



# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and  
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTf home page [www.go2pa.com/panwtf](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

January 5, 2001

Dear Jack,

Along with the October 2000 Minutes, I've enclosed this letter and your check of \$20.00 for postage, which was dated October 7, 2000.

In respect for you and your wishes, this will be the last copy of Chapter Minutes that I will send to you, unless you happen to change your mind. In which case, just let me know. As stated, I'm also returning your check for postage of the Minutes. As you may recall, we accepted a check from you several years ago for the same purpose. This money, of course, was put to good use. But, in my opinion, we shouldn't have accepted your check then, and we shouldn't accept it now - because, in effect, you are paying for something that you have rightfully, and most deservedly, already earned.

Therefore, I think it's important to mention that as a member of the Loyal Order of Silver Spurs, (one who has served the Chapter for 10 or more years, and has been the honored recipient of the Chapter's highest awards) you are **entitled** to receive Chapter Minutes, and nothing is really expected of you in return. You've already done everything expected of you and much more. Without question, it's the Jack Crouses, Bud Erichs, Shirley Grenobles, Fred Websters, Bob, Clarks, and Don Heckmans who started the Chapter and, through their leadership, helped the Chapter through its growing pains and some troubled times. Without leaders like you and the others, we probably wouldn't have a Pennsylvania Chapter or, at the very least, we wouldn't be operating under the same charter. We (current Board members) are obligated to you and the other Founding Fathers of our Chapter for giving us an opportunity to serve in an organization that gives something back to our hunting heritage and wild turkey resource. And by mailing our Chapter Minutes to Silver Spur members, we are simply providing a record to those who lit the torch, and to show that the torch is still burning brightly.

In closing, I hope this letter finds you in better health. Wishing you a happy 82nd birthday and many more gobbling seasons to come.

Thanks for all that you have done in holding the Pennsylvania Chapter together during those crucial earlier years. We've come a long way from those days when we set up a card table and chair at the Civic Arena.  
**Thank You!**

Your friend,

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

✓cc: Don Heckman



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Pa. Chapter NWTF home page [www.go2pa.com/panwtf](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

## PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 7, 2000

State College, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the October 2000 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 9:09 a.m., on Saturday, October 7, 2000. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

After welcoming everyone to the meeting, Board Chairman Gary Beatty reviewed and explained the ground rules for our meeting. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter President Don O'Brien provided the Board with a written report of his many activities. President O'Brien thanked Greg Dreibelbis for making the arrangements for our meeting, and for allowing the Executive Committee members to meet at his camp.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Secretary Rick Moroney asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the August 2000 Minutes. As noted, it was reported on page 6, under Convention...Hidden Valley has many activities to offer - trout fishing, **steel** target shooting, clay bird shooting,.... This was corrected to read...Hidden Valley has many activities to offer - trout fishing, **still** target shooting, clay bird shooting,....

On page 2, under NWTF Staff **Expansion**, it was corrected to read: NWTF Staff **Expansion:** There being no other corrections or additions made, **a motion to accept the August 2000 Minutes, as corrected, was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chapter Treasurer Howard Meyers reported that our total assets, as of August 31, were \$11,475.65. Total revenue for the period was \$20,854.56, with total expenses of \$10,319.93, leaving a balance of \$10,534.63. As reported, cash receipts available for the period ending August 31 were \$32,133.36, while total disbursements for the same period were \$20,657.71, leaving a cash in the bank balance of \$11,475.65.

With the changing of the guard, our Chapter's account, under Don Heckman's supervision, was closed. Don Heckman reported that our account was officially closed and, as a result, total assets of the Chapter showed a zero balance. Total revenue for the period was \$2.75 (interest received), while total revenue for the year ending August 31 was \$91,396.44. Operating expenses for the period was \$3904.50, while total expenses for the year ending August 31 were \$94,100.67.

**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:** Vice President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report of his many activities. As noted, Vice President Mowry has been representing our Chapter at various events and functions throughout the state.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** No Report. However, Board Chairman Gary Beatty spoke to the Board about a few in-house concerns regarding our Chapter's use of the internet.

**NWTF REPORTS:** Women in the Outdoors Coordinator Tammy Mowry reported that 21 women attended the Chapter sponsored WITO event at Greenwood Lodge in Clearfield county. As reported, Pennsylvania held 12 WITO events this year, and expect to have 21-25 events next year. Along those lines, **a motion to pursue the possibility of the Chapter acquiring enough prints to donate a print to each WITO, Youth, and certain other conservation events next year was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried with one No Vote recorded.** The Art Committee, under the leadership of Reed Johnson, was directed to check into acquiring enough prints to meet our Chapter's donation needs. In addition, it was mentioned that the Art Committee should try to get different types of prints to meet the different needs - a print that would be more appealing to women, one that is more appealing to JAKES, etc.

**Senior Regional Field Supervisor:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that Carl Brown had been struck by a car while walking alongside a road during turkey season. It was mentioned that Carl had been banged up pretty good, but has returned to work at NWTF headquarters. It was also mentioned that Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter, Hall of Famer, and Call Manufacturer Joe Hall's wife had recently passed away.

**Super Fund:** As of October 6, 2000, our Super Fund balance was \$48,744.80. Jerry reported that all expenditures have been accounted for, as of October 1, but deposits from @six local chapters have not been included in that figure.

**Membership:** Currently, Pennsylvania is ranked 4th in total memberships, with 15,695 members (10,848 adult members which includes 1250 women and 4847 JAKES).

**Banquet Art:** It was reported that patches and pins would be put together in a print format for the membership banquets next year. SRFS Jerry Zimmerman mentioned that art print decisions for the membership banquets need to be made prior to the RD meeting in Edgefield each year, so that Jerry and Larry have a better idea of what's available and how much additional art is needed.

**NWTF Convention:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the Thursday night welcoming party would be assigned seating at tables of 10. Those wishing to sit together need to send their registrations in together. Along those lines, VP Carl Mowry agreed to coordinate Pennsylvania registrations for the NWTF convention.

**Upper Level Membership:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman was seeking input from the Board about some ideas to help make upper level memberships more appealing by introducing other incentives to the program. After some discussion, it appeared to be a consensus of the Board that we need to find alternative means of funding our operational expenses and increasing upper level memberships - particularly the Diamond Life Sponsor level. Along those lines, **a motion to pursue finding alternative means of funding, other than general fund, additional incentive packages to encourage more individuals/companies into becoming NWTF Diamond Life Sponsors was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

**Wheeling Sportsmen of America:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the NWTF has joined forces with WSOA, and that the founder of this organization is now employed by the NWTF.

**NWTF Donations:** As reported, an organizational donation was made by the NWTF to the US Olympic Shooting team for \$65,000.00, and another \$10,000.00 was donated to the WWII War Memorial Fund.

**NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Assistant Director of Wildlife Bob Boyd and Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena were unable to attend our meeting, but provided the Board with a written report. As reported, Chapter habitat committee members and PGC personnel Mary Jo Casalena and Clay Van Buskirk met on September 27, 2000. During this meeting, it was decided that the Chapter would appropriate \$10,000 from the

from the Super Fund for the NWTf Seed Subsidy Program. This worthwhile costshare will allow the PA membership to purchase, on a first come basis, a 25-lb bag of northeast Strut & Rut mix for only \$33.00. (County Conservation Districts that rent planting equipment to the public might be interested in this program. They could inform people about this cost saving and, perhaps, increase membership in the Chapter. Perhaps local chapters could inform their County Conservation Districts about this NWTf program.) Also discussed, during the meeting, was the Chapter's seedling program in which SF monies are used to purchase autumn olive and Japanese barberry for local chapters to plant in wildlife openings. As reported, the PGC no longer permits these invasive plant species to be planted on State Game Lands. In addition, the DCNR does not encourage planting these species and lists autumn olive as a "most serious threat to our native ecosystems" and Japanese barberry as "known to invade our native plant communities and is deserving of our vigilance." As an alternative, it was mentioned that a variety of native tree species is available from the National Tree Trust, which provides seedlings, in increments of 100 per species, to groups that plant seedlings on public property. It was suggested that this may be a good organization for our Chapter and local chapters to partner with. In other business, the habitat committee agreed that maintenance of existing wildlife openings (mowing, fertilizing, seeding, fencing existing trees, etc) is often more advantageous to wildlife than creating new openings. Encouraging local chapters to propose maintenance projects for 2001 would prove beneficial to the habitat super fund.

**Turkey Management Area 7B Study:** It was reported that the research team recently completed the first year of a 2.5-year research project to study the factors limiting the wild turkey population in TMA 7B (Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin counties). As noted, our Chapter is helping to fund this research project with a total grant of \$53,000.00 over two years.

During the first year of the study, 74 hens were radio-tagged (40 adults, 34 juveniles). Approximately 51% died during the first year (this is normal since turkeys are a prey species). Causes of death were mammalian predation (42%), legal harvest (18%, including one wounding loss), illegal kill (3%), unknown causes (24%), and avian predation (13%).

Nesting season began on a good note with approximately 68% of radio-marked hens successfully hatching their nests, but survival of the young was poor. Less than 1/2 of the radio-marked hens that hatched young had at least one poult alive at four weeks post-hatch. One can only speculate, but daily rainfall just after the peak hatch is the most probable cause of poor poult survival. However, observations of very young poults during late summer indicated that, even though second nesting attempts were late, poult survival of these late nests was good.

In an effort to increase the sample of radio-tagged turkeys, the research team trapped turkeys throughout the study area from late August through September. This fall trapping season, in contrast to last year, was not very productive. Despite having many bait sites throughout TMA 7B, only three nets were fired over a five-week period. Bait sites were established in areas where turkeys and/or turkey sign were observed. However, an abundance of natural foods kept turkeys from using bait sites on a consistent basis. All turkeys trapped on the study area were leg-banded, and hens were fitted with radio-transmitters. Turkeys were released at the trap site, they were NOT moved from their trapping location.

Twenty-seven turkeys were captured from the three shoots. The first capture was on private land in the northeast section of the study area, and 19 turkeys were caught, and six of those were radio-tagged. The capture consisted of four adult hens (including one recaptured from the past winter), four juvenile females (including one that was too small for a transmitter), 10 juvenile males, and one juvenile that was euthanized because of a capture-related injury. Unfortunately, the juvenile that was euthanized had a broken leg which most likely was caused by one of the three rockets landing on her once the net was fully extended and it fell to the ground. Although everything possible is always done to insure that the turkeys will be safe and free from injury, these type of accidents will happen on rare occasions.

The other two captures occurred in the central portion of the study area. The first of these captures consisted of three turkeys (one adult female and two juvenile females, all of which were fitted with radio transmitters). The last capture consisted of five turkeys (four juvenile females, two were too small for transmitters, and one adult female that was a recapture from last fall). The research crew, along with several local chapter volunteers, and WCOs attempted to trap on numerous occasions at bait sites without success. Because of the lack of consistent use by turkeys at bait sites, many mornings were spent waiting with no luck.

With this increase of 11 radio-tagged females, the research team is currently monitoring 47, which is well above the minimum sample requirement of 20. Trapping will begin again in January 2001 (after the close of deer seasons) and the last trapping effort will be autumn 2001.

Throughout the fall and winter, until the next trapping season, the research team's efforts will be focused on daily telemetry of the radioed hens. The team will also be analyzing their telemetry data in terms of home range sizes and dispersal patterns of turkeys that they have been monitoring during the first year of the study.

Once again, the research team would like to thank all of the volunteers who have contributed to the research (especially volunteers Spencer Miller, Roger Miller, and Dwight Kuntz). Major cooperators to the study include the PA Chapter and local chapters of the NWTF, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Penn State University, and the PGC's Southcentral Regional staff and WCOs.

**Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys:** The third year of Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest was conducted in June, July and August to provide an index to turkey population trends in addition to the PGC's harvest and hunting success trend data for TMA 7B. Six routes (@ 30 miles each) are conducted. The PA Chapter (Spencer Miller and Dwight Kuntz) conducts two of the routes.

Surveyors observed 20.1 turkeys per 1000 miles driven in 2000. Turkey sightings were down 45% from 1999. However, turkey reproduction last year (1999) was exceptionally high. Compared to 1998, which was an average production year, sightings in 2000 were 6% lower than 1998 when 21.3 turkeys were observed per 1000 miles driven.

**PA State Women in the Outdoors Event:** Technical Committee member Mary Jo Casalena instructed participants on wild turkey life history at the WITO weekend in Clearfield county September 15-17, 2000. Nice weather Sunday morning allowed for an outside classroom where the women saw turkey eggs, turkey tracks, and droppings (thanks Gary Beatty for the use of your props!). The weekend was well attended and I believe everyone fully enjoyed themselves. Thank you Tammy Mowry for the invitation.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Under the first item of communications, the Chapter received a thank you letter from a member of the Youth Advisory Council for sponsoring their trip to Canada.

Two news releases from the PGC were brought to the attention of the Board. As noted, these news releases continue to cement our relationship with the PGC, and helps to tell the story of our involvement with the PGC and wild turkey management.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Youth Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that Pennsylvania did well during the YHEC international shoot (one of the teams placed second). It was reported that YHEC may have to go to a two-day state shoot next year to accommodate all of the participants.

**State JAKES Event:** Bill reported that he would attempt to get some instructors, who are well-known, for next year's event. Bill also indicated that he plans to publicize the event a little more next year.

**JAKES Fund:** Chairman Bill MacKereth mentioned that the JAKES Fund had a check book balance of \$31,618.97, as of August 1, 2000. After paying for the firearms, and sending JAKES membership applications to NWTF (512 members), the checkbook balance was \$23,786.90. It was noted that payment for 500 more JAKES members still needed to be forwarded to NWTF.

**Awards:** Chairman Dennis Strawbridge reported that award recipients had been selected and would be notified accordingly and where appropriate. Dennis indicated that he would begin to have the awards made in preparation for the January Awards Banquet. It was noted that response to our appeal for award candidates was almost nonexistent (we heard from only three local chapters). Along those lines, it is important that we receive input from more local chapters so that we have a better idea and/or knowledge of who might be eligible as candidates for the Hall of Fame, Frank Piper (safety), and James Wilhelm (individual conservation) awards.

**License Plates:** Skip Sanderson reported that he has received 250 signatures for license plates. As reported, we need to have over 300 individuals who are interested in purchasing a license plate before PennDot will agree to issue an organizational plate.

**Public Relations:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that arrangements have been made to include a Chapter ad in the PGC hunting digest. However, some details still need to be worked out in regards to the size and type of information used. Skip indicated that he would be in contact with the NWTf for some assistance.

In other business, Skip asked Marcus Schneck to contact the Safety Committee about our fall news release. In addition, Skip is working on a database for contact people from various other conservation groups.

**Art Committee:** Chairman Reed Johnson reported that @70% of our Dan Christ conservation prints have been sold thus far. Reed also provided the Board with an updated inventory list of available artwork.

**Habitat:** Chairman Reed Johnson mentioned that his committee had a meeting on September 27, 2000 at the DCNR Bureau of Forestry District 9 office. During this meeting, habitat projects for the fall were approved, and some decisions were made regarding the conservation seed program, seed subsidy program, and our tree and shrub seedling orders. (See NWTf Technical Committee Report on page two.)

**Upper Gun Raffle:** Chairman Carl Mowry reported that income from this year's raffle exceeded our raffle last year by @\$1000.00. The mailing went to 12,515 members, and had a return of 704. The gross income from those returns was \$19,160.00. Expenses for the raffle totaled \$9072.46, leaving a net income of \$10,087.54. A big tip of the camo hat is extended to all those individuals who answered the call by helping to support our efforts. **Thank You!**

**Land Acquisition:** President Don O'Brien reported that the Thompson tract had been purchased by a private individual, although DCNR had entered into an agreement to purchase this tract. The buyer has since decided that he doesn't need as much acreage and, therefore, a portion of the tract may be offered for sale, once again. As noted, the tract is currently being surveyed and steps are being taken to determine the fair market value of the property. Don mentioned that our Chapter may be asked to assist the Northcentral PA Conservancy with funds to help purchase this tract.

**Nominating Committee:** Chairman Gary Beatty announced that his committee's slate of officers for 2001 is as follows: President...Carl Mowry, Vice President...Don Shawkey, Secretary...Open, Treasurer...Howard Meyers, and Chairman of the Board...Don O'Brien. As reported, Gary received five Board nominations from our local chapters. Of the currently seated Board members, Lyle Gillespie, Reed Johnson, Carl Mowry, Skip Sanderson, and Dennis Strawbridge are seeking re-election. Board member Dale Rohm informed the Nominating Committee that he would not be serving another term on the Board, to allow someone else the opportunity to serve. Dale also asked the Board not to forget him, and to contact him if we need some committee work done or some other help, as he would like to stay in touch with the Board. A ballot for election of Board members will be published in "Turkey Talk."

Along those lines, a question was raised on the floor relative to our Bylaws ruling that Board members must attend no less than three regularly scheduled Board meetings a year. It was noted that some Board members have not met that requirement and, therefore, in accordance with our Bylaws, they are subject to review by the Board for possible dismissal. In reply, Chairman Beatty stated that our election of Board members would move forward, and appointments to the Board would be made accordingly. If, at the conclusion of our election, there remains any candidate(s) who are still interested in serving on the Board, then consideration would be given to address the situation in accordance with our Bylaws and by Board decision.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Under the first item of Old Business, winners for the upper level gun raffle were drawn and are as follows: (1) Don Davis, (2) Tim Holtz, (3) Reed Johnson, (4) Jody Claypool, and (5) Jim Kapustik. The winners were notified and a list of the winners will be published in "Turkey Talk." Once again, we thank all those individuals who helped to support our Chapter's efforts, and we extend our congratulations to the winners. Your generous support will be a tremendous help in our efforts to accomplish Chapter goals and objectives. **THANK YOU!**

**State Convention 2001:** Co-chairman Howard Meyers reported that seating would be limited to 300

people. Those wishing to attend the banquet on Saturday night should return their convention registration as soon as possible, since seating for the banquet will be on a first come basis. Howard reported on the many activities that will be available during the convention, and also mentioned some ideas for getting more sponsors for the convention.

