



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 E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

An important reminder to all interested persons:

The Executive Meeting will be held Saturday, January 5, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn in Altoona.

The Board Meeting will be held Sunday, January 6, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn in Altoona.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTf
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
S.B. ELLIOTT PARK, DISTRICT,
DISTRICT 9 OFFICE OF MOSHANNON STATE FOREST
OCTOBER 6, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Don O'Brien at 9:35 a.m. There was a moment of silent prayer to remember those of the disaster of 9/11/01.

Officer reports: President Carl Mowry presented a written report of his activities.

Secretary's Report by Bill Mackereth. **A motion to accept the secretary's report as corrected was made by Don Shawkey and seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion passed.**

Treasurer Jim Panaro presented a written summary for the period of July 1 through September 30, 2001. Reporting a starting balance of \$1,213.62, income of \$39,959.96, expenses of \$29,385.79, leaving an ending balance of \$11,787.79 showing a net gain of \$10,574.17. Howard Myers previous checking account is now closed and the accountant prepared a fiscal year closing report. Jim is changing to a CPA firm that is closer to him for the next quarter. The new operating budget for 2001-2002 is \$82,000. **A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Gary Beatty and motion carried.**

Vice President Don Shawkey had a written report of his activities.

Chairman Don O'Brien had a written report of his activities. Ron Sandrus has given Don his verbal resignation. The Nominating Committee has a nominee and we have a complete slate of officers without needing to publish a ballot in Turkey Talk. The secretary will cast a unanimous vote.

SENIOR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR Jerry Zimmerman reported membership as of July - August issue of Turkey Talk (or Call) stands at 20,580 and we are 200 members behind Wisconsin and in third place. There are 7,885 Jakes and 1,431 in the Women in The Outdoors and the balance of the membership is adult members. Right now we have 71 chapters in Pennsylvania. We are hoping between Larry and I to have 3 or 4 new chapters this year. It is getting harder and harder to find areas to put new chapters. We are looking wherever is feasible to do without affecting existing chapters. We are still deficit spending in Super Fund. When we set the budget for this year, I was told that we had about a \$75,000 cushion in 2000 - 2001 when in reality that didn't exist, so that is the reason we are in the red right now. We have 8 banquets left to go and we will probably go into 2002 in the red. We just have to be very mindful of the budget for all the categories for next year. When we do the habitat meeting in February we can't go over the amount we allotted, and we need to decide how much we are going to spend for spring and how much to save for fall. We have a Ned Smith print for all the banquets next year. Once again we will have the print called Spur Mountain print and we also have the print from Dwayne Blakesley. We will have 2 prints for each banquet next year. We need \$60 frame, mount and ship each print. We have the new CORE booklets and I have one with me. Back in June, I mentioned the Ned Smith Center for Nature in Arts having a raffle on a flintlock and we agreed to do 100 tickets which are available today from Jerry. Tickets are \$10.00 each and whoever can take tickets and brochures may do so. Wheelin' Sportsmen made the commitment to do the \$5,000 which will come out sometime next year, most likely in June. We are going to help this thing get a jump start. We are going to try to infuse some of the memberships into the banquet program. We are going to try to do 10 members per chapter. I am talking about a big event held somewhere in the state.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR Larry Holjencin gave a national convention update and the Hilton is sold out, the Adams Mark still has 100 rooms left and they have shuttle service. We still have some hotels left so we are in good shape if you haven't made your reservation. We have 20 booths left so if you know any vendor, we still have opportunity there. A letter went out on September 1 to all chapter presidents and previous attendees for the convention announcing it with a registration form and there will be reserved seating all three nights this year. If you want to sit as a group, all those reservations have to go into one envelope. Thursday Leadership Workshop will be from noon to 4:00 p.m. and that is for chapter presidents, district directors, banquet chairmen, women in the outdoor coordinators. There will be an educator workshop on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Jake Spucks will be there and that would be an opportunity for teachers or scout leaders for the conservation message and how they could share that with the youth. This year the welcome party will have Lee Greenwood. The Award Banquet entertainment will be T Bubba Bechtol and he is really good. We had our annual D C N R meeting this year on 9/24 and Jerry and I were there. We met with the top staff at D C N R. We discussed closing of gates during spring gobbler season in D C N R lands and recommend that we send a letter to them annually and in that letter we should state how many members we have.

