will be representing our Chapter at the Porter Wagner Youth Field Days event.

New Regional Directors: It was reported that the NWTF has hired five new Regional Directors. Regional Directors were hired for Alabama, Montana, West Virginia, Ontario and the New Jersey/Delaware/Maryland region. Currently, the NWTF has 44 Regional Directors, and is looking to hire new Regional Directors for Michigan, Minnesota and Mississippi.

Truck Raffle: RD Larry Holjencin informed the Board that raffle tickets for a Ford F150 4 X 4 truck were available.

State Shoot: According to Larry, the state shoot is ready to go and is scheduled for June 28, 1998. Larry encouraged more Board members to attend, noting that it was a great shoot and a fun time for those who like to shoot.

28th Day: RD Holjencin mentioned that he was interested in inviting Wildlife Artist George LaVanish to our August Board meeting to discuss his ideas for a 1999 - 2000 year print (subject matter, addition size and cost). Along those lines, it was suggested by Larry that the Board might want to consider utilizing the third print in the George LaVanish series as our Chapter's 25th Anniversary print.

Chapter President's Meeting: The Chapter President's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 2, 1998 at the Ramada Inn in State College.

JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime: As reported the event went real well. One of the boys, Jim Hess Jr., harvested his first-ever turkey during the hunt - an adult gobbler. Unfortunately, the other participant, Brad Myers, did not harvest a turkey, but he had one in close and heard a lot of gobbling. Robby Rohm captured the hunt on film and is making a video of the weekend events.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: PGC Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake reported that work is continuing on the Wild Turkey Management Plan. However, according to Bill, the plan is not likely to be completed this summer due to Bill's other work priorities and the time which is involved in the review process before the plan can be adopted.

NEWTTC Meeting: As reported, Pennsylvania will host the 1998 meeting of the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee. Wild turkey biologists from all northeastern states and the province of Ontario will gather at Trout Run Lodge in Elk County on September 14 to 17, 1998 to discuss wild turkey management issues and problems of mutual interest. According to Biologist Bill Drake, some of the topics of discussion will include: GIS satellite imagery of habitat, standardization of collecting harvest and population data, dealing with nuisance wild turkeys, and others.

Harvest Management: Preliminary data for the spring 1997 and fall 1997 wild turkey harvests suggest slight increases from 1996. Spring and fall harvest report cards were 1 and 8 percent, respectively, above report cards received in 1996. Official Game Take Survey spring and fall harvest and hunting participation data will be available and reported at the August Board meeting.

In-state Turkey Transfer: As reported, field sightings of wild turkeys in and near the winter 1997 release sites at State Game Lands #242 and Codorus State Park in York County are encouraging. WCOs Greg Houghton and Tim Smith both verify sightings of broods and various other flock sightings. The turkeys seen in both areas display wary behavior suggesting their origin to be from trap and transfer.

Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys: Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake mentioned that summer sighting surveys have been initiated on the Michaux State Forest to enhance the PGC's wild turkey population trend data for that area. As reported, six routes (approx. 30 miles each) will be conducted annually during June, July and August. Each route will be surveyed 12 times (weekly) each summer and the miles driven and number of turkeys seen recorded. The PA Chapter (2), the Michaux State Forest (2), and the Southcentral Region of the PGC (2) will conduct routes.

Two Bird Spring Limit: Biologist Drake distributed copies of the PGC's Bureau of Wildlife Management recommendations for a two bird spring limit. Bill encouraged the Board to become familiar with the Bureau's recommendations to be able to discuss the issues should the Chapter decide to pursue a two bird spring limit.

Turkey Propagators: A listing of people raising game farm turkeys in Pennsylvania was distributed to some Board members. This list contained the names of approximately 200 propagators, who have a permit to raise game farm turkeys. I've got a growing concern with this, Biologist Drake said. I would hope that we can try to address this issue in the near future. I think it's creating confusion. It's creating management problems - real management problems. Not to a large degree, but it continues to be a nuisance. I think it's something that I would like the Game Commission to address. I think it's something the Chapter should be aware of. And I hope that sometime in the near future that the Chapter and the Game Commission can join forces to combat this issue, Bill stated.

Season Opener Proposal: It was reported that a proposal was put before the PGC Commissioners to have squirrel, grouse, woodcock, rabbit, pheasant and turkey season open on the same day. Some discussion took place

regarding this proposal. It appeared to be a concensus of the Board that the fall wild turkey season opener should remain as is and not be moved up a week earlier.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT: NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts reported that NWTF membership was over the 180,000 mark. It was noted that the NWTF is looking to increase its membership by 20,000 to 30,000 members a year. Ron indicated that he was very proud of the fact that the NWTF has upgraded its communications department. We've never really been able to tell our story properly. But I think, now, we'll be able to begin to tell our story better, Fretts said. I think you'll continue to see growth and improvement in our magazine, and better communication to our members and wildlife professionals.

NWTF Building Committee: As chairman of the NWTF Building Committee, Ron Fretts thanked Lyle Gillespie and the Red Rose Chapter for the sign which Lyle's company made and was donated to the NWTF by the Red Rose Chapter. According to Ron, phase 3 of the construction has been completed and a dedication ceremony is slated for the first week in August. The new visitors center is partially completed - completed enough that visitors would have an interest in seeing what's there. As reported, however, it will probably take another three or four years to complete the visitors center, and to really be able to show what the NWTF is all about - past history, present and where the NWTF is headed in the future. Along those same lines, Ron reported that the NWTF is prepared to award a contract for a 30,000 square foot warehouse building. With the increase and growth trend of our membership banquets, a warehouse is needed to provide product to the 1100 banquets for this year and projected 1400 banquets for next year. It's gotten to be a pretty complicated thing to run the National Wild Turkey Federation. It's not a mom and pop operation like it once was, Ron stated.

General Health of the NWTF: According to Ron, the general health of our organization is very good. Our financial position is stronger than it's ever been. Our ability to hire people, build buildings, fund habitat projects, purchase land and a lot of other things are just routine things that happen now. An expenditure of \$100,000.00 out of the Super Fund is not a big deal anymore. It just happens. It happens everyday across the country. I know a lot of you guys can remember when we didn't have \$10.00 to spend on anything. But we now have the ability to accomplish our purpose. And what we are accomplishing is good, Ron said.

Game Farm: Ron spoke on the issue of game farm turkeys. As mentioned, it's not only a problem with turkeys but, apparently, it's also a problem with elk and whitetail deer. According to Ron, the real scary thing is this: Alberta, Colorado, Idaho and Saskatchewan have just moved the elk from under the domain of the state agency to the Department of Agriculture. This was done because the elk ranchers have such a strong foot hold in the political arena, and because they want to dictate whether we have game farm elk. According to many articles written by conservationist and fish and game agencies, game farms are a real problem to hunters. I think the anti-hunters would love to see all of our wildlife penned-up. Then, of course, they wouldn't be wild animals anymore, Ron said. In regards to game farm turkeys in Pennsylvania, Ron stated: I think it's a Game Commission concern. And it should be our concern, too. But I think it (combating the issue) should be initiated by the Game Commission. And we would probably support anything that the PGC would want to do along those lines.

C.B. McCleod Award: Ron congratulated Don Heckman for being the winner of the C.B. McCleod Distinguished Service Award which is presented by the NWTF for dedicated support of the NWTF and wild turkey conservation. It was noted that Don was the only person to have ever received this award and did not work at the national level. It was one of the highlights of my convention, Ron said.

American Hunting Heritage Symposium: We're very fortunate to have the symposium here in Pennsylvania this year, Ron said. It's a very positive thing. It promotes hunting. It tells fish and game agencies what's going on in other parts of the country. And then it does something about it by getting their works published. I would encourage anyone who has an opportunity to attend this year's symposium, Ron concluded.

agencies with information about what is going on in other parts of the country.

Turkey Hunting License: As reported, the Pennsylvania Chapter has been in favor of a turkey hunting license for over 20 years. We're not politicians. And, hopefully, we never will be, Ron said. Don't let politics cloud your view of why you want a turkey hunting license. There are a whole lot of valid reasons for having a turkey license. I'm about at the point where I don't care too much about politics. I want what I know is right for wild turkeys and the hunters of Pennsylvania. And it is a turkey hunting license. And I don't think there's any doubt about it. So don't let the political part of this thing cloud your view of what you know to be right, Ron said in concluding his report.

COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from W. Garafolo of Fort Meyers, Florida. Garafolo expressed interest in purchasing a 1981, signed, PA wild turkey stamp. It was also noted that Garafolo has several 1982 and 1983, signed, stamps which he would be willing to trade.

Received an E-mail from Jonathan and Holly Bretzius of Ft. Washington, PA. They were concerned about a proposal to develop a four-acre parcel of land near their home. They wanted to know if our Chapter could help them and their neighbors prevent the development of this land.

Received an E-mail from Joseph F. Leighty thanking Larry Holjencin for his article in the April/May 1998 issue of "Turkey Talk," concerning the state shoot at Hillside.

Received a letter from the Susquehanna River Wetlands Trust, thanking the Chapter for our donation of a Gerald Putt turkey print for their fundraising purposes.

Received a memorandum from Rob Keck, informing the Chapter that the dedication and grand opening of the Wild Turkey Center is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 1998.

Received a letter from Jerry Zimmerman, informing the Board about our spring 1998 JAKES hunt of a lifetime.

In other business, Don Heckman asked the Board for direction on how to handle E-mail, which requires some type of feedback from the Chapter. Some discussion took place. It was decided that this information should be sent to the Chapter President and Vice President. They would, then, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Portfolio Chairman Mark Davis informed the Board that he had "yellow sheets" available for distribution. As noted, local chapters should catalog their activities on the yellow sheets for entry in the portfolio competition. Copies of the yellow sheet can be made.

Habitat Committee: Chairman Rudy Kovacina reported that his committee met February 21, 1998 at Kooser State Park, Somerset County to review and approve requests for habitat funding through the Super Fund. As reported, 43 projects, totaling \$101,051.59, were approved.

Greg Dreibelbis raised a question on the floor, relative to him having received a Super Fund check made out in his name. Some discussion took place. It was determined that loop holes in the system needed to be closed, and this problem needed to be addressed forthwith.

Paper Supplies: Chairman Dennis Strawbridge informed the Board that he had letterhead and envelopes available for distribution. It was also noted that the new letterhead contained our E-mail and Home Page addresses. Along those same lines, Dennis reported that our new reward posters and first bird certificates were available.

Safety Committee: Chairman Ron Sandrus updated the Board on the NRA turkey hunting safety clinic. As reported, the process for reestablishment of the clinic and recertification of instructors is ongoing. Relative to the NRA, Past Chapter President Howard Meyers informed the Board that money was available for youth field days and JAKES events from the NRA. Contact your regions NRA representative for more information.

Promotional Committee: Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that 5000 rulers with a safety and ethics message and the NWTF scoring system printed on them are available for handouts at shows and JAKES events. As reported, the committee is still considering an ERTL truck, belt buckles, money clips and lighters for our 25th Anniversary promotional items. Skip hired a model and a professional photographer to work up a spread that could be used on the Web site and in "Turkey Talk" to promote our promotional items. It was not known whether they had gotten together, yet. In concluding his report, Skip mentioned that he had collected \$902.00 for the convention and \$400.00 in sales for the Chapter.

Make a Wish Committee: Chairman Skip Sanderson drafted a letter to all local chapters to request a \$100.00 donation from their general fund to be put towards a contribution to the Make A Wish Foundation. This letter also includes a plea for local chapters to take this idea one step further and to do a non-hunting related charity project in their community. It was duly noted that the Allegheny Sultans had already sent a check for \$100.00 to kick off the program. The letter that Skip drafted is awaiting final approval from the Chapter President.

Safety: Don Heckman reported that there were 10 shooting incidents during the 1998 spring turkey hunting season. All of the victims were shot in mistake of game. There were no fatalities. Two of the ten shooting incidents involved multiple victims. Six of the ten shooting incidents occurred during the first week of the season. Along those lines, Don stated that he would like the Safety and Education Committee to begin work on a safety message and poster-concept with the PGC, so that we definitely have something available prior to the fall season. In other business, Ron Sandrus informed the Board that he had some of the safety stickers available for handouts to those who might need them.

Land Acquisition Committee: Chairman Boyd Enos reported that the Chapter worked in cooperation with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy to purchase 4200 acres adjacent to State Game Lands #100 and the Sproul State Forest. This parcel of land is located in the West Keating Township area of Clinton County. Other contributors to the purchase included the DCNR Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and other private contributors.

District Directors: District Directors Don O'Brien and Mark Davis provided written reports of their activities. As reported, some of their many activities included:

- * Attended Chapter convention
- * Attended Local Chapter Meetings and State Chapter Board Meetings
- * Conducted habitat enhancement projects
- * Conducted membership banquets and assisted Regional Directors with banquets
- * Conducted turkey-related seminars
- * Conducted youth events

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, Chapter President Gary Beatty spoke to the Board about our need to improve our public relations. As reported, Charlie Burchfield had submitted a proposal to the Chapter in January, whereby Charlie would be willing to serve as the Chapter's public relations person. It was mentioned that the Executive Committee had met on the subject, and recommended that the Board take action to approve Charlie's proposal. Along those lines, **a motion to accept Charlie Burchfield's proposal to have him serve as the Chapter's public relations representative, for a one year term, and to evaluate the effects of the program after one year to determine future direction was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Dale Rohm. Motion carried.** Following the motion, some discussion took place. Charlie Burchfield was given the floor to explain his proposal and to field questions from the Board. The vote was taken, and the motion carried.

POWA Meeting: Chapter President Gary Beatty informed the Board that he had represented the Chapter at the POWA meeting in Warren, PA. As reported, Gary had a public relations packet put together for handouts at the Chapter booth. Gary mentioned, however, that he was somewhat disappointed that only about

seven writers visited the Chapter booth.

Governor's Symposium: As reported the NWTF has committed to be a Gold Sponsor, a \$10,000.00 sponsorship, of the Governor's Symposium. The NWTF contributed \$8000.00 and our Chapter contributed \$2000.00 towards this sponsorship. The purpose of this symposium is to tell our story about what we are doing for youth, women and hunters, as an organization, at the national, state and local levels. This symposium will be attended by over 500 wildlife professionals from throughout the country, and will be opened to the general public on Saturday. It was noted that the Chapter would set up an information booth at the symposium, and that Don O'Brien would serve as chairman, and Lyle Gillespie would be the co-chairman. Don Heckman expressed the importance of having people working the Chapter booth who are familiar with NWTF programs, how our organization operates on the national, state and local levels, how our organization supports the theme of the symposium and, on top of all that, they must be knowledgeable enough to answer any questions that may be asked about our organizational goals and objectives. **Bottom Line:** They must be able to tell the story of our NWTF organization in a positive manner.

Along those same lines, the Executive Committee made a recommendation to provide an additional \$1500.00 to offset the costs associated with providing man-power to work the Chapter's information booth at the Governor's Symposium. Some discussion took place relative to the Executive Committee's recommendation. **A motion to allocate \$1500 for expenses related to maintaining the Chapter's presence at the Governor's Symposium was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

Public Broadcasting: Greg Dreibelbis reported that a public broadcasting station in the State College area was commissioned to do a 13-part series on Pennsylvania wildlife, with one series on the wild turkey. As reported, however, some changes have been made. Instead of a series on the wild turkey, the broadcast manager has, apparently, decided to do a series on game management. Greg mentioned that the broadcast manager was still interested in having the Chapter involved, in some way, with the game management series. It was also noted that the broadcast manager has been in touch with a representative of Ducks Unlimited. Along those lines, Greg agreed to keep in touch with the broadcast manager, and to keep Chapter President Gary Beatty informed.

Turkey Management Area 7B: Don Heckman reported that the Michaux State Forest Task Force plans to meet in October. Don mentioned that the task force would probably recommend that TMA 7B should be closed to fall turkey hunting, if turkey population figures do not show some improvement.

Sportsmen's Coalition: Don Heckman reported that the Sportsmen's Coalition would be electing its officers in August. Don also mentioned that he would be asking the Board to renew its membership in the coalition during our August Board meeting. For the record, cost for a one year membership in the coalition is \$100.00.

Web Site: Don Heckman informed the Board of some changes which have taken place on the Chapter's Home Page.

Make A Wish Foundation: Don Heckman thanked Skip Sanderson for agreeing to serve as chairman of the MAWF committee. Don suggested that Skip should keep National informed about our involvement with this charity, and to copy the NWTF on any related correspondence.

JAKES Program: Don Heckman spoke briefly - yes, briefly - before the Board about its JAKES program and about what direction is being taken. Chairman Bill MacKereth was asked to submit a budget for the JAKES program to Treasurer Don Heckman. Howard Meyers and Mark Davis informed the Board about local chapters who have taken JAKES out to the turkey woods to hunt spring gobblers. **Bottom Line:** Great idea! Is there a better way to introduce young people to the great outdoors? I don't think so. Maybe more of our local chapters could get involved in taking a young person(s) on a spring turkey hunt.

Convention 1998: Chairman Bill Laird reported that our state convention was a success. Bill mentioned that he had been approached by an individual who expressed interest in sponsoring the JAKES calling contest at next year's state convention. Bill reported on some of the minor problems that occurred at the state convention, and made several suggestions on how those problems may be corrected/addressed in the future. Along those same lines, Bill expressed his concern that an NWTF representative did not attend our state convention. It was noted that this was the first time in Chapter history that a representative of the NWTF did not attend our convention. Further, it was noted that that probably would never happen again. **Bottom Line:** It was an unfortunate turn of events, whereas the NWTF representative who was suppose to attend our state convention had tendered her resignation only two weeks prior to our convention. And, due to scheduling conflicts, the Chapter was unable to get another NWTF representative to attend. However, it remains very important to us, as a state chapter, to have an NWTF representative attend our state convention.

In continuing his report, Bill expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the local chapters who helped to support our state convention through donations. Bill stated that he was very pleased with the number of local chapters who provided that support, but indicated that there was still plenty of room for improvement. To all those local chapters who helped to support our convention, we extend our thanks, appreciation and a tip of the camo hat. **Thank you!**

1998 Convention Financial Report: Don Heckman expressed his appreciation that Bill Laird had agreed to serve as convention chairman. He put his heart and soul in this convention, and he had quite a staff - six local chapters, plus Roxanne Laird, that really stepped forward and added some excitement, Don stated. Yeah, we had a couple of problems. Yeah, we probably did a couple of things, in retrospect, we would change now. But the biggest problem we had: our own members did not show up. But it was still a great convention. And, hopefully, next year's convention will be even better, Don exclaimed.

In moving forward with the financial report, Don Heckman reported total income for the convention was \$61,824.81, with total expenses of \$43,878.33, leaving a total balance of \$17,946.48. It was noted that the convention account would be closed and a final report given at the August Board meeting. Boyd Enos mentioned that the Allegheny Sultans Chapter had donated \$100.00 to the Master's calling contest, and that this donation was not shown in the financial report. Don Heckman stated that he would get with Culver to find out why that was not recorded in the report.

Two Bird Spring Season Limit: Chapter President Gary Beatty reviewed the results of our "Turkey Talk" survey. Results of the survey indicated that our membership was opposed to a second bird during the spring season. However, the survey also indicated that the vast majority of our membership would support a turkey hunting license. Gary covered all aspects of the survey, and particular attention was given to the additional comments which were provided by most of the participants in the survey. Following the review of our survey, the floor was turned over to Don Heckman.

Don Heckman updated the Board on what has been accomplished to date in regards to a two bird spring season limit and a turkey hunting license. As reported, the Game Commission proposed a two bird spring season limit if, and only if, the legislators approved a turkey hunting license. In response, the legislators accused the PGC of attempting to blackmail the legislators with their proposal for a second bird in the spring. Based on that scenario, it became abundantly clear that our Chapter would, some how, have to separate the two issues - a two bird spring limit from a turkey hunting license. Furthermore, based on the results of our survey, it was determined that our Chapter should not support a two bird spring limit, but should attempt to get a turkey hunting license approved by the legislators.

Along those lines, it was announced that the Executive Committee had a recommendation for the Board to take under consideration. Board Chairman Tim Holtz stated the EC recommendation as follows: **The Chapter would ask the Game Commission to separate the two issues - two bird spring limit and turkey license - and would seek legislative approval for a turkey hunting license, using the planned proposal as outlined by Don Heckman to accomplish the task before us. Without further ado, a motion to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation, as presented, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.**

Much discussion took place prior to adoption of the motion. We heard comments from Boyd Enos,

Bob Boyd, Bill Drake, Larry Holjencin, Bill MacKereth, Ron Fretts, Rick Moroney, Don Heckman, Gary Beatty, Greg Dreibelbis, Terry Hyde, and Charlie Burchfield. **Bottom Line:** The Chapter's direction was set: we would not support a two bird limit, at this time, based on our membership response, and would proceed forward in seeking adoption of a turkey hunting license. Relative to the comments, some strong, valid points were made. However, for all intents and purposes, those comments only helped to reinforce our Chapter's direction. Following the comments, the vote was taken; and the motion was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, Regional Director Larry Holjencin encouraged the Board to purchase truck raffle tickets. **A motion to purchase two truck raffle tickets for the Chapter was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

NWTF Board: **A motion to nominate Ron Fretts for re-election to the NWTF Board of Directors was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.** It should be noted that Ron Fretts reserved his right to withhold his pending decision on whether or not he would seek re-election on the NWTF Board.

Executive Committee: It was noted that a seat remained to be filled on the Chapter's Executive Committee. President Beatty announced that the EC would like the Board to consider Greg Dreibelbis as a possible candidate for that unfilled seat. **A motion to appoint Greg Dreibelbis as an Executive Committee officer was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.**

Women in the Outdoors: RD Larry Holjencin reported that Trish Berry was looking to conduct a Women in the Outdoors program on September 19, October 3 or October 10. The program is being planned as a one day event at Camp Haveron. As mentioned, a lot of committee work still needed to be done prior to the event. Funding for the event needed to be approved by the Chapter's Safety and Education Committee. Along those lines, **a motion to have the Chapter Board make a recommendation to the Safety and Education Committee, asking the S&E Committee to approve funding for the Women in the Outdoors program, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

Chapter President Gary Beatty directed Bill MacKereth to work closely with Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin, and to coordinate efforts with local chapters to identify two women from each local chapter who may be interested in participating in the WITO program.