**Eagle Reward:** It was reported that an arrest had been made but, to date, our Chapter has not been asked to pay a reward for testimony leading to a conviction. It was noted, however, that this case would be heard in federal and state courts, and that a reward would not be requested until a guilty verdict is reached.

**Make a Wish:** A motion to take from the table the Make A Wish question on whether to support or not support the Make A Wish Foundation was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried. During the August 2000 Board meeting a motion to eliminate our donation to Make A Wish Foundation and to donate instead to Hunt for a Lifetime organization was made by Carl Mowry, seconded by Bill MacKereth. This motion was tabled during the August meeting, and a motion to take the question from the table was made. Since the August meeting, our Chapter received a letter from the Make A Wish Foundation which explained their decision to not grant hunts, as an organization, but to refer those wishes to other organizations. This letter was made available to the Board for review prior to any discussion. Following much discussion, the previous motion to eliminate our donation to Make A Wish Foundation and to donate instead to the Hunt for a Lifetime organization as made by Carl Mowry, and seconded by Bill MacKereth was brought back to the floor for a vote, and the motion was defeated with 3 yes votes and 10 no votes recorded.

Following defeat of the previous question, a motion to continue the Chapter's support of the Make A Wish Foundation with our annual contribution, and with our understanding that the Make A Wish Foundation, as an organization, will not grant hunt wishes and, in addition, the letter explaining the Make A Wish decision to not grant hunt wishes is included, in its entirety, in "Turkey Talk" and in the appeal letters sent to our local chapters was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried, with 12 yes votes and 3 no votes recorded.

During the discussion which followed other charitable organizations were mentioned as worthy of our support and consideration. Along those lines, a motion to allow those opposed to supporting the Make A Wish Foundation an opportunity to support the Children's Miracle Network was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion defeated with 10 no votes and 3 yes votes recorded. Before the vote was taken, Skip Sanderson did agree to check on other charitable organizations in an effort to provide the Board with some information for future consideration. Still much discussion took place, and it was apparent that some Board members were struggling with the decision to support the Make A Wish Foundation. However, following the defeat of the motion to also provide support for the Children's Miracle Network, a motion to carry a unanimous vote for our support of the Make A Wish Foundation was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.

**Conservation Contact List:** Don Heckman distributed a list to Board members showing which Board members should contact which conservation group. As noted, Skip Sanderson is compiling a list to include the names, phone, and addresses of people to be contacted within the various conservation groups. It is our hope that we will be able to establish a better working relationship and to maintain a better line of communication with other conservation groups.

**CARA:** Don Heckman reported that the CARA Bill had been watered down and, as a result, wildlife is being left short and states will now have to compete for limited funds. Board members were encouraged to contact President Bill Clinton and Senator Trent Lott.

**Wildlife Legislative Fund of America:** It was mentioned that the WLFA will assist the PGC with its efforts to establish a bobcat season in Pennsylvania.

**Bureau of Forestry Meeting:** Don Heckman reported that our Chapter had to reschedule its meeting with the Bureau of Forestry to discuss ATV use on state forest lands. It was mentioned that ATV supporters have

requested that all state forest roads be opened and designated as ATV trails.

**News Releases/Press Releases:** Don Heckman informed the Board that Marcus Schneck has not received any information from the Board for Chapter press releases. **Bottom Line:** Don Heckman has continued to brow-beat committee chairmen about providing information for news releases and, yet, there has been little or no action taken. If we want our story to be told, it has to be written. It's a very simple process that begins with a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence and, usually, has a period at the end.

**NRA Youth Endowment:** Howard Meyers reported that he had presented a check, on behalf of our Chapter, for the NRA Youth Endowment program. **A motion to use the NRA gun for fund raising purposes at our state convention was made by Howard Meyers, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Under the first item of New Business, **a motion to purchase two cordless microphones (@ \$250.00 each) for use at membership banquets and our state convention was made by Howard Meyers, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**State Convention 2002:** It was reported that RFS Larry Holjencin has been checking on Altoona as a possible site for the 2002 state convention. Some discussion took place regarding the need for a Board decision on how we are planning to conduct future state conventions and our awards banquet. Should we have two separate events (awards/convention) at two separate sites/dates? Should we combine the two events as we've done in the past? Or should we conduct an awards banquet on Friday evening and a convention banquet on Saturday evening? The Board was asked to consider these options and to be prepared to make a decision during our Board meeting at the state convention.

**Awards Banquet:** As reported, our Awards Banquet will be held at the Penn Stater in Centre county, on Saturday, January 13, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. **A motion to conduct an Executive Committee meeting at the Ramada Inn on Saturday, January 13, 2001, at noon, and to conduct a Board of Directors meeting at the Ramada Inn in State College on Sunday, January 14, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.** It should be noted that Board members will be required to pay for their room at the Ramada Inn to stay over on Saturday night for the Sunday Board meeting. As a second reminder, the Awards Banquet will be held at the Penn Stater on Saturday evening. The Executive Committee meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn on Saturday at noon. And the Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn on Sunday morning.

**Sportsmens Caravan:** Howard Meyers reported that the Sportsmens Caravan to elect George Bush would be in Clearfield on October 26, 2000 near Bob's Army Navy Store. It was suggested that all Board members should also be members of the NRA. Those interested in volunteering their service and/or joining the NRA Sportsmens Caravan in their area should contact Nick Haven at (412) 771-9337 (home) or (412) 231-3466.

**In other business:** **A motion to donate an additional \$5000.00 to the WLFA was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.**

**A motion to make the PA Chapter a Diamond Life member of the NWTF, payable at \$2500.00 per year for four years, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.**

**A motion to donate \$10,000.00 to Heritage 2001 was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion defeated with 10 No votes and 4 Yes votes recorded.**

**A motion to donate \$5000.00 to Heritage 2001 was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.**

**A motion to invite the PGC Board of Commissioners, the three PGC Executive Staff members,**

**PGC Directors Cal DuBrock and Bob Boyd, and PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena, and to also invite DCNR representatives John Oliver, Jim Grace, and Merlin Benner to the NWTF 2001 convention, and to pay an amount of, but not to exceed, \$3200.00 for their registration at the convention in Columbus, Ohio was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Past NWTF President Louis Yount asked our Chapter for its support in helping to get him re-elected as a member of the NWTF Board of Directors.

It was mentioned that Charles Pardell, a member of the Susquehanna Chapter, had died as a result of a hunting accident.

It was mentioned that turkey hunter and call manufacturer Joe Hall's wife had past away recently.

There being no other business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.** The October 2000 meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors was adjourned at 5:40 p.m., on Saturday, October 7, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rick*

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

**BOARD ATTENDANCE:** The following Board members did not attend the October 2000 meeting: Lyle Gillespie, Eric Baker, and Dan Roessner.

**MEETING NOTICE:** The Executive Committee will meet at the Ramada Inn in State College on Saturday, January 13, 2001. The meeting will begin at noon.

The Board will meet at the Ramada Inn in State College on Sunday, January 14, 2001. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

**Directions to Ramada Inn:** 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.

**AWARDS BANQUET:** Our Awards Banquet will be held at the Penn Stater, near State College, on Saturday, January 13, 2001. The Awards Banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Please excuse me, but I don't have directions to the Penn Stater. However, it is fairly easy to find, and almost everyone in State College can direct you to the Penn Stater - unless, of course, if they happen to be Penn State graduates. In which case, I would suggest asking someone else for directions - if you don't want to get lost. Pitt - 12, Penn State - 0. (To all my friends from Penn State, I apologize for this transgression on my part and infraction of Chapter Minutes, but I just couldn't stop myself from doing it - Rick.)

What was that again? Oh, Yeah! Pitt - 12, Penn State - **ZERO**.



# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

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September 22, 2000

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

Enclosed, for your review and reference, please find a copy of the August 2000 Minutes of our Board of Directors meeting held at Warriors Mark, Pennsylvania. The next meeting of our Chapter Board will be held October 7, 2000 at the Outdoor Sportsmen's Club in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, October 7, 2000.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee will meet on October 6, 2000 at Greg Dreibelbis' camp in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., on Friday night.

**Directions to the Outdoor Sportsmen's Club:** **From the west** - From Port Matilda, continue on US 220 East to Unionville (about 12 miles). At Unionville, turn right, **cross the creek and drive up the mountain to where Purdue Mountain Road bears left. Several hundred yards down Purdue Mountain Road turn at the large OCS sign and follow to the facility on your right.**

**From the east** - Get off I-80 at Milesburg and onto US 220 West to Unionville (about 6 miles). At Unionville, turn left, cross the creek and follow **highlighted directions above.**

**From State College** - Take 322 West to the Intersection of Route 550 (Uni-Mart on corner). Turn right onto Route 550/Bufalo Run Road. Continue on the winding road for approximately 6 miles. Turn left when you see Filmore Road on your right. Cross a concrete bridge and drive to the top of the mountain. At the top, turn right onto Purdue Mountain Road, follow **highlighted directions above, beginning with: Several hundred...**

**Executive Committee Meeting at Greg's Camp:** **From the east** - Take 322 West, a few miles before reaching Boalsburg you will see the Elk's Country Club Golf Course on your right. At the golf course, turn left **toward Tussey Mountain Ski Area (marked with a blue road sign). Continue on the road 1.5 miles. You will cross two small bridges and come to a fork in the road. Take a left and drive 100 yards. The camp will be on your right.**

**From the west** - Take 322 East by-pass around State College. A few miles past the Boalsburg Exit the road will reduce to two lanes. A couple of more miles and you will see the Elk's Country Club Golf Course on your left. At the golf course, turn right and follow **highlighted directions above.**

Looking forward to seeing all of you on October 7...

*Rick*

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

ENCLOSURE:



# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and  
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTf home page [www.go2pa.com/panwtf](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

## PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING August 5, 2000 State College, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the August 2000 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 9:07 a.m., on Saturday, August 5, 2000. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Gary Beatty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman Beatty reviewed and explained the ground rules for our meeting. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter President Don O'Brien provided the Board with a written report of his many activities. President O'Brien briefly reported on the success of the NWTf leadership meeting held in Edgefield during July 20-23, 2000. In concluding his report, President O'Brien acknowledged the efforts of Board Member Bill MacKereth for his involvement with the YHEC program and our Chapter's JAKES raffle.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Secretary Rick Moroney was unable to attend the meeting. Board Chairman Gary Beatty asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the June 2000 Minutes. It was noted that on page six, under CARA it was reported that approximately **\$180 million dollars** a year is at stake for Pennsylvania wildlife, Game and Fish Commission, and Bureau of Forestry. This was corrected to read: Approximately **\$50 million dollars** a year is at stake...

There being no further additions or corrections to the Minutes, **a motion to accept the June 2000 Minutes, as corrected, was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Howard Meyers reported that our checking account balance as of July 31, 2000 was \$941.02. Income for the period was \$11,278.80, while expenses for the period were \$10,337.78. Following his report, Treasurer Meyers turned the floor over to Don Heckman. It was reported that Don still needed to write some checks on behalf of the Chapter, out of the old system, to clear our books for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2000. Under our old account, which is still being operated by Don Heckman until our fiscal year comes to an end on August 31, 2000, it showed our checking account balance to be \$4075.12, and our fair market inventory to be \$4375.80, giving us total assets of \$8450.92 with no liabilities. Income for the period ending July 31, 2000 was \$12,454.32. Expenses for the period were \$12,116.68, leaving a balance of \$337.64. Income year to date was \$91,393.69. Expenses year to date were \$90,196.17. Cash in the bank ending July 31, 2000 was \$4075.12. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Vice President Carl Mowry gave a brief overview of our upper gun raffle. It was reported that the mailing was sent to 12,515 members. After six days of the mailing, Vice President Mowry has received \$4935.00. Expenses for the raffle are approximately \$9000.00. Chairman Beatty thanked Carl for his involvement with the gun raffle.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** Chairman Gary Beatty spoke briefly to the Board about a misunderstanding relative to Board and Executive Committee responsibilities. Chairman Beatty thanked Board Members Bill MacKereth and Carl Mowry for their extra effort on behalf of the Chapter.

**NWTF WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS COORDINATOR:** WITO Coordinator Tammy Mowry reported that the NWTF program has made great strides over the past year. In Pennsylvania, 11 WITO events have been scheduled for this year which, thus far, has generated approximately 1300 new members. Tammy mentioned that work is continuing in preparation for the state WITO event to be held September 15-17, at Greenwood Lodge in Clearfield County.

**NWTF SENIOR REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that our Super Fund balance was \$47,268.13. So far, this year, we have spent approximately \$351,000.00 on 174 projects in Pennsylvania. According to Jerry, there are still 19 more banquets scheduled to occur this calendar year. We are looking real good on the Super Fund, and we still spent \$315,000.00. You guys are raising a doggone, awful lot of money, and spending it right away, too - which is good, Jerry stated.

**Membership:** As reported, Pennsylvania, currently, has 17,263 members, which ranks us fourth in the country behind Illinois, Wisconsin, and South Carolina. Our membership breakdown is 10,824 regular members, 5110 JAKES, and 1329 WITO members.

**Chapter President's Meeting:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that 31 local chapters will be represented at the meeting - which is still not where we would like to be but, realistically, it's not bad. According to Jerry, events/programs planned for the meeting will be exciting, fun, and informational. We are looking forward to having a very productive meeting, Jerry said. **Bottom Line:** On behalf of our Chapter President and the Board, we tip our camo hat to all those local chapter representatives who made the effort and time to attend this meeting. We believe that this type of meeting is important, and we Thank You for your input and participation.

**NWTF Staff Expansion:** As reported, some consideration has been given to adding a third Regional Director in Pennsylvania. It was decided, however, to stay with two RDs for now, and to review the possibility again next year. This decision was based, strictly, on the fact that Pennsylvania is reaching a saturation point - with the exception of one or two areas - whereby local chapters are being organized in close proximity to other established chapters. In some areas that's a problem, in other areas it's not a problem with the established local chapters, according to Jerry. So, expansion and chapter development will not be as rapid, as it has been over the last five or six years, Jerry stated.

**CARA:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that CARA legislation has passed the House, and has received an approval vote in the Senate Committee. It now needs to be voted upon by the full Senate. **This is perhaps the most important wildlife measure that we will see in our lifetime. It is extremely important. Please make every effort to get the support of US Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter.**

U.S. Senate, Rick Santorum (R), 120 Russell Building, Washington, DC 20510-3801  
Phone: (202) 224-6324 Fax: (202) 228-0604

U.S. Senate, Arlen Specter (R), 711 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510-3802  
Phone: (202) 224-4254 Fax: (202) 228-1229

**U.S. Presidential Election:** In this great country of ours we our afforded the privilege and right to vote for the person who will control the direction of our nation and of our society. The next U.S. President seated in the Oval Office will have the power to select and seat four Supreme Court Justices - what will their views be on the Constitution and the Second Amendment??? To date, only 25 percent of the sportsmen/women in this country are registered to vote. **This is a very, extremely important election - which will have far reaching affects over the next 30 years. PLEASE, PLEASE, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO REGISTER AND EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE. IF NOT YOU, WHO? Please, don't depend on someone else, because that person is depending on YOU.**

**NWTF REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that the Hyatt Hotel at the NWTF convention is sold out. To date, approximately 250 rooms remain available at the Crown Plaza.

**JAKES Raffle:** RFS Holjencin mentioned that the raffle raised approximately \$4000.00 - \$4500.00 for JAKES memberships (a final account of the raffle was not available at the time). According to Larry, some details were still being worked on to establish procedures so that local chapters could receive the proper credit for signing up JAKES members. RFS Holjencin thanked Bill MacKereth, and his wife, for all their work and help in making this raffle a success.

**Education Boxes:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that the NWTF has developed a new and improved version of the Educational Boxes. Contents of the boxes will be expanded to cover age groups from kindergarten through highschool (12th grade). And educational boxes will also be designed to meet the needs of other, nontraditional, groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, 4H Clubs, etc. As reported, local chapters can expect to receive education boxes in September, through the Five Star Program.

**NWTF Seed Subsidy:** As reported, this is not a new NWTF program, although Pennsylvania has not participated in it. State Super Fund Committees can earmark funds for this program. The NWTF will either mail information about the program to every NWTF adult member in the state or the NWTF will provide a layout and design for a two-page ad in "Turkey Talk," which would save postage. Members who participate in the seed program will be required to pay 1/2 the cost of the seed, and the Super Fund will cover the cost of the other half. Typically, a 25 lb bag of seed will cost \$60.00, and will cover about 1½ acres. You must be an NWTF member to participate in this seed program.

**New Chapters:** Larry reported that a new local chapter was organized near Cheswick, and will be known as the Allegheny Valley Chapter. Larry also mentioned that the Cascade Thunderin' Toms Chapter was organized in New Castle. As reported, we now have 65 local chapters in Pennsylvania.

**NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Final 1999 Game Take Survey spring and fall harvests and hunting participation data show the spring 1999 harvest was 37,800 gobblers, and the fall harvest was 40,700 turkeys. The total harvest for 1999 was 78,500. Spring 1999 was a record harvest, surpassing our previous record of 36,400 gobblers in Spring 1995! Our fall 1999 harvest was the second highest fall harvest, and only the second time we have harvested over 40,000 fall turkeys. The record was set in 1995 with 49,748 turkeys.

Preliminary spring 2000 harvest figures from report cards show an approximate harvest of 36,290 gobblers. Total harvest may be lower. If not, spring 2000 could be our third best spring harvest. Final Game Take Survey results for spring 2000 will not be available until next fall.

Since 1995 our statewide turkey harvests have been very robust, indicating a continuing increase in the statewide turkey population. However, some Turkey Management Areas (TMAs) continue to show low harvest densities, indicating that turkey populations in certain parts of the state are not expanding. Five-year average spring turkey harvest densities in TMAs 3, 7B, and 9A are below one (1) bird per forested square mile. Management of fall hunting season length in these TMAs will continue to be important during the next several years.