Their wildlife biologist, Merlin Benner, recommended that an article be put in Turkey Talk explaining the closing of the gates and he said he could talk to Bob Eriksen and they could figure out how to handle that. They also express an interest in our reward posters, so we need to get some of those to them. Merlin is going to check with the district office to see how many posters they would like. We want the D C N R foresters to run their habitat projects through our local chapters. They said they would do that and a majority are doing it already. Merlin suggested an article in the winter issue of Turkey Talk explaining the reason behind replacing autumn olive and barberry with alternate species. Another suggestion was actually developing a showcase habitat project that would be easily accessible, centrally located where you do a good turkey habitat project on D C N R land that they could use that as a showcase kind of deal when they bring people out to show what they and the NWTf are doing for wild turkeys. We also talked about the American chestnut and they informed us that we are two years away from a blight resistant seed and also John Oliver agreed to allow a memorial to be placed on Armenian Mountain for Arnie Hayden. I guess Arnie did quite a bit of research up there and they are going to allow a monument to be placed there in his name. Their press secretary, Terry Brady, is very interested in writing about our partnership with D C N R and he asked that we keep him in the loop whenever we do state projects. Larry thanked Gary Beauty, Don Shawkey, Jim Panaro, Greg Caldwell, Bill Mackereth, Carl Mowry and Fuzzy Shields for their work during the Elk Expo. There were 20,000 to 25,000 people there and we shook a lot of hands, talked with a lot of people. We handed out a lot of literature, sold gun tickets and it was important that we were there and the highlight was the elk permit drawing.

Don Heckman asked whether the habitat demonstration area was one per state or one per state forest? Larry understood it to be one per state, preferably out in the woods. The land owners workshop on habitat is to have demonstrations and show and tell instead of sitting in a classroom situation. Don H. said we have the nursery, and the food plot beside the nursery and there are seven openings that are planted with turkey federation donated species.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR Tammy Mowry had a written report. She reported Pennsylvania will hold 19 events this year and will have one left to do which is Willow Creek. She reported on the State Event that happened in April. We ended up with 31 participants. A sponsor member and a Jakes member and the State Chapter received a check for over \$600. We will be doing another event in April and she would like to get women from all areas of Pennsylvania to attend. We will be doing a raffle for the event. Greg Caldwell has donated a two-day turkey hunt for 1 woman and it includes everything and tickets are \$10 each. We held some really good events this year and one event has succeeded in attaining gold event. We had several events reach the money aspect of the event and requirements but they didn't have memberships and maybe we can get those memberships for next year. National goals for the events for next year are 51 women at each event, a sponsor member and \$1,000 net. James Wilhelm was the first chapter in the state to attain goal and they did the event this summer and had 90 women. The coordinator of it was new to the federation and had e-mailed me about wanting to work with that area and they went like gangbusters. They had a committee of 10 - 12 women and they got the word out, had a ton of publicity and did an awesome job.