Sponsor Hunt of a Lifetime: It was reported that Skip Sanderson had suggested doing a sponsor hunt of a lifetime, in an effort to help recruit more sponsor members at membership banquets. Basic details of the proposed program were outlined by Chapter President Gary Beatty. **A motion to allocate \$1200.00, from the Chapter's general fund, for the Sponsor Hunt of a Lifetime program was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dale Rohm. Motion carried.** Prior to the vote being taken on the motion, some discussion took place, relative to working out the details of the program. We heard suggestions and comments from: Larry Holjencin, Don Heckman, Gary Beatty, Greg Dreibelbis, Lyle Gillespie, and Rick Moroney. Following discussion on the motion, the vote was taken; and the motion was carried.

Limited Edition Turkey Calls: As reported, limited edition turkey calls were sold at the state convention for \$50.00/each. Following some discussion, it was decided that the Chapter had charged too much money for the calls. As a result, a decision was made to lower the cost to \$25.00, and to reimburse those individuals who had purchased the calls at \$50.00.

JAKES Hunt: It was suggested, and a consensus of the Board, to send a certificate and first bird patch to Jim Hess Jr., who harvested his first-ever turkey during the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime.

State Forest Management Plan: As reported, the Bureau of Forestry develops a State Forest Management Plan, on a 15 year basis, to determine direction for management of our state forest. The Bureau is in the early stages of developing their management plan for the years 2000 - 2014. There's been a number

of public meetings on the management plan held around the state, including a meeting in Coudersport which was attended by Tim Holtz. Relative to the management plan, Tim drafted a position statement for the Chapter. Board members received a copy of Tim's draft, which was included in the Chapter President's Update to Board members. **A motion to approve the Chapter's position statement on the State Forest Management Plan, as drafted by Tim Holtz, was made by Boyd Enos, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

25th Anniversary Promotions: Past Chapter President Howard Meyers submitted two written proposals for the Board to consider as promotional items for our 25th Anniversary. The first proposal dealt with a limited edition truck which would contain Chapter/NWTF logos. All expenses would be covered by the producers of the truck. Our Chapter would receive a \$5.00 rebate from the sale of each truck.

Howard's other proposal dealt with limited edition turkey calls made by his company, Kicking Bird. As proposed, Kicking Bird would make 100 calls at \$75.00/each, with a selling price of \$100.00. The calls would include lazer artwork and original artwork done by Wildlife Artist Larry Smail. Kicking Bird would donate the number one call to the Chapter.

YHEC Program: Don Heckman reported that the Chapter had donated two framed prints to YHEC in March. It was also noted that the Chapter was working on donating hats for the number one junior and senior shooting teams. In addition, it was mentioned that the Chapter had donated \$2000.00, last year, to the YHEC program. Along those lines, **a motion to donate \$500.00 to the YHEC program for 1998 was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

Insurance Policy: As reported, the Chapter carries a blanket accident insurance policy for all state chapter officers and board members. This policy covers accidental death and accidental dismemberment benefits, while traveling to and from Chapter functions.

Keystone Conservationist: It was mentioned that "Keystone Conservationist" was interested in having our Chapter advertise in their magazine. After reviewing the rates for advertising, Chapter President Gary Beatty determined that it was not in the best interest of our Chapter to take out an ad in the magazine.

Chapter Brochures: Don Heckman suggested that the Board should consider updating our Chapter brochures. Don's suggestion was forwarded to the Paper Supplies Committee.

"Turkey Talk:" It was suggested that every issue of "Turkey Talk" should contain an NWTF membership application. As noted, this has been a regular practice but, from time to time, an issue is published which does not contain a membership application. Relative to "Turkey Talk," it was mentioned that Dave Blakley is still listed as our Chapter vice president. In addition, it was suggested that Greg Dreibelbis should be listed as a member of the Executive Committee.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Change of address - Greg Dreibelbis, 100 North Hill Place, State College, Pennsylvania 16803.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m., on Saturday, June 6, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick

Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 1, 1998

Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the August 1998 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 9:05 a.m., on Saturday, August 1, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Under the first order of business, Board Chairman Tim Holtz turned the floor over to Regional Director Larry Holjencin. Larry spoke briefly about the Chapter's print/patch program, and about what the Board needs to consider before moving forward with next year's program. Wildlife artist George LaVanish was given an opportunity to express some of his ideas to the Board, relative to next year's print/patch program. Some general discussion took place. There were two areas of concern which the Board needed to take under consideration: Would there be enough prints available for our local chapter banquets, based on projected increases? Should the Board consider a separate print for the Chapter's 25th anniversary? George appeared to be somewhat confident that there would be enough prints available for local chapter banquets. However, the Board still needed to make a decision in regards to a 25th anniversary print.

At the conclusion of discussion, RD Holjencin thanked George LaVanish for his proposal to the Chapter. It was a great proposal that you had. The print has been dynamite, and I think we've generated a lot of interest for the next two prints. The thing that you bring to the table - the marketing end, advise and artistic talent - is really appreciated. It really helps the program, Larry stated.

In other business, Board Chairman Tim Holtz reviewed and explained the ground rules for our meeting. Those in attendance were asked to introduce themselves and to state their affiliation, if any, with a local chapter. Following introductions, the floor was then opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty reported that he has had numerous conversations with Don Heckman and other board members relative to the two bird spring proposal and turkey license. Gary attended the July meeting of the PGC Board of Commissioners. President Beatty also attended a meeting for our 1999 state convention, which will be held just north of Pittsburgh. In concluding his report, President Beatty thanked several board members for doing what needs to be done, without having to be reminded of their responsibilities.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There being no additions or corrections made to the June 1998 Minutes, a motion to accept the June 1998 Minutes as presented was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.

In other business, Secretary Rick Moroney thanked Regional Senior Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman and Regional Director Larry Holjencin for all the work that they do, for our Chapter and Board of Directors, which is not a part of their job description and/or primary responsibilities. As noted, Jerry and Larry help our Chapter tremendously with matters and issues of importance to our Board. Of greater note, Larry and Jerry involve themselves with Chapter matters that would not receive an ounce of consideration by Regional Directors in other states. Your involvement, your help and your advise is greatly appreciated. You guys really help us (the Board) alot, and I just want to thank you for your efforts, Rick stated. It was also noted that Jerry and Larry wouldn't be given this free rein without the approval and understanding of Carl Brown, NWTF Vice President for Operations.

Along those same lines, Chapter President Gary Beatty informed the Board that Regional Directors Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin posted the best numbers of any Regional Director in the organization. As mentioned, Jerry and Larry are ranked number one and two in the country for banquets, membership, money raised, etc. So, Rick's praise of those guys is well deserved, because their numbers prove that they are doing the best job possible, Gary stated. In appreciation, the Board extended a round of applause and a tip of the camo hat to Jerry and Larry for their efforts.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Don Heckman gave his report for the period June 1 - July 31, 1998. As reported, our checking account balance was \$9251.66, as of July 31, 1998. Our fair market value was \$4375.80, with total assets being \$13,627.46. Total revenue for the period was \$6314.81, with total revenue year-to-date of \$64,165.80. Total expenses for the period were \$8636.98, with total expenses year-to-date of \$58,123.30. Following some general discussion regarding the Treasurer's Report, **a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Boyd Enos, seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.**

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice President Don O'Brien provided a written report of his activities to the Board. Don thanked Lyle Gillespie for his help and assistance with the Governor's Symposium.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: No report.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: Senior Regional Field Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman reported that Pennsylvania is still ranked number one in NWTF memberships. It was noted that Pennsylvania is widening the gap in the membership race between Pennsylvania and Wisconsin - by about a 1000 members. However, it was further noted that Kentucky and South Carolina have entered the race, with approximately 10,000 members. NWTF membership in Pennsylvania is over 13,000.

RD Summer Meeting: As reported at NWTF's summer meeting for Regional Directors: Pennsylvania was rated **number one** in regular members, JAKES members, net dollars raised, and net, net dollars raised. Jerry congratulated all of Pennsylvania's local chapters for the work that they've done in all those categories, along with everything else that's being done at the local chapter level. **Bottom Line:** Our local chapters put the rubber to the road, and make things happen. Without the help and assistance of local chapter volunteers our NWTF organization, the Pennsylvania Chapter in particular, would be spinning its wheels in the mud. **Thank you!**

Super Fund: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that our current Super Fund balance is over \$100,000.00.

New RDs: As reported, the NWTF has hired five more Regional Directors, bringing the total to 44. An RD was hired to cover New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. Regional Directors were also hired to cover Ontario, Alabama, West Virginia, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska. It was mentioned that the NWTF is looking to put more Regional Directors in the Southwest area of the country, and would probably hire people for that area sometime in the Fall.

Homework Assignment: According to SRFS Zimmerman, Jerry and Larry Holjencin were given a homework assignment to complete prior to the summer RD meeting. As reported, Larry and Jerry were asked to plot current chapter banquets, and to identify potential areas in Pennsylvania with populations of between 5000 and 10,000 people. It was noted that the NWTF has, historically, had a great deal of success at organizing chapters in towns with 5000 - 10,000 people. Towns of this size have served as a barometer for the RDs, when they're looking at areas for potential growth and opportunities. By plotting towns on a map of Pennsylvania within those parameters, it showed that there is a lot of potential and opportunity for chapter and membership growth.

Now, the challenge which lies ahead is to identify potential leaders in those plotted areas of opportunity. Along those lines, Jerry and Larry also made a list of all the WCOs and taxidermists in those areas. It is hoped that the WCOs and taxidermists might be able to provide Jerry and Larry with some leads. It was noted that the NWTF has had some success in working with WCOs and taxidermists in other states, because WCOs and taxidermists have a working knowledge of who the turkey hunters are in areas of potential growth and opportunity.

JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the hunt was very, very good, and was held at "The Farm" in Carbon County. As reported, Jim Hess Jr., shot his first turkey. The other hunter, Brad Myers of Lockhaven, did not harvest a turkey, but he heard gobblers and worked some birds. It was noted that the kids had a great time and enjoyed the hunt. Jerry indicated that he would write a follow-up article for "Turkey Talk."

Women in the Outdoors: SRFS Zimmerman reported that all Local Chapter Presidents had received a letter about the upcoming event. It was hoped that each local chapter would send a woman to this event, which is scheduled for October 9 - 11, 1998, in Halifax, Pennsylvania. As noted, Sally Jones would have more to report on the Women in the Outdoors event, later in the meeting.

Governor's Symposium: Jerry mentioned that Rob Keck, James Earl Kennamer and Brad Dunn would be representing the NWTF at the symposium.

Porter Wagner Youth Field Days: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the event took place during the third week in June. It was noted that everyone had a great time. The 1999 event is scheduled for June 3 - 6. It was mentioned that five kids from Pennsylvania attended the Porter Wagner event in South Carolina. Two kids were sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chapter, two by the Mason Dixon Chapter, and one by the Red Rose Chapter.

Continuing with the NWTF Regional Report, Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that 61 shooters participated in the state shoot on June 28, 1998 at Hillside. As reported, the top four NFCA shooters, top two Hunter Division, and top two Still Target shooters all won their entry fees to the NWTF shoot at Wolf Creek. RD Holjencin was pleased to report that seven of the eight qualifiers were planning to attend the Wolf Creek shoot. The other qualified shooter sold his slot. Entry fees for the Wolf Creek shoot totaled \$1350.00 and represents a big part of the expenses associated with the state shoot. As reported, we don't make much money at the state shoot, but we are in the black, and we do accomplish our goal - to send qualified shooters to the Wolf Creek shoot. RD Holjencin thanked Don O'Brien for all his help and assistance at the state shoot. Thanks and a tip of the camo hat were also extended to members of the White Horse Mountain Longbeards Chapter for all their help and efforts in helping to make the shoot a success. **Thank you!**

NWTF Shoot: RD Holjencin reported that the NWTF shoot was scheduled for August 21 - 23, 1998, at Wolf Creek near Atlanta, Ga. Larry mentioned the truck raffle which takes place at the NWTF shoot. Tickets were still available for the raffle, and some slots were still open for the shoot, at the time of our meeting.

NWTF Convention: RD Larry Holjencin reported that the NWTF convention is scheduled for February

18 - 21, 1999 at Charlotte. According to Larry, the NWTF has top-shelf, stars lined up for entertainment at the '99 NWTF convention - how about comedians Jeff Foxworthy and Mike Synder for beginners. It was noted that Charelton Heston and Curt Gowdy have also been invited, but are not confirmed as of yet. Country Entertainer Tracy Byrd will be there and, for those who enjoy NASCAR racing, some famous NASCAR racers will probably be in attendance - since "The Rock" will be held the same weekend as the convention.

State Convention: RD Holjencin reported that the 1999 Chapter convention is scheduled for March 19 - 21, 1999 at the Sheraton Inn North in Mars - just north of Pittsburgh. Chairperson for the convention is Dolores Medved. Host chapters for the convention are: Lakeland Longbeards, Roger Latham Memorial, Beaver Valley Longbeards, Wolf Creek Longbeards, and the Moraine Chapter.

2000 Convention: The 2000 convention is scheduled for March 10 - 12, 2000 at the Penn Stater in State College.

Chapter Presidents' Meeting: RD Holjencin expressed some disappointment with the number of local chapters being represented at the Chapter Presidents' meeting. It was mentioned that this was an area that needs to be looked at in an effort to improve attendance. As reported, only about 22 chapters were being represented at the meeting, out of a possible 50 chapters.

Super Fund: As a follow-up to Jerry Zimmerman's earlier report, it was mentioned that the current Super Fund balance is \$151,547.00.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT: PGC Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake was unable to attend our meeting. He did, however, provide a written report. As reported, the spring 1997 recruitment was about average. Turkey survival during the winter of 1997-1998 was excellent. Spring 1998 breeding densities are excellent and may be at record levels. The WCO summer turkey sighting survey data is not available, yet. However, assuming near average recruitment, Bill anticipates an excellent 1998 fall wild turkey population.

Harvest Management: Pennsylvania's 1997 spring and fall wild turkey harvests were both the third highest ever recorded. The 1997 spring harvest (30,956) was 15 percent below the record 1995 spring harvest, and eight percent below the 1996 spring harvest. The 1997 fall harvest (37,398) was 25 percent below the record 1995 fall harvest, but was four percent above the 1996 fall harvest. Statewide WCO summer turkey sightings were essentially the same in 1997 as in 1996 (16.5 and 16.4 turkeys seen/1000 miles, respectively). The total harvest for the 1996 hunting license year (66,743) was 20 percent below the 1995 total harvest for the hunting license year. According to Bill, data for the 1998 spring harvest is still preliminary, but harvest report cards received by the PGC are ten percent above the previous high in spring 1995.

Restoration Activities: At the direction of the Commissioners, wild turkeys will be trapped throughout Pennsylvania during the 1999 winter and transferred to the Michaux State Forest to augment suppressed populations in TMA 7B. This will be done under the condition that the 1999 fall turkey season is closed in TMA 7B. The PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management and the Pennsylvania Chapter is concerned with the precedent created by augmenting suppressed populations with transferred turkeys. Transferred turkeys are likely to have only short-term benefit to suppressed populations and be ineffective in the long run, since introduced birds will be subject to the same detrimental factors suppressing the resident population. If the problems are not determined, they will likely continue and need to be addressed again in the future. Trap and transfer also diverts important resources from more effective management programs.

Not only will transfers likely be ineffective in solving the long-term management problems in TMA 7B, but they will confound efforts to detect root causes and adequately address them. By implementing two management actions at the same time - fall closure and trap and transfer - both intended to counter factors detrimental to the turkey populations in TMA 7B, the possibility of determining what these detrimental factors may be is considerably reduced.

Research and Management: As reported, six summer turkey sighting survey routes were established on the Michaux State Forest. These routes are being conducted weekly during June, July and August by volunteers from the PA Chapter, personnel from the Michaux State Forest and the Southcentral Region of the PGC. These routes will provide information regarding turkey population abundance and distribution and, more importantly, it will provide future population trend data.

Wild Turkey Management Plan: A revised draft of the Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan for Pennsylvania was submitted to the Bureau of Wildlife Management in July for review. The plan is being sent out to Commission bureaus and regions for review and comments due by late August. In September the plan will be made available for public review and comment. We expect to complete revisions and finalize the plan for the Executive Director's signature by early to mid October.

Technical Committee Meeting: Pennsylvania will host the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee Meeting at the Trout Run Lodge in Elk County in September. Bill Drake and Bob Boyd will attend the Michaux State Forest Wild Turkey Task Force meeting in Franklin County on October 1, 1998.

Several comments were made in reference to Bill's report. Don Heckman commented on the Wild Turkey Management Plan and the restoration proposal for TMA 7B. According to Don, the restoration proposal was made because hunters have been publicly complaining about the lack of turkeys in TMA 7B for about five years. As noted, there is a problem with the turkey population in TMA 7B. However, the root and/or cause for the decline in the turkey population has not been identified, yet. Along those lines, the Michaux State Forest Wild Turkey Task Force was organized about two years ago to address problems associated with the turkey population on the Michaux State Forest (TMA 7B). The task force continues to work towards that end. Unfortunately, however, the proposed restoration effort will only undermine any progress already made, and will not effectively solve the long-term management problems associated with TMA 7B.

Rick Moroney stated that the Chapter should not stand by and allow politics to interfere with or supercede scientific wildlife management practices. Rick suggested that letters should be written which states the Chapter's position and concerns relative to trap and transferring turkeys to TMA 7B. It was a consensus of the Board that the Chapter would not support a trap and transfer program for TMA 7B until factors detrimental to turkey populations in TMA 7B are identified. Rick agreed to write letters on behalf of the Chapter to address this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from JAKES member Brad Myers, thanking the Chapter for giving him an opportunity to participate in the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime.

A letter was received from Jim Hess (father of JAKES member Jim Hess Jr.), thanking the Chapter for sponsoring the Pennsylvania JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime. It was noted that Jim Hess Jr., harvested his first gobbler on the JAKES hunt.

Received a copy of a newspaper article about Nathan Fuhrman of Hanover who attended the Porter Wagner Youth Field Days event in Edgefield, SC. The Chapter also received a copy of the letter that Nathan had sent to NWTF. Nathan and Cory Erling of Dover were sponsored by the Mason Dixon Chapter.

Received information from Howard Meyers about Local Chapter #1's gun bash picnic.

Received a letter of thanks from POWA for the Chapter's support of the POWA Awards Program. It was noted that the 1997 Wild Turkey Award was presented to Bob Sopchick.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Under the first item of business for committee reports, Chapter President Gary Beatty assigned board members to Standing Committees.

Gun Raffle: Chairman Ed Kemp reported that the gun raffle tickets were printed and available for distribution. It was emphasized that all ticket stubs and money must be returned to Ed Kemp, including all unsold tickets. Chapter President Gary Beatty thanked Ed for taking care of the gun raffle.

Finance Committee: Chairman Don Heckman reported on the Chapter's proposed 1998 - 1999 budget for the fiscal year of September 1, 1998 to August 31, 1999. As reported, the proposed budget shows an expected income of \$63,800.00, and expected expenses of \$63,800.00. In accordance with Chapter bylaws under Article IX Committees, Section 1 Executive Committee, the Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the annual budget. Several questions regarding the finances of the Chapter were asked by Board members. We heard from Ron Sandrus, Greg Dreibelbis, Bill Laird, Boyd Enos, Carl Mowry and Ed Kemp. These questions were general in nature, and were answered by Don to the satisfaction of the Board. During the question period, it was noted that Don Heckman and the Chapter's finances are Y2K compliant.

Youth Committee: Chairman Bill MacKereth updated the Board on a JAKES questionnaire/survey which was sent to 54 local chapters. Bill informed the Board that there was a 42.6 percent return of the survey. It was very interesting to note some of the activities which are being conducted at JAKES events throughout the commonwealth: Cherokee Run, Blood Trail, Leather Bag, Fly Fishing, DARE Say No To Drugs, Habitat Trail, Shooting Activities, Survival, Compass/Map Reading, Scavenger Hunt and many others. **Bottom Line:** It is quite apparent that our local chapters are doing a great job in preparing and educating our youth to be future stewards of our wildlife resources and conservationists of tomorrow. A tip of the camo hat is extended to all those local chapters who conduct a JAKES event. **Thank you** for your time and efforts.

Under the direction of Bill MacKereth, the Chapter is planning to conduct and sponsor a statewide JAKES event. This event is still in the planning and decision-making stage. More information will be made available at a later date. Chapter President Gary Beatty thanked Bill for the work he has done on the Youth Committee, and complimented him on the survey/questionnaire.

Land Acquisition: Chairman Boyd Enos provided the Board with an update of the Land Acquisition Committee's purpose and responsibilities for inclusion in the Chapter's Long Range Plan.

Paper Supplies: Chairman Dennis Strawbridge reported that the Chapter's E-Mail address was not correct as listed on the Chapter's letterhead. According to Dennis, our E-Mail address has been corrected, but there is still some letterhead in circulation with the incorrect address. The letterhead was printed with the E-Mail address showing **co** where it should be **go**.

Promotional Items: Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that Larry Smail plans to include an article on the Chapter's safety rulers in the fall issue of "Turkey Talk." It was noted that there are plenty of promo items available. As chairman of the **Make a Wish Committee**, Skip reported that letters have been written, but were not mailed, yet.

District Directors: District Directors Bill Laird, Mark Davis and Don O'Brien provided written reports of their activities. As reported, some of their many activities included:

- * Attended local chapter and Chapter Board meetings
- * Participated in PGC Hunter, Trapper, Education Courses
- * Met with PGC staff members
- * Attended PGC meeting
- * Met with House Representative Bruce Smith
- * Attended Coalition meeting
- * Attended and worked local chapter banquets
- * Attended and worked state and local chapter shoots

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, Sally Jones, coordinator for the Women in the Outdoors Program in Pennsylvania, reported on her role and plans for the program in Pennsylvania. Sally thanked the Chapter for sponsoring the event this year, and asked the Chapter for its continued support - not only financial support but with manpower and resources for the event. Sally expressed a need for committee

assistance in areas of public relations, transportation and equipment. As mentioned, some needs for the upcoming event are: How do you get a golf cart to the location? Who has a golf cart? How do you transport the women from the primary site to other locations used for the event? Sally also indicated that she could use some assistance in locating potential instructors in the Halifax area - NRA instructors, some who might enjoy bird watching, or have a dynamic presentation on deer hunting, canoeing, habitat management, etc., We're looking for all those types of instructors, Sally said. Sally mentioned that she has finalized some of the instructors from her resources in the Northeast region of the state, but she is interested in getting some instructors from in and around the Halifax area.

Sally expressed an interest in getting brochures donated to the event. It was mentioned that Sally had recently attended a women's program in upstate New York, to get a feel for how one of these events run. As noted, the event organizers had tables covered with brochures on subjects such as: turkey hunting, deer hunting, safety in the woods, bird watching, and just about anything imaginable about outdoor activities.