**Turkey Management Area 7B Study:** As reported, the majority of the field work for this 2.5 year project is being conducted by an outstanding field crew of PGC Biological Aides: Doug Little, Mike Niebauer, Lee Humberg, and Craig Swope, and Penn State graduate student Mark Lowles.

During the first year of study, 74 hens were radio-tagged (40 adults, 34 juveniles). To date, 39 hens are alive. Causes of death thus far have been mammalian predation (43%), avian predation (14%), legal harvest (20% including one wounding loss), illegal harvest (3%), and unknown causes (20%).

Of 50 hens alive at the beginning of the nesting season, 32 hens have incubated at least one nest (9 of 17 juveniles and 23 of 33 adults). Adults began nesting before juveniles, which is typical. Earliest date of incubation was 27 April 2000. Average date of incubation for adults was 10 May 2000, and for juveniles was 16 May 2000. Average hatch date for adults was 6 June 2000. Average hatch date for juveniles was 18 June

2000. Since only five juvenile hens were successful in nesting, the hatch date may not be indicative of the overall juvenile population.

As of June 28, 19 of 32 nests have hatched (14 of 23 adults, and 5 of 9 juveniles). Five nests were abandoned and six were lost to predatory causes. Four adult hens that hatched a nest have died, within one, four, five, and eight days after hatching. Three hens were killed by predation, and one died of an unknown cause. The peak of hatching coincided with one and one-half weeks of daily rain. While we cannot ascertain that the rain contributed to these predations, the rain probably did not help turkey survival.

One adult bird that abandoned her first nest on 10 May 2000 successfully re-nested and hatched 8 of 10 eggs on 27 June 2000. Overall nesting results currently are being analyzed and will be published in a future report.

Poult survival to 28 days post hatch currently is being monitored via playback calls and flush counts. These results also will be reported in a future report.

We will continue to monitor these hens throughout the study. We are preparing for the second year of fall trapping that should begin in mid to late August. All turkeys trapped on the study area are leg-banded, and hens are fitted with radio transmitters. Turkeys are released at the trap site, they are NOT moved from their trapping location. The above information is provided solely as an update to the study thus far. We are encouraged by our findings to date. This 2.5 year study began August 1999 and will continue through December 2001.

We appreciate all the cooperation by hunters reporting their harvest information and the volunteers who assist with fieldwork, which helps, tremendously, with the success of our research study. Funding is provided jointly by the PA Chapter, NWTF, the Game Commission, Penn State University, and with cooperation by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry.

**Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys:** The third year of Summer Sighting Surveys is currently underway on the Michaux State Forest to provide an index to its turkey population trends in addition to our harvest and hunting success trend data for TMA 7B. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) are being conducted in June, July, and August. Each route is surveyed weekly each summer and the miles driven and number of turkeys seen is recorded. The PA Chapter (Spencer Miller and Dwight Kuntz), the Michaux State Forest (2 routes), and the Southcentral Region of the PGC (Barry Leonard, Dick Karper, and Larry Haynes) are conducting routes.

**Annual Meetings PGC/PA Chapter NWTF:** The annual cooperative meeting between the PA Chapter and PGC was held on June 13, 2000 to discuss important partnership issues. A second meeting was held August 3, 2000 to discuss implementation and budgeting of the Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania for the next five years. In attendance from the PGC were representatives from the Executive Office, each Bureau, Commissioners Gilford and Dunkle, and the press secretary. The meeting was held at PGC headquarters in Harrisburg.

**Upcoming Activities:** NWTF Technical Committee member Mary Jo Casalena is looking forward to instructing women on wild turkey life history and management at the state WITO weekend in Clearfield county during September 15-17, 2000.

Representatives from the PA Chapter NWTF, the Southcentral Regional office of the PGC, the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Wildlife Management will host the PGC Board of Commissioners on a field trip/dinner/meeting to discuss wild turkey management on October 10, 2000, prior to the Commission meeting in Huntingdon.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Received a letter from the Heritage 2000 Committee stating that the event would be held at the same location, and about the same time, next year.

Received copies of letters from the York County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, representing 17 clubs and 8482 members. This letter was sent to the PGC Commissioners in regards to the proposed fall turkey season in TMA 9A. The York County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs wanted York County to be removed from the fall season proposal, and to follow the recommendations of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Received a copy of a letter which was sent to the PA Game Commission from the Washington County Sportsmen and Conservation League. This letter proposed a two bird limit for both spring and fall seasons in Washington County, and to begin the spring season two weeks earlier.

Received a letter from POWA thanking our Chapter for its support of the POWA awards program, and asking for our continued support.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Youth Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth gave a brief report on the JAKES raffle. Firearm prizes for the JAKES raffle were handled through Bob's Army Navy Store in Clearfield County. It was appreciatively noted that Bob's Army Navy Store has been very cooperative with our Chapter over the years, and has provided our raffle winners and our Chapter with beneficial options that other dealers are not willing to offer.

**State JAKES Event:** Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that 28 youth have preregistered for the JAKES event. Bill mentioned that a local Wal-Mart Store in Clearfield had donated pop, cookies, hotdogs, rolls, chips, and other items for this event, through the efforts of a local chapter member who is employed by Wal-Mart.

**YHEC:** As reported, Bill MacKereth represented the Chapter at the YHEC shooting event held at the Scotia Range. Bill enthusiastically expressed his amazement at just how well-behaved, and well-mannered the youth were at this event. Yes sir, No sir, Please, Thank you, were phrases most commonly heard, according to Bill. It was suggested that if the anti-hunting/shooting groups would spend one day at a YHEC shooting event that there would be no more antis - unless they were deaf, dumb, and blind.

**First Bird Patch:** Chairman Dennis Strawbridge reported that about ten people applied for a First Bird patch, and that a mother and daughter team had both harvested their first wild turkey together.

**Habitat:** Chairman Reed Johnson reported that he has been in contact with NWTF and PA Bureau of Forestry personnel about the NWTF seed program. Reed suggested that his committee members get together to determine our Chapter's involvement in this program. As reported, 75 habitat projects have been approved so far. This was up from 64 projects reported at the June meeting, and represents an additional \$23,000.00 in expenditures.

**Nominating:** Chairman Gary Beatty announced that the seated Board members who are up for election in 2001 have all indicated that they would seek reelection. It was mentioned that Gary had not spoke to Dale Rohm, and it was thought that Dale was still undecided, at this time. As reported, letters were sent to all local chapter presidents, asking for nominations and resumes of Board member candidates. At this point, the slate of Chapter officers is as follows: President.....Carl Mowry, Vice President.....Don Shawkey, Treasurer....Howard Meyers, Secretary...Open, Chairman of the Board...Don O'Brien.

**Chapter Representation:** As reported, our Chapter is represented in many other conservation groups, councils, alliances, coalitions, etc. After providing the Board with a list of groups that have Chapter representation, Don Heckman asked if any other group(s) needed to be added to the list. It was suggested that we should add the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the NRA to the list.

Along similar lines, **a motion to donate a framed print, and some promotional items to the PA Deer Association for use at their convention was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

**Promotional Items:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that sales have picked up since the recent ad in "Turkey Talk." Most 25th Anniversary items are nearly sold out except for belt buckles and sweatshirts. An inventory copy of promo items was provided to the Board.

**Make A Wish:** Chairman Skip Sanderson mentioned that he hasn't received an acknowledgement from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for our donation. A letter was recently sent to Make A Wish asking for an

explanation on their decision to not honor anymore hunt requests. Skip mentioned that he continues to get negative and positive feedback regarding our 2000 donation to Make A Wish.

**License Plates:** As reported, Skip has received over 100 signatures for the license plates (20 by mail, 60 by e-mail). We still need at least 150 more signatures before we can apply to the state for a license plate.

**Public Relations:** Committee Chairman Skip Sanderson asked the Michaux Yellow Breeches Chapter to represent the state at the PA Deer Association dinner in Carlisle on August 19. Under other business, the Board passed a motion to make a donation to the PDA dinner.

Skip mentioned that he contacted local chapter presidents about submitting an article to "Turkey Talk." It was noted that Skip was very pleased with the results.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Under the first item of Old Business, Skip Sanderson spoke to the Board about the possibility of our Chapter giving consideration to hiring a lobbyist to address our concerns and needs in Harrisburg. Some discussion took place, and it was a general consensus to check with NWTf about the feasibility/legality.

**Convention:** Howard Meyers reported that he had visited Hidden Valley to determine if it had the facilities to accommodate our state convention needs. Howard addressed the Board about his ideas for the convention, and how the facilities could be used to meet our convention needs. It was mentioned that the gun bash would be held the week before, and that our scheduled weekend would be for our state convention only. As noted, banquet facilities will accommodate 300 people. As reported, this limited seating available information will be included in outgoing convention material. As reported, Hidden Valley has many activities to offer - trout fishing, steel target shooting, clay bird shooting, a program on dog retrieving, and possibly a live bear program by the Game Commission. There was some concern expressed about scheduling our state convention during the month of April. Along those lines, it should be noted that our Board is aware that some conflicts may arise as a result of the April scheduling. However, this is probably only going to be a one time deal and should not adversely affect our convention attendance.

**Patch/Pins:** Howard Meyers reported that he had checked with J&R Graphics about retaining 75 patches and pins for our membership banquets. As reported, the patches and pins would cost the Chapter \$5.00/each. Under our agreement with J&R Graphics, our Chapter should receive \$750.00 from the sell of the patches and pins that were made for our convention - if they are all sold. Jerry Zimmerman mentioned that Dan Christ would sell 25th anniversary patches back to the Chapter for \$6.00/each. To purchase enough patches and pins for our membership banquets will cost approximately \$1200.00. Following some discussion, **a motion to purchase 75 convention patches and pins from J&R Graphics at a cost of \$5.00/each, and to purchase 75 anniversary patches from Dan Christ at a cost of \$6.00/each, for use at our membership banquets, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.**

**CARA:** Don Heckman provided a news release about the updated status of the CARA bill. It was mentioned that approximately \$800 million will be available through the CARA legislation for state land acquisition, stream improvement, and wildlife management. As noted, it is important to get CARA legislation passed without any amendments. Again, Please, call your U.S. Senators (Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum) and ask for their support.

**Press Releases:** Don Heckman asked about the status of getting Chapter press releases out. It was mentioned that we haven't published a press release since our state convention. Don attempted to emphasize the importance of getting material to Marcus Schneck for use in a press release.

**Resource Alliance:** Don Heckman reported that the Resource Alliance group met to discuss the MAT Report, and the fact that the PGC Commissioners are not abiding by MAT Report findings. In response, the Resource Alliance group drafted a letter to the Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in an effort to force the PGC Commissioners to abide by the MAT Report, particularly Article II of that report.

**Wild Turkey Management Plan:** Don Heckman mentioned that our Chapter representatives met with the PGC Executive Staff and Bureau Chiefs to discuss budgeting and implementation of the WTMP. It was noted that 19 of the 35 strategies outlined in the WTMP are in some phase of implementation. Along those same lines, Don developed a four-page, bullet item, document of wild turkey management issues, which can be used to help determine Chapter objectives, strategies, and action items. The Board was asked to review this document prior to our October meeting, and to be prepared to discuss the issues - what are our priorities, ideas, goals, strategies, and objectives as they relate to wild turkey management in Pennsylvania. Under related business, Don Heckman reiterated our need to open the communication lines with PGC Commissioners. We need to meet with the Commissioners one on one to discuss wild turkey management issues, Don said.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Under the first item of New Business, Board Chairman Gary Beatty reported that the Executive Committee had met to discuss our state convention concerns. As a result, the Executive Committee recommended that we do an awards banquet in January. Following some discussion, **a motion to conduct our awards banquet in January 2001, at a site determined by the Executive Committee, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**Eagle Reward:** It was reported that an immature bald eagle had been illegally shot in Pennsylvania, and that other conservation groups were posting an award for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible. Following some discussion, **a motion to offer a \$1000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for illegally shooting an immature bald eagle in Pennsylvania was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried by a seven to five favorable vote.**

Following passage of the motion, some discussion took place concerning whether or not the reward offer could be green sheeted. It was suggested that the Board may want to revisit the motion if the reward could not be green sheeted. During the discussion which followed, it appeared to be a consensus of the Board to forego the previous motion unless the reward being offered could be green sheeted. It was also mentioned by the Chapter Treasurer that our general account would be stressed if we had to pay the \$1000.00 reward. Along those lines, **a motion to amend the previous question by inserting the words "if it can be Super Funded," after the word "Pennsylvania" was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried with one no vote recorded.** The amended motion reads as follows: **a motion to offer a \$1000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for illegally shooting an immature bald eagle in Pennsylvania, if it can be Super Funded, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill MacKereth.**

**DART System:** Following some discussion, **a motion to purchase a youth-sized, cricket model firearm for the DART system, at a cost of \$750.00 through the Super Fund, was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion carried.**

**Portable Sound System:** It was mentioned that SRFS Jerry Zimmerman and RFS Larry Holjencin were in need of a quality sound system for their banquets. As reported, a good many of the banquet facilities do not have quality sound systems available. **A motion to purchase two portable sound systems (approximately \$850.00/each) to be used in conjunction with membership banquets and other Chapter events was made by Carl Mowry, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**RMEF Donation:** In other business, **a motion to donate a framed print to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for their leadership workshop was made by Ray Smith, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

**Chapter Budget:** Chapter Treasurer Howard Meyers gave a brief report about the Chapter budget for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2000. It was mentioned that some changes were made to reflect changing needs of our Chapter's operation.

**Game Commission Meeting:** **A motion to fund a catered dinner for the PGC meeting and Game Lands**

tour was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.

**Chapter Ad:** It was suggested that our Public Relations committee should work with the NWTF publication staff members to develop an ad for inclusion in the PGC hunting digest. Following some discussion, a motion to develop an ad for inclusion in the PGC hunting digest, at a cost of approximately \$5000.00 for the ad, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

**NRA:** In other business, a motion to donate \$500.00 to the NRA Youth Foundation was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.

**Make A Wish:** A motion to eliminate our donation to Make A Wish Foundation and to donate instead to the Hunt for a Lifetime organization was made by Carl Mowry, seconded by Bill MacKereth. During the discussion that followed, it was mentioned that our original purpose of donating to Make A Wish was to do something good that affects people outside the realm of hunting, to show that we, as hunters/conservationists, want to help others for the common good. As noted, we are still waiting to get a reply from Make a Wish about their decision to no longer honor wishes for hunts. Along those lines, a motion to table the previous question until the October Board meeting was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.

**U.S. Olympic Shooting Team:** It was mentioned that the NWTF increased their donation from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00, and asked local chapters to also donate to the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team if they could. A motion to donate \$2500.00 to the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team was made by Don O'Brien, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

**YHEC:** Bill MacKereth reported that YHEC agreed to place an NWTF logo on their trailer, at no cost to the Chapter, because of our donations to the YHEC program. RFS Larry Holjensin agreed to get a decal from NWTF.

**Land Acquisition:** It was mentioned that acquisition of the New Garden Property has run into a roadblock. Apparently it will require legislative approval to turn this land over to the Game Commission, at a cost of approximately \$100,000.00, so that it can be established as state game lands property. Senate Bill 1163, which addresses this issue has been passed by the Senate. However, the bill has been delayed by the House of Representatives. Board Chairman Gary Beatty encouraged everyone to contact their Representative(s), and urge them to take action to get Senate Bill 1163 passed. It should be noted that this purchase does not require taxpayer money. The PGC has funds available as a result of the hunting license increase. But it does require legislative approval for the PGC to spend this money on land acquisition.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** It was mentioned that past Board Member Bill Laird would be needing major surgery in the near future. Letters and phone calls of encouragement would be greatly appreciated.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried. The August 2000 meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors was adjourned at 4:37 p.m., on Saturday, August 5, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



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





# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and  
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page [www.go2pa.com/panwtf](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

July 10, 2000

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

Enclosed, for your review and reference, please find a copy of the June 2000 Minutes of our Board of Directors meeting held at the Outdoor Sportsmen's Club in Centre County. The next meeting of our Chapter Board will be held on Saturday, August 5, 2000 at Warriors Mark in Centre County. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. **Executive Committee:** Executive Committee members will meet on August 4, 2000 at Greg Dreibelbis's camp. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m., on Friday.

**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 the 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 Greg's Camp:** From the east: Take 322 west. A few miles before reaching Boalsburg you will see the Elk's Country Club (golf course) on your right. At the golf course, turn left toward Tussey Mountain Ski Area (marked with a blue road sign). Continue on the road 1.5 miles. You will cross two small bridges and come to a fork in the road. Take a left and drive 100 yards, the camp is on your right.

From the west: Take 322 east by-pass around State College. A few miles past the Boalsburg Exit the road will reduce to two lanes. A couple more miles and you will see the Elk's Country Club on your left. At the golf course, turn right and follow **highlighted directions above.**

Looking forward to seeing all of you on August 5, 2000....