REGIONAL BIOLOGIST Bob Eriksen thanked everybody for the cards and the e-mails and the state chapter for the flowers went about his dad's death. It was really gratifying to receive all the mail that we did and the support was really important. He has looked at two land purchase projects-one in New York and one in New Jersey. The parcel in NJ (305 acres) fell through because coalition would not guarantee hunting would be allowed. New York property adjacent to Carrolton Hill WMA, is 100 acres in size. It is a very nice piece of ground and this would be a very nice addition. Bob completed an article for Turkey Talk on proposed turkey hunting license with Don Heckman. He also completed the Survey for Turkey Talk with Jerry Zimmerman. In New Jersey Bob toured 3 wildlife management areas and provided habitat recommendations. Spent two days working on PA Farm Bill Coalition The group comprised of conservation organizations hoping to increase wildlife benefits in 2001 Farm Bill, and sent recommendations to PA congressmen. Because of September 11 happenings the bill was delayed and a version of the Farm Bill passed that was not what we would have like to see. What we were proposing would have brought a lot more money into PA. Wildlife issues are going to be a back burner for the next couple of years. Bob is writing management plan for special turkey management area (6000 acres) for Mead Corporation in southeast Ohio. Met with American Electric Power (AEP) partners to discuss habitat management in southern Ohio. Attended Wild Turkey Woodlands workshop for landowners ins southwestern Ohio. Bob provided 2 days of training on wild turkey management for Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources biologists and technicians. They are making a transition in Ontario from the restoration phase of wild turkey management to actually managing habitat and turkey populations. He spent two days looking at potential wild turkey release sites in Quebec where the Quebec Wildlife Federation and Ministry of Natural Resources are looking to introduce turkeys. Quebec needs to make a change in their turkey hunting regulations where currently the northern 2/3rds of the province are open to turkey hunting from September 1 to December 31. We don't want to put forth an effort when they have that extensive of a season. The effort is to close the season for next fall. If that happens, then they get turkeys as early as this winter. They hired a biologist to work on this problem and he is doing a good job. Bob provided a Power Point presentation for a legislative press conference on spring turkey hunting license proposal, and gave reasons that license might help wild turkey management in Pennsylvania.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE In the absence of Mary Jo Casalena and Bob Boyd, don Heckman has copies of Mary Jo's report and are going to go over it. Final results of the year 2000 turkey harvest shows a new state record with a total harvest of 88,680 (+/-5,591). The previous record of 83,474 was set in 1995. Spring 2000 turkey harvest was 43,815 (+/-3,601) gobblers, a new record. Fall 2000 harvest was 44,865 (+/-3,688) birds, the second highest fall harvest. For the second consecutive year, spring 2000 harvest surpassed our old record of 36,400 gobblers from spring 1995, and the first time it exceeded 40,000 gobblers. Spring harvest in 1999 was 37,800. Our fall 2000 harvest was the second highest fall harvest, and only the third time we have harvested over 40,000 fall turkeys. The record was set in 1995 with over 49,700 turkeys. Since 1995 our statewide turkey harvests have been very substantial and summer turkey sightings have been increasing, indicating a continuing increase in the statewide turkey population. However, Turkey Management Area (TMA) 7B in south central Pennsylvania and TMA 9A in southeast Pennsylvania, continue to show low harvest densities and low summer turkey sightings. (We will be transferring turkeys into TMA 9A again this winter to complete

our turkey restoration efforts in southeastern PA). Year 2000 turkey hunter participation was 231,860 (Spring) and 230,448 (Fall). The estimated number of individual turkey hunters (those that hunted spring only, fall only, and both spring and fall) was 298,103. This is a 5.5% decline from 1999, and may be a result of the 1999 increase in cost of hunting licenses (from \$15 to \$20 for Resident Adult Hunting).

Turkey trapping, to increase the number of radio-tagged female turkeys on the research study are, concluded at the end of September. During our last season of trapping we radio-tagged 45 female turkeys, bringing the total number we are monitoring to 78. We will continue to monitor survival, causes of mortality, home range and habitat use through the end of December. We thank the PA Chapter NWTF for the continued support of this important research project. On September 17, 2001 the PGC, BOF, and PA Chapter NWTF hosted the Governor's Sportsmen Advisory Council at the Michaux State Forest. Council members were given a tour of the TMV 7B turkey research area with demonstrations and discussions of the research study, turkey habitat management, and turkey harvest management. This was a great representation of our successful cooperative work toward improving Pennsylvania's wild turkey resource. Gary Beatty stated the need of one of the NWTF Technical Committee be present at meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS Dwight Kuntz is doing things to the Dart trailer that need to be done. The entire system is now turned over to Dwight. All arrangements for the Dart system go through Dwight. Mark Davis is out. It is up in the air what Dart is going to do with the system.

Jakes Gun Raffle - Bill Mackereth reported that he has about 1000 tickets left from the 3,333. He brought some along to give to whoever wants them. There are some Jake memberships left over from last year that were donated back to the chapter. Of the 135 we have used 99 of them. Bill has about another \$2,000 to put into the account. Also the Jake treasurer reported a balance of \$6,036.09. Since then I have deposited \$4,660.00 which includes the \$100 from National. The total expenses were \$1,782.16 which means that the checkbook balance as of October 5 was \$8,913.93.