Sally reported that the event will be held October 9-11, 1998 at Camp Heveron, near Halifax. It was mentioned that this site was chosen before Sally became an active participant in the program. According to Sally, there are a few drawbacks associated with the facilities at Camp Heveron. A major concern is that the site does not have a facility for shooting shotguns. Along those lines, Sally needs some assistance in locating a local rod and hunt club which might be used for trap shooting and shotgunning for the women.

Sally expressed some of her personal thoughts, as to why she chose to become involved with the Women in the Outdoors program. I've been a woman in the out of doors for a long time. And I've taken a lot of pleasure in the things that I do - throwing on a backpack and going out on the western trail, taking my rifle and my camping gear and going out into the Andirondacks in November - backpack hunting. I enjoy those kinds of things. And I finally realized that there are a lot of women out there that enjoy those kinds of things. ...and, so, I'm hoping that, through this event, we'll not only provide women with a great opportunity to learn (about the out of doors), but also to make other contacts of women who might have similar interests, Sally stated.

At the conclusion of Sally's report, some general discussion took place. We heard from Dale Rohm, Jerry Zimmerman, Charlie Burchfield, Don Heckman and Gary Beatty.

Governor's Symposium: Chairman Don O'Brien reported, briefly, on the Governor's Symposium. Don indicated that everything is where we want it to be at this point in time. All we need is for Chapter members to show up to help man the booth. We need individuals who are familiar with our organization, and who can answer questions about our organizational programs and events, Don said. Lyle Gillespie and Bill Laird also contributed some updated information about the Governor's Symposium.

Local Chapter Loans: Don Heckman updated the Board on outstanding local chapter loans. It was noted that the Chapter has \$1700.00 in outstanding loans to various local chapters. It was a consensus of the Board that Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin would be given an opportunity to work with local chapters in an effort to have the loans paid back to the Chapter.

Sponsor Hunt of a Lifetime: Regional Director Larry Holjencin updated the Board on the progress of our proposal to sponsor a Hunt of a Lifetime for NWTF Sponsor Members. Some minor details need to be worked out. However, the program will begin during the 1999 calendar year. And the hunt will take place during the 2000 spring season. More importantly, the hunt will take place at the NWTF Montana Invitational, and will afford the lucky winner with an opportunity to harvest a **Merriams Gobbler**. The hunt is held on one million acres of leased land. Hunter success rate during the invitational hunt is over **90 percent**.

Web Site - Home Page: Don Heckman reported that he has updated the Home Page by including the NWTF's "NWTF at a Glance," and information received from Jerry Zimmerman. Don mentioned that he has sort of run out of ideas for Home Page information. He was looking for some suggestions on how to improve the Chapter's Home Page. It was suggested that an NWTF membership should be included on the Home Page.

"Turkey Talk:" Don Heckman mentioned that "Group D" local chapters need to submit local chapter

information for publication in the October issue of "Turkey Talk," before the September 15, 1998 deadline. Jerry Zimmerman mentioned that the list of local chapter contact people (those responsible for submitting local chapter information to "Turkey Talk,") needs to be updated. Jerry said he would update the list and have it completed for the October Board meeting.

In talking about our publication, "Turkey Talk," Don Heckman stated that Editor Larry Smail did a superb job on the summer issue. Larry was asked to take the information provided by several Board members, relative to the turkey hunting license, and to edit this information, and to publish the information in the summer issue of "Turkey Talk." Larry was also asked to repeat the process for the fall issue. As noted, this effort, more or less, doubled the work that Larry is accustomed to doing in his efforts to get "Turkey Talk" published and in the hands of our membership. We extend a tip of the camo hat to Editor Larry Smail for his efforts and compliment him on doing a superb job with the summer issue. **Thank you.**

Sportsmen's Coalition: It was a consensus of the Board that Don Heckman and Bill Laird would continue to represent the Chapter as members of the Sportsmen's Coalition. **A motion to pay the annual membership fee of \$100.00 for the Chapter to remain involved in the Sportsmen's Coalition was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.** It was mentioned that the Coalition may allow a third representative of the Chapter to be seated as a member of the Coalition. That being the case, it was a consensus of the Board that Don Heckman and Bill Laird would work with Chapter President Gary Beatty to select another individual to represent the Chapter.

YHEC: Don Heckman reported to the Board that the two prints donated by the Chapter to the YHEC program were delivered. However, Don was unsure whether or not our donated check for \$500.00 was delivered to the PGC in Harrisburg. It was noted that the check was suppose to be sent directly to Harrisburg. A question was raised as to whether or not our donation of hats to the YHEC program were delivered. It was decided that Don Heckman would contact the PGC in Harrisburg to assure that our check and hats were received.

25th Anniversary: Don Heckman asked for an update status on what the Chapter was doing/planning to do for 25th anniversary promotional items. Promotional Committee Chairman Skip Sanderson mentioned that he was waiting for Larry Smail to complete a Chapter logo to be used on the promo items. Skip indicated that his committee has several promo items under consideration for the 25th anniversary. It was suggested that the Chapter might want to ask the NWTf's graphic artist to produce a Chapter logo for consideration. It was a consensus of the Board that the Chapter would like the opportunity to look at 3 or 4 logos before selecting a Chapter logo for our 25th anniversary promotional items.

Safety Message: Don Heckman asked the Safety Committee for an update on their direction and plans for developing a fall safety message. Safety Committee Chairman Ron Sandrus indicated that his committee was in the process of brainstorming ideas and suggestions for a fall safety message. It was noted that the Chapter had discussions with PGC staff personnel about a fall safety message during our June meeting with the PGC. It was further noted that Safety Committee Member Dan Roessner had been informed about the Chapter's discussion with the PGC. As reported, Dan was responsible for having the fall safety message printed last year. Along those lines, Board Chairman Tim Holtz asked Ron Sandrus to contact Dan Roessner, and to keep Chapter President Gary Beatty informed of the Safety Committee's progress. The Safety Committee was also directed to work with the PGC, and to complete their task by mid-September in order to have a fall safety message available for the fall turkey season.

Continuing along those lines, Don Heckman encouraged the Chapter to develop a press release about turkey hunting safety. It should be a "must" to have this completed and in the hands of Charlie Burchfield no later than October 1, 1998, Don declared. Board Chairman Tim Holtz stated that he would see to it that a press release was completed on time. Board Member Boyd Enos asked if any consideration was being given to developing a PSA on turkey hunting safety. Some discussion on this matter took place. It was a consensus of the Board to work with Charlie Burchfield in an effort to develop a PSA on turkey hunting safety for the fall season.

Youth Field Days: Don Heckman expressed his concern regarding the Chapter's donation of prints to each Youth Field Day event. It was reported that the prints were sent to Clearfield to be framed. However, according to Don, the prints are still in Clearfield at the framers shop, and have not been distributed to the PGC's regional offices where they are held for later distribution to the Youth Field Day events. It was acknowledged that the Chapter has experienced problems in the past, in not getting prints delivered from the PGC regional offices to each and every Youth Field Day event. It was noted that this program costs the Chapter approximately \$3000.00 each year. I think we really need to take a look at where our money is going, what we are doing, and where the accountability is at getting this program corrected and back on track, Don Heckman stated.

Much discussion took place on this subject, and several suggestions were made on how to possibly correct the problems associated with distribution of prints to Youth Field Day events. We heard from Larry Holjencin, Jerry Zimmerman, Gary Beatty, Tim Holtz, Lyle Gillespie, Ed Kemp, Boyd Enos, Dale Rohm and Ron Sandrus. Along those lines, Ron Sandrus agreed to contact Dan Roessner to assure that our prints were delivered to the PGC regional offices. **Bottom Line:** Problems associated with distribution of our prints to Youth Field Day events is putting a blackeye on the Chapter, and making us look bad. This is a good program. Our donation of prints to YFD events is the right thing to do. However, we must assure a better accountability of the program in order to assure our credibility, the credibility of the program, and the program's intent.

Public Broadcasting: Greg Dreibelbis reported that film footage was taken of the forestry department doing some habitat projects. It was indicated that local chapter members from the Clearfield County area were participants on the habitat projects.

Turkey Hunting License: THL Committee Chairman Don O'Brien was given the floor to serve as moderator over the various subcommittee reports. Each subcommittee chairman was asked to report to the Board on what their committee has done, and what their committee plans to do in the future to help secure statewide support for a turkey hunting license. Much discussion took place relative to the Chapter's direction and plans to generate support for a turkey hunting license. **Bottom Line:** The road, we have elected to travel, is long and treacherous with many obstacles in our path. However, in order to have a successful journey and to reach our destination, we must remain united, focused, and unyielding in our commitment. Because, what we are attempting to do is Right - it's right for the wild turkey; it's right for the Pennsylvania turkey hunter; it's right for our organization. And that is the bottom line!

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, the floor was opened for nominations for the NWTF's Roger Latham Sportsmen's Service Award. **A motion to nominate Bill Laird for the NWTF Roger Latham Award was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Heckman.** There being no further nominations put forth from the floor, the floor was closed to nominations. The Board then voted its approval to accept the nomination of Bill Laird as the Chapter's nomination for the NWTF Roger Latham Award. **Special Note:** Board members were encouraged to write letters of support for Bill's nomination. Letters should be addressed to Dr. James Earl Kennamer, showing his NWTF address, and sent to Bill Laird, at his home address or delivered by hand at the October Board meeting.

WCO Award: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman spoke briefly to the Board about his proposal to establish a WCO award. According to Jerry, many WCOs of the PGC are of tremendous help and assistance to our organization on the local and state levels. It was felt that these individuals do not get the recognition from our organization that they rightfully deserve.

Conservation Partner Award: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman stated that this award would recognize the efforts of PGC Land Managers who work with local chapters to improve habitat and conservation projects. Some discussion took place regarding Jerry's proposal for the WCO and Conservation Partner Awards. We heard from Ron Sandrus, Greg Dreibelbis, Boyd Enos and Dennis Strawbridge. It was a consensus of the Board that the Awards Committee should move forward with implementation of Jerry's proposal.

Local Chapter Scholarship Fund: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the Moshannon Local Chapter provides a \$500.00 scholarship fund each year to a local highschool student who is going on to college to study wildlife management. It was noted that this idea has been a subject of discussion at the NWTF's Strategic Planning and Regional Directors meetings. Jerry indicated that the NWTF plans to establish an NWTF scholarship fund, and is looking to encourage state and local chapters to follow suit. As stated, it's important to note that some wildlife management professionals have anti-hunting philosophies. Therefore, it's important to establish criteria that the individual receiving this award must, at the very least, support hunting. Some discussion took place regarding Jerry's proposal. We heard from Dennis Strawbridge, Bill Laird, Don Heckman, Ed Kemp, Ron Sandrus, Gary Beatty, and Skip Sanderson. It was a consensus of the Board to charge the Executive Committee with the responsibility of taking steps to implement Jerry's proposal.

Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee: Board Chairman Tim Holtz reported that the NWTTC would be meeting at Trout Run Lodge in St. Marys. Tim mentioned that the Executive Committee was making a recommendation that the Board should financially support this meeting. Along those lines, **a motion to provide \$500.00 in support of the NWTTC meeting was made by Boyd Enos, seconded by Dale Rohm. Motion carried.**

25th Anniversary Print: Chapter President Gary Beatty reported that the Board needed to make a decision on whether the Chapter should have a separate 25th Anniversary Print or consider using the print from our program agreement with George LaVanish. Based on the discussion which followed, it was determined that this decision should be tabled until the October Board meeting.

First Bird Patch: It was a consensus of the Board to charge the Youth Committee with the responsibility of working with Wildlife Artist George LaVanish to develop a new First Bird patch.

Cash Raffle: Chapter President Gary Beatty spoke briefly to the Board about last year's cash raffle. It was determined that some changes to the raffle would need to be made in order to make it more successful and more appealing to the buyers. It was a consensus of the Board to charge the Executive Committee with that responsibility.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Greg Dreibelbis posed several questions regarding the Chapter's nominating and election procedures for seating board members. Board Chairman Tim Holtz explained the procedures as they are outlined in the Chapter's Bylaws.

Paradise Ranch Hunt: Charlie Burchfield spoke to the Board about a proposal to have three disadvantaged youths given an opportunity to participate in a deer management hunt at the Paradise Ranch. As reported, this would be a one-on-one, guided hunt for a doe. Charlie was looking for the Board to provide him with contact names to take two youths on this hunt. Some discussion took place. We heard from Dale Rohm, Don Heckman, Jerry Zimmerman, Ed Kemp, Don O'Brien, Skip Sanderson, and Gary Beatty. A final decision was not made. However, it appeared as though the Board was hesitant and/or unsure about whether they wanted to pursue Charlie's proposal. Chapter President Gary Beatty assured Charlie Burchfield that he would have an answer for him on the following day.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was made by Bill Laird, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m., on Saturday, August 1, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

July 20, 1998

TO: ALL OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE SILVER SPURS.

Enclosed, for your review and reference, please find a copy of the June 1998 Minutes of our Board of Directors meeting held at Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania. The next meeting of our Chapter Board will be held August 1, 1998 at Warriors Mark in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday.

Executive Committee: Executive Committee members will meet July 31, 1998 at the Frost Camp in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., on Friday. **(The Frost Camp is opened to anyone who wants to attend the Executive Committee meeting and/or sleep over.)**

Directions to Warriors Mark: From State College, take Route 26 south to Route 45 west, continue straight through flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Go 6.5 miles and turn right towards Pennsylvania Furnace. Go 3 miles and turn left onto Dry Hollow Road. Go 3 miles to Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve.

From Altoona, take Route 220 north to Tyrone exit. Follow Route 453 south for 1/2 mile and turn left onto Route 550 north. Go 6 miles to Village of Warriors Mark. Continue on Route 550 for 1.25 miles and bear right off of Route 550 at Y. Go 2 miles to Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve.

Directions to Frost Camp: From State College, take Route 26 south. Turn left on Route 26 south at flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Follow Route 26 south up over Tussey Mountain and down the other side. Near the bottom of the mountain, turn right off of Route 26 south and onto RD road towards Stone Valley Recreation Area. Travel approximately 1 mile. Where road bends towards the left and heads down hill, turn right onto camp driveway. Bear left alongside large building and follow lane back into camp.

From Southwest, take Route 22 east towards Huntingdon (do not go to Huntingdon). Shortly after passing Route 45 where it meets Route 22 in Water Street, turn left onto Route 305 towards Alexandria. Follow Route 305 through Petersburg. Continue on Route 305 to Neffs Mills. At Neffs Mills, bear left onto RD road (Route 305 goes right towards McAlevys Fort). Follow RD road pass Stone Valley Recreation Area. Follow RD road to intersection with Route 26. Turn around 180 degrees and back onto RD road. Follow highlighted directions above.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on August 1, 1998....

Yours for good conservation,

Rick

Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation

ENCLOSURE:



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 6, 1998

Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, the June 1998 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 9:06 a.m., on Saturday, June 6, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Tim Holtz welcomed everyone to our June Board meeting. Chairman Holtz extended a special welcome and recognition to our newly elected board members: Carl Mowry, Lyle Gillespie and Greg Dreibelbis. As well, acknowledgement was extended to our special guests: Ron Fretts, NWTF Board of Directors; Howard Meyers, past Chapter President and past member of the NWTF Board of Directors; and Terry Hyde, past Chapter Board of Directors member. Ground rules for our meeting were reviewed and explained by Chairman Holtz. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty welcomed everyone to our meeting. Greg Dreibelbis, Lyle Gillespie and Carl Mowry were welcomed to the flock as new members of the Chapter Board of Directors. President Beatty also extended his thanks to Rich Weaver, Sam Truxell and Dave Blakley, recognizing their commitment and dedication as past Chapter Board members. President Beatty extended special thanks and appreciation to Bill Laird and Don Heckman for serving as chairmen of this year's state convention. Special thanks and appreciation was also extended to all convention committee members and to: Michaux Yellow Breeches, Mason Dixon, Fort Chambers, Stony Valley, Adams County Longbeards, and the Perry County Strutters chapters for all their help and efforts in making this year's convention a success.

As reported, Chapter President Gary Beatty has stayed in touch with Don Heckman and others in regards to the PGC's proposal for a second bird in the spring season. President Beatty sent letters to state Senators asking them to separate politics from their responsibility to fill vacated seats on the PGC's Board of Commissioners. In other business, President Beatty represented the Chapter at the POWA breakout session held in Warren, PA. In concluding his report, Gary mentioned that, thus far, spring banquet results appear to be on schedule to surpass last year's figures. We've had some new banquets and the number of new members being generated at these new banquets has been nothing short of amazing, Gary stated in conclusion of his report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Corrections and additions were made to the March 1998 Minutes as follows: Under Public Broadcasting on page 18, it was recorded: ...commissioned by the PGC to do a 13-part series on the wild turkey in Pennsylvania. This was corrected to read:commissioned by the PGC to do a 13-part series **on wildlife** in Pennsylvania.

Under Comment - President Nittany Valley Longbeards Greg Dreibelbis on page 11, paragraph 2, it was recorded: ...would support a two tag system - one spring tag and one tag for spring and fall.

This was corrected to read: ...would support a two tag system - one spring tag and one tag for spring or fall. There being no other additions or corrections made to the March 1998 Minutes, a motion to accept the March 1998 Minutes as corrected was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Don Heckman gave his report for the period March 1 to May 31, 1998. As reported our checking account balance was \$11,573.83, as of May 31, 1998. Our fair market value was \$4375.80, with total assets being \$15,949.63. Total revenue for the period was \$17,467.85, with total revenue year to date of \$57,850.99. Total expenses for the period were \$19,326.58, with total expenses year to date of \$49,486.32. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter Vice President Don O'Brien submitted a written report of his activities to the Board. It should be noted that Don has been very active in carrying out the goals and objectives of our organization. His list of activities does not show many open dates when Don is not promoting the NWTF in one way or another. Along those lines, I think a tip of the camo hat is in order.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: No report.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported Super Fund deposits were \$129,529.00, with expenditures of \$130,675.00, leaving a current balance of \$104,351.00. RD Holjencin mentioned that we are experiencing a record-breaking year in posting Super Fund numbers. Larry thanked all the local chapters for their help and efforts in generating Super Fund dollars at membership banquets.

Membership: Current figures show Pennsylvania with 9783 adult and 3167 JAKES, for a total of 12,950 members. The Wisconsin Chapter has 12,043 members. The South Carolina Chapter has 10,666 members. It was noted that some of the spring banquet membership numbers were not included, as banquet reports had not been finalized.

Porter Wagner Youth Field Days: RD Holjencin reported that Sam Huff of the New Wilmington area and Brandon Traugh from the Danville/Col. Mont Gobblers Chapter area will be representing our Chapter at the Porter Wagner Youth Field Days event.

New Regional Directors: It was reported that the NWTF has hired five new Regional Directors. Regional Directors were hired for Alabama, Montana, West Virginia, Ontario and the New Jersey/Delaware/Maryland region. Currently, the NWTF has 44 Regional Directors, and is looking to hire new Regional Directors for Michigan, Minnesota and Mississippi.

Truck Raffle: RD Larry Holjencin informed the Board that raffle tickets for a Ford F150 4 X 4 truck were available.

State Shoot: According to Larry, the state shoot is ready to go and is scheduled for June 28, 1998. Larry encouraged more Board members to attend, noting that it was a great shoot and a fun time for those who like to shoot.

28th Day: RD Holjencin mentioned that he was interested in inviting Wildlife Artist George LaVanish to our August Board meeting to discuss his ideas for a 1999 - 2000 year print (subject matter, addition size and cost). Along those lines, it was suggested by Larry that the Board might want to consider utilizing the third print in the George LaVanish series as our Chapter's 25th Anniversary print.

Chapter President's Meeting: The Chapter President's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 2, 1998 at the Ramada Inn in State College.

JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime: As reported the event went real well. One of the boys, Jim Hess Jr., harvested his first-ever turkey during the hunt - an adult gobbler. Unfortunately, the other participant, Brad Myers, did not harvest a turkey, but he had one in close and heard a lot of gobbling. Robby Rohm captured the hunt on film and is making a video of the weekend events.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: PGC Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake reported that work is continuing on the Wild Turkey Management Plan. However, according to Bill, the plan is not likely to be completed this summer due to Bill's other work priorities and the time which is involved in the review process before the plan can be adopted.

NEWTTC Meeting: As reported, Pennsylvania will host the 1998 meeting of the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee. Wild turkey biologists from all northeastern states and the province of Ontario will gather at Trout Run Lodge in Elk County on September 14 to 17, 1998 to discuss wild turkey management issues and problems of mutual interest. According to Biologist Bill Drake, some of the topics of discussion will include: GIS satellite imagery of habitat, standardization of collecting harvest and population data, dealing with nuisance wild turkeys, and others.

Harvest Management: Preliminary data for the spring 1997 and fall 1997 wild turkey harvests suggest slight increases from 1996. Spring and fall harvest report cards were 1 and 8 percent, respectively, above report cards received in 1996. Official Game Take Survey spring and fall harvest and hunting participation data will be available and reported at the August Board meeting.

In-state Turkey Transfer: As reported, field sightings of wild turkeys in and near the winter 1997 release sites at State Game Lands #242 and Codorus State Park in York County are encouraging. WCOs Greg Houghton and Tim Smith both verify sightings of broods and various other flock sightings. The turkeys seen in both areas display wary behavior suggesting their origin to be from trap and transfer.

Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys: Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake mentioned that summer sighting surveys have been initiated on the Michaux State Forest to enhance the PGC's wild turkey population trend data for that area. As reported, six routes (approx. 30 miles each) will be conducted annually during June, July and August. Each route will be surveyed 12 times (weekly) each summer and the miles driven and number of turkeys seen recorded. The PA Chapter (2), the Michaux State Forest (2), and the Southcentral Region of the PGC (2) will conduct routes.

Two Bird Spring Limit: Biologist Drake distributed copies of the PGC's Bureau of Wildlife Management recommendations for a two bird spring limit. Bill encouraged the Board to become familiar with the Bureau's recommendations to be able to discuss the issues should the Chapter decide to pursue a two bird spring limit.

Turkey Propagators: A listing of people raising game farm turkeys in Pennsylvania was distributed to some Board members. This list contained the names of approximately 200 propagators, who have a permit to raise game farm turkeys. I've got a growing concern with this, Biologist Drake said. I would hope that we can try to address this issue in the near future. I think it's creating confusion. It's creating management problems - real management problems. Not to a large degree, but it continues to be a nuisance. I think it's something that I would like the Game Commission to address. I think it's something the Chapter should be aware of. And I hope that sometime in the near future that the Chapter and the Game Commission can join forces to combat this issue, Bill stated.