Yours for good conservation,

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

ENCLOSURE:



# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and  
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page [www.go2pa.com/panwtf](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

## PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING June 3, 2000 Outdoor Sportsmen's Club, Centre County

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the June 2000 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 9:07 a.m., on Saturday, June 3, 2000. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Gary Beatty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman Beatty reviewed and explained the ground rules for our meeting. Ray Smith, Dwight Kuntz, Don Shawkey, and Howard Meyers were introduced as new members of the Chapter's Board of Directors. It was also noted that Tammy Mowry had been appointed to a Board seat but, before she ever attended a meeting, Tammy was hired by the NWTF to serve as a coordinator for the Women in the Outdoors program. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter President Don O'Brien provided the Board with a written report of his activities. President O'Brien thanked Greg Dreibelbis for providing his camp for the Executive Committee meeting, and for all he had done in helping to secure a site for our Board meeting. Don also extended a welcome to the new Board members.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** There being no corrections or additions made to the March 2000 Minutes, a **motion to accept the March 2000 Minutes, as presented, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chapter Treasurer Howard Meyers turned the floor over to Don Heckman, so that Don could give a final treasurer's report from our existing account. It was noted that Don had completed writing the checks for our Chapter, and would soon close out our account and turn everything over to Treasurer Howard Meyers. As reported, for the period ending May 31, 2000, the Chapter's checking account balance was \$3737.48, with an inventory (fair market value) of \$4375.80, giving the Chapter total assets of \$8113.28, with no liabilities. Total revenue for the period, April 1 to May 31, 2000, was \$28,343.90. Year to date revenue for the period, September 1 to May 31, 2000, was \$78,939.37. Total expenses for the period were \$32,550.99. Year to date total expenses were \$78,079.49. Don Heckman reported that our Chapter began the fiscal year with \$2877.60 on hand, while total income for the period was \$78,939.37, which gave the Chapter \$81,816.97 total cash available. Total expenditures for the period were \$78,079.49, leaving cash in the bank for the period ending May 31, 2000 at \$3737.48.

Several questions were raised concerning the treasury report, and were answered to the satisfaction of the Board. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented, was made by Carl Mowry, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter Vice President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report of his activities. Vice President Mowry reported that the Chapter was very well received by the 4H Club's training class in Butler. As reported, the instructors' and students' gratitude for our support of the 4H Club was overwhelming.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** Board Chairman Gary Beatty reported that the Chapter has several vacancies on the Board, as a result of Tammy Mowry being hired by the NWTF, and Rudy Kovacina's resignation. During the discussion which followed, several names were mentioned for the Board's consideration. **Special Note:** Although a decision has not been made on which direction to take to fill vacant Board seats - to either fill the seats as soon as possible or to utilize the election process and wait until our state convention - we will probably fill these Board seats through the election process as outlined within our Bylaws. In which case, Local Chapter Presidents will receive a letter asking for nominations and resumes of Board member candidates.

**2000 Convention Report:** Convention Chairperson Mary DeArmitt provided the Board with a treasury report of the convention. Mary discussed some of the problems and successes associated with the convention. It was noted that there needs to be a better line of communication between our Chapter and the convention committee in regards to what the Chapter has offered to seminar speakers, VIPs, and vendors. Decisions are being made at the state level which are not documented or communicated to the convention committee. It was suggested that the Chapter should consider using a mailing service for the convention mailing. It was also noted that our Chapter gave free booth space to state agencies, and those booths were not manned during the weekend.

**NWTF REPORTS:** NWTF Women in the Outdoors Coordinator Tammy Mowry reported that 12 events have been scheduled in Pennsylvania. As reported, Tammy would like to have about 20 events this year in PA. As noted, we have 65 local chapters and, therefore, we need more chapters to commit to introducing women to the outdoors. Currently, there are about 1300 women members in Pennsylvania. The state WITO event will be held September 15-17, 2000, at the Greenwood Lodge in Clearfield County.

**Senior Regional Field Supervisor Report:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that, once again, the spring banquet season has been excellent. As reported, we had our first 90 percent, gross to net, banquet in Pennsylvania. Moreover, several other chapters increased their gross to net efforts from 30 to 40 percent to 60 and 70 percent banquets. It was also reported that almost all of the banquets, with very few exceptions, have been up in attendance and gross dollars raised. That's quite an achievement. We tip our camo hat to all of the banquet committee members for their efforts in helping to raise money for the wild turkey. Thank you.

**Membership:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that our total membership in Pennsylvania was 17,248, which places us at third in the country behind Illinois and Wisconsin. As reported, we have 10,968 adult males, 1257 WITO members, and 5021 JAKES members.

**Super Fund:** It was reported that our Super Fund balance was \$94,737.09, which does not include all of the spring banquet deposits.

**NWTF Chapter President's Meeting:** The Chapter President's Meeting is scheduled for July 21-23, at NWTF headquarters in Edgefield. It was mentioned that we have confirmation from 12 chapter representatives thus far for the president's meeting in Edgefield.

**PA Chapter President's Meeting:** The PA Chapter President's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 6, 2000 at the Ramada Inn in State College. A sporting clays shoot will be made available to anyone wishing to participate on Saturday afternoon, following the Chapter Board meeting at Warriors Mark. Rooms will also be made available on Saturday night at the Ramada Inn.

**New Local Chapters:** As reported, three new chapters have been organized in Pennsylvania - the Delaware County Longbeards, the Lenni Lenage Chapter, and the Anthracite Longspurs.

**JAKES Hunt:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the Jakes Hunt this year was held at Cris Kunzler's camp in Clearfield County. As reported, the hunt went very well, although no gobblers were harvested. The hunt will be held in Greene County next year.

**Regional Field Supervisor Report:** In his absence, RFS Larry Holjencin had nothing to add to Jerry's report - again.

**NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena, and PGC Assistant Director Bureau of Wildlife Management Bob Boyd were attending the NWTF Technical Committee meeting and the 8th National Wild Turkey Symposium during the week of our Board meeting.

**Harvest Management:** Preliminary fall 1999 harvest report card counts showed that this past fall season may be the second highest fall harvest on record. Since 1993, fall harvests have remained above 30,000 turkeys. Preliminary harvest results for the 2000 spring season will not be available until August.

**Fall 2000 Turkey Season:** The PGC Board of Commissioners adopted the fall 2000 turkey hunting season during their April meeting as follows:

TMA 1A, 1B, and 2:	two weeks - October 28 - November 11
TMA 3,4,5,6,7A and 8:	three weeks - October 28 - November 18
TMA 7B	one week - October 28 - November 4
TMA 9A	three days - October 30 - November 1
TMA 9B	one week - October 28 - November 4

**Spring Gobbler Season:** (bearded bird only) April 28 - May 26, 2001

In other business, the PGC Board of Commissioners also voted to:

- 1) Trap and transfer wild turkeys into TMA 9A this winter, into areas that contain turkey habitat but do not have turkeys.
- 2) Have the Bureau of Wildlife Management determine how to revise the TMA boundaries for TMA 7A in central Pennsylvania, which is a large TMA with somewhat variable habitat types and shows considerable variation in turkey harvest densities among counties.
- 3) Examine the current statewide Turkey Summer Sighting Survey, which is conducted each year by Wildlife Conservation Officers, and determine if another method of determining turkey reproduction and recruitment is more reliable.

**TMA 7B Research Study:** As reported, the majority of the field work for this 2.5 year project is being conducted by an outstanding field crew of PGC Biological Aides: Doug Little, Mike Niebauer, Lee Humberg, and Craig Swope, and Penn State graduate student Mark Lowles.

According to Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena, the spring gobbler season on the TMA 7B study area ended on a good note. No radio-marked hens were illegally harvested. One hen with a 7.5" beard was legally harvested mid-way through the season, and one bearded hen, with a 6" beard, was killed by a predator just prior to the season. Of the 50 radio-marked hens that were alive one week before the hunting season, three adult hens displayed beards. This is not uncommon because other studies have shown that up to one-third of a hen population can possess small or pencil-thin beards. The third bearded hen alluded hunters even though she is still not incubating a clutch of eggs, yet.

Of the 22 marked males that may have been alive before the hunting season, two had radio transmitters (one adult gobbler and one young gobbler). The remainder were only leg-banded. A local hunter harvested the transmitter adult gobbler during the second Saturday of the season, but the jake was never harvested. Only one of the legbanded jakes was harvested by a hunter - on opening day.

Currently, 43 radio-marked hens are alive. During the last month seven hens have died. Five hens have been killed by predators, one was killed by unknown causes (only the transmitter remained), and the one bearded hen was harvested legally. Mortality during the spring is not unusual since turkeys are a prey species, and nesting hens are very vulnerable to predation.

Of the 43 hens currently alive, 30 have begun to incubate nests. Three of those hens have successfully hatched a nest, and several other nests are due to hatch soon. To date, 23 of 30 adult hens and 7 of 13 one-year

old hens that have been fitted with transmitters have attempted to nest. Typically, one-year old hens have a lower nesting rate than adult hens. Thus far, three nests have hatched, three hens have abandoned their nests, two nests have been destroyed by predators, and one additional nest was probably destroyed by predation (probable because the eggs are completely gone but no sign of disturbance to the nest). The hens incubating the destroyed nests were not killed and are currently alive. Other studies have shown hens that are unsuccessful in hatching their first nest of the season, may attempt to lay a second nest in hopes of raising poults.

According to previous years' sightings by Bureau of Forestry personnel, the first turkey poults usually are sighted toward the end of May. This year is no different. Our first two nests hatched late last week (May 25 and 26) and the third hatched on May 30. Clutch sizes of these three nests were 13, 14, and 15 eggs each. All the eggs hatched from the two larger nests and 12 of 13 hatched from the smaller nest. As is typical with turkeys, the first nests to hatch were those of adult hens.

As reported, the reasearch team will continue to monitor these hens throughout the nesting season and the study. The above information is provided solely as an update to the study thus far. Along those lines, it was mentioned that the reasearch team is encouraged by their findings to date. This 2.5 year study began August 1999 and will continue through December 2001.

We appreciate all the cooperation by hunters reporting their harvest information to help the success of our research study, PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena said. This research study is being funded jointly by the Pennsylvania Chapter, the PA Game Commission, Penn State University, and with cooperation by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry.

Super Fund proposals were recently submitted to the PA Chapter for purchasing two professional global positioning units - GPS (\$7116.50 - a discounted price), 55 turkey radio transmitters for the second year of the project (\$13,131.80), and for radio telemetry equipment repairs (\$1700.00) for the project, totaling \$21,948.30 of the \$26,500.00 allocated by the PA Chapter.

**Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys:** The third year of Summer Sighting Surveys began in June on the Michaux State Forest to provide an index to its turkey population trends, in addition to our harvest and hunting success trend data for TMA 7B. Six routes (approx. 30 miles each) are being traveled in conjunction with this survey during June, July, and August. Each route is surveyed 12 times (weekly) each summer, and the miles driven and number of turkeys seen is recorded. The PA Chapter (Spencer Miller and Dwight Kuntz), the Michaux State Forest (2), and the Southcentral Region of the PGC (2) are conducting routes.

**PGC/PA Chapter Meeting:** The annual cooperative meeting between the PA Chapter and PGC was held on June 13, 2000 to discuss a variety of issues including implementation of the management plan. The meeting was held at PGC headquarters in Harrisburg.

**NWTF Technical Committee Meeting and 8th National Wild Turkey Symposium:** As reported earlier in this report, Mary Jo and Bob were in attendance at these meetings during the week of our Board meeting. NWTF Technical Committee members from across the country met at NWTF headquarters in Edgefield, SC on June 3-5, 2000 for a national meeting. Immediately following, they all went to Augusta, GA to attend the 8th National Wild Turkey Symposium on June 6-9, 2000 for presentations and discussions on current wild turkey research and management.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Received donations in memory of Raymond C. Martin. Chapter President Don O'Brien directed our secretary to write thank you notes to the donors, and to forward the information to "Turkey Talk" Editor Larry Smail.

Received a thank you letter from the Make A Wish Foundation for our donation to that organization.

It was a general consensus of the Board to continue displaying a bulletin board at our meetings, and to post information and pictures collected from the newspaper, web site, local chapters, etc.

Recieved information from the Allegheny National Forest regarding the scheduling of public meetings to discuss roadless proposals on certain sections of the ANF.

Received a thank you letter from the NRA for our support of the youth education endowment.  
Received a thank you letter from Ben Moyer who was presented an award at the POWA meetings which is sponsored by the Chapter.  
Received thank you cards from young members of the 4H Club for our support of that organization.  
Received a thank you letter from the Governor's Sportsmen's Youth Advisory Council for our support.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Youth Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth extended his appreciation to local chapter presidents who have been helpful in distributing First Bird Patches through their banquets and chapter events.

**YHEC:** Youth Chairman MacKereth reported that the Youth Hunting Educational Challenge would hold its state shoot on June 17, 2000 at the Scotia Range in Centre County. According to Bill, organizers of this event would like Chapter members to attend the shoot at Scotia Range.

**JAKES Raffle:** According to Bill, the tickets have all been distributed. As reported, some chapters have requested more tickets and, therefore, Bill asked that all unsold tickets should be returned ASAP for redistribution.

**State JAKES:** Youth Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that the state JAKES event would be held at Elliott State Park in Clearfield County on August 19, 2000.

**Scholarship:** Chapter President Don O'Brien informed the Board that he and his committee members had chosen Leo Vranich from the Whitehorse Mountain Chapter as the recipient of our Chapter scholarship award. According to Don, it was a difficult task to choose from the other worthy candidates.

**Art:** Art Committee Chairman Reed Johnson reported that art prints have been selling well. However, the art print patches have not sold well at all. In other related business, **a motion to provide 20 prints for the WITO program, and one print for the state JAKES event was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Howard Meyers. Motion carried.**

**Finance Committee:** Finance Committee Chairman Don Heckman provided the Board with a listing of recommendations and suggestions for consideration. Much - very much - discussion followed. However, it must be noted and understood that, with his infinite wisdom, Don's real agenda was to stir the coals under a dying fire - to spark enthusiasm, commitment, and more involvement in determining the direction and future of our Chapter. Without question, some of Don's recommendations were made simply to invoke awareness and a spirited response from the Board. But, for the most part, Don's recommendations were well thought out and, in some cases, of a visionary nature. As a Board member and/or Executive Committee member we need to continually review our direction and commitment to the Chapter. Don's recommendations are a point of reference to begin anew our commitment to the goals and objectives of our Chapter and the NWTf organization. The fire has been lit and, now, it is up to us to carry the torch forward into the future. And, more importantly, in Don's own words: Don Heckman cannot do it all by himself.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Under the first item of Old Business, it was determined that the Chapter's Long Range Plan needed to be reviewed and updated. Board members were asked to review the Long Range Plan and to list their recommendations and suggestions to update the plan for the next three year period. Rick Moroney agreed to compile this information into an updated Long Range Plan.

**Turkey Stamp/License:** According to Board Chairman Gary Beatty, our Chapter served as host for the PA House Game and Fisheries Committee during a public hearing in Greenville. After discussing an array of issues, Gary was of the opinion that members of the House Game and Fisheries Committee would be willing to support/introduce a Bill for a turkey hunting license in one or two years. As reported, the groundwork has been laid, but much more work needs to be done before an agreement on the details can be made.

**Patches/Pins:** Howard Meyers reported that 206 pins were sold and 312 patches sold at our convention. Nearly 45 percent of the sales were made through the JF Graphics mailing list. Convention direct sales accounted for 25 percent of sales. It was suggested that the Board should consider advertising the patches and pins in "Turkey Talk." As a result of our agreement with JF Graphics, the Chapter will receive \$518.00 from the sale of patches and pins thus far. In regards to Howard's advertising proposal, it was further suggested that a full-page ad in "Turkey Talk" would be placed to promote our 25th anniversary print and patch and the JF Graphics patch and print - all within the same ad. Following some discussion, the Board also expressed an interest in purchasing 75 - 25th anniversary patches from Dan Christ, and 75 - convention patches from JF Graphics to be used in our membership banquets next year. Howard Meyers and Reed Johnson were asked to obtain prices from their respective contacts.

**CARA:** Don Heckman encouraged Board members to contact Senators Spector and Sandtorum, and ask that they co-sponsor and support the CARA Bill. Approximately \$180 million dollars a year is at stake for Pennsylvania wildlife, Game and Fish Commission, and Bureau of Forestry.

**Outdoor Heritage:** As reported the Outdoor Heritage event was held in Huntingdon County on May 5 and 6, 2000. Several Board members represented our Chapter at this event. According to Don Heckman, the OH Planning Committee will meet in June to discuss next year's event.

**News Releases:** Don Heckman mentioned that news releases for our state JAKES event and the state WITO event need to be sent to Marcus Schneck. Along those same lines, Skip Sanderson was asked to contact Marcus Schneck about developing a simplified news release form for the Chapter's use. Reed Johnson was asked to compile information for a news release from the Habitat Committee.

**Make A Wish:** It was noted that the Make A Wish Foundation had made a business decision to not honor hunt wishes, but rather to refer those wishes to Safari Club International. Much discussion followed. It was a consensus of the Board to send a letter to the Make A Wish Foundation asking for more clarification of their decision, before the Board makes any decision on what charity we will sponsor in the future.

**Board Vacancies:** Board vacancies were again discussed under Old Business, as reported earlier.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Under the first item of New Business, **a motion to purchase two NWTf truck tickets was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**Upper Level Gun Raffle:** It was decided to use a mailing service for this year's raffle.

**PGC Commissioners:** Following some discussion, Rick Moroney was directed to write a letter to each Commissioner stating our support of Executive Director Vern Ross and his efforts.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dwight Kuntz, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's June 2000 Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m., on Saturday, June 3, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



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



# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and  
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## PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING March 11, 2000 State College, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the March 2000 Annual Membership Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Chapter President Don O'Brien at 8:05 a.m., on Saturday, March 11, 2000. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Chapter President Don O'Brien went over the ground rules for our annual membership meeting, and welcomed everyone to our meeting and the state convention. President O'Brien announced that there was no need for an election of board members this year, since only three candidates had been nominated to fill the three available board seats. Along those lines, Chapter President Don O'Brien was pleased to inform the membership that Don Shawkey, Ray Smith, and Dwight Kuntz would be seated as new board members, and would begin their three year term at the close of our state convention. It was also mentioned that Gary Beatty, Greg Dreibelbis, Bill MacKereth, and Rudy Kovacina would continue to serve as board members for another three year term.