State Jakes Event (see the display of pictures that Carl Mowry took). We had 75 Jakes which is the largest we ever had. We fed 173 people. Bill thanked Carl for his continued support of our Jakes Event and about 6 members of our local chapter. This year we had a lot of grandparents who came and brought their lawn chairs, and carried lawn chairs to each event to sit and watch their grandchildren. Very good support from our Waterways Patrolman in this area. Vance Dunbar who does a great job with boat and water safety. Rewley Cogan did an outstanding job. Denny Gulvas presented his skit with his boy and another helper. We gave a package to each Jake containing a mouth call among other items, and Denny taught the kids how to use a mouth call. When we gave out the door prizes every youth was able to get a hat, another type of turkey call, plus mugs, drinking cups, which were donated. The BB guns were used; we used 6 of them. Carl has 5 of them at his home and I have the other 5 at my home. They are available to you. We have shooting glasses, glasses for the shooter and also for the adults as well as pellets and targets. The shooting was run by members of the Susquehanna chapter. He is disappointed in our Game Commission; no one showed up except Rawley Cogan who was the presenter on elk. Carl commended Bill on a job well done. Bill now has a partner on the Jakes committee.

namely, Dr. Greg Caldwell, so look for bigger and better things to come out in future years. Bill will apply for a grant from the NRA again. Dr. Caldwell picked up two canopies for us from Sam's Club. We saw these canopies at the elk Expo and the cost of 2 of them from Sam's Club is cheaper than we can get one of them. These have curtains around 3 sides of it. The canopies are 10' x 20', two of them. Skip Sanderson asked if Bill had prepared something for Turkey Talk. Christine Rolka wants Bill to write it up for an award and send the information to Turkey Call and Turkey Talk. Jerry Zimmerman asked if the checking account for Jakes, was it set up strictly for the Jakes Raffle? There are food, photos and other expenses and should that be run through this account? Do we want to keep that account strictly for the Jakes Raffle and other things should be run through the general fund? Bill asked what the wish of the group was. Don Heckman stated he thought the account would be only for the Jakes Raffle and the expenses would go through the general checking account. Gary Beatty thought it was for the Raffle to keep track of the memberships and the Jakes Event food expense should be going through the general account.

Legislative committee—Don Heckman said the Department of Forestry Coalition met Sept. 20. The 10 year old bill has been pulled from House Game and Fisheries Committee. The trespass legislation was introduced to have 137 WCO's enforce the trespass law in Pennsylvania during the spring and fall hunting seasons. The Game Commission is not supporting this legislation. They want 135 officers to enforce what 27,000 local city, borough and county and state troopers can't. Don needs to take something back to the Sportsmen's Coalition which is going to be on January 10. The Game commission doesn't want the game protectors to be getting thousands of calls for trespassing and take away time from their duties. The Fish and Boat Commission is going after a fishing license increase.

Public Committee—Don Heckman said the second edition of the new Turkey Talk should be in the mail this week. All requested changes were accomplished. Distribution for the winter issue will be the first week in January and the cut off deadline is December 2 as indicated in the magazine.

Public Relations committee—Gary Beatty, who within the state chapter is guiding the Terrorist Disaster Relief Fund? Some thought it would be a good idea for the chapters to make a donation to the relief efforts and sent a letter to all of the chapter presidents and said donations should be sent to Carl Mowry. We are at \$2,750 with 2 chapters so far with more donations to come in. At the executive meeting last night we said we would recommend to the Board that this year's donation to the Relief Effort would go to the Red Cross and that would be in lieu of what we did in past years for Make a Wish. Carl Mowry reported that 14 chapters have sent in money so far by the due date for a total of \$3,050. We should have Bill put the Jakes Event information into a news release to Jon Farley. We have Jon Farley working on a release for the license depending on how it goes. POWA - Don Bo'Brien went to state game lands 321 when they brought those weary souls out there. We have to give them information, but I think they are going to work more for us than they have in the past.