Season Opener Proposal: It was reported that a proposal was put before the PGC Commissioners to have squirrel, grouse, woodcock, rabbit, pheasant and turkey season open on the same day. Some discussion took place

regarding this proposal. It appeared to be a consensus of the Board that the fall wild turkey season opener should remain as is and not be moved up a week earlier.

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT: NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts reported that NWTF membership was over the 180,000 mark. It was noted that the NWTF is looking to increase its membership by 20,000 to 30,000 members a year. Ron indicated that he was very proud of the fact that the NWTF has upgraded its communications department. We've never really been able to tell our story properly. But I think, now, we'll be able to begin to tell our story better, Fretts said. I think you'll continue to see growth and improvement in our magazine, and better communication to our members and wildlife professionals.

NWTF Building Committee: As chairman of the NWTF Building Committee, Ron Fretts thanked Lyle Gillespie and the Red Rose Chapter for the sign which Lyle's company made and was donated to the NWTF by the Red Rose Chapter. According to Ron, phase 3 of the construction has been completed and a dedication ceremony is slated for the first week in August. The new visitors center is partially completed - completed enough that visitors would have an interest in seeing what's there. As reported, however, it will probably take another three or four years to complete the visitors center, and to really be able to show what the NWTF is all about - past history, present and where the NWTF is headed in the future. Along those same lines, Ron reported that the NWTF is prepared to award a contract for a 30,000 square foot warehouse building. With the increase and growth trend of our membership banquets, a warehouse is needed to provide product to the 1100 banquets for this year and projected 1400 banquets for next year. It's gotten to be a pretty complicated thing to run the National Wild Turkey Federation. It's not a mom and pop operation like it once was, Ron stated.

General Health of the NWTF: According to Ron, the general health of our organization is very good. Our financial position is stronger than it's ever been. Our ability to hire people, build buildings, fund habitat projects, purchase land and a lot of other things are just routine things that happen now. An expenditure of \$100,000.00 out of the Super Fund is not a big deal anymore. It just happens. It happens everyday across the country. I know a lot of you guys can remember when we didn't have \$10.00 to spend on anything. But we now have the ability to accomplish our purpose. And what we are accomplishing is good, Ron said.

Game Farm: Ron spoke on the issue of game farm turkeys. As mentioned, it's not only a problem with turkeys but, apparently, it's also a problem with elk and whitetail deer. According to Ron, the real scary thing is this: Alberta, Colorado, Idaho and Saskatchewan have just moved the elk from under the domain of the state agency to the Department of Agriculture. This was done because the elk ranchers have such a strong foot hold in the political arena, and because they want to dictate whether we have game farm elk. According to many articles written by conservationist and fish and game agencies, game farms are a real problem to hunters. I think the anti-hunters would love to see all of our wildlife penned-up. Then, of course, they wouldn't be wild animals anymore, Ron said. In regards to game farm turkeys in Pennsylvania, Ron stated: I think it's a Game Commission concern. And it should be our concern, too. But I think it (combating the issue) should be initiated by the Game Commission. And we would probably support anything that the PGC would want to do along those lines.

C.B. McCleod Award: Ron congratulated Don Heckman for being the winner of the C.B. McCleod Distinguished Service Award which is presented by the NWTF for dedicated support of the NWTF and wild turkey conservation. It was noted that Don was the only person to have ever received this award and did not work at the national level. It was one of the highlights of my convention, Ron said.

American Hunting Heritage Symposium: We're very fortunate to have the symposium here in Pennsylvania this year, Ron said. It's a very positive thing. It promotes hunting. It tells fish and game agencies what's going on in other parts of the country. And then it does something about it by getting their works published. I would encourage anyone who has an opportunity to attend this year's symposium, Ron concluded.

agencies with information about what is going on in other parts of the country.

Turkey Hunting License: As reported, the Pennsylvania Chapter has been in favor of a turkey hunting license for over 20 years. We're not politicians. And, hopefully, we never will be, Ron said. Don't let politics cloud your view of why you want a turkey hunting license. There are a whole lot of valid reasons for having a turkey license. I'm about at the point where I don't care too much about politics. I want what I know is right for wild turkeys and the hunters of Pennsylvania. And it is a turkey hunting license. And I don't think there's any doubt about it. So don't let the political part of this thing cloud your view of what you know to be right, Ron said in concluding his report.

COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from W. Garafolo of Fort Meyers, Florida. Garafolo expressed interest in purchasing a 1981, signed, PA wild turkey stamp. It was also noted that Garafolo has several 1982 and 1983, signed, stamps which he would be willing to trade.

Received an E-mail from Jonathan and Holly Bretzius of Ft. Washington, PA. They were concerned about a proposal to develop a four-acre parcel of land near their home. They wanted to know if our Chapter could help them and their neighbors prevent the development of this land.

Received an E-mail from Joseph F. Leighty thanking Larry Holjencin for his article in the April/May 1998 issue of "Turkey Talk," concerning the state shoot at Hillside.

Received a letter from the Susquehanna River Wetlands Trust, thanking the Chapter for our donation of a Gerald Putt turkey print for their fundraising purposes.

Received a memorandum from Rob Keck, informing the Chapter that the dedication and grand opening of the Wild Turkey Center is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 1998.

Received a letter from Jerry Zimmerman, informing the Board about our spring 1998 JAKES hunt of a lifetime.

In other business, Don Heckman asked the Board for direction on how to handle E-mail, which requires some type of feedback from the Chapter. Some discussion took place. It was decided that this information should be sent to the Chapter President and Vice President. They would, then, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Portfolio Chairman Mark Davis informed the Board that he had "yellow sheets" available for distribution. As noted, local chapters should catalog their activities on the yellow sheets for entry in the portfolio competition. Copies of the yellow sheet can be made.

Habitat Committee: Chairman Rudy Kovacina reported that his committee met February 21, 1998 at Kooser State Park, Somerset County to review and approve requests for habitat funding through the Super Fund. As reported, 43 projects, totaling \$101,051.59, were approved.

Greg Dreibelbis raised a question on the floor, relative to him having received a Super Fund check made out in his name. Some discussion took place. It was determined that loop holes in the system needed to be closed, and this problem needed to be addressed forthwith.

Paper Supplies: Chairman Dennis Strawbridge informed the Board that he had letterhead and envelopes available for distribution. It was also noted that the new letterhead contained our E-mail and Home Page addresses. Along those same lines, Dennis reported that our new reward posters and first bird certificates were available.

Safety Committee: Chairman Ron Sandrus updated the Board on the NRA turkey hunting safety clinic. As reported, the process for reestablishment of the clinic and recertification of instructors is ongoing. Relative to the NRA, Past Chapter President Howard Meyers informed the Board that money was available for youth field days and JAKES events from the NRA. Contact your regions NRA representative for more information.

Promotional Committee: Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that 5000 rulers with a safety and ethics message and the NWTf scoring system printed on them are available for handouts at shows and JAKES events. As reported, the committee is still considering an ERTL truck, belt buckles, money clips and lighters for our 25th Anniversary promotional items. Skip hired a model and a professional photographer to work up a spread that could be used on the Web site and in "Turkey Talk" to promote our promotional items. It was not known whether they had gotten together, yet. In concluding his report, Skip mentioned that he had collected \$902.00 for the convention and \$400.00 in sales for the Chapter.

Make a Wish Committee: Chairman Skip Sanderson drafted a letter to all local chapters to request a \$100.00 donation from their general fund to be put towards a contribution to the Make A Wish Foundation. This letter also includes a plea for local chapters to take this idea one step further and to do a non-hunting related charity project in their community. It was duly noted that the Allegheny Sultans had already sent a check for \$100.00 to kick off the program. The letter that Skip drafted is awaiting final approval from the Chapter President.

Safety: Don Heckman reported that there were 10 shooting incidents during the 1998 spring turkey hunting season. All of the victims were shot in mistake of game. There were no fatalities. Two of the ten shooting incidents involved multiple victims. Six of the ten shooting incidents occurred during the first week of the season. Along those lines, Don stated that he would like the Safety and Education Committee to begin work on a safety message and poster-concept with the PGC, so that we definitely have something available prior to the fall season. In other business, Ron Sandrus informed the Board that he had some of the safety stickers available for handouts to those who might need them.

Land Acquisition Committee: Chairman Boyd Enos reported that the Chapter worked in cooperation with the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy to purchase 4200 acres adjacent to State Game Lands #100 and the Sproul State Forest. This parcel of land is located in the West Keating Township area of Clinton County. Other contributors to the purchase included the DCNR Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and other private contributors.

District Directors: District Directors Don O'Brien and Mark Davis provided written reports of their activities. As reported, some of their many activities included:

- * Attended Chapter convention
- * Attended Local Chapter Meetings and State Chapter Board Meetings
- * Conducted habitat enhancement projects
- * Conducted membership banquets and assisted Regional Directors with banquets
- * Conducted turkey-related seminars
- * Conducted youth events

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, Chapter President Gary Beatty spoke to the Board about our need to improve our public relations. As reported, Charlie Burchfield had submitted a proposal to the Chapter in January, whereby Charlie would be willing to serve as the Chapter's public relations person. It was mentioned that the Executive Committee had met on the subject, and recommended that the Board take action to approve Charlie's proposal. Along those lines, **a motion to accept Charlie Burchfield's proposal to have him serve as the Chapter's public relations representative, for a one year term, and to evaluate the effects of the program after one year to determine future direction was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Dale Rohm. Motion carried.** Following the motion, some discussion took place. Charlie Burchfield was given the floor to explain his proposal and to field questions from the Board. The vote was taken, and the motion carried.

POWA Meeting: Chapter President Gary Beatty informed the Board that he had represented the Chapter at the POWA meeting in Warren, PA. As reported, Gary had a public relations packet put together for handouts at the Chapter booth. Gary mentioned, however, that he was somewhat disappointed that only about

seven writers visited the Chapter booth.

Governor's Symposium: As reported the NWTF has committed to be a Gold Sponsor, a \$10,000.00 sponsorship, of the Governor's Symposium. The NWTF contributed \$8000.00 and our Chapter contributed \$2000.00 towards this sponsorship. The purpose of this symposium is to tell our story about what we are doing for youth, women and hunters, as an organization, at the national, state and local levels. This symposium will be attended by over 500 wildlife professionals from throughout the country, and will be opened to the general public on Saturday. It was noted that the Chapter would set up an information booth at the symposium, and that Don O'Brien would serve as chairman, and Lyle Gillespie would be the co-chairman. Don Heckman expressed the importance of having people working the Chapter booth who are familiar with NWTF programs, how our organization operates on the national, state and local levels, how our organization supports the theme of the symposium and, on top of all that, they must be knowledgeable enough to answer any questions that may be asked about our organizational goals and objectives. **Bottom Line:** They must be able to tell the story of our NWTF organization in a positive manner.

Along those same lines, the Executive Committee made a recommendation to provide an additional \$1500.00 to offset the costs associated with providing man-power to work the Chapter's information booth at the Governor's Symposium. Some discussion took place relative to the Executive Committee's recommendation. **A motion to allocate \$1500 for expenses related to maintaining the Chapter's presence at the Governor's Symposium was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

Public Broadcasting: Greg Dreibelbis reported that a public broadcasting station in the State College area was commissioned to do a 13-part series on Pennsylvania wildlife, with one series on the wild turkey. As reported, however, some changes have been made. Instead of a series on the wild turkey, the broadcast manager has, apparently, decided to do a series on game management. Greg mentioned that the broadcast manager was still interested in having the Chapter involved, in some way, with the game management series. It was also noted that the broadcast manager has been in touch with a representative of Ducks Unlimited. Along those lines, Greg agreed to keep in touch with the broadcast manager, and to keep Chapter President Gary Beatty informed.

Turkey Management Area 7B: Don Heckman reported that the Michaux State Forest Task Force plans to meet in October. Don mentioned that the task force would probably recommend that TMA 7B should be closed to fall turkey hunting, if turkey population figures do not show some improvement.

Sportsmen's Coalition: Don Heckman reported that the Sportsmen's Coalition would be electing its officers in August. Don also mentioned that he would be asking the Board to renew its membership in the coalition during our August Board meeting. For the record, cost for a one year membership in the coalition is \$100.00.

Web Site: Don Heckman informed the Board of some changes which have taken place on the Chapter's Home Page.

Make A Wish Foundation: Don Heckman thanked Skip Sanderson for agreeing to serve as chairman of the MAWF committee. Don suggested that Skip should keep National informed about our involvement with this charity, and to copy the NWTF on any related correspondence.

JAKES Program: Don Heckman spoke briefly - yes, briefly - before the Board about its JAKES program and about what direction is being taken. Chairman Bill MacKereth was asked to submit a budget for the JAKES program to Treasurer Don Heckman. Howard Meyers and Mark Davis informed the Board about local chapters who have taken JAKES out to the turkey woods to hunt spring gobblers. **Bottom Line:** Great idea! Is there a better way to introduce young people to the great outdoors? I don't think so. Maybe more of our local chapters could get involved in taking a young person(s) on a spring turkey hunt.

Convention 1998: Chairman Bill Laird reported that our state convention was a success. Bill mentioned that he had been approached by an individual who expressed interest in sponsoring the JAKES calling contest at next year's state convention. Bill reported on some of the minor problems that occurred at the state convention, and made several suggestions on how those problems may be corrected/addressed in the future. Along those same lines, Bill expressed his concern that an NWTF representative did not attend our state convention. It was noted that this was the first time in Chapter history that a representative of the NWTF did not attend our convention. Further, it was noted that that probably would never happen again. **Bottom Line:** It was an unfortunate turn of events, whereas the NWTF representative who was suppose to attend our state convention had tendered her resignation only two weeks prior to our convention. And, due to scheduling conflicts, the Chapter was unable to get another NWTF representative to attend. However, it remains very important to us, as a state chapter, to have an NWTF representative attend our state convention.

In continuing his report, Bill expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the local chapters who helped to support our state convention through donations. Bill stated that he was very pleased with the number of local chapters who provided that support, but indicated that there was still plenty of room for improvement. To all those local chapters who helped to support our convention, we extend our thanks, appreciation and a tip of the camo hat. **Thank you!**

1998 Convention Financial Report: Don Heckman expressed his appreciation that Bill Laird had agreed to serve as convention chairman. He put his heart and soul in this convention, and he had quite a staff - six local chapters, plus Roxanne Laird, that really stepped forward and added some excitement, Don stated. Yeah, we had a couple of problems. Yeah, we probably did a couple of things, in retrospect, we would change now. But the biggest problem we had: our own members did not show up. But it was still a great convention. And, hopefully, next year's convention will be even better, Don exclaimed.

In moving forward with the financial report, Don Heckman reported total income for the convention was \$61,824.81, with total expenses of \$43,878.33, leaving a total balance of \$17,946.48. It was noted that the convention account would be closed and a final report given at the August Board meeting. Boyd Enos mentioned that the Allegheny Sultans Chapter had donated \$100.00 to the Master's calling contest, and that this donation was not shown in the financial report. Don Heckman stated that he would get with Culver to find out why that was not recorded in the report.

Two Bird Spring Season Limit: Chapter President Gary Beatty reviewed the results of our "Turkey Talk" survey. Results of the survey indicated that our membership was opposed to a second bird during the spring season. However, the survey also indicated that the vast majority of our membership would support a turkey hunting license. Gary covered all aspects of the survey, and particular attention was given to the additional comments which were provided by most of the participants in the survey. Following the review of our survey, the floor was turned over to Don Heckman.

Don Heckman updated the Board on what has been accomplished to date in regards to a two bird spring season limit and a turkey hunting license. As reported, the Game Commission proposed a two bird spring season limit if, and only if, the legislators approved a turkey hunting license. In response, the legislators accused the PGC of attempting to blackmail the legislators with their proposal for a second bird in the spring. Based on that scenario, it became abundantly clear that our Chapter would, some how, have to separate the two issues - a two bird spring limit from a turkey hunting license. Furthermore, based on the results of our survey, it was determined that our Chapter should not support a two bird spring limit, but should attempt to get a turkey hunting license approved by the legislators.

Along those lines, it was announced that the Executive Committee had a recommendation for the Board to take under consideration. Board Chairman Tim Holtz stated the EC recommendation as follows: **The Chapter would ask the Game Commission to separate the two issues - two bird spring limit and turkey license - and would seek legislative approval for a turkey hunting license, using the planned proposal as outlined by Don Heckman to accomplish the task before us. Without further ado, a motion to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation, as presented, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.**

Much discussion took place prior to adoption of the motion. We heard comments from Boyd Enos,

Bob Boyd, Bill Drake, Larry Holjencin, Bill MacKereth, Ron Fretts, Rick Moroney, Don Heckman, Gary Beatty, Greg Dreibelbis, Terry Hyde, and Charlie Burchfield. **Bottom Line:** The Chapter's direction was set: we would not support a two bird limit, at this time, based on our membership response, and would proceed forward in seeking adoption of a turkey hunting license. Relative to the comments, some strong, valid points were made. However, for all intents and purposes, those comments only helped to reinforce our Chapter's direction. Following the comments, the vote was taken; and the motion was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, Regional Director Larry Holjencin encouraged the Board to purchase truck raffle tickets. **A motion to purchase two truck raffle tickets for the Chapter was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

NWTF Board: **A motion to nominate Ron Fretts for re-election to the NWTF Board of Directors was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.** It should be noted that Ron Fretts reserved his right to withhold his pending decision on whether or not he would seek re-election on the NWTF Board.

Executive Committee: It was noted that a seat remained to be filled on the Chapter's Executive Committee. President Beatty announced that the EC would like the Board to consider Greg Dreibelbis as a possible candidate for that unfilled seat. **A motion to appoint Greg Dreibelbis as an Executive Committee officer was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.**

Women in the Outdoors: RD Larry Holjencin reported that Trish Berry was looking to conduct a Women in the Outdoors program on September 19, October 3 or October 10. The program is being planned as a one day event at Camp Haveron. As mentioned, a lot of committee work still needed to be done prior to the event. Funding for the event needed to be approved by the Chapter's Safety and Education Committee. Along those lines, **a motion to have the Chapter Board make a recommendation to the Safety and Education Committee, asking the S&E Committee to approve funding for the Women in the Outdoors program, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

Chapter President Gary Beatty directed Bill MacKereth to work closely with Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin, and to coordinate efforts with local chapters to identify two women from each local chapter who may be interested in participating in the WITO program.

Sponsor Hunt of a Lifetime: It was reported that Skip Sanderson had suggested doing a sponsor hunt of a lifetime, in an effort to help recruit more sponsor members at membership banquets. Basic details of the proposed program were outlined by Chapter President Gary Beatty. **A motion to allocate \$1200.00, from the Chapter's general fund, for the Sponsor Hunt of a Lifetime program was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dale Rohm. Motion carried.** Prior to the vote being taken on the motion, some discussion took place, relative to working out the details of the program. We heard suggestions and comments from: Larry Holjencin, Don Heckman, Gary Beatty, Greg Dreibelbis, Lyle Gillespie, and Rick Moroney. Following discussion on the motion, the vote was taken; and the motion was carried.

Limited Edition Turkey Calls: As reported, limited edition turkey calls were sold at the state convention for \$50.00/each. Following some discussion, it was decided that the Chapter had charged too much money for the calls. As a result, a decision was made to lower the cost to \$25.00, and to reimburse those individuals who had purchased the calls at \$50.00.

JAKES Hunt: It was suggested, and a consensus of the Board, to send a certificate and first bird patch to Jim Hess Jr., who harvested his first-ever turkey during the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime.

State Forest Management Plan: As reported, the Bureau of Forestry develops a State Forest Management Plan, on a 15 year basis, to determine direction for management of our state forest. The Bureau is in the early stages of developing their management plan for the years 2000 - 2014. There's been a number

of public meetings on the management plan held around the state, including a meeting in Coudersport which was attended by Tim Holtz. Relative to the management plan, Tim drafted a position statement for the Chapter. Board members received a copy of Tim's draft, which was included in the Chapter President's Update to Board members. **A motion to approve the Chapter's position statement on the State Forest Management Plan, as drafted by Tim Holtz, was made by Boyd Enos, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

25th Anniversary Promotions: Past Chapter President Howard Meyers submitted two written proposals for the Board to consider as promotional items for our 25th Anniversary. The first proposal dealt with a limited edition truck which would contain Chapter/NWTF logos. All expenses would be covered by the producers of the truck. Our Chapter would receive a \$5.00 rebate from the sale of each truck.

Howard's other proposal dealt with limited edition turkey calls made by his company, Kicking Bird. As proposed, Kicking Bird would make 100 calls at \$75.00/each, with a selling price of \$100.00. The calls would include lazer artwork and original artwork done by Wildlife Artist Larry Smail. Kicking Bird would donate the number one call to the Chapter.

YHEC Program: Don Heckman reported that the Chapter had donated two framed prints to YHEC in March. It was also noted that the Chapter was working on donating hats for the number one junior and senior shooting teams. In addition, it was mentioned that the Chapter had donated \$2000.00, last year, to the YHEC program. Along those lines, **a motion to donate \$500.00 to the YHEC program for 1998 was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

Insurance Policy: As reported, the Chapter carries a blanket accident insurance policy for all state chapter officers and board members. This policy covers accidental death and accidental dismemberment benefits, while traveling to and from Chapter functions.

Keystone Conservationist: It was mentioned that "Keystone Conservationist" was interested in having our Chapter advertise in their magazine. After reviewing the rates for advertising, Chapter President Gary Beatty determined that it was not in the best interest of our Chapter to take out an ad in the magazine.

Chapter Brochures: Don Heckman suggested that the Board should consider updating our Chapter brochures. Don's suggestion was forwarded to the Paper Supplies Committee.

"Turkey Talk:" It was suggested that every issue of "Turkey Talk" should contain an NWTF membership application. As noted, this has been a regular practice but, from time to time, an issue is published which does not contain a membership application. Relative to "Turkey Talk," it was mentioned that Dave Blakley is still listed as our Chapter vice president. In addition, it was suggested that Greg Dreibelbis should be listed as a member of the Executive Committee.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Change of address - Greg Dreibelbis, 100 North Hill Place, State College, Pennsylvania 16803.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill Laird. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m., on Saturday, June 6, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick

Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

May 30, 1998

ORGANIZED 1975

TO: ALL OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE,
AND MEMBERS OF THE LOYAL ORDER OF THE SILVER SPURS.