Leaving the Chapter Board, after a number of years of dedicated service and commitment, were Ed Kemp, Bill Laird, and Mark Davis. Also after having served in the same manner, Boyd Enos and Ron Perry tendered their resignations. Chapter President Don O'Brien thanked all of those individuals for their efforts over the years, and for giving of themselves and their valuable time to our Chapter and our organizational goals and objectives. As reported, Howard Meyers was appointed by the Board to fulfill Ron Perry's unexpired term beginning January 8, 2000. In addition, Tammy Mowry was appointed by the Board to fulfill Boyd Enos's unexpired term beginning March 12, 2000.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter President Don O'Brien provided the Board with a written report of his activities. It should certainly be noted that our Chapter president has been a very busy person. He provided the Board with a typed, two-page, list of activities, dating from January 4, 2000 to March 7, 2000. Don has served our Chapter well during his first year in office, and continues to set a shining example with his spirit of dedication and commitment to further the goals and objectives of our Chapter. Heck, he's almost as good as Don Heckman. Almost!

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chapter Treasurer Don Heckman provided a fiscal year-end report for the period beginning September 1, 1998 and ending August 31, 1999. As reported, the Chapter had a cash balance in the bank of \$4882.35 for the period beginning September 1, 1998. Revenue for the year was \$82,140.67 for a total of \$87,023.02 for the period ending August 31, 1999. Total expenses were \$84,145.42, leaving a cash in the bank balance of \$2877.60 at the close of the fiscal year.

Treasurer Don Heckman continued by giving a report for the six month period beginning September 1, 1999 and ending February 29, 2000. As reported, the Chapter had a cash balance in the bank of \$2877.60 on September 1, 1999. Receipts for the six month period was \$50,595.47, for a total revenue of \$53,473.07. Cash disbursements for the six month period were \$45,528.50, leaving a cash balance in the bank of \$7944.57, as of February 29, 2000. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

Chapter President Don O'Brien mentioned that Don Heckman would be leaving the office of Treasurer, after having served in that position for 12 years. The Board extended its appreciation to Don for his many years of service as Treasurer by giving him a hearty round of applause.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Chapter Secretary Rick Moroney and, also, an all around nice guy, reported that the current seated Board members had received a copy of the 1999 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes. In an effort to save time, Secretary Moroney asked for Board permission to forego reading of the Minutes, and to have the Minutes approved. By consensus of the Board, the Annual Membership Meeting Minutes were not read. **A motion to accept and approve the 1999 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter Vice President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report of his activities. Carl has also represented our Chapter well during his first year in office. As the Chapter President in waiting, Carl has been diligently preparing to take over the responsibility of guiding our Chapter at the end of Don O'Brien's term.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT:** Chairman Gary Beatty thanked everyone for attending our state convention. Gary spoke very highly of the NWTF convention, and encouraged everyone to make an effort to attend next year's NWTF convention in Ohio. Chairman Beatty thanked Don O'Brien for a job well done as Chapter President. Gary thanked Convention Chairperson Mary DeArmitt, and her committee members, for the fine job they have done in setting up and running the convention. Chairman Gary Beatty extended his appreciation to the Chapter Board for their efforts over the past year.

Chapter President Don O'Brien was pleased to announce that Gary had been awarded the prestigious Dr. Roger M. Latham Sportsmen's Service Award which was presented by the NWTF at the national convention. For his dedication and commitment to our NWTF organization, at the local, state, and national levels, Gary received a round of applause from the Board.

**NWTF REPORTS:** NWTF CEO, Boss Gobbler, and native Pennsylvanian Rob Keck attended our state convention and annual membership meeting to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary, as an affiliate state chapter of the NWTF. NWTF CEO Rob Keck thanked each and everyone in attendance for "answering the call." The call of conservation that has been heard around this country - around North American - and, believe it or not, around the world. We are making a difference. You have led the way, in so many different aspects of conservation - you don't even realize. It is a major, major, effort that very, very few others can duplicate, Rob said in his opening statements.

In speaking about the uplifting experience of attending the national convention, NWTF CEO Rob Keck mentioned that the Nashville police department had never seen a traffic jam as big as the one created by those attending the NWTF convention. According to Rob, the most unusual thing about this traffic jam was that everyone was dressed in camouflage. Which really speaks for the interest, and the excitement, and the fun that people are having at NWTF - as it deals with the way we look at and work with conservation and education.

It's been just gratifying to me to see the leadership that's come out of this Chapter. I look over the years, and I see the many, many different leaders that we've had on the local, state, and national level. They've helped this organization in so many ways..., Rob said. The leadership of this Chapter has really been a great asset to me. I look at the Board members who have come from this Chapter to serve on the national board - members like Howard Meyers, the Shirley Grenobles, and Bud Erichs....many, many, others like Ron Fretts, whose been just a tremendous asset as a past president of the NWTF - a guy who's led our building fund

campaign through a number of phases there. It's just been the kind of leadership that has helped me so much... people like Chris Kunzler from the Red Rose Chapter, who has provided leadership on the national board and has been a great asset, too. But I look at people like Don Heckman, a guy you just recognize as one who has held almost every position in this organization (**except for state chapter president and NWTF CEO**). But that's just the kind of commitment that people from Pennsylvania have - with the role that we are charged with - with the mission of this organization, Rob Keck proudly stated.

Rob and other conservation leaders were in Washington D.C., to gain support for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) bill. If approved, this bill will earmark about \$1.8 billion each year from the Outer Continental Shelf oil revenues to help state agencies manage wildlife. This is the most important legislation and biggest opportunity to help fund wildlife management programs since the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937.

In speaking in terms of the future and current standing of our NWTF organization, Rob related a conversation that he had with the president of the National Wildlife Federation, while he was in Washington D.C., to gain support for CARA. The president of the National Wildlife Federation told Rob that he heard that the NWTF had a good meeting in Nashville. Rob answered that inquiry by stating: Yes, we did. We had 37,500 people in attendance. You mean, 3700, the NWF president questioned. No, 37 thousand, Rob proudly replied. There's no group in the country that gets that many people to attend their convention, the NWF president astonishingly exclaimed. Well, you need to just pay attention to what the people in the turkey federation are doing, Rob announced, while grinning like a butcher's dog.

For the benefit of those at our membership meeting, and to further illustrate the significance of our national convention and NWTF organization, Rob said that we have more people attending the national convention than attend the Shot Show in Las Vegas - more than the NRA convention. That's the kind of power that we have. And, when I say you haven't seen anything yet...well, we're about 250,000 members right now, and by July we should be about 300,000. Carl Brown and I have been running some numbers, and I think that in about two years we should be knocking on the door of around 500,000. And we won't stop there. When we look down the road, we are looking at projections that we have pretty good data on. Those projections indicate that, in about five or six years down the road, we will be a **million member organization**. Now, talk about political clout when we go to Capitol Hill, NWTF CEO Rob Keck said.

Those in attendance at our membership meeting were privileged to view a few short series of slide programs, which told the story of what our NWTF organization is all about. And, of course, NWTF CEO Rob Keck further explained NWTF's active involvement in conservation, education, restoration, JAKES, Women in the Outdoors, and protection of our hunting heritage. Unfortunately, when the lights were turned off, our "lost in the dark" Secretary turned off the recorder, and was unable to record this part of our meeting. This was great stuff, and it's not everyday that Rob Keck comes to Pennsylvania to share with us the excitement and pride of being an NWTF member, and of being a part of the conservation family that is the NWTF. I apologize to our Board and Local Chapter Presidents for missing this opportunity.

**NWTF REGIONAL REPORT:** Senior Regional Field Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman thanked everyone for their efforts over the past year in helping to secure the future of our wild turkey resource. In comparing Pennsylvania's NWTF volunteers to volunteers from other states, Jerry said that, year in, and year out, the volunteers and the work being done for the wild turkey in Pennsylvania, Larry and I will put up against anyone in the country. The dedication and the loyalty that you have for our organization and the wild turkey is surpassed by no one else in this country. You people just do such a great job. You make Larry's and my job so much easier, because of how you conduct your banquets, because of how you conduct your meetings, and the Chapter work that you all do - involved with the PGC and DCNR Bureau of Forestry... We really appreciate all the things that you do for our organization and the wild turkey. I just want to thank you, and I think you should give yourselves a round of applause, because you do a tremendous job, Jerry stated in his opening comments.

**NWTF Chapter President's Meeting:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that the Chapter President's meeting will be held in Edgefield on July 20-23, 2000. Pennsylvania will be able to have one representative for every five chartered chapters in the state. Please contact Larry Holjencin or Jerry if interested.

**Pennsylvania Chapter President's Meeting:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman announced that our chapter president's meeting will be held during the first weekend in August, which would be Sunday, August 6, 2000. At last year's meeting, approximately 78 chapter representatives attended. We encourage every local chapter to send a representative to this meeting. This is an informative type meeting about how our state and local chapters are doing. And, in addition, valuable information is distributed about various programs and objectives of our organizations.

**Membership:** As of the last issue of "Turkey Call" magazine, Pennsylvania had 15,338 NWTF members - approximately 10,000 adults and 5000 JAKES. We are still behind Illinois in the membership category.

**Super Fund:** In 1999, our local chapters raised over \$380,000 for the Super Fund. We spent \$417,428.00 on wild turkey projects in Pennsylvania in 1999. That's a lot of money, and we salute our local chapter leaders and volunteers for their efforts in raising these funds. The wild turkey thanks you, too. (I know this to be true because I often hear the wild turkey's reverberating gobble of thanks and appreciation whenever I have the privilege and opportunity to get out into the turkey woods.) In 2000, we approved over \$186,000.00 just for habitat - in the ground money working for the wild turkey and other wildlife species. That's just spring projects. We haven't even looked at the fall habitat proposals, yet.

**JAKES Program:** The future of our organization, the future of conservation and wildlife stewardship, is in the hands of our youth. And that is why the NWTF JAKES program is so important. In an effort to strengthen the JAKES program in Pennsylvania, Larry Holjencin and Jerry devised a membership recruitment plan which would utilize a 40 gun raffle ticket for \$20.00 to provide revenue for the purchase of memberships. According to Regional Field Supervisor Larry Holjencin, the ticket will be comprised of top-of-the-line guns, and based on the four-digit lottery system. Revenue derived from the sale of these tickets will be used to purchase JAKES memberships outside of the banquet system - hopefully, through PGC Hunter Ed courses/Youth Field Days. This ticket will run from the end of April until June 1, 2000. Local chapters who participate in selling tickets will be given credit for JAKES memberships towards their banquet.

**Truck Tickets:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman announced that the truck tickets would be available soon.

There being no further business to be conducted at the Annual Membership Meeting, **a motion to adjourn the March 2000 Annual Membership Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.** The March 2000 Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m., on Saturday, March 11, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



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

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER  
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 11, 2000  
State College, 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 Gary Beatty at 9:15 a.m., on Saturday, March 2000. 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 12, 2000 Board of Directors Meeting.

Moving forward with the business at hand, Nominating Committee Chairman Gary Beatty read the slate of officers as presented by the Chapter's Nominating Committee during the January 2000 Board of Directors Meeting as follows:

President.....Don O'Brien  
Vice President.....Carl Mowry  
Secretary.....Rick Moroney  
Treasurer.....Howard Meyers  
Chairman of the Board.....Gary Beatty

Nominating Committee Chairman Gary Beatty then 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 Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

**A motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Chapter's Nominating Committee, and duly elected by the Chapter Board, was made by Eric Baker, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.**

In other business, it was noted that Greg Dreibelbis and Don Heckman had been duly elected by the Chapter Board, during the January 2000 Board Meeting, to serve as Executive Officers of the Chapter.

There being no further business to be conducted by this special session of the Chapter Board of Directors, Board Chairman Gary Beatty recessed the meeting at 9:28 a.m., on Saturday, March 11, 2000, and directed the Board to reconvene at 8:00 a.m., on Sunday, March 12, 2000.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER  
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
March 12, 2000  
State College, Pennsylvania**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the March 2000 Board of Directors Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 8:11 a.m., on Sunday, March 12, 2000. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

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

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter President Don O'Brien provided the Board with a written report of his activities. President O'Brien thanked everybody for every thing they did during the awards banquet, particularly Jerry Zimmerman, Larry Holjencin and Liz Reinhart.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Chapter Secretary Rick Moroney asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the January 2000 Board Minutes. Corrections were made as follows: Under President's Report on page one, and under NWTF Regional Report on page 2, Liz Reinhart's name was recorded as being spelled **Rhinehart**. This was corrected to the proper spelling - **Reinhart**.

On page six, under the first item of Old Business, it was recorded that Boyd Enos and Ron Perry had tendered their resignations **to be effective immediately**. This was corrected to show that Boyd Enos would

resign his Board seat at the **close of the March 2000 convention.**

On page six, under the first item of Old Business, it was recorded that Tammy Mowry began serving a one year term, **effective immediately.** This was corrected to show that Tammy Mowry **would begin** serving a one year term, **at the close of the March 2000 convention.**

On page ten, under Good of the Order, Chapter Booth, it was recorded that **Eric Baker...**would be assigning Board members to time slots for working at the Chapter booth.... This was corrected to show that **Carl Mowry...**would be assigning....

There being no further corrections or additions to the Minutes, **a motion to approve and accept the January 2000 Board Meeting Minutes, as corrected, was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chapter Treasurer Don Heckman reported that Chapter bills should be submitted to Howard Meyers, beginning in May 2000. Howard will be taking on the responsibility as Chapter Treasurer at the close of the March 2000 convention, and should be up to speed by the June Board meeting. As reported, everyone needs to fill out a financial report, if they expect to be reimbursed for expenses. Howard will not be issuing checks to Board members without a completed financial report. (Let's work together to make this transition a smooth one.)

Treasurer Heckman gave a report on the six month period from September 1, 1999 to February 29, 2000. As reported, our checking account balance was \$7944.57, with an inventory (fair market value) of \$4375.80, giving the Chapter total assets of \$12,320.37. Total income for the period was \$2788.68. Total expenses for the period were \$5779.76, leaving the Chapter with a \$2991.08 deficit for the period. Year to date income for the six month period was \$50,595.47. Year to date expenses were \$45,528.50, leaving the Chapter with a positive revenue of \$5066.97 for the six month, year to date period. **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 Vice President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report of his activities.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT:** Chairman Gary Beatty thanked Bill Laird, Ed Kemp, Mark Davis, Boyd Enos, and Ron Perry for their service as Board members of the Chapter. Each of these individuals have served the Chapter and our organization well over the years. Chairman Beatty extended the Board's welcome to our new Board members, Don Shawkey, Dwight Kuntz, Ray Smith, Tammy Mowry, and past Chapter President Howard Meyers.

Gary thanked Mary DeArmitt, and her convention committee members, for helping to make our state convention successful. Special thanks was extended to Larry Holjencin and Jerry Zimmerman for everything they do - which is much, much more than can be expected or put into words. Board Chairman Gary Beatty extended our congratulations to the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management for having received the Chapter's corporate conservation award. Special congratulations and a welcome was extended to NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts for being named an Honorary Board Member of the Chapter. As mentioned, Ron has done alot for our organization, and has helped our Chapter and Board Members on many occassions over the years. Congratulations were also extened to NWTF CEO Rob Keck, and NWTF Vice President of Operations Carl Brown who were named Honorary Board Members of the Chapter along with Ron. Rob, Carl, and Ron have been a tremendous asset to our NWTF organization and, it could be said, they are most responsible for making our NWTF organization what it is today, and providing the leadership to guide us into the future.

**NWTF REPORTS:** NWTF Women in the Outdoors Coordinator Liz Reinhart reported that we now have 915 WITO members in Pennsylvania, as of March 8, 2000. WITO Liz Reinhart has set a goal to have 20 WITO events in Pennsylvania this year. To date, 11 WITO events have been scheduled. As mentioned, a state WITO event is scheduled for September 15-17, 2000. This event will be held at the Greenwood Lodge in Clearfield County. Many exciting activities are planned on the agenda to include, but not limited to: a

guided tour of Pennsylvania elk range, outdoor cooking, wild turkey biology, turkey hunting, plant identification, a slide show on Pennsylvania elk, camping, back-packing, hiking and much, much more. Cost for the event will be approximately \$90.00, to include an NWTF membership, meals and lodging.

Liz related an event whereby she was challenged, by a local chapter president from a small New England town, to try and find some women who might be interested in a WITO event. Liz took up that challenge. She entered that small New England town, where she had never before set foot, and went into a local shop to have her nails done. Before leaving that shop, she had a WITO coordinator. Liz went down the street to a beauty salon to have her hair done. Before leaving that shop, she had a WITO co-coordinator. In short, during her visits to various shops in this small community, Liz generated enough interest to schedule a WITO event. Bottom Line: There may not appear to be any interest among your chapter regulars, but there, most certainly, could be plenty of interest within the surrounding community. You just need to ask.

**NWTF SENIOR REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR REPORT:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman thanked everyone, once again, for all their efforts for our organization and the wild turkey. Jerry commented about the excitement that had been generated over the weekend, during our state convention and awards banquet - which was not lost by Rob Keck, as he, too, expressed his pleasure over the weekend events, during their trip to the airport.

SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reiterated some figures which were reported during our annual membership meeting: 15,338 NWTF members in Pennsylvania, \$80,426.00 Super Fund balance, \$186,000.00 approved for habitat projects for spring 2000.

**NWTF Presidents Meeting:** This meeting will be held in Edgefield at NWTF headquarters on July 20-23, 2000. Pennsylvania is entitled to send 13 representatives to this meeting, based upon one representative for every five chapters. Limiting of invited attendance is the result of a lack of accommodations. More information will be sent to local chapter presidents by SRFS Zimmerman and RFS Larry Holjencin.

**Chapter Presidents Meeting:** This meeting will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2000. We encourage every local chapter to send a representative to this meeting.

In concluding his report, SRFS Jerry Zimmerman said that he sort of had a similar experience as the one related by Liz Reinhart. According to Jerry, he stopped in Shamokin, PA to have his nails done, and mushtache trimmed. Before he left, Jerry was able to schedule an organizational meeting for a new local chapter in that area, and he didn't have to get his toenails trimmed and painted. In addition, Jerry reported that he has organizational meetings scheduled for new local chapters in Delaware, Scranton, and Pike counties.