Promotional Committee—Skip Sanderson had a picture of license plate and what it should be like when it comes. The first 300 applications are going to have to come through us and we are going to have to write a check to PennDot for license plates. Skip plans to put something in the winter issue of Turkey Talk including an application. Don asked Skip to see about getting some short sleeve NWTF shirts for summer use. It will cost about \$35 per shirt again in hunter green and khaki.

Art Committee - Reed Johnson reported that there is enough art available for the January Awards Banquet. Don O'Brien asked Reed to provide the Board of Directors with an up-to-date art inventory at the next meeting.

Women in the Outdoors State Convention will be held on April 19, 20 and 21 according to Tammy Mowry and Rhonda Henry.

Wheeling Sportsmen report from Gary Huff. It was reported that Shade Mountain Chapter will have an event. Don asked Gary to mail them a manual and get in touch with them.

Upper Gun Raffle - Carl Mowery reported that the Upper Gun Raffle went very well. We sold \$1,400 of tickets at the Elk Expo in two days and had 4 of the guns up there. Carl reported that now he has \$19,870 which gives us a profit of \$12,554. Carl was commended for doing a good job.

2002 Convention - Jeff Mulhollem had an article in Turkey Talk about the 2000 Convention. We have to sell it to our local chapters across the state. There is no mailing going out on it. Don Shawkey has volunteered to do registration. Denny Gulvas will present his new program for us.

Superfund - Habitat report by Reed Johnson wants to have a fall meeting with Mary Jo. We plan to have some shrubs put together to continue with the seedling program. Have not been able to do that yet. The committee might drop the seedling program next year because of the increased spending in the seed program last year. At least until we see the seed subsidy and the program where you are buying seed through the NWTF. This year we will let any chapter that wants to purchase shrubs do so from the NWTF program and buy the shrubs directly through them and get the State Chapter out of the program of buying any shrubs. 38 chapters took part in the seedling program. Barberry and Autumn Olive can only be planted on private ground. Don suggested we might get a better rate if we had a seedling program for the local chapters. The letter needs to come out from the habitat committee talking about conservation seed orders, the fact we are going to do seed subsidy again and that it will be in Turkey Talk and we could list them and explain to the local chapters about ordering their own. The brochure would really help. The committee will take care of writing the letter. See that Larry and Bob get a copy to review and to cover all the bases. The Elk Meeting was held here at District 9 office and no one from NWTF was invited. It was a meeting put together by the Game Commission, Bureau of Forestry and the 3 districts surrounding the elk area here. Reed, Larry and Bob are invited to the next meeting on October 10.

Safety and Education - Don O'Brien reported on youth hunts where we spent significant dollars. These things are done and then they apply for the funds. He thinks we need a consensus about whether we should be funding this. Is this a wise spending of Super Fund dollars?

NEW BUSINESS - We had Allen Emlet who was appointed to the Board of Directors and had to resign for personal reasons and we have a vacancy. Don O'Brien would like to entertain a motion from the board to appoint Dr. Greg Caldwell at this time to the Board. So moved by Don Heckman and seconded by Gary Beatty. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS - Jim Panaro brought up the issue with Local #1 and Hidden Valley charges for the 2001 PA Banquet, and is looking for suggestions. Tom Daughenbaugh treasurer reporting for the convention for them. He made a bill for \$4,800 for Hidden Valley. Jim thought we had agreed at \$2,000 to pay them for the lunch that was held. We were thinking that was part of the money but we had not received a check from Local #1 for the guns they were purchasing that were left over. They reported they had given half of the money for the guns which was \$1,900 but the \$2,000 we were to pay for that lunch wasn't part of the \$4,800 bill and he was holding \$1,900 but the \$2,000 we were to pay for that lunch wasn't part of that \$4,800 and he felt we owed them \$2,000. There isn't anything in writing. It is Jim's understanding that Howard has been served a registered letter but I do not know what the letter contains. We have never seen a written report of the convention. We are to send a letter and \$2,000 to Hidden Valley and telling them that is what they are getting. Don O'Brien said we need a detailed income and expense report of the convention so we know what is what. Tom Daughenbaugh was the treasurer and would be responsible for the financial end. Daughenbaugh was thinking it was \$3,500 they still owe. Jim needs to send a letter to Local #1 requesting that money to the State Chapter. The \$1,900 remaining on the guns should be mailed to Jim Panaro due to the convention account being closed. Howard should get a copy of the letter.