Enclosed, for your review and reference, please find a copy of the March 1998 Minutes of our Board of Directors and Annual Membership meetings held at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. The next meeting of our Chapter Board will be held on June 6, 1998 at Warriors Mark in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday.

Executive Committee: Executive Committee members will meet on June 5, 1998 at the Frost Camp in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., on Friday. A special meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 1998. Please make every effort to attend.

Directions to Warriors Mark: From State College, take Route 26 south to Route 45 west, continue straight through flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Go 6.5 miles and turn right towards Pennsylvania Furnace. Go 3 miles and turn left onto Dry Hollow Road. Go 3 miles to Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve.

From Altoona: Take Route 220 north to Tyrone exit. Follow Route 453 south for 1/2 mile and turn left onto Route 550 north. Go 6 miles to Village of Warriors Mark. Continue on Route 550 for 1.25 miles and bear right off of Route 550 at Y. Go 2 miles to Warriors Mark Shooting Preserve.

Directions to Frost Camp: From State College, take Route 26 south. Turn left on Route 26 south at flashing yellow light in Pine Grove Mills. Follow Route 26 south up over Tussey Mountain and down the other side. Near the bottom of the mountain, turn right off of Route 26 south and onto RD road towards Stone Valley Recreation Area. Travel approximately 1 mile. Where road bends towards the left and heads down hill, turn right onto camp driveway. Bear left alongside block building and follow lane back into camp.

From Southwest: Take Route 22 east towards Huntingdon (do not go to Huntingdon). Shortly after passing Route 45 where it meets Route 22 in Water Street (less than one mile), turn left onto Route 305 towards Alexandria. Follow Route 305 through Petersburg. Continue on Route 305 to Neffs Mills. At Neffs Mills, bear left onto RD road (Route 305 goes right towards McAlevys Fort). Follow RD road passing Stone Valley Recreation Area. Follow RD road to intersection with Route 26. Turn around 180 degrees and back onto RD road. Follow highlighted directions above. **(Frost Camp is opened to anyone who wants to attend Executive Committee meeting and/or sleep over.)**

Looking forward to seeing all of you on June 6, 1998....

Yours for good conservation,

Rick

Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter, NWTf

ENCLOSURE:



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 21, 1998

Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the March 1998 Annual Membership Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Chapter President Gary Beatty at 8:05 a.m., on Saturday, March 21, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: It was noted that Secretary Rick Moroney was unable to attend the convention, and that all Board members had received a copy of the March 1997 Minutes of our Annual Membership Meeting. Therefore, **a motion to dispense with the reading of the March 1997 Minutes was made by Dan Roessner, seconded by Boyd Enos. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty reported that 1997 was a banner year for the Pennsylvania Chapter. Super Fund expenditures for wild turkey projects in Pennsylvania reached an all time high, surpassing the \$1 Million milestone in 1997. NWTF membership in Pennsylvania went over the 12,000 mark for the first time in our history. Local Chapters did a fantastic job at their Super Fund banquets, with 17 of our Local Chapters celebrating "Golden Gobbler" status.

It was announced that the Pennsylvania Chapter had received the first runner up in the L.A. Dixon Outstanding Chapter Awards competition. Chapter President Gary Beatty thanked the Board and all of our Local Chapters for their assistance in helping the Chapter to achieve this award. Special thanks was extended to Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman and Regional Director Larry Holjencin for the excellent job they have done in working with our Chapter Board and Local Chapters to assure that the goals and objectives of our organization are being reached and, in most cases, surpassed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Don Heckman provided a fiscal year-end report for the period September 1, 1996 to August 31, 1997. As reported, the beginning balance was \$3932.71, with total cash receipts of \$41,426.90, and cash available at \$65,395.61. Total disbursements were \$62,150.45, with cash in the bank being \$3209.16 as of August 31, 1997. It was noted that our CPA lumped three cash receipts into one category with the breakdown as follows: Cash receipts for the 1996 convention were \$4258.71 (deposits made after September 1, 1996). Cash receipts for the 1997 convention were \$16,142.88. And the banquet rebate was \$3917.30, for a total income of \$24,319.89. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.**

NWTF REPORT: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman announced that Carol Jordan had tendered her resignation after the NWTF convention. Carol had been hired by NWTF as the coordinator for the Outdoor Women's Program. It was noted that Nancy Johnson who was hired as the Outdoor Women's Program coordinator in the midwest was carrying the ball until a replacement for Jordon is hired by NWTF. RS Zimmerman assured the Board that the NWTF was continuing to move forward with the Outdoor Women's Program.

On a brighter note, Jerry was proud to report that, once again, Pennsylvania retained the number one status for NWTF memberships. It was noted that membership in Pennsylvania was approximately 13,600 members. It was also reported that over \$250,000.00 was spent on wild turkey projects in Pennsylvania during 1997. Jerry expressed his thanks and congratulations to all of our Local Chapters who raised this money through the Super Fund banquet system. Further, it was noted that more Local Chapters are submitting project proposals to spend this money which, as stated, is equally important to our conservation efforts as raising the money.

In concluding his report, Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman mentioned that it was too early to give an estimate on the current Super Fund balance, as spring banquet reports have not been finalized. Once again, Jerry thanked the Board and Local Chapter volunteers for all their effort and work.

NWTF REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT: RD Larry Holjencin expressed his thanks to everyone for all that they have done throughout the year. It was noted that the Local Chapters have done a real good job in building up the banquet system...both in dollars and memberships. It was further noted that some of the newer Local Chapters are submitting project proposals. We think that's very important...not just raising the money, but also spending it, Larry stated. Continuing, RD Holjencin commended the Local Chapters for doing an excellent PR job in promoting the banquet system. According to Larry, some of our Local Chapters have done a better job at promoting the banquet system than what's being done at National. We would like to commend you for that, and encourage you to keep it up. We are going to try to do a better PR job at the national and state level, Larry said.

June Split: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that Pennsylvania would be split between Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman and RD Holjencin, beginning in June 1998. It was mentioned that the NWTF would be hiring a new RD to cover Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware.

State Shoot: RD Holjencin reported that the state shoot would be held June 28, 1998 at Hillside. It was mentioned that some of the Local Chapters are conducting a Local Chapter shoot. The Susquehanna Longbeards, for example, are conducting a qualifier for the state shoot. Which is something our Local Chapters might want to consider doing, and adding a still target competition to the shoot, Larry suggested. This is an avenue we should be exploring more and more, Larry added. For more information about the state shoot and/or state qualifier still target competition, please contact either Don O'Brien or Larry Holjencin.

In concluding his report, Larry, once again, thanked everyone for all they do. We understand the sacrifices you put into it. It's being done for all the right reasons, and we really appreciate it, Larry exclaimed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: A question was raised on the floor concerning the status of Local Chapter project proposals. Chapter President Gary Beatty replied that the project proposals were reviewed by the Habitat Committee under the leadership of Rudy Kovacina in February 1998. To the best of my knowledge, all Local Chapter habitat proposals were approved by the Habitat Committee, President Beatty stated. It was further noted that the PGC had submitted numerous proposals, and that only about 1/3 of those were approved due to limited funding available.

Awards: A suggestion was made from the floor that award recipients should be notified in advance and in a timely manner of the state convention. This suggestion was duly noted and a point well taken. Chapter President Gary Beatty stated that a better effort would be made to notify award recipients following the January Board meeting next year.

Convention Registration: A suggestion was made from the floor that a formal confirmation should be sent to those individuals who pre-register for the state convention. It was mentioned that this would help to relieve any concern on whether or not the registration was received. Chapter President Gary Beatty stated that a confirmation would be sent next year by postcard. In conclusion, President Beatty expressed his appreciation and thanks for bringing these concerns/suggestions to the Board's attention.

There being no further business to be conducted at the Annual Membership Meeting, **a motion to adjourn the March 1998 Annual Membership Meeting was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.** The March 1998 Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m., on Saturday, March 21, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 21, 1998
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**

A special session of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 8:02 a.m., on Saturday, March 21, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

This special session of the Board was called to order so that officers of the Chapter could be duly elected. Whereby an announcement of the Chapter's new slate of officers could be made during the Annual Awards Banquet to be held Saturday evening, prior to the Sunday, March 22, 1998 Board of Directors Meeting.

Without further ado, Nominating Chairman Tim Holtz read the slate of officers as presented by the Chapter's Nominating Committee at the January 1998 Board of Directors Meeting as follows:

President.....Gary Beatty
Vice President.....Open
Secretary.....Rick Moroney
Treasurer.....Don Heckman
Chairman of the Board.....Tim Holtz

In noting the open seat for Chapter Vice President, Nominating Committee Chairman Tim Holtz stated that the Nominating Committee would recommend Don O'Brien for the Board's consideration as Chapter Vice President. **A motion to nominate Don O'Brien for the Chapter Vice President seat was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge.**

At that time, Nominating Committee Chairman Tim Holtz opened the floor for any additional nominations for Chapter officers. There being no further nominations to come from the floor, **a motion to close nominations was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Mark Davis.**

A motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Chapter's Nominating Committee was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Mark Davis. The new slate of Chapter officers for the period March 1998 to March 1999 are as follows:

President.....	Gary Beatty
Vice President.....	Don O'Brien
Secretary.....	Rick Moroney
Treasurer.....	Don Heckman
Chairman of the Board.....	Tim Holtz

There being no further business to be conducted by this special session of the Chapter Board of Directors, Board Chairman Tim Holtz recessed the meeting at 8:05 a.m., on Saturday, March 21, 1998, and directed the Board to reconvene at 8:00 a.m., on Sunday, March 22, 1998.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 22, 1998
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the March 1998 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 8:15 a.m., on Sunday, March 22, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Tim Holtz welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ground rules for our meeting were reviewed and explained by Chairman Holtz. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty provided a written report for the Board. President Beatty thanked Convention Chairman Bill Laird, Don Heckman and the Convention Committee members for a job well done.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Rick Moroney was unable to attend the meeting. Past Secretary Bill Laird volunteered his services to record the Minutes of our Board meeting. Corrections and additions to the January 1998 Minutes were made as follows:

Under Chapter Web Site on page 7 and continuing on page 8: ...Chapter Home Page has 75 pages or, in computer terminology, 10 megabites which are full. With that knowledge, a motion to expand the Chapter's Home Page by 10 megabites..... This was corrected to read: ...in computer terminology, 100 megabites which are full. ...a motion to expand the Chapter's Home Page by 100 megabites,....

Under Treasurer's Report on page one: Total revenue for the period December 1 - 31, 1997 was \$28,757.39. This was corrected to read: ...for the period **October 1 - December 31, 1997**....

Under President's Report on page one: Chapter President Gary Betty thanked... This was corrected to read: Chapter President Gary **Beatty** thanked....

Under State Shoot on page 3: It was mentioned that the steel target shooting competition will.... This was corrected to read: ...that the **still** target shooting competition will.... There being no further corrections or additions made, **a motion to accept the January 1998 Minutes as corrected was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Boyd Enos. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Don Heckman gave his report for the period January 1 - February 28, 1998. As reported, the checking account balance was \$2806.52, s of February 28, 1998. Our fair market value of inventory was \$4375.00, with total assets being \$7182.32. Revenue for the period was \$15,250.00, with a current year-to-date revenue of \$29,757.10. Expenses for the period were \$7512.91, with year-to-date expenses of \$30,159.74, leaving a fund deficit of \$402.64 for the period ending February 28, 1998. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Boyd Enos, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: Board Chairman Tim Holtz thanked everyone for their cooperation over the past year in conducting our meetings in a productive manner. It was mentioned that Tim is looking forward to another productive year for the organization in 1998. It was also mentioned that the close of our Board meeting would mark the end of Sam Truxell's term as a Chapter Board member. Chairman Holtz encouraged the Board to thank Sam for his years of service to the Chapter.

SPECIAL GUEST: United Bowhunters President Ed Wentzler was given an opportunity to address the Board. Ed spoke about the need for change...the need to separate politics from wildlife management. According to Ed, change is close at hand, but we need each individual to make phone calls/write letters to the PGC and legislators in order for change to occur. Write the letter yourself, make the phone call, yourself, and find three other people to do it...three other people that you know in your heart will find three more people, Ed exclaimed.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman commended the Local Chapters, Bill Laird and Don Heckman for all their work and effort in making the March 1998 Chapter Convention such a success.

Porter Wagner Youth Field Days: RS Zimmerman asked if the Chapter had sent the names of two youths for the Porter Wagner Days event prior to the scheduled deadline of March 16, 1998. Following some discussion, it was determined that the ball was dropped and every effort would be made to recover our own fumble and to get the names down to NWTF ASAP.

JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime: Jerry informed the Board that Cris Kunzler had agreed to host the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime, once again, at his camp in 1999. **Special Note:** RS Zimmerman reminded the Board of our commitment to provide two shotguns for the JAKES hunt in 1998.

1999 Convention: As stated, Jerry felt that this year's banquet was the biggest banquet, attendance wise, since he came on board. According to Jerry, people he had spoke to indicated that they had a great time and enjoyed this year's convention. Along those lines, RS Zimmerman encouraged the Board to get the word out about the state convention - to let others know that the state convention is an enjoyable time and a place where you can meet **good** people.

There being no questions relative to Jerry's report, the floor was turned over to Regional Director Larry Holjencin.

"28th Day" Print: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that the "28th Day" Print promotion was a great program for the Chapter to be involved in. As reported, the print is sold out, and has been getting Redlin-type money at Local Chapter banquets. It was mentioned that Local Chapters were very appreciative of the Chapter donating the "28th Day" print for their Super Fund banquets. In addition, it was reported that RD Holjencin had received an \$1800.00 royalty check for the patches, which are also nearly sold out. Larry informed the Board that he had also received 100 patches (the "28th Day" first year patch). In accordance with our agreement with Wildlife Artist George LaVanish, the Chapter will also receive 100 patches for the 2nd and 3rd year promotion. After three years, the Chapter will donate a three-patch set to each Local Chapter Super Fund banquet.

State Shoot: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that the state shoot is scheduled for June 28 at Hillside. As reported, Larry met with Hillside and Black Timber representatives on March 13, 1998 to discuss the upcoming shoot. Larry indicated that alot has been accomplished thus far. We're probably two months ahead of last year's preparations, Larry stated. It was mentioned that Hillside will not be NFCA sanctioned, as reported at the January 1998 Board meeting. However, the Chapter, Hillside and Black Timber split the cost of an ad for the shoot in "Sporting Clays" magazine, which should spark some interest in the state shoot. Larry encouraged the Board to take word of the state shoot back to the Local Chapters in an effort to spark an interest there.

New Chapters: RD Holjencin reported the addition of two new chapters to the flock. The newest members of our flock are: Shade Mountain - Mifflin and Juniata Counties; and Lakefront Gobblers of Erie County.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: PGC Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake reported that the **preliminary** fall 1997 harvest data from harvest report cards submitted by successful hunters suggest higher harvests and populations in 1997 than in 1996. The fall 1997 report cards returned were 8 percent above the fall 1996 report cards and 25 percent below those of our record 1995 fall harvest. According to Bill, the **official** fall 1997 harvest estimate, from the Game Take Survey, will be available by September 1998. Biologist Drake also mentioned that the number of fall 1997 report cards were slightly higher than anticipated based on the WCO summer turkey sightings survey. As reported, the 1997 WCO summer turkey sighting index value (16.5 turkeys seen/1000 miles traveled) was the same as the 1996 index value (16.4 turkeys seen/1000 miles traveled).

Turkey Hunting Seasons: Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake reported that the fall 1998 wild turkey seasons proposed at the January Commission Meeting were similar to those for fall 1997. The fall 1998 wild turkey hunting seasons, as proposed, are as follows:

- Areas 1A, 1B and 7B - October 31 - November 7 (7 days)
- Areas 2, 6, 7A and 8 - October 31 - November 14 (2 weeks)
- Areas 3, 4 and 5 - October 31 - November 21 (3 weeks)
- Area 9A - closed
- Area 9B - November 2 - November 6 (5 days)

Proposed Hunting Initiatives: Wildlife Biologist Bill Darke reported that the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management were asked by the PGC Commissioners and is investigating the pros and cons of all-day spring turkey hunting, the use of blinds for turkey hunting and driving for wild turkeys. According to Bill, recommendations regarding these wild turkey hunting initiatives would be presented at the April PGC Commissioners Meeting. On the subject of all-day spring hunting, Biologist Drake said: My feeling is, if we get a second spring bird, I do not think it is wise to put all-day spring hunting on top of that before we have an opportunity to evaluate the effects of a second spring bird.

NWTF Convention: Biologist Bill Drake thanked the Chapter for their Super Fund support to permit Executive Director Don Madl, Bob Boyd and Bill to represent the Pennsylvania Game Commission at the NWTF convention in Indianapolis. According to Bill, the Technical Committee meetings and the convention were again very productive and enjoyable. In addition, it was mentioned that the trip also provided an excellent opportunity for informal discussion and exchange of ideas.

Two Bird Limit: Bill thanked Don Heckman, Bill Laird and Jerry Zimmerman for their testimony and input on the proposed two bird spring limit at the PGC meeting. According to Bill, these guys came across as being for the resource and talking straight, and that the Chapter was well represented by these individuals.

At the conclusion of Bill Drake's report, several questions were raised on the floor relative to the Bureau's proposals for the use of blinds and driving as a method of hunting wild turkeys. Dan Roessner expressed his concern over the PGC's proposal to legalize driving. The idea of an organized group in a turkey drive goes against the grain of all types of turkey hunting. I just think that driving should not even be a consideration or recognized as being a permitted method of turkey hunting, Dan stated. Other members of the Chapter Board voiced their opinions in regards to the proposal to legalize driving as a permissible method of turkey hunting, and the proposal to legalize the use of blinds. We heard from Don Heckman, Gary Beatty, Reed Johnson, Larry Smail, Ron Sandrus, Jerry Zimmerman, Skip Sanderson, Dennis Strawbridge and John Szeferksi.

Bottom Line: In regards to the all-day spring hunting proposal, the Chapter Board favors tabling this proposal until the PGC has an opportunity to evaluate the effects of a two-bird spring limit and/or until there is more public support for the proposal.

Relative to the driving proposal, the Chapter Board favors keeping the driving law on the books which prohibits driving of wild turkeys even though this law is difficult to enforce. It is the belief of the Chapter that it would be better to discourage this method of turkey hunting rather than encourage it.

Concerning the proposal to legalize the use of blinds for turkey hunting, the Chapter Board generally favors this proposal. However, some concerns do remain among our Board members, and it would appear that some more questions need to be answered before the Chapter commits it's full support of this proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS: A letter was received from Carl Brown, NWTF Vice President of Operations, thanking the Chapter for its \$500.00 donation to the Dave Harrelson Memorial Theater Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Skip Sanderson mentioned that the limited addition turkey calls were not selling very well at the Chapter booth. (It's believed that Skip made a suggestion regarding the limited edition turkey calls. However, the Chapter Secretary was unable to pick up his suggestion on the recorder. OOPS!)

Raffle Committee: Ed Kemp mentioned that he had the ticket stubs available to draw the winner from those selling gun raffle tickets. It was also reported that the money raffle program did not do very well, and the Board was encouraged to think of other fund raising concepts between now and the June Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Ron Sandrus reported that the NRA is bringing back the turkey hunting education program in June 1998. As reported, all previous turkey hunting clinic instructors will have their certification extended for two years, beginning in June 1998. In the year 2000, all instructors will have to be recertified.

Two-Bird Spring Limit Proposal: Chapter President Gary Beatty read over the options available for Board consideration relative to the proposed two-bird spring limit. As reported, the options under consideration are as follows:

Option 1: Support the PGC proposal as written and presented at the January 1998 PGC Commissioners meeting. (2 bird limit during the spring season starting in 1999. Birds must be taken on separate hunting days)

Option 2: Do not support the PGC proposal as written and presented at the January 1998 PGC Commissioners meeting.

Option 3: Do not support any proposal for a 2 bird limit during the spring season.

Option 4: Support the 2 bird limit during the spring gobbler season with the following recommendations:

1: 2nd spring gobbler tag for \$10.00. Tag to be purchased when purchasing a hunting license. (This must be approved by the Legislators.)

2: A split season bag limit, with one spring bird to be harvested during the first two weeks of the season (first three Saturdays inclusive), and one spring bird to be harvested during the last two weeks of the season (last two Saturdays inclusive). If the spring gobbler hunter does not harvest a bird during the first two weeks of the season, he/she can only harvest one bird during the last two weeks of the season, even if they purchased the 2nd bird tag.

3: If these recommendations are not agreed upon and established by the PGC, PA General Assembly and the Governor of Pennsylvania, the PA Chapter will go on record as not supporting the 2 bird limit for spring gobbler season, at this time.

As reported, the PGC's proposed 2 bird limit for the spring gobbler season is being opposed by the general hunting public at a rate of 4 to 1, as determined by the letters and phone calls received at PGC headquarters in Harrisburg. Since the PGC's proposed 2 bird limit is not being supported, and since the PA Chapter has been interested in expanding recreational opportunities through a two bird limit during the spring season, **Option 4** was developed in an effort to gain more support for a two bird limit from our membership and the general hunting public. Along those lines, the Chapter's Executive Committee made a recommendation which asked the Chapter Board to stand in support of **Option 4**, and to work towards gaining more support for a 2 bird limit from our membership and the general hunting public.

A motion to support Option 4 as presented was made by Bill Mackereth, seconded by Mark Davis. Prior to calling for the vote on the motion, Board Chairman Tim Holtz opened the floor for debate/discussion on the motion.

Before any discussion on the motion was made, Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman wanted to make sure that every one in the room understood our options and understood what we were trying to do. This is a very important issue, at a very important time. Please, have all your questions answered. Don't walk out of this room not understanding this. Whether you agree or disagree, please make sure that you understand what we are trying to do. And don't be afraid, please, don't be afraid to ask questions and have your questions answered, Jerry said. I just want to make sure that every one has an opportunity to be heard, and that every one understands everything we are trying to accomplish.

DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION: Question - Chapter Board Skip Sanderson: What effect does this have on the fall season? Will we have to forego hunting in the fall in order to hunt for a second bird in the spring?

Reply - Chapter President Gary Beatty: It should not effect the fall season. It will create a three bird seasonal limit - one in the fall, two birds in the spring. According to PGC wildlife biologists, an increase in the seasonal bag limit is justified, and should not adversely affect the wild turkey population. Other states have a two bird or more limit in the spring, and their wild turkey populations have not been adversely affected. We

do not expect that Pennsylvania will be any different. Our wild turkey resource will be protected. And, if an overkill should occur, the PGC has several options to correct any problems. They can eliminate the two bird spring limit, or shorten the fall season, among other options that are available to them.

