

Ray Smith-
NWTF Regional Field Supervisor
Board Report
10-4-08

Cost of membership change- See attached memo from George Thorton

Trip of a Lifetime Raffle- An Estimated 191 Tickets for the Trip of a lifetime Raffle have been sold. Several more are expected to come in at the board meeting. The Drawing will be held in front of the board lunchtime Saturday. Winners will be contacted that day. Names will be turned into NWTF Headquarters. I will oversee communications with the hunt broker and winners. Thanks to those that participated.

RD Assignments and duties- As most know WRC's have been reassigned to RD's. All RD's will now be overseeing all aspects of fundraising and outreach events. This does not mean we will be attending all events. I had thought that our areas of responsibilities would be ironed out by today. However in light of some most recent changes I am unable to give a complete outline of Chapters and the RD that will be handling that event. We will have it hammered out in the next few weeks. When we are complete with the realignment we will e-mail the board. I would like to report that Pennsylvania has reached 85% of repeat banquets ticketed as well as several WITO Events and Wheelin Benefits for 2009.

George Thorton's letter:

All,

I want to update you on our progress over the last 90 days in improving NWTF operations and outline several organization and operational changes. These changes are driven by three key elements: a significant decline in our adult membership beginning in 2005, the current U.S. economic situation and a need for reinvigorating the tools we use to further our mission.

We have reviewed and evaluated the equitability of our membership dues and benefits across the membership spectrum. It is clear that membership fees are not in line with the gender of the recipients nor the ages of JAKES members. It is also apparent that we need to consider the demographics of our membership and the benefits associated with each membership category. In addition, it was determined that we have not had a dues increase in more than four years, while the cost of providing membership services has increased. Therefore, it is necessary to increase dues in several areas and adjust some member benefits, specifically JAKES.

Effective September 1, 2008, dues will be increased as outlined below. Banquets ticketed for fall 2008 will be grandfathered under the current membership dues structure. All other memberships recruited will be at the new dues rate.

- * JAKES (ages 0-12) will increase to \$7
- * Xtreme JAKES (ages 13-17) will increase to \$10. As an added benefit, they will receive their own password protected online magazine plus two issues of Get in the Game magazine OR two issues of Women In The Outdoors OR two issues of Wheelin? Sportsmen.
- * Wheelin? Sportsmen and Women in the Outdoors will increase to \$30
- * Sponsors (all categories) will increase \$10 to \$235

* Hunting Heritage Club will increase to \$10

Women in the Outdoors: This program will be redefined by integrating Women in the Outdoors coordinators into the regional director structure. Going forward, job duties for all regional directors will expand to include conducting Hunting Heritage Banquets, as well as Women in the Outdoors, JAKES and Wheelin? Sportsmen events and benefits. All field staff will transition into this dual role as regional directors and outreach event coordinators while still taking into account the needs of our volunteers and outreach programs. The Women in the Outdoors program is extremely important to the NWTF, therefore our efforts to sustain and grow the program will continue.

Donated memberships: We recognize that many of the chapters have conducted separate fund raising activities and solicited donations to support their desires to donate memberships for Wheelin, Women and JAKES. In many cases, these memberships were done in an effort to bank donated memberships for future use and to increase incentive guns for their banquets or outreach events. Effective November 1, 2008, the only donated membership type that will be accepted/allowed will be JAKES and Xtreme JAKES. All other donated membership types will be counted for incentives but not be tracked in the membership numbers.

Funds from donated memberships will be handled by one of the two methods outlined below. We will create two separate ?Outreach Funds.? ?National Outreach Funds? will be used to support our national outreach efforts, and the ?State Outreach Fund? will be managed the same as the current State Super Fund.

1. All funds from donated JAKES and Xtreme JAKES will be split on a 50/50 ratio and deposited into the two outreach funds. Names sent in at a later date will be accompanied by a state outreach fund form. In addition, the state outreach fund only will be charged 50 percent of the new JAKES and/or Xtreme JAKES membership fees for each name provided.
2. Funds for adult donated memberships intentionally recorded on the banquet financial reports or reported in error will be used to support the organization?s mission. Adult donated funds will, however, be included in the calculations for incentive guns.

Wheelin? Sportsmen Benefits: The requirement for each regional director to raise \$15,000 through Wheelin? Sportsmen benefits will remain in effect. The funds will continue to be split as established in the 2003 board memo. The amount currently being deposited into the Wheelin? Sportsmen Fund will be split on a 50/50 ratio with 50 percent going into the State Outreach Fund to support state outreach efforts. The other 50 percent will go into the National Outreach Fund for national outreach activities.

Lastly, I can report that our national Board of Directors has approved our financial plan for fiscal 2009. I believe that the ?09 revenue plan is aggressive but achievable based on the plans and changes we have made, and more importantly because of the dedication and commitment I feel from our membership every day.

Management has put forth an expense plan that is responsible and

conservative but recognizes rising energy and health care costs and the need to increase salaries commensurate with merit and inflation. We also have planned for a significant investment in employee training and development to ensure a strong future for the NWTF.

The benefits of the approved plan are anticipated to be:

- * A return to 2006 levels of conservation and mission development spending and a positive contribution to our end year fund balance, which will allow us to recover from fund balance erosion in 2007 and 2008.

This is an exciting time for the NWTF as we develop new ways to achieve our mission while providing more service and better experiences for the conservation world's greatest volunteers. Please know how much we appreciate everything you're doing on behalf of the NWTF, the wild turkey and our hunting heritage.

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