Make a Wish - Gary Beatty reported that this year in lieu of Make a Wish we were looking toward some other organizations and in the process of doing that we had a national tragedy and therefore the idea came up collecting money for relief effort and making a donation to the Red Cross as our charity for this year. A motion to that effect was made by Jim Panaro, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried. Gary Beatty made a motion that the State Chapter donate \$500 to the Relief Fund to the Red Cross, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried. Jim Panaro will send the \$500 in along with the donations by the local chapters to the Relief Effort to the Red Cross.

Roger Latham Award - Carl Mowry needs letters of recommendation at least by October 20 because they need to be in by October 31. We need letters to support Carl for the Roger Latham Award, and the letters need to be addressed to James Earl.

Turkey License - Don Heckman reported the current status of the turkey hunting license. The Bill for the license was introduced October 1, House Bill 1979 and there is a copy of that legislation on the back table. The wording of the legislation is as they said it would be when we had our June 14 meeting; the wording is as the Game Commission, legislators, and the NWTF agreed on. That Bill has been introduced and signed by the House Game and Fisheries

Committee. The first public hearing is going to be November 15. Don and the Board need an understanding of what we are going to be doing in support of this legislation. Don wants the Board to put together a committee. The committee would be an Oversight Committee of the legislation and should be a chairman and 2 board members. Don passed out his concept of what we would want to follow. There are 8 categories that he would suggest that we work on and, using that plan, Don would like to see each of those sections have somebody's name assigned. Don suggests that the Executive Committee name an oversight chairman and have 2 board members along to oversee the plan and use this plan to have 8 people assigned to those 8 categories. Don would be willing to take on the communications part and the legislative part. The local chapter presidents need to hear in a letter what we are doing and why we are doing it. The key time for this will be January 1 through June 1. Approximately November 15 through December 10 will be the lame duck session. Gary Beatty suggested that Rod Wilt could help on legislative committee. The Executive Committee will be the Oversight Committee, and the chairman of the board will just be the administrative person to make sure things run smoothly and slowly. Everyone should talk to their legislators and not depend completely on the committee. We need to wait for the Turkey Talk article feedback to see if we have the support of our members. The Executive Committee needs to meet right after November 15th and see if it is go or no go based on the survey. (1) Legislation - Don Heckman (2) PA Game Commission - Carl Mowry, Don O'Brien and Don Shawkey, (3) Communications - don Heckman and Jim Panaro, (4) Turkey Talk - Skip Sanderson, Jim Panaro and committee, (5) PA Chapter NWTF - Local Chapters - Don O'Brien and committee, (6) Conservation Organizations - Skip Sanderson, Dennis Strawbridge and key persons on conservation organizations list, (7) POWA - don O'Brien, Gary Beatty and committee, (8) Information and Education - Rhonda Henry and Gary Huff.

NEW BUSINESS - Don Shawkey moved to accept the 2002 budget, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge, and motion carried. Funding for the Chapter Presidents meeting has been cut by national, therefore those who want to shoot sporting clays will pay for it themselves. Gary Beatty suggested that maybe we should have a picnic where the presidents and other attendees could get together for fellowship and a meal. If everyone brought his own shells and paid own expenses, we could still have some shooting and a picnic at a different location. We will make plans later.

The Trespass legislation was brought up by Don Heckman. **It was moved by Skip Sanderson that we support the Trespass Legislation and seconded by Reed Johnson. After discussion, the motion was defeated.** The PA Chapter is not in favor of this legislation as written. **It was moved by Jim Panaro and seconded by Dennis Strawbridge that we take a neutral position on the Trespass Legislation. The motion carried.** Don Heckman will go back to the PA Sportsman's Coalition and tell them that we take no position.