Comment - Chapter Treasurer Don Heckman: Heckman referred to the seven reasons why Option 4 is being considered by the Chapter for support. (The seven reasons and options were published in the spring issue of "Turkey Talk.") Everyone needs to understand what has transpired to get us to this point of the issue, as it relates to our discussions/working with the PGC, legislators, our membership and the general public. The Board needs to consider our options. If we are to move forward with Option 4, we need to have a plan of action which will enable us to gain support of our membership, the general public, and final approval of the PGC, legislators and the Governor. This is not something that needs to be taken lightly. Not something that needs to be jammed down other people's throats. We need to understand where this organization is headed, and how we go about getting there.

The reason we are realizing so much opposition to a two bird limit is because this Chapter has not done its job of educating our membership and the general hunting public on our Chapter's reasons for wanting a second bird in the spring. I just want to make sure that everyone in this room understands our reasons for supporting a two bird limit. If we are to move forward on this issue, we need to develop a plan to communicate those reasons to our membership and the general public.

Question - Chapter Board Dan Roessner: Do we have assurances from the PGC that monies derived from a turkey tag/permit will be earmarked to help fund the PGC Wild Turkey Management Plan?

Reply - Don Heckman: No. Money generated by a tag will be put into the General Fund. However, we would expect and encourage the PGC to budget expenses for the Wild Turkey Management Plan through the General Fund. I don't believe it is necessary to have the funds earmarked. It's more important to have funds available. Once funds are generated and available, the PGC can budget accordingly. If money is generated by a turkey specific tag, I don't foresee a problem in working with the PGC to get the Wild Turkey Management Plan funded.

Question - Dan Roessner: If in fact it's four to one against a two bird limit, and could even be greater, the thing that concerns me, from a public relations standpoint, is that we are always perceived as an elitist group, the professionals, who probably only want a two bird season so we can go out and all kill two birds. Which we all know is incorrect. What do you see that the public perception will be? Are the legislators hearing from those who are opposed right now?

Reply - NWTF Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman: In conversations I've had with local chapter members about this issue, they have been overwhelmingly opposed to a two bird spring. I then posed a question to them: What if...? And I would then proceed to explain Option 4: a two bird limit with a split season and a \$10.00 turkey tag attached to it, and the reasons for a turkey tag. And, overwhelmingly, after Option 4 was explained, they said that was a good idea; we could support that concept. But a straight two bird season, they were against it. After discussing Option 4, they said that they could support that.

Comment - Don Heckman: Representative Bruce Smith said that he would help sponsor a change to House Bill 1200 (hunting license increase bill) to pave the way for a \$10.00 spring turkey tag. However, the answer to your question, Dan (Roessner), is right here in this room - us. We need to move this Chapter forward. We need to go out and change the public perception of a two bird season. The public has had nothing but negative input for a two bird season, because they don't understand. The PGC did our Chapter a disfavor by putting this proposal on the table before we even had a chance to talk about it. That's not really the Game Commission's fault. That's our fault. However, we have an opportunity, a five-week window, to change that.

Reply - Dan Roessner: I agree with you. But the point I was trying to make pertained to the non-member, general turkey hunter. A two bird limit proposal is what was on the street. You have that issue and, now, you also have a \$10.00 tag. If they (general public) are opposed on the face-value of a free two bird season, I'm not sure what will make them so much more in favor of a two bird limit when it is going to cost them \$10.00 more. I agree we have a public relations problem. And we need to go out and make our case known, and let the chips fall where they may. But if the general turkey hunting public is opposed to a free two bird limit, I'm not sure how easy it will be to convince them that not only do they get a second bird but, now, they have to pay \$10.00 for it.

Reply - Don Heckman: And that's a valid concern, Dan (Roessner). That's been a concern of many of us. But we also have to consider the membership of this organization. We don't want to get into another rifle issue like the one that nearly killed this Chapter ten years ago. But you can avoid those situations through education. We have got to stand up, everyone of us - everyone of us. Every Local Chapter President and every Local and Chapter Board member needs to buy into this. Now, if we don't think we can do that, then I believe Option 3 is the way to go. Because we do not want to alienate our membership. And we don't want to get into a situation where we're turning-off 300,00 turkey hunters. Most of them are opposed to a two bird season because nobody has told them about the options. Nobody has told them what those options are.

Comment - Chapter President Gary Beatty: The key to turning this issue around is education. In a way it's good to know that the general hunting public showed concern for the resource when the PGC put the two bird proposal on the table. However, after talking with turkey hunters and gathering information from them about this issue, I question whether their concern is for the resource or whether, as I suspect, their concern is more a matter of greed - a concern for added hunting pressure. The number one reason given by most of those who are opposed to the two bird limit is: they don't want the additional hunting pressure. Most of them have the perception that there will be twice as many hunters out in the turkey woods if a two bird limit is adopted.

Recently, I addressed a group of Hunter Education Instructors. There were 80 plus instructors and most of them were opposed to a two bird limit. After I explained Option 4 to them, the vast majority of those people were saying: Hey, that's not too bad. But they were against the two bird limit as it was proposed by the PGC. Part of the reason why they were against that proposal is that perception that the hunting pressure will double. We need to do a better job of educating. We need to inform the general public that the success ratio of spring turkey hunters is 17 percent, according to PGC figures. So the most the hunting pressure can increase is only 17 percent. And with a split season, as provided for under Option 4, the added pressure won't occur until the second half of the season - when most hunters are out of vacation, money and/or patience. We need to educate the public about that. And then they might look at a two bird limit a little bit differently. It didn't seem to be very hard to turn around the thinking of about 75 percent of those Hunter Ed Instructors. They didn't like the Game Commission's proposal. But they said: This Option 4 is not bad.

Our problem is that we have a limited amount of time to educate the public. And how do we reach 300,000 turkey hunters? The second part of the problem is that we have over a million hunters. And alot of people who aren't turkey hunters don't like the idea simply because it is being lumped together with all the other PGC proposals under consideration - such as the youth deer hunt for example. If it's brown, it's down is the perception being taken in regards to the two-week youth deer hunt proposal. So, in my opinion, alot of people are lumping all of the proposals together and saying: No! We don't like that.

Comment - Dan Roessner: Concerning Option 3, I don't feel that it is an option to us, at this time. I think that after we have been trying for years to get the issue of a two bird spring on the table and, finally, got the game Commission to offer a proposal, for us to back off and take no position is not an option. It's wishy, washy. Take a stand and move on. So, I don't think Option 3 is even a viable option. We need to stress the points of Option 4. I'm still concerned that the general public will think that we are trying to push a regulation that will only benefit us, the professionals. And that's the thing we need to be concerned with.

Comment - Don Heckman: Is there anyone in this room who doesn't have a full grasp of what we are talking about - doesn't understand our support points under Option 4? Is there any state board member or local chapter member here who has a concern - doesn't like what we're talking about and wants to express their viewpoints on the issue.

Question - Chapter Board Dale Rohm: Dale referred to Support Item 1 under Option 4 which states: Support Wildlife Management Bureau's decision to adjust spring gobbler seasons and bag limits based upon spring gobbler harvest data. Does that mean that part of the state can be a two bird limit or certain counties can be a two bird limit? What discussion has been done on that - whether or not a certain county could support a two bird limit?

Reply - Gary Beatty: The discussion which took place with the Game Commission was that, if it is determined that a two bird limit is detrimental to the turkey population, we would support a PGC decision to remove the two bird limit from the spring season.

Question - Dale Rohm: Again, has there been any discussion to determine if certain counties could handle a two bird limit or part of the state? Has there been anything done about that?

Reply - Gary Beatty: We did not discuss that per say. However, we have noticed that there is more opposition to a two bird limit from hunters in the Northcentral Region. And more hunters in the Southwest Region favor a two bird limit. Apparently, hunters in the Northcentral Region feel that they have a turkey population problem, and are genuinely concerned for the resource. Hunters from the Southwest Region see that they have lots of turkeys, and genuinely believe that a two bird limit is justified.

Reply - PGC Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake: Our Wildlife Bureau looks at the spring gobbler season as a recreational opportunity. Just like the buck season is a recreational hunting season. Have at 'em - whatever. It isn't going to make a biological difference. Hunters are, in effect, harvesting surplus wildlife. When we have population problems, we want to address that with the hen harvest and the fall season length. That's how we manage turkey populations. Just like with deer, we adjust our doe harvest. Now, that being said, I would be reluctant to make any changes to the spring gobbler season unless those changes were made on a statewide basis. Otherwise, any changes to the spring gobbler season would be more of a social change than a biological change.

Comment - President Nittany Valley Longbeards Greg Dreibelbis: I think the \$10.00 permit, as proposed under Option 4, defeats the whole purpose of the permit. The original purpose of a permit was to gather data information from the number of turkey hunters we have (and to provide a name and address to go with that number so that turkey hunters could be targeted for turkey-related material and information). Now, you're just going to find out who wants to hunt a second bird. I don't think you're going to get accurate data information from the total number of turkey hunters who purchase a tag. Hunters could still harvest a turkey without buying an additional tag. And they're not going to be included in our statistical information, nor are we going to be able to target them for safety purposes.

Also, I think we preach over and over that we're putting the resource first. And that sort of separates this organization from other conservation groups. But I don't know if we are putting the resource first. If we are going to have a second bird, we're going to have a reduction in gobblers, because we are not changing the fall hunting season. I've spoken to my chapter members and the simple majority would support a two tag system - one spring tag and one tag for spring and fall. If a hunter takes a turkey during the fall season, they can only take one bird in the spring season - two birds in the spring if a bird is not taken during the fall season. And the reason is, if you decrease the fall harvest, you are going to have more huntable birds in the spring.

Also, I think we are trying to attract more youths to the sport. And, by having a reduction in gobblers, you are going to have a reduced quality hunt, and make the spring season less attractive for kids. So, I think

we need to make the quality of the hunt as attractive as possible in order to get these kids involved. It's my feeling that if we do the second bird, as is or even with Option 4, you are going to have a reduced quality of hunt which makes it even tougher to get the kids involved. So, for those reasons, myself and the simple majority of my chapter members are opposed to the current proposal and opposed to Option 4.

Comment - Past Chapter Board Member Alan Emlet: Alan mentioned that he had been working the Chapter booth and was bombarded with questions over the second bird proposal. According to Alan, people were concerned that they wouldn't be able to hunt spring gobbler during the last two weeks of the season unless they purchased the second bird tag. Another big concern is: Where's that \$10.00 going to go to? Is it going to come back to the resource? Alan expressed his concern to the Board that, in his opinion, the Chapter missed a golden opportunity to do some PR work at the convention relative to the second bird issue. We could have done a much better job of educating and discussing the issue of the second bird by addressing that issue at the convention in a public forum. (Under the current proposal, hunters would not be required to purchase a second bird tag in order to hunt the last two weeks of the spring gobbler season).

Comment - Don Heckman: Relative to the second bird tag, Don updated the Board on what has transpired over the past three years. For the record, the Chapter has actively pursued a turkey hunting license/tag/stamp/permit over the past 15 years. Three years ago, when the initial hunting license increase proposal went to the legislators, there was a \$10.00 turkey tag for all turkey hunters attached to the proposal. However, the legislators told the PGC that they would not support a \$10.00 turkey tag. That being said, Senate Bill 840 came out with the finance changes and a turkey tag was not a part of the \$12.5 million package. The Chapter then tried to go after a spring turkey tag. That was voted down 21 to 4, because this organization was caught with its pants down. We had no idea that was going to be done, and no opportunity to generate support.

With all that being said, the reason we are going after the second bird tag is because Representative Bruce Smith and other legislators have indicated that they would support a second bird tag, but not a tag for all turkey hunters - spring and fall seasons. It must be understood that this is not a Game Commission hunting license increase. This is a legislative license increase. The legislators are in total control of the outcome. The PGC has nothing to do with how much money will be allocated and where that money is allocated in terms of a general hunting license increase and/or tags.

I don't like it. The Chapter doesn't like it. Our goal is to get a specific license/tag for all turkey hunters. We would have preferred to have accomplished that task years ago and been done with it. But, as it stands now, the second bird tag is our opportunity to get our foot in the door. Granted, we are only looking at approximately 20,000 turkey hunters who would purchase the second bird tag. But it's a first step. We don't have anything now. Right now, nobody can say who the turkey hunters are. How much education material are we putting in the hands of turkey hunters? Only what they get from "Turkey Talk," and only what the first time hunters get from attending a Hunter Education course. The PGC has no literature on spring and fall hunting. This organization has relatively zero information to put out, except for some of the partnership things we have done.

We have an opportunity here to start out with approximately 20,000 turkey hunters. And what better place is there to start? If we can get 20,000 turkey hunters on our side and starting to preach education and what's best for the resource, we will have taken a giant step forward in the direction we want our organization to go. It's an opportunity to open the door - a starting point - to reach our goal of getting a license/tag for all turkey hunters.

Comment - President Lakeland Region Longbeards Ron Motacki: Ron mentioned that when they came out with the bear tag that everyone was up in arms and hysterical about it. The same was true with the recently adopted trout stamp. But, now, everyone seems to be happy and accepts it. With the bear license, there wasn't much education to it. If you wanted to hunt bear, you bought the tag. Now, the bear program seems to be very successful - due in part to funds allocated for bear research from monies generated by the bear tag. My question then is what determines how much a tag should cost? How much is needed to offset the costs of administration and issuing agents' fees?

Reply - Gary Beatty: If you had a \$2.00, \$3.00 or \$5.00 cost on the tag, most of the money would be eaten up by administrative and issuing agents' fees. And there would be little or no funds available for the resource. Twenty dollars is too much. Ten dollars is basically what you need to charge in order to make it feasible.

Question - Chapter Vice President Don O'Brien: What happens if that \$10.00 turkey tag is not approved by the legislators?

Reply - Don Heckman: If the \$10.00 tag is not passed by the legislators, the Chapter would recommend to the PGC that the second bird proposal should not be put into affect until the 1999 - 2000 hunting license year. There is no guarantee. And this is where the sphere of influence - the sphere of control - is most evident. We have no guarantee from the legislators that they are going to pass a hunting license increase bill - zero, none. If the license increase is not passed, the PGC has the option to: table, alter or delete their second bird proposal. As mentioned, our Chapter would recommend that the proposal is postponed until the 1999 - 2000 license year. In talking with PGC Commissioner Dennis Fredericks, Dennis has agreed to support whatever our organization decides to do.

Comment - Jerry Zimmerman: It concerns me that we have such an overwhelming difference of opinion on this issue. I think it is important to understand that our ultimate goal continues to be an overall turkey permit. That's our ultimate goal. As Don Heckman explained, we tried that avenue (to get an overall turkey permit).

And make no mistake about it. Absolutely, **no** mistake about it. The wild turkey resource is always - always has, always will be, is now, and always will be - the number one priority. And when we first made inquiries about the second bird in the spring, we asked the PGC Wildlife Management Bureau if a second bird would adversely affect the wild turkey resource. And the answer was: No. If the answer had been: yes, maybe, we're not sure, or we don't know, this organization would have never moved forward with the second bird proposal. The resource has always been, and always will be, upmost and in the forefront of our minds.

Reply - Greg Dreibelbis: The reproduction population will not be impacted. But the gobblers will. And, in my opinion that will affect the quality of the hunt. Over a number of years, you will have a reduction in gobblers and a reduction in gobbling activity, which will ultimately affect the interest of the kids. Gobbling activity is the baited hook of interest which attracts people to the sport. We need to maintain the quality of the hunt and the gobbling activity to peak the interest of the kids, in order to have them as active participants in the sport.

Question - Jerry Zimmerman: Based on the concerns expressed by Dale Rohm and Greg Dreibelbis, Jerry queried Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake about whether or not it would be feasible to look at spring turkey management somewhat in the way that we look at fall turkey management. I know that the spring season is viewed as a recreational opportunity. But what is wrong with saying, for example, that we're having a population problem in Management Area 7B and, so, there won't be a second bird in 7B or even a spring season in 7B? I know historically and traditionally that's not the way it's done...

Biologically, that's not the way it's done, Bill Drake interjected.

Question - Jerry Zimmerman: Then how do other states make those decisions? Like, for example, New Jersey and Delaware, where they don't have some of their Management Areas open for hunting. How does that happen?

Reply - Bill Drake: I'm not sure. I suspect, Jerry, that those are new populations - still building up. And they just don't want any hunting pressure put on either the gobblers or the hens, until they get a reasonable population established.

Question - Jerry Zimmerman: But then my next question would be: what's the difference between a new population and an established population that is experiencing a downward trend? What's the difference there? They are both low. They both need to be expanded. I just wonder what the difference is there. And, if

wildlife management continues to progress and ideas continue to take shape, I just wonder if it would be feasible to think that in the future you could look at something like that.

Reply - Bill Drake: No! No, it doesn't make biological sense to me. I think, as populations are established, you let the populations build up. Then you initiate spring gobbler seasons, with limited impact. Then, as things get real good, you can take a limited number of hens in the fall. If there's a population problem, you always pull back the fall harvest, first. And then your last resort, if your population is being so suppressed, is to close your spring gobbler season. And, if that doesn't get favorable results, then you trap and transfer birds into the area to get a nucleus population started. That's just a common, basic biological method of wild turkey management. And I can't imagine any reason why I would want to deviate from that.

In answer to Greg Dreibelbis' concerns about the possibility of a reduction in gobblers and gobbling activity, Bill Drake made the following comments: Our Bureau is being quoted as saying that there is going to be no impact from the second spring bird. I think, we can live with that. And I would encourage the Chapter to say that. But that is not what we said. However, go with that. But what I'm saying, Greg, as a biologist, I see very limited likelihood of suppressing the population from a second bird...

That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about the population of gobblers only, Greg Dreibelbis interjected.

Reply - Bill Drake: That's what I'm getting at. I see a very limited likelihood of suppressing the spring gobbler population from the second bird. What we think is more likely is: as hunters harvest more of those adult gobblers and don't harvest the hens, those hens will continue to reproduce because there are enough gobblers left. They are producing additional young birds for the spring - jakes. Provided, your fall harvest is kept in check. So, what I would emphasize is: not the likelihood of suppressing the spring gobbler population, and not the likelihood of suppressing gobbling activity. But what we did say going into this issue is: you may change the age structure of the gobblers over a period of time. I think there is going to be that influence - to a degree. But I don't think that's going to be very significant, either.

Reply - Greg Dreibelbis: Well, everything remaining equal, if you don't change the fall harvest and you increase the spring harvest, you're going to have a reduction in gobblers. That's why I suggested that we do what Maryland and West Virginia does: if you don't harvest a turkey during the fall season, you can harvest two birds during the spring season.

Reply - Bill Drake: We looked at that option early on. But we will not support that option, unless the choice is made prior to the season, because we don't want to encourage hunters to not report their fall harvest so that they can harvest two birds in the spring.

Reply - Greg Dreibelbis: I don't subscribe to that theory. Other states do it, and it doesn't seem to pose a problem. I don't want to see this proposal passed and, then, be detrimental to fall hunting. Because we are going to keep two spring birds, and we're going to reduce the fall season. In essence, what you are doing is shortening the fall season so that you can take two birds in the spring. I think we should be representing turkey hunters, and not just spring turkey hunters.

Reply - Bill Drake: That could happen. And it's something that needs to be recognized.

Comment - Don Heckman: If that would happen, the Game Commission always has the option to take back the second spring bird rather than reduce the fall season.

Reply - Greg Dreibelbis: They could. But we also kicked around that most of the time those adjustments are made to the fall season.

Reply - Don Heckman: Right. But don't forget the Game Commission has the option to delete the second bird. In fact, there are other options available to the Game Commission that we haven't even discussed, yet.

Recognizing the importance of the issue, and the importance of giving everyone an opportunity to speak and be heard on the issue, Board Chairman Tim Holtz demonstrated patience and leadership, in letting the issue run its course, before calling for a vote on the motion. As previously recorded on page 8 of these Minutes: **A motion to support Option 4 as presented was made by Bill Mackereth, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.**

SUPPORT FOR OPTION 4: Chapter President Gary Beatty asked the Board if anyone would be willing to serve as chairman, on a task force, to gain support for a two bird spring. The chairman would be responsible for implementing the 5-point action plan and making sure that the action plan was being followed, in an effort to gain support for a two bird season. The room was silent. There were no volunteers.

Based on the fact that a motion of support for a two bird spring was approved, as proposed under the guidelines of Option 4, and that no Nay votes were recorded, Chairman Tim Holtz attempted to move things forward. For the record, a five-point action plan was developed by Don Heckman and sent in a four-page letter to each Board member. This action plan was developed to outline procedures which needed to be implemented and followed by the Board, in order to gain support for a two bird spring. At this point in the meeting, attempts were being made to: organize a task force, to identify Board members who would serve on the task force, to implement the five-point action plan, to identify procedures of action, and to move forward, in a united effort, to gain support for a two bird spring season - as proposed and approved by the Board.

However, the Board appeared to be very reluctant to move forward. Chapter President Gary Beatty was given the floor to make the following comments: Two things I want to bring to the Board's attention now that the motion has been approved for support of Option 4. Number 1 - Although Rick Moroney was adamantly opposed to any proposal which did not include a turkey license/tag for all turkey hunters, he clearly stated, in his letter, that he would support the decision of the Board and would work towards gaining support for that decision. So, although Rick has a difference of opinion, he said that he would support the decision of the Board. Number 2 - When speaking in public, make sure that your personal opinion is clearly separated from the Chapter's stand on any issue. It's alright to have a personal opinion. It's alright to voice your opinion. But make absolutely sure that it is clearly understood to be your opinion and not that of the Chapter's.

HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS: Comment - Dan Roessner: Concerning the motion, I still have some reservations about it. We have a couple of public relations situations which need to be considered. One - we are backing a proposal which, at this point, appears to be very unpopular with the majority of the turkey hunting public, throughout the state. The other thing I have a problem with and we need to be conscious of is that, when we have our own people and local chapters so adamantly opposed to an issue, we need to take that into consideration, too. I don't want the Chapter to be put in a corner where it gets egg on its face, or whatever, as a result of their decision.