**NWTF REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR REPORT:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that we have a new local chapter in southern Clarion county - the Foothills Spurs Chapter. This new chapter will be conducting its banquet on April 8, 2000 in East Brady.

RFS Larry Holjencin was pleased to announce that the Allegheny Mountain Chapter held a reorganizational meeting in February. About 30 people attended this first meeting, and another meeting was scheduled for the week after our state convention in March. According to Larry, the Allegheny Mountain Chapter is planning a banquet for sometime in June. It was mentioned that the old core group of members from this chapter (the 5 or 6 members who, over the years, have done all the work) were willing to do whatever it takes to keep their chapter going. It was sort of agreed upon that the core members of the Allegheny Mountain Chapter would spearhead the chapter's habitat efforts, and the newer members would handle the fundraising efforts. According to RFS Holjencin, everyone from this chapter seems to be pleased and happy about working together to keep the Allegheny Mountain Chapter going. (A tip of the camo hat is extended to the members of the Allegheny Mountain Chapter for their efforts and commitment to make this work out for one of our oldest local chapters in Pennsylvania. The members of the Pennsylvania Chapter Board really appreciate your commitment to work together for all the right reasons. Thank you.)

In concluding his report, RFS Larry Holjencin mentioned that he has another good lead for a new local chapter in the New Castle area. Larry indicated that he hasn't tried the nails and hair gig, yet. But he won't knock it, until he tries it. He suggested to SRFS Jerry Zimmerman that we might be getting to the point where that is necessary.

**NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena reported on the wild turkey research study being conducted in TMA 7B to help determine what is causing the turkey population in that area to be suppressed. As reported, the research team is currently monitoring 58 radio-tagged female wild turkeys (20 juveniles, 38 adults) throughout the Michaux State Forest and surrounding private land on a daily basis. No mortalities have occurred since January 30, 2000. During the deep snow in January, two radio-tagged females died from predation. Biologists aides Doug Little, Mike Niebauer, and Ian Gregg, together with PSU graduate student Mark Lowles, have been quite busy with winter trapping and daily monitoring of radioed turkeys.

Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena mentioned that, despite the difficulties, winter trapping was very successful. With assistance from NWTF chapter members, BOF, and PGC staff, the research team trapped 60 turkeys from February 3 - March 10, 2000. Total turkeys caught with rocket nets to date (fall and winter) equals 97. This includes 74 females which the research team affixed with back-pack style radio transmitters. To date, 16 transmittered females have died, 14 of 34 juveniles and 2 of 40 adults.

According to Mary Jo, turkeys began dispersing from their winter flocks on Monday, March 6, 2000. Therefore, the research team began preparing for the next phase of the research project - nesting season. The objectives for this phase include monitoring nesting rates and nest success by age class (adult and yearling females), and poult survival.

In addition to the reasearch study itself, Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena reported that progress is being made regarding the possible prevention of rodenticide poisoning of wild turkeys and other wildlife on orchards in TMA 7B. According to Mary Jo, one local fruit grower has already expressed an interest in working with the local NWTF chapter to establish rodenticide bait stations for controlling meadow voles on his orchard instead of broadcasting the rodenticide. In an effort to develop a cooperative relationship among the local fruit growers, the local NWTF chapters, and the PGC, Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena will be meeting with the local fruit growers in June. In addition, Mary Jo will also be speaking with local NWTF chapters to solicit volunteer help in establishing bait stations on these orchards. Those interested in volunteering (work will be done during mid-autumn), please contact Mary Jo Casalena at [maryjoc@bedford.net](mailto:maryjoc@bedford.net) or 814-624-0020.

A summary of the research project to date:

- \* 74 hens have been fitted with radio transmitters
- \* 16 have died (5 legally harvested, 1 crippling loss during hunting season, 1 avian predation, 3 fox predation, 1 coyote predation, 1 poaching, 3 unknown, and 1 under investigation - possible fatality by broadhead-tipped arrow).
- \* 58 transmittered birds are currently alive as of March 10, 2000.
- \* Winter trapping concluded the week of March 10, 2000.
- \* Nesting season monitoring begins approximately April 1, 2000.
- \* Males have been observed strutting, infrequently though, since February 16, 2000.

**Wild Turkey Task Force:** This unique task force includes members of the Chapter, local chapters in Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin counties, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and the PA Game Commission. Their mission is to help determine ways to increase the wild turkey population in TMA 7B through cooperative research, habitat improvements, and communication. The next meeting of the Michaux State Forest Wild Turkey Task Force will be Tuesday evening, March 28, 2000.

**Wild Turkey Management Plan:** As reported, the second annual meeting of the PGC and our Chapter board members will be held in August to discuss ongoing implementation of the management plan, priorities, and budget planning. Along those lines, it was suggested that the Chapter should add budget planning of the wild turkey management plan to their agenda for topics of discussion at the June PGC/Chapter meeting.

**NWTF Convention:** PGC Assistant Director Bureau of Wildlife Management Bob Boyd reported that he and Mary Jo had attended the technical committee meetings on Thursday and Friday. According to PGC Assistant Director Bob Boyd, this afforded them an opportunity to interact with NWTF staff and other turkey biologists and administrators across the country and Canadian Provinces, and to learn more about current issues

in other states. Bob also mentioned that the Saturday morning workshop was also very helpful and informative.

In regards to the PGC's grant proposal for funding of the research study in TMA 7B, the NWTF stated that it is a good and worthwhile study, but because it is not of national scope, it is not being funded by NWTF.

In other business, a motion to allocate \$1200.00 from the Super Fund to send our NWTF Technical Committee members to the 8th Annual Wild Turkey Symposium to be held at NWTF headquarters in Edgefield was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.

**NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT:** NWTF Board Member and Past NWTF President Ron Fretts thanked the Chapter for having named him as an Honorary Board Member of the Chapter. NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts congratulated the Chapter for its accomplishments over the past year and during our state convention. I think we had an outstanding convention. I was impressed. I had the best time at the banquet, last night, then I've ever had. I don't know how you could attend Nashville (NWTF convention), and then the state convention and not be enthused. And not be fired up about what's happening with wild turkeys and the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ron said.

**NWTF Growth:** As chairman of the building fund committee, NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts spoke about the ongoing construction projects at NWTF headquarters in Edgefield. Used to be we would do a little building project every five or six years, and fought for money to accomplish that and struggled nationally as did the state and local chapters. Right now, we have new landscaping, a new pavillion under construction, which will seat 280 people and has restroom and kitchen facilities - a \$180,000.00 project. You've heard the membership numbers - 500,000 members in two years and, quite possibly, a **million members** in five or six years. That sounds great, but along with those numbers comes a whole lot of complications, along with more banquets that our regional directors are charged with bringing in. We just built a new 30,000 square foot warehouse two years ago. Right now, we are in the bidding process for a 30,000 square foot addition on the warehouse - a \$500,000.00 - \$600,000.00 project, Ron Fretts stated.

In the meantime, I just spent some time in Edgefield interviewing architects. We now have a staff in Edgefield of a 100 plus people. You have to have a place to put them. The Research and Management Department is overcrowded, and it just keeps growing. Dr. Kennamer used to be alone. Now, there's him and eight or nine others. Lots of people - lots of problems - lots of growth, a lot of growing pains. Hopefully, we are going to have those growing pains for a long time to come. So, we've got three projects we're working on. We've hired an architect for a new building addition. Fortunately, we've planned ahead. We have a master campus plan, that we know, pretty much, the direction we're going, at least, for one more move. After that, you've got to redevelop a plan. But, we are still in pretty good shape. But we are experiencing some growing pains, and we are talking about 500,000 - 1,000,000 members in the not too distant future of the NWTF. A lot of you can remember when had 20,000 members, Ron said.

According to NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts, the NWTF will hire 13 new regional directors and four new Women in the Outdoors coordinators. In speaking of the WITO program, Ron said: I think the WITO program is a program which can make our organization into a different and better organization. And I am real thrilled about the WITO program and what the women in that program are doing.

But all those things - when you add field staff, when you end up adding Edgefield staff, pretty soon you have no place for them to go. But that's a lot of fun, and that's a part of the growth period. And I think the growth in the future looks even stronger than the growth in the past. I think we're going to grow faster. But it does create a lot of headaches. I'm thrilled with the people we have from Pennsylvania down there in Edgefield - with Rob Keck and Carl Brown, and others, but particularly those two. You know those are the top two guys in the National Wild Turkey Federation - they're Pennsylvanians. That's a pretty good deal. It's a good deal for us. It was nice to have Rob up here last night. I think he's always inspirational. You could have heard a pin dropping on the carpet last night when Rob was up at the podium speaking. So, we've got some great leadership. And Rob and Carl are not about to change direction. They're plowing forward, and they are going to continue to plow forward, until there's no more plowing left. So, we've got some good leadership at national, and we've got good leadership here, Ron said.

Some of you can remember when we couldn't do much for wild turkeys, outside of planting a few trees and some barberry. But now we have dollars. And along with that comes the real challenge of

administrating the Super Fund and trying to get the biggest stretch out of every dollar spent. And you have some good people in place to do that. And I see some new people coming on the Board, and that's a real thrill because you always need new people with fresh new ideas, Ron said in conclusion.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The Chapter received a thank you letter from the Sportsmen's Advisory Council, thanking our Chapter for our interest and financial support of the Youth Council.

Our Chapter received a copy of the Make A Wish Foundation's newsletter.

Received a letter from the Wildlife Legislative Fund which informed our Chapter of a meeting on April 11, 2000 in Washington D.C., in preparation for gaining the necessary support for legislative passage of a pro hunting bill. It was mentioned that the NWTF would probably send a representative to this meeting from Edgefield.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** A preliminary convention report was given by the convention treasurer. As reported, the convention took in approximately \$58,000.00 in gross revenue, with checks being written in the amount of \$11,804.00. It was stated that the convention committee would have a better idea of actual finances once they have received the hotel's bill.

**"Turkey Talk":** "Turkey Talk" Editor Larry Smail reported that he had some problems in getting the last issue of "Turkey Talk" out. Larry suggested that the Chapter should consider sending Terry Carlson of Nupp Printing a thank you letter for all his efforts in getting "Turkey Talk" out to the membership.

Editor Larry Smail encouraged everyone to get out and vote this year, because it was an important election year for hunters. It was suggested that a voter registration form could be included in the spring issue of "Turkey Talk."

**Youth:** Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that our state JAKES event received honorable mention at the NWTF convention. As reported, this year's state JAKES event will be held August 19, 2000 at Elliott State Park in Clearfield county. Some of the activities which are planned include: canoeing, archery, life cycle of the wild turkey, DART system, forestry, a live bear demonstration, and much more. Cost of the event will be \$5.00. A registration form will be included in the spring issue of "Turkey Talk."

**Art:** Committee Chairman Reed Johnson reported that 152 "Morning Glory" prints have been sold, and Wildlife Artist Dan Christ has been receiving a lot of phone orders for the print. Reed thanked everyone for having been chosen as a recipient of the David Wanless Award, the most prestigious award given by our Chapter. It was reported that the Chapter made approximately \$3400.00 from proceeds taken in at the art auction.

**Promotional Items:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that we will need 300 signatures for the Chapter license plate.

**Public Relations:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that he was working with the Chapter's Public Relations Representative Marcus Schneck, in an effort to get informational news releases out.

**Make A Wish Foundation:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that he didn't believe that the foundation was anti-hunting in nature, as has been rumored. However, the foundation will not grant a hunting wish, although they have granted hunt wishes in the past. According to Skip, the foundation's national policy is not to grant anymore hunt wishes because the foundation cannot afford the bad publicity or costs associated with fighting the anti-hunting organizations on the issue. Each individual is encouraged to make two wishes, and the foundation grants one of those. If, for example, an individual wishes to go to Disneyland and on an elk hunt in Wyoming, the foundation will grant the trip to Disneyland. The foundation would then also refer the individual to Safari Club International. To the best of Skip's knowledge, Safari Club International has granted every hunt wish that the Make A Wish Foundation has referred to them. So, in essence, the child, who wishes for a hunt, gets two wishes granted.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Don Heckman reported that Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) would soon come to the House floor in U.S. Congress for a vote. On February 29, 2000, two new CARA related bills were introduced in the Senate. Senate Bill 2123 is identical to the HR 701 House Resources Committee consensus bill, and proposes to reinvest \$3 billion into conservation each year, including \$350 million for state wildlife conservation. Senate Bill 2181 would reinvest \$2.86 billion in conservation, including \$350 million for state wildlife conservation with language that is very similar to the original HR 701 with the inclusion of conservation strategy language that has been advocated by the wildlife conservation community.

**What needs to be done:** Right now, we need to push for as many Senate 2123 (CARA) cosponsors as possible to show there is widespread support for similar consensus bill in the Senate. Schedule meetings with your senators when they are home. Write and call your senators (Main Senate Phone Number: (202) 224-3121).

**Public Relations:** Don Heckman expressed the need of our Chapter to tell its story. We need a better and more cooperative means of measuring our success in getting the word out. Internet and published articles about the Chapter should be copied and brought to Board meetings, so that we have a means of knowing how we are doing, and where we need to improve. If you don't think the outdoor editor, in your area, is getting this information or using it, take the article to your editor, talk to the editor about it, and work with the editor to try and get this information published, Heckman sternly suggested.

In working with our PR representative, Marcus Schneck, Skip Sanderson will be assigning Board members to a list of proposed news releases, and those Board members will be responsible for developing the respective news release. News Releases should be prepared 30 days in advance of their publishing date.

**Chapter Patches:** Don Heckman reported that Wildlife Artist Dan Christ was willing to attend local chapter banquets to help sell patches. Along those lines, an ad for patches will be put into the spring issue of "Turkey Talk."

**Wild Turkey Task Force:** Don Heckman reported that he is working towards expanding the task force concept into other regions of the state. Don encouraged members of the Board to schedule a meeting with their PGC regional director to establish a task force system in each region.

**Posters:** Don Heckman suggested that the Information and Education Committee needs to update Chapter information - membership, super fund, Chapter at a glance - to be put in poster form and kept with the DART system. Along those lines, **a motion to have this information put on 2' X 3' cardboard posters, and to have two sets made for Jerry Zimmerman and Larry Holjencin was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.** Rick Moroney volunteered to take care of getting the posters made and keeping the information updated.

**"Turkey Talk" Assignments:** Jerry Zimmerman stressed the importance of working with our local chapters to give them an opportunity to tell their story in "Turkey Talk." Board members are assigned to contact local chapter presidents in their area and to encourage them to submit articles to "Turkey Talk" about their local chapter activities.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Under the first item of New Business, it was reported that Carl Mowry towed the DART system to our convention. Greg Dreibelbis agreed to store the DART system in State College until it was needed again. For information and scheduling of the Dart system, you should contact Mark Davis at: 295 Stock Farm Road, Lake Ariel, PA 18436 or Phone - (570) 698-7917.

**Convention 2001:** Sam Truxell proposed hosting the state convention in April 2001 in conjunction with their Big Gun Bash/Sportsmen's Show at the Hidden Valley Ski Resort in Somerset county. Following some discussion, **a motion to conduct the state convention on April 6-7, 2001 at the Hidden Valley Ski Resort in Somerset county in conjunction with the Gun Bash/Sportsmen's Show as proposed was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Bob Boyd thanked the Chapter for presenting the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management with our cooperate conservation award. It was certainly unexpected, and greatly appreciated, Bob said. Serving as a professional in the wildlife conservation field is, certainly, a tremendously rewarding experience - challenging at times - but, personally, one of the greatest pleasures that I've had is serving on the Technical Committee with the state chapter and national. We just appreciate the support of the state chapter, in the many forms that that comes about. But, most important, we just thank you for being you, and your activities, and your active involvement in the sound, science-based, management of this important resource. These are the best of times for wild turkey management, and we look forward to continue working with you to try and make things even better, Bob said.

Along those same lines, Mary Jo Casalena echoed Bob's sentiments. I've been with the Game Commission, now, for nine years - first with pheasants, then with waterfowl, and, now, with the wild turkey. Working with Pheasants Forever, working with Ducks Unlimited, and working with the NWTF, I can honestly tell you that you folks are the most active, most energetic group that I've worked with among private organizations. And I am just thrilled to be a part of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and to be part of wildlife conservation in Pennsylvania. So, that's just additional thanks to all of you, and that's from the heart, I really appreciate it. Thanks, Mary Jo said.

**President's Print:** Jerry Zimmerman presented the number one of 51, 1999 NWTF President's Print to Chapter President Don O'Brien.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the March 2000 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.** The March 2000 Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m., on Sunday, March 12, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rick*

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

**MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:** Our Board meeting will be held Saturday, June 3, 2000 at the Outdoor Sportsmans Club on Purdue Mountain Road, near State College. **From the west:** From Port Matilda, continue on US 220 East to Unionville (about 12 miles). At Unionville, turn right, **cross the creek and drive up the mountain to where Purdue Mountain Road bears left. Several hundred yards down Purdue Mountain Road turn at the large OCS sign and follow to the facility on your right.** **From the east:** Get off I-80 at Milesburg and onto US 220 West to Unionville (about 6 miles). At Unionville, turn left, cross the creek and follow **highlighted directions above.** **From State College:** Take 322 West to the Intersection of Route 550 (Uni-Mart on corner). Turn right onto Route 550/Buffalo Run Road. Continue on the winding run for approximately 6 miles. Turn left when you see Fillmore Road on your right. Cross a concrete bridge and drive to the top of the mountain. At the top, turn right onto Purdue Mountain Road, follow **highlighted directions above**, beginning with: Several hundred...