Right now, the fact that we are going to advance this issue and discuss it, I think the whole issue needs to be put out there for the general public and for discussion. I think, at some point, we may even need to reserve the right to, again, modify our stance based on public support and our chapters' support. What do we have now - fifteen people in this room making decisions that affect the entire state? I think, we need to be aware of those things. It's a very complex issue. I wish that, when we came out with a request for a two bird spring, everyone would have been behind us, and waving the flag - the whole nine yards. It's alot more fun to move an issue forward in that regard. That hasn't happened. And I sense that we're moving a proposal forward that is unpopular at best. I don't know if that's because Pennsylvania turkey hunters are selfish. We'll hunt every other state's second bird, but we don't want us to have the opportunity. That concerns me. I just think that we need to be conscious of the fact that there is some unpopularity out there. And we need to be able to even react to that, if in fact, that becomes more apparent. We need to reserve the right to be wrong or to even reconsider the action we have taken. The key thing is that we should, at least, put it on the floor for discussion. Bring it to the forefront. Let the chips fall where they may. And react to it.

Comment - Jerry Zimmerman: It really concerns me that we haven't had the time to get the word out, and to get some feedback from our local chapters on this proposal. That really concerns me. I would like to have that

recorded in the Minutes that it is a concern. And we are moving forward with this proposal without having the time to get the word out. We're under the gun. And we're doing this because we feel that it's the best thing to do under the circumstances - of not being able to get out and survey our local chapters. We have one local chapter, being represented here today, which is opposed to it. If we had more time to survey our local chapters, how would that affect our decision? Would that have given us an opportunity to make a different decision? We're under the gun. And, I think, it needs to be recorded that this is a decision, which is being made, based on the time frame we have to work with, and with little opportunity to get feedback from our local chapters.

Comment - Gary Beatty: I agree that this is an issue which is going to take a lot of time and effort to gain support for. It's not very popular, at this point. And I dread even thinking about accomplishing the task before us in only four weeks time - before the next Commissioners' meeting. But it's even more difficult to try and accomplish what needs to be done in only one Board meeting. Talk about time - we still have 14 other items on our agenda which should have been discussed at this Board meeting.

Reply - Jerry Zimmerman: That's another point. It's an issue which requires and deserves more attention than we can give in a two-hour discussion.

Comment - Chapter Board Reed Johnson: I have a problem, and Jerry sort of addressed that problem in his comments. A member from the Moshannon Chapter conducted a survey in the Northcentral Region and, here, at the convention. And that survey showed that 75 percent of our membership in the Northcentral Region is opposed to a two bird spring limit. For me to not have an opportunity to address this proposal to the membership in the Northcentral Region, and to not give them an opportunity to digest some of this information and to develop an opinion, I have a problem with that.

Comment - Chapter Board Skip Sanderson: I think, Jerry (Zimmerman) made the point. We're under the gun. We don't have much choice. We have been forced into acting on the proposal. It's not something that we can just ignore. So, it's going to be our job to sell it to our local chapters and our membership. We don't have an option. We are going to have to act on this proposal, in some way, or we're going to lose in the long run.

Comment - NWTF Regional Director Larry Holjencin: In reference to what Reed (Johnson) said: Reed, I met with a chapter, not far from yours, and there were about 15 people at the meeting. I asked how many people support a two bird limit. Only two of the 15 supported it. Then I explained Option 4 to them. After some discussion and a revote was taken, 13 of the 15 people there, then, supported a two bird limit after they understood Option 4. That's just one chapter, but it shows what can be done when people are more knowledgeable about the proposal and the options.

Comment - Gary Beatty: We all agree that we have to do a lot of PR work and education... But, what I'm hearing is: do we have the time to do it? And are we going to get a backlash from it? Just to lay out a game plan and try to get that accomplished, today, how are we going to get that done when we still have a lot of other business that needs to be conducted by this Board? We've just heard from several people who are concerned about getting this done. And, yet, a few minutes ago, we voted on a motion and everyone was for it. Nobody made a counter proposal or counter motion that, maybe, we ought to not support the proposal, at this time. And ask the Game Commission to postpone the proposal until next January's seasons and bag limits meeting - when we've had an opportunity to address the public and our membership for a year. I mean, there's other options, but I didn't hear any of them being advanced by the Board.

Comment - Chapter Board Ed Kemp: Personally, I feel, there's nobody in this state who knows more about what's going on here than the people sitting in this room. And like Ron Motacki said earlier: people learn to live with their license tags and such... And I think people will learn to live with this. And, in the long run, this is the best option. Because if we don't do it now... Now's the time to do it.

Comment - Skip Sanderson: If House Bill 1200 (hunting license increase bill) is approved by the legislators

without a turkey tag attached to it, we won't be able to go after a turkey tag for another seven years. This is our window of opportunity to get a turkey tag - whether it's limited or not. It's our only opportunity.

Comment - Chapter Board Bill Mackereth: I can remember when there was great resistance to even having a spring gobbler season - how everyone was against it, and it was going to kill the resource and everything... The same hunters that Reed (Johnson) is talking about, who are against a two bird season in Pennsylvania, are going to New York, are going to Maryland. And, in some places, they are killing more than two birds in the spring. It has not hurt their populations at all. And, I think, there's something good about us resisting change. But we can't resist change forever. And, I think, this change is good.

Comment - Don Heckman: I want to make sure that everyone heard and understood what Jerry Zimmerman had to say. I have no problem. Absolutely, no problem with recinding the motion that we just approved and going with Option 3 - no proposal on second bird, at this time. However, if we collectively move on Option 4, then we all move on that plan - 13,000 strong.

Much more discussion took place. However, this discussion focused on the Board's indecisiveness. The Board was indecisive about what its next step should be. This indecision by the Board stemmed from its expressed concern for: a lack of support for a second bird, having to "work under the gun" and not having the time to get feedback from our local chapters and our membership, and the Board's inability to select a chairman to gain support for Option 4. **Bottom Line:** The Board was having second thoughts about advancing the motion it had approved to support Option 4 and a second bird.

Following much more discussion, **a motion to reconsider the vote of the previous motion was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.** The previous motion called for reconsideration was: **a motion to support Option 4 as presented...** This action to reconsider the previous motion put the Board back to square-one and, in effect, was as if the Board had taken no action on the two bird proposal.

However, in regards to the two bird proposal, a major decision was made and direction was set by the Board. Based on the knowledge that there appeared to be alot of opposition to the two bird proposal, the Board made a decision to forego supporting any two bird proposal and/or options, at this time. Procedures to follow and direction was set by the Board, relative to a two bird spring season, as follows:

- 1.) Chapter would ask the Game Commission to postpone action on the two bird spring proposal, until next January's season and bag limits (1999).
- 2.) Chapter would initiate dialogue with its local chapters, its membership and the general turkey hunting public, in an effort to generate feedback and support for a two bird spring season.
- 3.) Chapter would work towards getting legislation passed for a turkey hunting license/tag
- 4.) Chapter would develop a position statement, relative to the two bird issue.

Public Relations: Discussion took place relative to Charlie Burchfield's proposal to serve as a PR person and submit PR information to the media on behalf of the Chapter. Further discussion took place, regarding Ron Tussel's status as our current PR representative. Opinions were stated, and several good suggestions were made. However, a final decision was not made. And the PR subject was tabled until the Board has an opportunity to better address the issue.

Print/Patch Program: Some discussion took place in regards to whether or not the Chapter wanted to continue to work with Wildlife Artist George LaVanish on the print/patch program. **A motion to retain George LaVanish as artist for the print/patch program and to secure a contract for the next two years was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.**

POWA Spring Conference: It was a consensus of the Board that the Chapter should make every effort to attend the POWA Spring Conference and to man a Chapter booth at that event.

Governors' Symposium: It was mentioned that the Chapter needs to begin planning for the symposium. It was suggested that the Chapter may want to consider sponsoring a still target shoot at the symposium.

Musser Seedlings: As reported, the Chapter had submitted two separate proposals to acquire seedlings from Musser Nursery. However, due to a computer foul-up on the other end, it was not known whether or not a record remained of our proposal. As noted, Reed Johnson was working towards getting the problem taken care of. It was mentioned that local chapters would be notified, through "Turkey Talk," about getting seedlings for their chapter as they become available.

Habitat Proposals: Some concern was expressed in regards to whether or not local chapter project proposals had been approved by the Habitat Committee. As reported, Chapter President Gary Beatty had, as yet, not received the green sheet project proposals for his signature. It was believed, however, that all local chapter proposals had been approved by the Habitat Committee. And Habitat Committee Chairman Rudy Kovacina was in the process of contacting the local chapters.

Shotgun Project Proposal: Reed Johnson reported that WCO Joe Stefko had submitted a proposal for 72 Mossberg shotguns to be used in conjunction with Youth Field Days Events throughout the state. As proposed, each PGC Regional Office would receive 12 shotguns for distribution to the events held in their districts. It should be noted that **Bob's Army/Navy in Clearfield** worked with Mossberg representatives to get a good, one-time deal, on the cost of the shotguns - \$150.00/each, with a total project cost of \$10,800.00. Since this was a Super Fund request, the proposal was sent to the appropriate Super Fund Committee for their consideration.

Gun Raffle Drawing: The drawing for the fall gun raffle ticket sellers was held. Chapter Board Member Dale Rohm was the lucky winner.

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, it was reported that there was a vacancy on the Board for a two-year term, resulting from the resignation of pass Chapter Vice President Dave Blakley. Along those lines, the Executive Committee made a recommendation, asking the Board to consider Greg Dreibelbis for that seat. **A motion to appoint Greg Dreibelbis to a two-year term on the Chapter Board was made by Boyd Enos, seconded by Bill Mackereth. Motion carried.** Following approval of the motion, Greg was welcomed as a new member of the Chapter's Board of Directors. Along those same lines, Carl Mowry and Lyle Gillespie were welcomed as newly elected members of the Board.

Public Broadcasting: As reported, a public broadcasting station, located in the State College area, has been commissioned by the PGC to do a 13-part series on the wild turkey in Pennsylvania. It was further noted that the Chapter had been contacted about having a segment done on the Pennsylvania Chapter, NWTF and its local chapters, as a part of that series. The Board directed Greg Dreibelbis to meet with the Broadcasting Station Manager and to report back to the Board, at our June meeting, what the Chapter needs to do to advance this proposal.

TNN Outdoors: It was reported that the NWTF would produced a TV program for TNN Outdoors, which will begin airing at 9:00 a.m., on Saturdays, during the Spring of 1999.

American Hunting Heritage Fund: **A motion to commit a yearly pledge of \$5000.00 to the American Hunting Heritage Fund was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.** Following approval of the motion, Don Heckman challenge each local chapter, who could afford it, to donate a minimum of \$100.00 from their general fund to the AHHF each year.

Make a Wish Foundation: As reported, Retired General Norman Schwarzkoph made a speech at the NWTF convention, encouraging and challenging the NWTF and its chapters to become involved with charity

organizations. Going a step beyond our mission, as a conservation organization, by supporting the efforts of selected charities would, in effect, enhance our reputation with those people in the middle - those people who are not a part of the anti-hunting establishment or the hunting fraternity. Along those lines, **a motion to encourage those local chapters, who can afford to, to consider donating \$100.00 to the "Make A Wish Foundation" was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.** For the record, the Chapter will pledge a minimum of \$100.00 each year from our General Fund to the Make A Wish Foundation. Skip Sanderson agreed to chair a committee which would encourage our local chapters to support the Make A Wish Foundation, and would establish procedures for collecting donations.

JAKES Chairman: It was suggested that the Chapter should appoint a Board member to serve as the Chapter's JAKES chairman. This chairman would be responsible for coordinating JAKES events throughout the state. As reported, Chapter President Gary Beatty spoke with Bill Mackereth about this position, and Bill had agreed to serve as chairman.

Safety Proposal: Don Heckman recommended that the Safety Committee begin working on its spring and fall safety projects/proposals.

NWTF Representative: In noting the absence of an NWTF representative at our state convention this year, it was suggested that the Chapter's 25th Anniversary Committee needs to contact NWTF and get a commitment to have NWTF representatives at our 1999 and 2000 state convention.

Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Coalition: Don Heckman requested that the Chapter needed to have a position statement prepared, relative to a turkey license, prior to the Coalition's meeting with Representative Bruce Smith.

YHEC Program: A motion to donate a Chapter print to the YHEC program to help fund transportation costs for the YHEC team attending the national shoot in Arizona was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.

Art Committee: In noting that he no longer serves on the Art Committee, Don Heckman informed the Board that he has, in the past, donated 8 matted and framed prints to other conservation organizations for their fund raising purposes. If the Chapter decided to continue this practice, it would then become the responsibility of someone currently serving on the Art Committee.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Bill Laird thanked everyone who helped to make the convention a success. It was duly noted that our local chapters financially supported the convention with approximately \$1800.00 in cash donations. Our appreciation was also extended to those local chapters and members who helped, wherever needed, to make the convention a success and enjoyable for those in attendance. A tip of the camo hat is extended for all your help and support of our state convention.

There being no other business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was made by Bill Mackereth, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m., on Sunday, March 22, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 10, 1998

Greenwood Lodge, Clearfield, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the January 1998 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Tim Holtz at 9:05 a.m., on Saturday, January 10, 1998. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Tim Holtz welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ground rules for our meeting were reviewed and explained by Chairman Holtz. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Betty thanked the Board for carrying out Chapter business during the past year. Special thanks was extended to Don Heckman and Bill Laird for representing our Chapter in Harrisburg and to those individual Board members who have gone the extra mile for our organization.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Rick Moroney asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the October 1997 Minutes. Corrections were made as follows: On page seven, the paragraph above Committee Reports, it was recorded...Betty Lou Fegley for her being elected to President of the OWAA. This was corrected to read...Betty Lou ~~Fegley~~ for her being elected.... There being no other additions or corrections made, a motion to accept the October 1997 Minutes as corrected was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Treasurer Don Heckman presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 1997 as follows: Total assets were \$13,695.52 with no liabilities, leaving a total fund balance of \$13,695.52. Total revenue for the period December 1 - 31, 1997 was \$28,757.39. Total expenses for the same period was \$22,646.83. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Dan Roessner, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Gary Beatty read a letter of resignation submitted by Vice President Dave Blakley.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: No report.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman reported that 1997 was the best year in NWTF history. We've raised more money and, consequently, spent more money than ever before, Jerry said. Since the beginning of the Super Fund, the NWTF has put over \$70 Million back into the ground for the wild turkey. It was also noted that Pennsylvania hurdled another milestone in 1997 having spent over \$1 Million on wild turkey projects in Pennsylvania.

Membership: Nationwide our organization is approaching 160,000 members. Pennsylvania can boast about having 12,414 members, while Wisconsin stands at 11,246. It was mentioned that South Carolina's membership continues to increase and, having reached 9600 members, they are closing the gap on the membership leaders - Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Super Fund: Pennsylvania deposited \$192,594.52 into the Super Fund account in 1997. More importantly, Pennsylvania spent \$195,960.40 on wild turkey projects in '97. Currently, the Pennsylvania Super Fund balance is \$109,183.18. On a national level, NWTF chapters raised over \$8.5 Million and spent over \$7 Million on wild turkey projects in '97. **Bottom Line:** We're raising Big Dollars. We're spending Big Dollars. And we're helping the wild turkey in a Big, Big, Way! Here's a big tip of the old camo hat to all our local chapters who conduct Super Fund banquets and are directly responsible for making all this possible. We appreciate all your hard work and efforts for the wild turkey resource. **Thank You!**

Seed Program: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman provided the Board with information about the NWTF seed program. As reported, seed companies which sell seed to farmers are offering surplus seed to the NWTF free of charge. Because the seed is inoculated for crop use, it can not be used for feed. Seed which is not sold to farmers must be disposed of as hazardous waste and, therefore, is being offered free of charge in an effort to get rid of it and, yet, put it to good use. As mentioned, the seed is available by the tractor trailer load at a cost of \$900.00 (shipping and carrying charge). Available seed-types are: corn, winter wheat, sorghum and soybean. Those interested in participating in this program must take shipment of an entire tractor trailer load, and cannot mix the seed - one seed-type per/load. We've been using this seed in Maryland over the last few years, and I can't begin to tell you how many doors it has opened up down there. It has opened up a tremendous amount of doors, and the goodwill this program has built up has been immeasurable, Jerry said. So if your local chapter has the ability to store a trailer load of seed, I would suggest that you try to get involved in this seed program, Jerry exclaimed. For more information on the NWTF seed program, please contact Bobby Maddrey at NWTF headquarters in Edgefield.

NRA Education: As reported the NRA is reviving its turkey hunter education course with a kickoff date scheduled for June 1998. For more information, contact Bob Davis of the NRA. It was mentioned that the Pennsylvania Chapter had certified approximately 40 hunters under this education program, and that the Michaux Yellow Breeches Chapter conducts the NRA Education Program on a yearly basis.

JAKES: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman encouraged the Board to consider appointing a state JAKES chairman. It was mentioned that the NWTF will be conducting a state JAKES chairman meeting at the 1998 NWTF convention. It was also noted that, as the JAKES program continues to grow, it will become more of a factor to need a state JAKES chairman. If we are to maintain a leadership role in youth programs, we'll need to provide more individual attention to youth events conducted in Pennsylvania and to encourage more youth involvement in those activities. Along those lines, it was suggested that the Board should begin its search for a state JAKES chairman with an appointment to be made no later than June '98.

Porter Wagner Field Days: RS Zimmerman reminded the Board of the need to submit the names of those youth selected to participate in the Porter Wagner Field Days event a little earlier this year. It was mentioned that the deadline was set for March 16, 1998.

PA JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime: RS Zimmerman reported that our JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime would be held at a place called "The Farm" in Carbon County. As noted, two spots are available for youth participation in the JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime. One spot is chosen by a drawing at the state convention, and the other spot is sold by auction bid. As mentioned, the Hunt of a Lifetime will be held in 1999 at Chris Kunzler's camp in Centre County. It was also noted that video was taken of the '97 Hunt of a Lifetime at Kunzler's camp, and it was hoped that this video would be available for viewing at this year's state convention.

Women's Program: It was reported that the official name of NWTF's women's program will be: "NWTF Women in the Outdoors." RS Zimmerman informed the Board that Carol Jordon, Coordinator of "NWTF Women in the Outdoors" program, had selected 13 states to do a pilot program. This pilot program will be scheduled as a weekend event, which will be designed to inform interested individuals within the state chapter system about the program and about Carol Jordon's vision of the program. It should be noted that the NWTF's Women in the Outdoors program is not designed to replace the "Pennsylvania Outdoors Women" program but rather to complement the "POW" program at a more affordable cost. It is the intention of our organization to expand the program and to reach women who might not otherwise be active participants of this much needed program. According to Zimmerman, the "NWO" program will be designed in much the same fashion as our "JAKES" program. A "how to" manual will be developed, and the program will be tailored to meet local chapter needs. This is the right program, at the right time, Jerry said.

Special Note: The Chapter is actively seeking interested women who would like to serve as a point person for Carol Jordon in Pennsylvania to help establish the "NWO" program across the state. As noted, several women have been considered for this position but, to date, a final decision has not been made. If interested, please contact either Jerry Zimmerman or Larry Holjencin.

There being no questions relative to Jerry's report, the floor was turned over to Regional Director Larry Holjencin.

"28th Day" Print: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that the Chapter print "28th Day" by Wildlife Artist George LaVanish is done, and that George is happy with the way the prints turned out. It was noted that 25 prints have been shipped to Choppe Express for framing. Fifty prints are available for distribution to our local chapters - each chapter will receive one print (free). RD Holjencin reported that the next issue of "Turkey Talk" will contain a promotional ad for our "28th Day" print. As a part of this program 2500 patches were produced from the print image. The Chapter will receive a \$.75 rebate from each patch that is sold.

State Shoot: As reported, Regional Director Larry Holjencin met with personnel from Black Timber and Hillside on November 20, 1997 to discuss and outline responsibilities for the Chapter shoot. From that meeting, a decision was made to add more prizes to the Hunter's Class and to add a JAKES shooting event to the program. Relative to advertising our Chapter shoot, Larry mentioned that Hillside was, once again, affiliated with NFCA and would, therefore, be able to advertise our shoot in "Sporting Clays" Magazine. Along those lines, it was noted that the Chapter's advertising space in "Pennsylvania Outdoor Times" has been used up in accordance with our agreement with "POT." RD Holjencin plans to advertise our shooting event in "Turkey Talk," "Pennsylvania Sportsmen," and on the Chapter's website. It was mentioned that the steel target shooting competition will serve as our state championship event. As reported, the Chapter shoot will be held on Sunday, June 28, 1998 at Hillside in Somerset County.

Addition to our Flock: RD Holjencin reported that a new local chapter has been organized in the Grove City area of Mercer County. This local chapter will operate under the leadership of President Ed Blakley, a cousin of former Chapter VP Dave Blakley. It was also noted that Dave Blakley will serve as banquet chairman for this new local chapter, with a banquet scheduled for March 10, 1998. Our newest member to the flock was chartered under the name: "Wolf Creek Longbeards."

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: PGC Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake reported that preliminary data on the '97 spring harvest was about the same as the '96 harvest (second best ever). The fall '97 harvest (at this time, based only on report cards) indicates that the harvest is up by 16 percent over last year.

Seasons and Bag Limits: Biologist Drake reported that his department would present recommendations for the '98 fall turkey season similar to those recommended for the '97 season. It was noted that a one week

season would be recommended for Turkey Management Area 7B, despite having received only 17 harvest report cards for '97 compared to 19 received for the '96 season. Biologist Drake mentioned that he needs more data before making a decision to close TMA 7B to fall turkey hunting. It was hoped that the situation in 7B would turn around before it becomes necessary to close the season.

A question was raised on the floor by Chapter President Gary Beatty, regarding the possibility of extending the fall season in TMA 1. In reply, Biologist Drake stated that the PGC needs three years of data to make the appropriate recommendations relative to seasons and bag limits. Further, Biologist Drake and Bob Boyd, Assistant Director of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management, both explained that it requires four years to complete three years of data, noting that population impact data does not show up until the following spring with the spring harvest data and the WCO summer sighting survey to a lesser degree. **Bottom Line:** Any management decisions to be made relative to TMA 1 will be done after three years of data has been completed and evaluated. Since it requires another year to complete/evaluate the third year of data, changes in TMA 1 recommendations may occur in 1999 based on additional data.

At this point, Board Chairman Tim Holtz reminded the Board of Ground Rule #3, and asked for the Board's cooperation in letting an individual finish their report before raising questions relative to that report on the floor.

Two Gobbler Spring Limit: Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake informed the Board that his department had been asked by the PGC Commissioners to look at and make a recommendation on the possibility of expanding the season limit to two gobblers during the spring season. According to Biologist Drake, the Bureau of Wildlife Management would be giving a generalized favorable position to increase the spring limit to two gobblers.

Trap and Transfer: Biologist Drake mentioned that the PGC had considered releasing 20 wild turkeys in both York County release sites, primarily because it was felt that not enough gobblers were originally released at these sites to effect favorable reproduction of the population. It was noted that reproduction of the flock has been verified on State Game Lands #242, but that there were no signs of reproduction available at the Codorus release site. However, due to the PGC's financial restraints, a decision was made not to release any turkeys at the York sites, at this time.

NWTF Convention: Biologist Drake indicated that he, Assistant Director Bob Boyd, and Executive Director Don Madl would be attending and representing the PGC at the NWTF convention.

Target 2000 Money: Biologist Bill Drake mentioned that the PGC had spent the remainder of their Target 2000 funds on the purchase of various pamphlets and manuals. Bill stated that these pamphlets and manuals would be very helpful in giving PGC field people some good ideas and direction, and will give them a better understanding about what the NWTF is all about and some of the things that we are involved in doing.

At the conclusion of Bill's report, a question was raised on the floor by Doug Tosten, President Fort Chambers Chapter. President Tosten was interested in knowing if TMA 7B had the lowest success rate compared to the other TMAs. In reply, Biologist Drake stated that TMA 7B has the lowest harvest density per/forested square mile, and the lowest success rate of turkeys harvested per/man days hunted. According to Bill, the second lowest rate is within TMA 3. It was also noted that TMA 7A appears to be improving somewhat, along with the other TMAs.

Regional Director Larry Holjencin asked if any consideration had been given to reducing the fall season in TMA 3 to two weeks. In reply, Biologist Drake stated that consideration had been given to that option, but the PGC was interested in gathering more data and evaluating the situation a little more closely before making any decision to reduce the length of the fall season. According to Bill, turkey hunting in TMA 3 is still good, but

the turkey population is not increasing in TMA 3 in comparison to what is happening in other TMAs. Further, it was mentioned that red flags have been raised on TMA 3 and that the PGC is watching the situation very closely. However, it was felt that this just might be a temporary thing, and with a couple of years of good reproduction the problem may be corrected. It might be a little premature to consider reducing the season in TMA 3, PGC Assistant Director Bob Boyd said.

Other questions were raised on the floor. We heard from Don Heckman, Howard Meyers, Dennis Strawbridge, and Jerry Zimmerman. These questions were general in nature and concerned TMA 7B and the proposed two gobbler spring limit. Concern was expressed over the turkey population problem associated with TMA 7B, and questions were asked about whether a permit would be issued for a two gobbler spring, and how the two gobbler limit would be initiated. Biologist Drake and Assistant Director of Wildlife Management Bob Boyd answered these questions to the best of their ability and to the general satisfaction of the Board.

SPRING GOBBLER STAMP: Board Chairman Tim Holtz introduced State Representative Gary Haluska of Cambria County to the Board. It was also noted that Representative Haluska served as a member on the House Game and Fisheries Committee. Representative Haluska attended our Board meeting to discuss the possibility of introducing a turkey stamp amendment to the hunting license increase bill. Representative Haluska talked about the different options and possibilities of introducing an amendment. He was most interested in knowing where the Chapter Board stood in regards to supporting a turkey stamp/permit. Board members Rick Moroney, Don Heckman and Chapter President Gary Beatty spoke to this subject on behalf of the Board. **Bottom Line:** A general consensus of the Board showed that the Chapter was interested in pursuing Representative Haluska's proposal. A timetable was established to get the job done, and it was agreed that the Chapter would work with Representative Haluska and the PGC to that end. It should be noted that the Chapter does not wish to undertake any action which might jeopardize approval of the hunting license increase bill or to cause a setback.

"PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR TIMES:" Past President Howard Meyers presented a proposal to the Board which would provide income for the Chapter based on subscription returns from Chapter members targeted by "Pennsylvania Outdoor Times." Howard's proposal was referred to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Past Chapter Secretary Charlie Burchfield attended our meeting to present a proposal on how he could help the Chapter with public relations. According to Charlie, our Chapter needs a better public relations program in order to get our message across. Along those lines, Charlie offered to help the Chapter with public relations if we were willing to put him on retainer. Much discussion took place as Board members queried Charlie about what type of services he would provide and what would those services cost the Chapter. At the close of discussion, Board Chairman Tim Holtz thanked Charlie Burchfield for attending our meeting, and stated that Charlie would be contacted in regards to the Board's decision on his proposal.

COMMUNICATIONS: The first item of communication was a thank you letter from the Ned Smith Museum Center. The Chapter was being thanked for their generous donation of Ned Smith artwork to the museum. It should be noted that the artwork donated to the museum was done on a loan-type basis.

Received a letter from the Wildlife Legislative Fund asking for a donation from the Chapter to help their goal to fight the antis.

Received a letter from Project Habitat Company encouraging the use of their herbicide on habitat project rights-of-way - gas lines, power lines, etc.

Received a letter from Carl Brown, NWTF Vice President of Operations, asking for the Chapter's

support of the Dave Harrelson Memorial Fund. **A motion to donate \$500.00 for the Dave Harrelson Memorial Theater was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

Received a letter from Gib Hayes, Secretary of Local Chapter #1, expressing their concern over local chapters being asked to financially support the state convention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ed Kemp, Chairman of the Gun Raffle, reported that there was a \$7600.00 profit, and that four guns were left over from the raffle. **A motion to use the remaining guns in the state convention was made by Sam Truxel, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

Cash Raffle: Chapter President Gary Beatty thanked Sam Truxel for getting the tickets printed. Gary also thanked Ed Kemp for taking on the responsibility of chairing this committee.

'98 State Convention: Chairman Bill Laird expressed a need for more people to help man the Chapter booth at the convention. Chairman Laird provided a five-page report of convention activities and what his committee has accomplished thus far in preparing for the '98 state convention.

Art Committee: Chairman Reed Johnson expressed a need for more people to serve on his committee. It was also noted that we are in good shape in regards to available art for the state convention.

Awards Committee: Chairman Dennis Strawbridge mentioned his frustration in the lack of response for award nominations. It was noted that the Awards Committee had provided more information and notice of the awards nominations than any time in the past.

Habitat Committee: Chairman Rudy Kovacina provided a written report. Chairman Kovacina's report showed that 27 projects were funded in the spring, and nine projects were funded in the fall of '97. Total habitat projects funded for 1997 were as follows:

Allegheny National Forest.....	\$ 6,000.00
Pennsylvania Game Commission.....	\$46,437.64
DCNR Bureau of Forestry.....	\$15,349.00
PA Local Chapters.....	\$24,757.39

Total funding for 1997 was: \$92,544.03.

Portfolio Committee: Chairman Mark Davis provided a written report. Chairman Davis' report showed that the following local chapters were represented in the portfolio: Moshannon Chapter, Lake Region Longbeards Chapter, Susquehanna Chapter, Appalachian Trail Chapter, Mason Dixon Chapter and the Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter.

Two additional portfolios were received after the NWTF deadline. These were forwarded to NWTF, in hopes that they would be included in the competition. They were: Allegheny Mountain Chapter and the White Horse Mountain Longbeards Chapter.

Promotional Items: Chairman Skip Sanderson provided a written report. Chairman Sanderson's report indicated that promo sales were slow during the period October to January, with only a watch, pin, hat and a patch being sold. The Promo Committee ordered 5000 rulers with a safety and ethics message and the NWTF scoring system printed on the rulers. According to Skip, the cost of the rulers will be approximately \$0.38 each. It was also noted that the Promo Committee is still considering an ERTL truck, belt buckles, money clips, and lighters as promo items for the Chapter's 25th Anniversary.

District Directors: District Directors Don O'Brien, Bill Laird and Mark Davis submitted written reports

of their activities to the Board. Some of the varied activities of our District Directors included:

- * Attended Chapter Board meeting and local chapter meetings
- * Attended PA Sportsmen's Coalition meeting
- * Attended Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs meeting
- * Attended Chapter Convention meeting
- * Spoke with representatives of the PGC and DCNR about habitat projects

More importantly, our District Directors continued to assist Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman and Regional Director Larry Holjencin in carrying out the goals and objectives of our Chapter and the NWTF organization.

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, Board Chairman Tim Holtz took the floor as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Chairman Holtz mentioned that there were seven seats available on the Board when nominations went out for Board members. Further, it was mentioned that only seven nominations for the Chapter Board were received by the Nominating Committee. In accordance with Chapter Bylaws under Article VII, Chapter Board, Section 4 - Election of the Board it states: If the total number of nominees to the Board equals the number of Board memberships to be filled, then those nominees shall become the members of the Board without an election. With that understanding, Chairman Holtz named the nominees who will be seated as Chapter Board members at the close of the 1998 Chapter Convention as follows:

Boyd Enos, Reed Johnson, Skip Sanderson, Dale Rohm, Dennis Strawbridge, Carl Mowry and Lyle Gillespie.

Under the next order of business, Nominating Committee Chairman Tim Holtz announced the slate of officers being recommended by the Nominating Committee as follows:

- President.....Gary Beatty
- Secretary.....Rick Moroney
- Treasurer.....Don Heckman
- Chairman of the Board.....Tim Holtz

It was mentioned that, at this time, no one has expressed an interest in the position of vice president. Although the Nominating Committee has talked to several individuals who are considering the possibility of serving as Chapter vice president, Chairman Holtz informed the Board that he is still interested in hearing from anyone who might be interested in serving as vice president. At that time, **a motion to open the floor for officer nominations was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Mark Davis.** There being no nominations forthcoming from the floor, **a motion to accept the recommended slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee was made by Dan Roessner, seconded by Don O'Brien.** It should be noted that the floor will remain open for the nomination of Chapter officers until the election of officers takes place at the '98 Chapter convention.

NWTF Certificate of Appreciation: Chapter President Gary Beatty informed the Board that the Chapter had received a certificate of appreciation from NWTF for having spent over \$500,000.00 on Super Fund projects.

NWTF Convention: According to Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman both hotels reserved by the NWTF for their convention have been sold out. Anyone still interested in attending the NWTF convention will have to make their own arrangements with other hotels in the vicinity. If anyone needs more information, they can call Jerry, and he will try to help with hotel connections. Along those same lines, Chapter President Gary Beatty mentioned that he has two rooms reserved in the Main Hotel at the NWTF convention. Anyone who might still need a room should contact Gary as soon as possible.

Chapter Web Site: CIO, CIA and AA to the Web Master Don Heckman met with the Web Master to review the Chapter Home Page. As reported CIO, CIA and AA to the Web Master Heckman gave the Web

Master six more items to add to the Chapter's Home Page. It was noted that the Chapter Home Page has 75 pages or, in computer terminology, 10 megabites which are full. With that knowledge, **a motion to expand the Chapter's Home Page by 10 megabites, at a cost of \$120.00 per/year, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

PA Sportsmen's Coalition: Don Heckman reported that the PA Sportsmen's coalition, which is comprised of 8 statewide conservation organizations and may bring 8 more conservation organizations under its wing, is now officially operating under a set of bylaws. As reported, it was an Executive Committee recommendation for our Chapter to become a member of the PA Sportsmen's Coalition. Based on that recommendation, **a motion for the Chapter to become a member of the PA Sportsmen's Coalition at a cost of \$100.00 per/year with Don Heckman and Bill Laird to serve as Chapter representatives was made by Dan Roessner, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.**

Turkey Talk: Don Heckman asked if anyone had any idea of what type of response, if any, we are getting on local chapter articles in "Turkey Talk." It was mentioned by Chapter President Gary Beatty that it is difficult to know if our Editor, Larry Smail, is getting enough information and/or response to "Turkey Talk" articles when he doesn't attend our Board meetings. Some discussion took place relative to the responsibilities of our Editor and the Board. At the close of discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to the "Turkey Talk" Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, Chapter President Gary Beatty informed the Board of items the Executive Committee had taken under consideration in determining Chapter recommendations for the PGC Seasons and Bag Limits meeting as follows:

- 1) Close Turkey Management Area 7B to fall hunting
- 2) Extend fall hunting in Turkey Management Area 1 to two weeks
- 3) Reduce fall hunting in Turkey Management Area 3 to two weeks
- 4) Increase seasonal bag limit to two bearded turkeys in the spring season
- 5) Permit/license for an additional turkey in spring season
- 6) Extend hunting hours to all day during the spring season
- 7) Use of blinds for spring turkey hunting

It should be noted that the above mentioned subjects are items the Chapter wants the PGC to look at, to investigate, and to evaluate data to determine feasibility. These subjects are not necessarily items that the Chapter will support, but will reserve that determination until more information is available. **Bottom Line:** These subject matters are simply ideas, at this point, and the Chapter is looking for both negative and positive feedback from the PGC, Chapter members, and turkey hunters in general to determine future direction.

Some discussion took place relative to this matter. It appeared to be a general consensus of the Board that the Chapter should present these items to the PGC Commissioners to invoke some investigation and more feedback. In addition, a question was raised on the floor by Rudy Kovacina. Rudy wanted to know if the Chapter had considered asking the PGC Commissioners to explore the possibility of making it illegal to shoot wild turkeys from the roost. It was mentioned that this subject had been brought to the table in the past, and that the PGC felt that such a law would be difficult to enforce, and that the shooting hours regulation should prevent most cases of roost shooting. Some discussion took place, and it appeared to be a consensus of the Board to bring this matter to the table, once again, during our June meeting with the PGC.

Hall of Fame: Board Chairman Tim Holtz informed the Board that Carl Brown, NWTF Vice President of Operations, will be inducted into the Clearfield County Sports Hall of Fame. Along those lines, Board Chairman Holtz put an Executive Committee recommendation on the floor for consideration. **A motion to purchase an ad in the Hall of Fame program for \$100.00 which would recognize Carl's induction on behalf of the Chapter, the Susquehanna Chapter and the Moshannon Chapter was made by Ron Sandrus,**

seconded by Rudy Kovacina. Motion carried.

1999 Chapter Convention: Chapter President Gary Beatty reported that our '99 convention would be held at the Sheradon Inn North, near the intersection of the Turnpike and 79, in Mars, PA. **A motion to approve the '99 convention site was made by Rick Moroney, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

2000 Chapter Convention: Regional Director Larry Holjencin reported that our 2000 convention would be held at the Penn Stater in State College. It was noted that this convention would mark the Chapter's 25th Anniversary. **A motion to approve the site of our 2000 convention was made by Rick Moroney, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.** Following passage of the motion, Ed Kemp asked for Board input regarding the possibility of maintaining a central location site for our convention. Some discussion took place, and it appeared to be determined by the Board that it was in the best interest of our Chapter to move our convention site around the state from year to year.

N.E. Fish and Wildlife Convention: Mark Davis reported that the Chapter had received information pertaining to the 54th Annual NE Fish and Wildlife Convention. According to Mark, they were asking for our Chapter's support of their convention. The Executive Committee had met on this matter, and a recommendation was put before the Board for consideration. Based on that, **a motion to donate \$200.00 to the NE Fish and Wildlife Convention was made by Mark Davis, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

Hunting Heritage Fund: Board Chairman Tim Holtz mentioned that it has been a Chapter practice to donate \$3000.00 to the American Hunting Heritage Fund each year during the NWTF convention. With that in mind, **a motion to donate \$3000.00 to the American Hunting Heritage Fund was made by Rick Moroney, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion carried.**

Board Meeting: Chapter President Gary Beatty announced our Chapter's Board of Directors meeting schedule for 1998 as follows: Annual meeting/convention will be March 21, with the remaining four Board meetings being June 6, August 1, October 3 and January 9, 1999.

Public Relations: Relative to Charlie Burchfield's proposal to the Chapter, it was suggested that the Chapter's first step should be to contact Ron Tussel to see if he can and/or is willing to provide the same type of service that has been offered. After some discussion, the Board directed the Executive Committee to have a recommendation ready for their consideration at the March Board meeting.

One Million Mark: Since the Chapter has surpassed the \$1 Million expenditure on Super Fund projects in 1997, Don Heckman suggested that this information should be put on the Chapter's Web Site, and that a press release should be sent out.

POWA Conference: Since our Chapter is a supporting member of the POWA, Don Heckman suggested that we should set up a Chapter booth and have Chapter representatives attending the POWA Spring Conference in Warren County this May. Chapter President Gary Beatty indicated that he would attend this conference.

Youth Hunter Education Challenge: Don Heckman asked for the Chapter's support of the YHEC program, as was done in the past. **A motion for the Chapter to support the PGC YHEC program in the form of donating (24) hats, (2) prints, and JAKES membership for each of the Senior and Junior divisions was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Dan Roessner. Motion carried.**

NWTF Promo: Regional Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman provided the Board with a Chapter price list of NWTF promo items. Of note, those individuals who paid full retail price for their 25th NWTF Anniversary hats were thanked for their donation.

Allegheny Mountain Chapter: Regional Director Larry Holjencin informed the Board that the Allegheny Mountain Local Chapter had decided not to do a Super Fund Banquet in 1998 due to a lack of help and support. Further, it was reported that this decision would place the Allegheny Mountain Local Chapter on the NWTF's inactive chapter list. Some discussion took place with Board members expressing their concern over the Allegheny Mountain Chapter's decision and their resulting NWTF chapter status, particularly when considering the Allegheny Mountain Chapter's longstanding in the NWTF chapter system.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Bill Laird presented each member of the Board with a bottle of "Longbeard Lager" beer. Bill also mentioned that this company has glasses, T-shirts and other promotional items available.

Robot Turkey: Sam Truxel brought Local Chapter #1's robotic turkey to our meeting for the Board to see. As reported in the October '97 Minutes, the Chapter has been interested in purchasing robotic turkeys and donating them to the law enforcement branch of the PGC. **It was a consensus of the Board that our Chapter Super Fund Committee should proceed with the purchase of five robotic turkeys and donating one to each of the five remaining PGC Regional Districts.**

TV Show: Chapter President Gary Beatty mentioned that Glen Law has a new program on TV that should appeal to the blue collar sportsmen. The new program is called "Quest for Adventure" and airs at 6 p.m., on Sundays on TNN cable TV.

Board Meeting Attendance: The following Board members did not attend the January Board meeting:

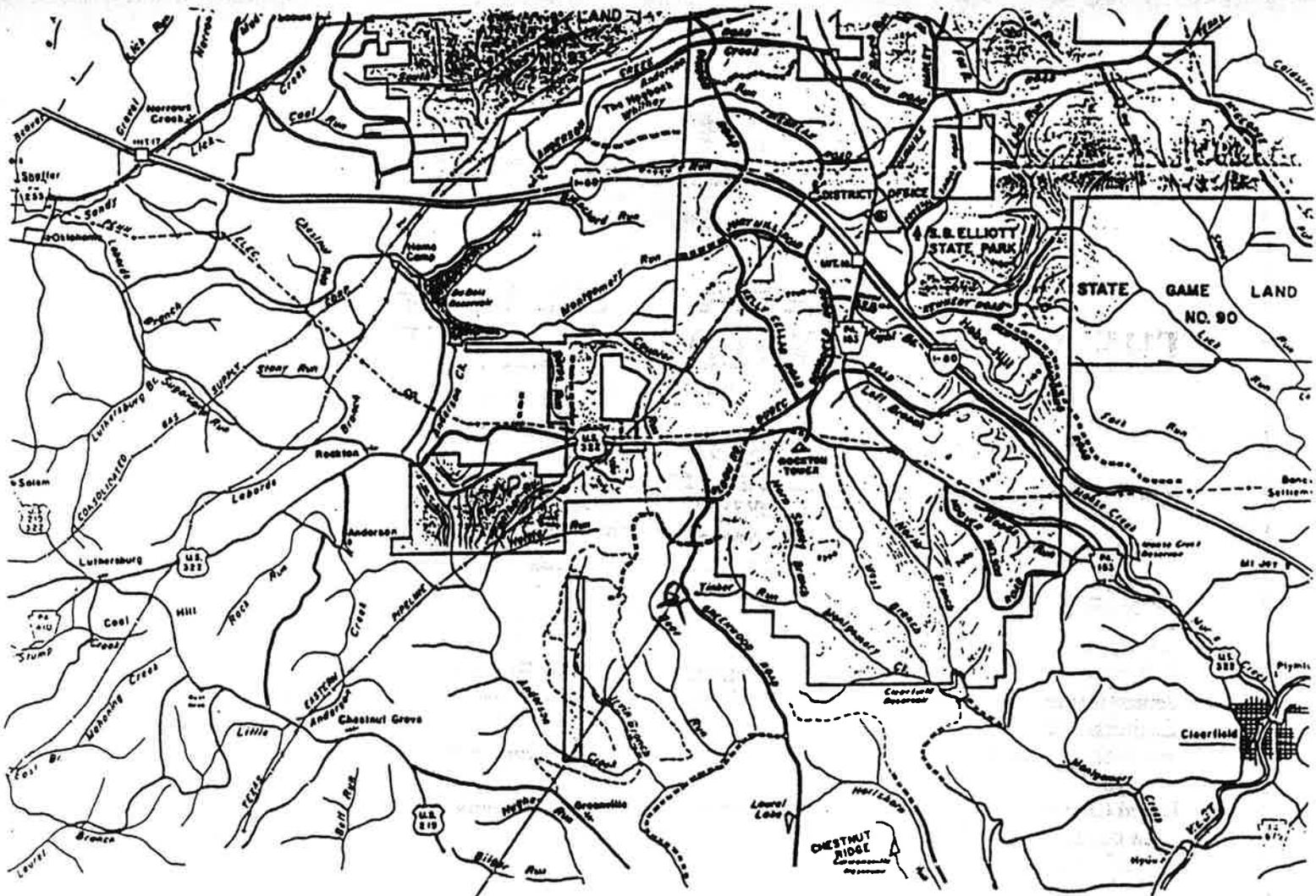
Boyd Enos, Dale Rohm, Skip Sanderson, Ron Perry, and Bill MacKereth

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Rick Moroney. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's January 1998 Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m., on Saturday, January 10, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard E. Moroney, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



GREENWOOD LODGE
MOSHANNON STATE FOREST

TO: Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors, Local Chapter Presidents,
Technical Committee, and Loyal Order of Silver Spurs

From: Bill Laird, Secretary

ATTENTION: The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Chapter is scheduled for ~~January 4, 1997~~ at Greenwood Lodge. The Greenwood Lodge welcomes us on Friday night. The Saturday session will begin promptly at 9:00 AM on ~~January 4, 1997~~.

DIRECTIONS: I-80 Exit 18 South to 322 West towards Rockton/Luthersburg 2½ miles. Turn left Greenwood road 2 miles to Greenwood Lodge.

*** BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 10, 1998.**