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** We will meet Friday, June 2, 2000 at 8:00 p.m., at Greg's camp. **From the east:** Take 322 West, a few miles before reaching Boalsburg you will see the Elk's Country Club Golf Course on your right. At the golf course, turn left **toward Tussey Mountain Ski Area (marked with a blue road sign).** **Continue on the road 1.5 miles. You will cross two small bridges and come to a fork in the road. Take a left and drive 100 yards, the camp will be on your right.** **From the west:** Take 322 East by-pass around State College. A few miles past the Boalsburg Exit the road will reduce to two lanes. A couple more miles and you will see the Elk's Country Club Golf course on your left. At the golf course, turn right and follow **highlighted directions above.**



# PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and  
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page [www.go2pa.com/panwtf](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

## PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING January 8, 2000 Greenwood Lodge, Clearfield County

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the January 2000 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 9:04 a.m., on Saturday, January 8, 2000. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

Board Chairman Gary Beatty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman Beatty reviewed and explained the ground rules for our meeting. The floor was then opened for officer reports.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chapter President Don O'Brien provided the Board with a written report of his activities. President O'Brien introduced Liz Rhinehart, NWTF WITO Coordinator, and her regional coordinators Tammy Mowry, Becky Martinell, and Rhonda Henry. Don mentioned that he had an opportunity to represent the Chapter at a meeting of the 4-H Shooting Sports. As reported, a press conference and photo shoot was held to acknowledge the \$50,000.00 grant our Chapter made available to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Chapter Secretary Rick Moroney asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the October 1999 Board Minutes. Corrections were made as follows: On page three, under Art Committee, Dan Christ's name was spelled wrong. Dan's name was recorded as **Crist**. This was corrected to the accurate spelling **Christ**.

On page four, under NWTF Technical Committee Report, at bottom of page, Mary Jo Cassalena's email address was recorded as being [maryjoe@bedford.net](mailto:maryjoe@bedford.net). This was corrected to read [maryjoc@bedford.net](mailto:maryjoc@bedford.net).

On page three, under 2000 State Convention report, it was recorded that Mary DeArmitt was the state convention chairperson and president of the Nittany **Mountain** Longbeards Chapter... This was corrected to read...president of the Nittany **Valley** Longbeards Chapter....

There being no further additions or corrections to the Minutes, a motion to accept the October 1999 Minutes, as corrected, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chapter Treasurer Don Heckman reported on the four month period from September 1, 1999 to December 31, 1999. Total revenues for the period were \$47,806.79. Total expenditures for the period were \$39,748.74. Checking account balance at the end of the period was \$10,935.65. Treasurer Don Heckman reviewed the expenditures and revenues for the period. It was acknowledged that the revenue and expenditure activities of the Chapter were in line with past practices.

In noting the large amount of money flowing through our Chapter accounts, Treasurer Heckman suggested that the Executive Committee should take responsibility for reviewing the expenditures of our Chapter at least twice a year to improve upon our accountability. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Eric Baker, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.

**VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Chapter Vice President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report of his activities.

**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:** No report.

**NWTF REGIONAL REPORT:** NWTF Women in the Outdoors Coordinator Liz Rhinehart reported that there were 318 WITO members in Pennsylvania on January 1, 1999. As of January 1, 2000, there are now 805 WITO members in Pennsylvania. WITO Coordinator Liz Rhinehart credited this success to our local chapters who have helped to promote the WITO program at their banquets, and by conducting WITO events in their regions. As reported, the goal for 2000 is to have 20 WITO events in Pennsylvania, and to have at least 50 women participating in each event.

**Five Star Program:** According to WITO Coordinator Liz Rhinehart, Pennsylvania has 11 local chapters that have signed commitment agreements to participate in the Five Star Program. Of those 11, only two local chapters have scheduled a WITO event. Liz mentioned that she and her state/regional coordinators would be working with local chapter presidents in an effort to schedule more WITO events.

**State WITO Event:** As reported, plans are being formulated to conduct a state WITO event for sometime in the fall. This event will incorporate touring the elk range in northcentral Pennsylvania, wild turkey habitat, bear and deer management, and other exciting events during the weekend. This event plans to be a funfilled, educational weekend for all who participate.

**WITO Ticket Price:** As reported, every effort is being made to hold the price for attending a WITO event at \$60.00, depending upon what is made available at each individual event. According to Liz, the average WITO event/ticket price includes: an NWTF membership, WITO T-shirt, classes, meals, handout material/products, and a paid subscription for the WITO magazine. **Bottom Line:** It should be understood that the cost of attending an NWTF sponsored WITO event was established after some careful, and thoughtful thinking, so that the events could be self-sustaining at a break-even financial point. Our mission in conducting an NWTF WITO event is two fold: First, and foremost, we want to introduce more women to the great outdoors - to provide outdoor educational opportunities and hands-on outdoor activities, to open doors which otherwise might be closed so that more women can better understand, appreciate, and actively participate in outdoor activities. Secondly, we want these women to join our NWTF family - to become card-carrying members of the NWTF and, therefore, to share in the friendships, activities, programs, and events that the NWTF has to offer. **The Other Bottom Line:** An NWTF sponsored WITO event is not a one-day or weekend event. It's a lifelong opportunity to embrace the outdoors, and to enjoy the many benefits that go with it. How can you put a price tag on that?

**NWTF SENIOR REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR REPORT:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that 1999 was another excellent year for the NWTF. The banquet program raised over 15 million dollars in 1999. NWTF membership rose to over 220,000. We conducted 1200 membership banquets across the country. NWTF goals for 2000 are to conduct 1600 membership banquets, and to increase membership to 300,000. In 1999, Pennsylvania was #1 in raising money (\$921,729.00), #1 in net, net dollars raised (\$548,000.00). Pennsylvania was second behind Illinois with 15,338 members.

**Super Fund:** In 1999, 177 projects were funded with \$417,477.51 being spent. Current balance of the Super Fund is \$73,194.60. We are projected to generate approximately \$380,000.00 through the membership banquet program for the Super Fund in 2000.

**4H Shooting Program:** According to SRFS Jerry Zimmerman, the NWTF made a one million dollar commitment to support the national 4H Shooting Program over the next ten years. Our Pennsylvania Chapter made a \$50,000.00 commitment over the next ten years, through the Five Star Program, to the 4H Shooting Sports Program in Pennsylvania.

The 4H Shooting Program plans to use the Pennsylvania portion of the funding in support of their volunteer leadership workshop, where volunteers learn about the 4H Shooting Program and are certified as instructors. This year, the workshop will be held in Butler area on March 31 - April 2, 2000. State shooting competitions at Penn State and Williamsport will also receive some funding from this account. In addition, travel assistance will be provided through this funding for winning teams to go to Texas for the 4H National Competition. According to SRFS Jerry Zimmerman, the 4H state organization will determine how this funding filters down to the county 4H Shooting Programs. Those interested in obtaining funds for county 4H Shooting Programs should contact their county extension office.

**Local Chapter Presidents:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that a mailing was made from the Pocono Mountain Chapter to all local chapter presidents to purchase raffle tickets for a grand slam hunt. To date, only one local chapter took advantage of this opportunity.

**Habitat Working Group:** As reported, this group was formed to help the PGC make some decisions on where and how the earmarked \$3.00 license fees should be used for habitat improvement. Thus far, this group has been ineffective due to a misunderstanding of exactly how much of that money is available. **Bottom Line:** Nothing has happened, and nothing has been accomplished by this group worth reporting.

**"Turkey Talk" Assignments:** SRFS Jerry Zimmerman passed out assignment sheets to the Board. Board members are required to contact local chapter presidents about submitting articles to "Turkey Talk" about their local chapter activities. As mentioned, this assignment sheet needs to be updated and revised to reflect on current Board members and new local chapters. Eric Baker suggested that local chapters might want to post information on the Chapter's website bulletin board.

**Five Star Program:** As reported earlier, 11 chapters in Pennsylvania have made a commitment to the Five Star Program. Most of our local chapters fulfill all of the requirements for Five Star status, except for conducting a WITO event. For the record, local chapters can join forces to conduct a WITO event, and each chapter would fulfill the WITO event qualification for Five Star status. The same holds true for a Youth Field Day event in lieu of a JAKES event and/or joining forces to conduct a youth event. **Bottom Line:** We tip our camo hat to those local chapters who have committed to the Five Star program, and encourage all of our local chapters to climb on board.

**Scholarship Program:** As mentioned, the deadline for submitting scholarship entries to the Chapter is February 15, 2000. The Chapter must choose a state winner, and submit that entry to NWTF by March 15, 2000. The state winner will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship, and the national winner will receive \$5000.00.

**NWTF REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR REPORT:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that there are two times as many rooms sold for the NWTF convention then were sold at this time last year. Deadline for reservations at the Grand Ode Opry is January 15, 2000.

**Education Box:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that every local chapter will receive a JAKES education box, and will not be required to fill out a green Super Fund request form. Larry mentioned that the lesson plan has been upgraded for use in high schools.

**Project Apple Seed:** According to Larry, this program is funded through the National Projects Fund and not the Chapter Super Fund. The program is designed to provide 25 crabapple trees, tubex, fertilizer, etc., for northern tier states.

**Conservation Seed Program:** Seed available for this year's program are: wheat, sorgum, sunflower (limited), and we won't know about the availability of corn until the end of January. Local chapters are encouraged to charge \$3 - \$4.00 per bag of seed in an effort to recover some of the shipping costs to help prevent such a big hit on the Super Fund. As noted, this is not a requirement, just a suggestion.

**Third Conservation Print:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that the third conservation print by Wildlife Artist George LaVanish has been completed and sent to Chopp Express. According to Larry, the patches are also done and ready to be sold. Each of our local chapters will receive one print for their membership banquet.

**Sponsor Members:** RFS Larry Holjencin reported that Board member Dale Rohm had developed a box call with our 25th anniversary logo to be used for sponsor memberships at local chapter membership banquets. As mentioned, Dale has completed crafting 50 box calls for this program thus far.

**NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT:** PGC Assistant Director Bureau of Wildlife Management Bob Boyd reported that the preliminary spring harvest report card count was up four percent, and that the summer sighting survey was up to record harvest according to preliminary reports. As reported, the preliminary fall 1999 harvest report card counts were 24 percent higher than at this same time last year. With this increase, PGC Assistant Director Bob Boyd expected the fall 1999 turkey harvest to be around 38,000 - 42,000. Bob felt that this past fall season may become the second highest fall harvest on record. As mentioned, fall harvest have remained above 30,000 wild turkeys since 1993.

The fall 1999 turkey season was extended one week in TMA 1A & 1B from one week to two weeks. Opportunities in TMA 9B were expanded by including one Saturday to create a six-day season. All other fall seasons remained the same as 1998 in other TMAs.

**Recommendations for fall 2000 season:** The combination of high breeding populations and excellent recruitment due to a warm dry spring has resulted in numerous turkeys across most of the state. As a result, the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management has decided to make the following recommendations for the fall 2000 wild turkey hunting season:

In TMAs 1A, 1B, and 9B, no extensions are recommended until sufficient harvest and population data are available to evaluate harvest impacts of recent increases in fall season lengths.

No extensions are recommended in TMAs 3, 4, and 5, which already have three-week fall seasons. Although summer sightings are up in TMAs 2 and 7A, spring harvest trends have been flat for recent years; therefore, the PGC Wildlife Bureau believes that a season extension is premature at this time. As reported, fall hunting should not be extended in TMA 7B because harvests and summer sighting index values remain among the poorest in the state.

However, the Bureau does recommend increasing the fall season in TMAs 6 and 8 to three weeks. Spring harvests have been steadily increasing since 1990, and hunter success rates have also continued to increase.

In addition, the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management also plans to recommend a very limited, experimental, three-day fall season in TMA 9A from Monday - Wednesday. According to PGC Assistant Director Bob Boyd, turkey populations are thriving in many parts of TMA 9A, and the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management feels that the time has come for providing this recreational opportunity. As reported, the harvest and population trends will be closely monitored to determine if fall hunting impacts the turkey populations in these highly fragmented and populated habitats.

In concluding his report, Bob indicated that, at this time, no extension recommendations will be made for the 2001 spring wild turkey hunting season. As reported, even though retired Wildlife Biologist Bill Drake concluded in 1999 that increasing the spring bag limit to two bearded birds will not have a negative biological impact (especially if done so with a split season), the current political climate does not favor a bag limit increase.

**Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B:** PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena reported that turkey trapping and radio-tagging was conducted throughout the month of September. According to Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena, the research team captured 37 wild turkeys, and radio-tagged 28 adult and juvenile hens (males were leg-banded). All turkeys were released at the capture sites. Mary Jo reported that when the one-week fall turkey hunting season in TMA 7B began on 10-30-99, 22 radio-tagged hens were still alive. During the hunting season, five transmittered hens were legally harvested, and an additional transmittered hen was found dead as the result of being wounded by a .22 rifle shot. All marked birds that were legally harvested were reported. Additionally, a leg banded 'jake' was also harvested and reported. A strong effort was made prior to

and throughout the turkey season to inform the public of the turkey study and to report harvests of marked birds. News releases were sent to local newspapers and flyers were placed on windshields of hunters' vehicles throughout the Michaux State Forest. Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena reported that, while monitoring the birds during the season, interactions with hunters resulted in positive feedback. Upon learning about the current turkey project in TMA 7B, hunters were excited and very supportive.

As reported, the research team is currently monitoring 14 radio-tagged hens daily. Fourteen of 28 radio-tagged turkeys have died to date (12 of 19 juvenile hens, and only 2 of 9 adult hens). Causes of mortality are as follows: 3-unknown, 1-under investigation, 1-owl, 2-fox, 5-legally harvested, 1-hunting season crippling loss, and 1-illegally killed.

According to Mary Jo, winter trapping will begin in mid-January 2000, and will continue until spring nesting season. The research team welcomes volunteers. Please call or email Mary Jo Casalena at 814-624-0020, or [maryjoc@bedford.net](mailto:maryjoc@bedford.net) for information on volunteering. We are well underway with this important turkey research project, thanks to the financial support of the PA Chapter, NWTf, Mary Jo said.

**Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys:** The second year of summer sighting surveys on the Michaux State Forest were conducted in June, July, and August to provide one index to turkey population trends in TMA 7B. Surveyors recorded miles driven and number of turkeys seen during the 30 mile route. The PA Chapter (Spencer Miller and Alan Emler), the Michaux State Forest (2), and the Southcentral Region of the PGC (2) conducted routes.

Survey results showed that 1999 turkey productivity on TMA 7B was substantially higher than last year. Turkey sightings were up 93.5 percent from 1998. Sixty-two poults were seen during this year's survey, whereas only 22 poults were seen in 1998. The warm, dry spring weather allowed for an early hatch as indicated by the brood sightings in June. In 1998, no broods were seen until July. Sightings in July were down this year, but were probably impacted by the record high air temperatures. Sightings for this past August, however, were double those of 1998. However, during these past several weeks, while the research team has been searching for flocks to rocket net, they have not seen one turkey flock other than the radio-tagged birds. Perhaps the tremendous amount of hunting within the State Forest has sent turkeys into the more remote areas, Mary Jo said.

**Wild Turkey Management Plan:** As reported at the October Board meeting, a cooperative meeting between the PA Chapter and PGC was held on August 4, 1999 to begin discussions regarding implementation of the wild turkey management plan. The minutes of the meeting and a draft budget plan were distributed last week for all attendees to review. Future discussions between the PA Chapter and the PGC regarding implementation of the plan will be beneficial, Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena reported.

**NRA:** NRA Field Representative and past Chapter President Tom Baldrige spoke to the Board about the NRA's Foundation Endowment program. NRA Field Representative Tom Baldrige also explained the NRA's grant application process. In addition, Tom asked for an updated list of Board members who would want to receive a copy of the NRA "Tradition."

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Convention 2000** - Convention Chairperson Mary DeArmitt reported on the progress being made for our 25th anniversary and convention to be celebrated at the Penn State in State College on March 10-12, 2000. During Mary's report, there was much discussion and an exchange of questions and answers in preparation of the 2000 convention. Committee member Eric Baker also gave a brief report on where we stood with seminar speakers.

**Promo Committee:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that he had submitted an article to "Turkey Talk" about 25th anniversary promo items. According to Skip, a limited edition of items will include Sterling silver belt buckles, laser engraved Rohm Brothers box calls, double glass and glass on slate Sanderson Calls, and mugs all featuring the artwork and images of the 25th Anniversary Print by Dan Christ. Other items include T-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, and hats. Anyone interested in reserving limited edition promo items should contact at: 717-428-3624, Email - [A4283624@aol.com](mailto:A4283624@aol.com), or mail to Skip Sanderson, RD 1 Box 192, Seven Valleys, PA 17360.

**Make A Wish:** Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that an article was submitted to "Turkey Talk," and a letter was sent to local chapter presidents, explaining the program. Our Chapter is trying to raise \$3400.00 for the Make A Wish Foundation and to make a sizable donation to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. We appreciate any help and support that can be given. Please, make checks payable to PA Chapter Make A Wish, and mail to Skip Sanderson, RD 1 Box 192, Seven Valleys, PA 17360. Thank you.

**Art Committee:** Chairman Reed Johnson reported that sales of the print were pretty good prior to the Christmas holidays, and are beginning to pick up again. A list of art inventory was distributed. Reed mentioned that his committee was still looking for prints for our 2000 convention. We currently have 15 prints, and would like to have approximately 30 prints.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Under the first item of communications the Chapter received a thank you letter from PGC Acting Director Carl Graybill for our donation of box calls to the PGC Becoming an Outdoors Woman program.

Received a thank you letter from PGC Land Management Group Supervisor Stephen A. Kleiner for our Super Fund support of herbaceous opening maintenance on SGL 118 and SGL 198 in Blair County.

Received a letter from Michael R. Stimpson congratulating our Chapter and the NWTf on the work that is being done in Pennsylvania for the wild turkey and habitat improvement.

Received a letter from the friends of the late D. Rex Wright, making a memorial contribution in his name for \$225.00 to the Chapter. (This memorial contribution will be used with Super Fund monies on a habitat project this spring in the Michaux State Forest).

**OLD BUSINESS:** Under the first item of Old Business, Nominating Committee Chairman Gary Beatty reported that only three Board nominations had been received. These nominations were received from Ray Smith, Dwight Kunz, and Don Shawkey. Since there were three open seats available on the Board, and the number of nominations did not exceed the number of available Board seats, a membership election of the Board was not necessary. Therefore, in accordance with Chapter Bylaws, under Article VII - Chapter Board, Section 4 - Election of the Board, the following members will serve a three year term on the Chapter Board, beginning at the close of our convention on March 12, 2000: Gary Beatty, Greg Dreibelbis, Rudy Kovacina, Bill MacKereth, Don Shawkey, Dwight Kunz, and Ray Smith.

Nominating Committee Chairman Gary Beatty informed the Board that the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for 2000:

President.....	Don O'Brien
Vice President.....	Carl Mowry
Secretary.....	Rick Moroney
Treasurer.....	Open
Chairman of the Board.....	Gary Beatty

It was noted that Don Heckman no longer desired to serve as Chapter Treasurer, but would serve as an Assistant Treasurer to help the newly elected Treasurer. It was further noted that Boyd Enos and Ron Perry had tendered their resignations to be effective immediately. That being understood, a motion to appoint Howard Meyers to the Board to serve the remainder of Ron Perry's unexpired term was made by Reed Johnson, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried. Howard Meyers began serving a two year term, effective immediately.

A motion to appoint Tammy Mowry to the Board to serve the remainder of Boyd Enos's unexpired term was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Eric Baker. Motion carried. Tammy Mowry began serving a one year term, effective immediately.

At that time, Nominating Chairman Gary Beatty opened the floor for officer nominations. A motion to nominate Howard Meyers to serve as Chapter Treasurer was made by Don Heckman.

A motion to nominate Don Heckman to serve as Assistant Treasurer was made by Skip Sanderson. There were no other nominations for officers from the floor. Nominations for officers will remain open until the election of officers at the March 2000 convention.

**June Meeting:** Since the Frost Camp is no longer available for our Board meetings, Reed Johnson volunteered to line up a meeting site in the Clearfield County area. It was also mentioned that Lyle Gillespie had offered the use of his camp for meetings. Chapter President Don O'Brien said he would work with Reed Johnson, Jerry Zimmerman, and Lyle Gillespie to finalize a meeting site for June 2000.

**Turkey Posters:** As reported, Mark Davis has approximately 1000 turkey posters at his home. Chapter President Don O'Brien said that he would ask Mark to bring those posters to our March convention.

### **IMPORTANT...No, VERY IMPORTANT!**

**CARA:** Jerry Zimmerman reported on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) bill which is now in Congress. As reported, **this is the biggest opportunity to help fund wildlife management programs since the passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937.** CARA funds will be administered by the State Wildlife Agencies as the Pittman-Robertson funds are currently done. The bill is House of Representatives Bill 701 (H.R. 701) (Young/Miller) and Senate Bill 25 (S.25). The bill will earmark about \$1.8 billion each year from the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil revenues to help state agencies manage wildlife.

**We need letters and phone calls of support from our membership as soon as possible.** Presently, the NWTF and PA Chapter are on a list of over 800 conservation groups in support of this bill.

A brief summary of the three sections or titles of the bill are as follows: Title I of the Bill will primarily earmark money mainly to coastal states for impact assistance associated with OCS activities.

Title II of the Bill will earmark about \$900 million for land acquisition split equally for state and federal purchases. This is the most controversial part of the Bill. Many of the western delegates are being lobbied by their constituents that this is a land grab by the Federal government. This is absolutely not true, as the Bill's intent is to buy only from willing sellers. While we have not seen the current bill, which is still in committee, there should be language to use conservation easements where possible to keep families on their farms. Also included is funding for urban parks and recreational opportunities.

Title III of the Bill has essentially the same goal as the Teaming With Wildlife (TWW) initiative, which includes funds for recreation, education, and funding for non-game species which has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate of the U.S. Congress. These funds are critical to state agencies because Pittman-Robertson Funds provided by the sportsman in this country are not enough to fund all of the programs for both game and non-game. As far as we know, no one is opposed to Title III.

Opponents of the CARA legislation are actively calling and writing their elected officials in Washington to oppose the Bill. We need our volunteers to voice their support so we can get the bill passed, hopefully, early next year. A phone call and/or letter can make a big difference!

NWTF CEO Rob Keck has stated that he wants the Senators and Representatives phones and fax machines to hum. This bill will not only help non-game, but game species as well. The future of our wildlife depends on us standing up and being counted.

Please call NWTF Vice President for Conservation Programs James Earl Kennamer, Ph.D., if you have any questions, and to provide him with a copy of all letters that are sent out. James Earl will organize the letters by state, and pass them on to Rob.

**JAKES Raffle:** Larry Holjencin reported that he and Jerry Zimmerman had worked together to develop a JAKES raffle ticket. Purpose of this ticket is to help raise funds for the PA Chapter and to sign up JAKES members outside the realm of our NWTF family. Tickets will be based on the Pennsylvania Lottery Daily Big 4#. Each ticket will have three numbers (3333 tickets) at \$20.00 each. Tickets will be sold from late April to June 30. Drawing will begin on July 1 and run for 40 consecutive days. It was a general consensus of the Board to support this fund raising proposal.

**"Turkey Talk:"** Don Heckman reported that the winter issue of "Turkey Talk" would contain 14 pages. Delivery date will be around January 25-27, 2000. Deadline for the spring issue will be March 15, 2000.

**Safety and Education:** Don Heckman met with PGC Director of Safety and Education Keith Synder to discuss turkey hunting shooting incidents in Pennsylvania. A five page document on shooting incidents was distributed to the Board. In summary, there were 14 turkey hunting related shooting incidents reported during the 1999 spring season, and 13 incidents reported during the 1999 fall season.

In regards to the orange regulations, it was reported that the Pennsylvania Sportsman's Coalition has recommended that the PGC maintain the orange regulations as they are, with the exception that 250 square inches of orange should be worn for groundhog hunting. Some discussion took place relative to non-compliance of the orange regulations during turkey hunting seasons. Don Heckman suggested that the PA Chapter should become more actively involved in orange regulation decisions, especially as they relate to turkey hunting.

**Chapter Website:** Don Heckman reported on recent changes to our website. Handout information was provided to the Board. Eric Baker has volunteered to develop a calendar of events with an emphasis on local chapter activities. Eric expressed some concern in getting this information from our local chapters, and letting the local chapters know about this opportunity to publicize their activities. Along those lines, it was decided that "Turkey Talk" would be used to get the word to local chapters.

**Hunting PA:** Eric Baker volunteered to represent the PA Chapter, and to provide a monthly article for the Hunting in PA website. In addition, Eric will answer questions which are received through email in reference to this website.

**JAKES and WITO Website Page:** Tammy Mowry volunteered to develop a Woman in the Outdoors page for our website. Don Heckman stated that he would also like to have a page for JAKES.

**News Releases:** Our website has also been publishing Chapter related newsreleases. Let the record show that Don Heckman has developed about 95 percent of the releases. According to Don, that's going to stop. Don fully expects to receive more help in developing news releases from committee chairmen and other Board members. Information for news releases should be sent to: Marcus Schneck, 310 Independence Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526. Phone - (610) 562-1884. Fax - 610-562-1885. Email - marcuschn@aol.com.

Along those same lines, Public Relations Chairman Skip Sanderson was asked to develop a list of press releases that need to be done, a deadline date for getting those releases submitted, and assigning Board members and/or committee chairmen with the responsibility of organizing the necessary information for those press releases. This list is to be completed before our March convention, so that the assignments can be made at the convention Board meeting.

**Turkey Blinds:** As reported, H.B. 1393 has passed in the House of Representatives, and is now in the Senate Fish and Game Committee. For the record, our PA Chapter has publicly supported the concept of using a blind for turkey hunting. Along those lines, we have responded to H.B. 1393, and made suggestions for word changes within this legislation to better define a blind and it's use for turkey hunting. Our recommendations and suggestions have been ignored. Currently, H.B. 1393 contains the original language. Language contained in H.B. 1393 does not meet our criteria for what constitutes a blind and, therefore, we do not support H.B. 1393 as written.

**DART System:** Much concern was expressed over the fact that our DART system has been stored outside, and could possibly be affected by the weather (changing temperatures). After much discussion, it was determined that the Chapter would actively seek other means for storing the DART system.

**NRA:** Don Heckman reported that the Chapter has received it's affiliation certificate from the NRA and a thank you letter for our support.

In other business, a motion to name Rob Keck, Carl Brown, and Ron Fretts to the position of Honorary Board Members of the Pennsylvania Chapter was made by Rick Moroney, seconded by Howard Meyers. Motion carried. A special presentation to announce the induction of Rob Keck, Carl Brown, and Ron Fretts as Honorary Board Members will be made during our awards banquet at the March 2000 convention and 25th anniversary celebration at the Penn Stater in State College.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Under the first item of New Business, Board Chairman Gary Beatty informed the Board about the Heritage 2000 event to be held at the Huntingdon County fairgrounds on May 5-6, 2000. After some discussion relative to our level of support for this event, a motion to have the Chapter become a Gold Level Sponsor of the Heritage 2000 event for \$5000.00 was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried. The Chapter will man a booth, and operate the DART system at this event.

**Super Fund:** In recognizing the need to adjust percentage allotments within the Super Fund committees, based on past, present, and expected future expenditures, the Executive Committee adjusted percentage allotments as follows: Habitat from 50 percent to 60 percent, Land from 25 percent to 30 percent, and Safety and Education from 25 percent to 10 percent.

**Governor's Youth Council:** Following some discussion, a motion to provide \$1000.00 for start up funds in support of the Governor's Youth Council was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

**NRA:** In other business, a motion to donate \$1000.00 to the NRA endowment fund was made by Howard Meyers, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried. Along those lines, our Chapter requested that these funds should be earmarked for NRA youth programs which are outlined within the NRA endowment fund program.

**NWTF Legacy Sculpture:** Jerry Zimmerman informed the Board about the NWTF's effort to raise funds to pay for a hero-sized Legacy sculpture which accurately depicts what the NWTF stands for and what we are all about. This sculpture will be erected in a prominent spot in front of NWTF headquarters. Following some discussion, a motion to donate \$5000.00 towards this effort and, if the NWTF agrees to credit our Chapter with \$4000.00 which was used to purchase a 1/4 sized version of the sculpture, we will add another \$1000.00 to the \$5000.00 for a total donation/credit of \$10,000.00 was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

**PGC Conservation Stamp Program:** Don Heckman informed the Board that our Chapter could sell PGC conservation stamps for \$5.00 each, and receive \$1.50 for our Chapter from the sell of each stamp. Don suggested that this might be a better program for our local chapters, and that the Chapter could administrate the program for accountability. Local chapters who elect to participate would retain the profits for their own use, and the Chapter would maintain the records. Some discussion took place, but it was a consensus of the Board that our Chapter should not participate in this program.

**DCNR:** Don Heckman asked about our Chapter's upcoming meeting with DCNR Bureau of Forestry personnel. It was mentioned that the purpose of this meeting would be to provide DCNR with information about our Super Fund process, and to explain our involvement with DCNR on the local chapter level. In noting our increased involvement with DCNR, and the tremendous amount of habitat work which is being funded through the Super Fund on state forest lands, it was suggested that we should approach NWTF about considering the possibility of putting DCNR Bureau of Forestry Biologist Merlin Benner on the NWTF Technical Committee. Along those lines, it was decided to invite Merlin Benner to the NWTF convention (previously approved by the Board at the October 1999 meeting), and to go from there with efforts to have Merlin appointed to the NWTF Technical Committee. Jerry Zimmerman said that he would talk with Merlin about our proposal.

**Morning Glory Print:** It was mentioned that Wildlife Artist Dan Christ had agreed to remarque a "Morning Glory" print, and to donate the print to NWTF for use at their national convention. It was noted that Larry Holjencin was working with Dan Christ to have that done.

**Conservation Organizations:** Don Heckman suggested that our Board members should be attending functions of other conservation organizations. It appeared to be a consensus of the Board that, unless someone was willing to represent our Chapter at these events, it would be difficult to commit to doing that. **Bottom Line:** Although it may be beneficial for our Chapter to be represented at other conservation organizational functions, one needs to ask where our valuable free time/volunteer time can be better spent - working for our Chapter/NWTF or attending other functions?

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Don Heckman informed the Board that the Pennsylvania Chapter was awarded the front cover of the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show program. It was mentioned that we would publish our 25th anniversary print "Morning Glory" by Dan Christ on the front cover of the program. As noted, approximately 500,000 to 600,000 programs are printed and distributed for the Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show.

**Game Commission Meeting:** It was reported that the Chapter would be represented by Don Heckman and Don O'Brien during a check presentation on Tuesday, during the January 2000 Game Commission's seasons and bag limits meeting. Don Heckman mentioned that the Chapter would present two checks to the PGC. One check would represent Super Fund expenditures over the past 15 years (\$1.6 million). The other check would represent Super Fund expenditures for 1999 (\$596,000.00).

**Legacy Sculpture:** Jerry Zimmerman reported that the Legacy Sculpture, complete with pedestal, was being prominently displayed in the lobby of PGC headquarters in Harrisburg. Randy, a member of the Stony Valley Chapter, built the pedestal out of oak and donated it to the PGC for the statue. According to Jerry, the pedestal is real nice and fits in perfectly with the decor of PGC headquarters. (My apologies, I wasn't able to pick up Randy's last name on the tape recorder. A correction will be made to the January 2000 Minutes).

**NRA Membership:** Past Chapter President Howard Meyers mentioned that he signed up two new members at the meeting, and that membership applications were available.

**Chapter Booth:** Eric Baker said he would be assigning Board members to time slots for working at the Chapter booth during our state convention. Every Board member is expected to spend some time helping out at the Chapter booth.

**Meeting Notice:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Chapter will be held during our state convention at the Penn Stater in State College, PA on March 10-12, 2000.

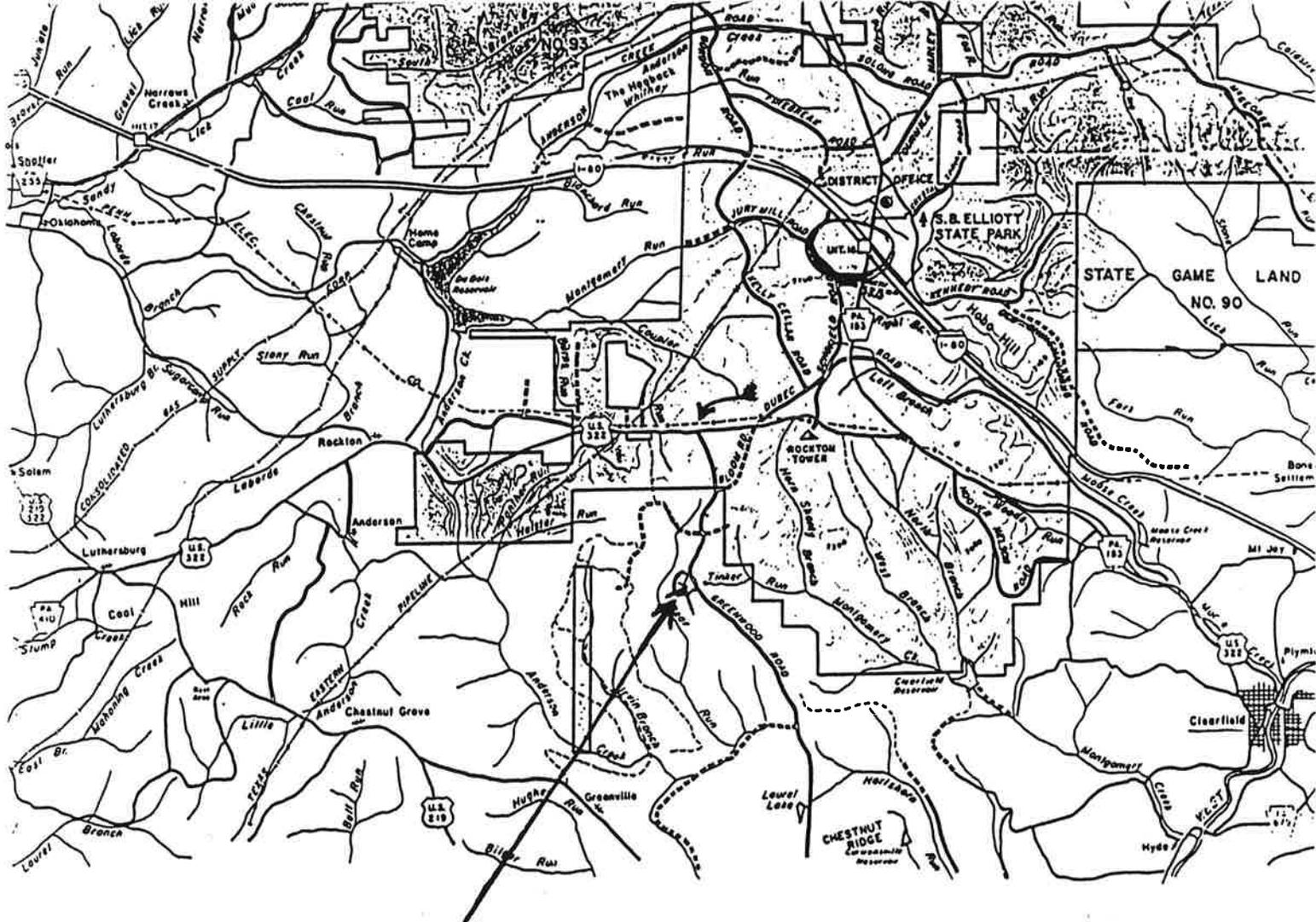
**Board Attendance:** The following Board members did not attend the January 2000 meeting: Mark Davis, Ed Kemp, Rudy Kovacena, Bill Laird, Lyle Gillespie, Dale Rohm, and Dan Roesnner.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.** The Pennsylvania Chapter's January 2000 Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m., on Saturday, January 8, 2000.

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.

\* Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2000 at 9:00 AM. Executive Committee will meet Friday, January 7, 2000 at 8:00 P.M.