Don Heckman brought up the Bureau of Forestry habitat demonstration areas. Is that 1 state forest, 2 state forests, or 20 state forests? Dennis Strawbridge said that we could order 5000 Habitat brochures for \$405.81. **It was moved by Don Heckman that we purchase 5000 Habitat brochures for \$405.81. The motion was seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried.**

Don Heckman indicated he feels we need a committee to oversee the process of Grower Greener Grants. Discussion followed but no action was taken.

Upon reviewing the phone bills the last four months, Jim Panaro suggested we purchase a cell phone for the President of the PA State Chapter which would save us money. Others would keep the calling cards. **Gary Beatty moved we get the President of the PA State Chapter of NWTF a cell phone for his use, seconded by don Shawkey. Motion passed.**

Skip Sanderson moved we purchase short sleeve shirts with state logo for the directors with \$18 coming from the chapter and each individual board member would also pay \$18 to cover the cost of the shirt. Seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.

Jim Panaro discussed a new invoice Carl gave him today for an ad in the Keystone Sportsmen in the amount of \$400. It was billed to Howard Myers. Don O'Brien thinks we did not authorize this payment. They will get back to us and see who sent this. PA Chapter is not mentioned anywhere in the ad. Keystone Sportsmen was formerly Tri-County Outdoors.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Jerry Zimmerman said for information and future planning the digest ad for next year. So far to date we have 13 memberships from the Hunting Digest and 2 are Jakes. We should consider whether we want to do this again next year.

Don Heckman informed us that the Game Lands Advisory Committee of PGC is holding public hearings. It would behoove sportsmen and conservation organizations to at least attend several of those hearings to voice your input as individuals to protect the game lands. We as an organization need to support the Game Lands plan. The State Chapter is on record as supporting those 11 strategies in that game lands management plan. We as sportsmen should be there.

Don Heckman about the senior NWTF staff consultant. Ron Fretts term as director is up in 2002. We as a State Chapter have always had a director on the National Board. Larry Holjencin will check on the status of Ron Fretts.

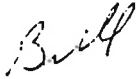
Carl Mowry said last year at the convention for reserved seating, Carl volunteered to send in the seating lists in together for better seating, but we need a deadline. The date is December 15. Thank you correspondence on the board from the 4-H Shooting Instructors School. Next years 4-H training is going to be in Butler on April 6 and 7 and they would like us to have a presentation there or a booth. Carl said we would have support for them next year. We weren't there this spring because it was board weekend. Our March meeting will be March 9, Saturday night and March board meeting will be on Sunday, March 10.

Machiux Yellow Breeches chapter is going to be celebrating our 21st Anniversary on Monday, March 2, 2002. Don Heckman would ask the board members and staff that if you could be available you would have to buy a \$9 dinner ticket and would have to travel and stay on your own in the Carlisle area. The Spring Fling Banquet will start at 4:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Before adjournment the board held a drawing for the upper gun raffle. Winners were: (1) Browning Gun Lightning, Lisa Price, Strasburg, PA (2) Ithaca 37 NWTF Gun of Year, Richard Vanicek, Girard, PA (3) Marlin 1897 Century Limited Gold Eng. 22 Rifle, David and JoAnne Ryan, St. Marys, PA (4) Bretta 390 Sporting Gun, Spencer Miller, Newburg, PA (5) Ruger 77 Laminated Stainless any caliber, Pat Arnold, Erie, PA.

Don Shawkey moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Gary Beatty**, and motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by



Bill Mackereth, Secretary
PA Chapter NWTF



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**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NWTf
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WARRIORS MARK, PA
August 4, 2001**

The August 04, 2001 Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Don O'Brien at 9:15 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the review of the meeting ground rules, it was noted that a quorum was present and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct business. Don O'Brien introduced guests who were present. The floor was opened for officer reports.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - *President Carl Mowry presented a written report of his activities.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT - *Secretary Bill Mackereth asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected. A motion by Ray Smith and seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT - *Chapter Treasurer Jim Panaro presented the treasurers report and the balance was \$3253.87. We now have \$4340.00. A motion was made by Don Shawkey and seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried.*

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - *Don Shawkey presented a written report.*

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT - *Board Chairman Don O'Brien presented the board with a written report that included activities. We had a very productive meeting with PA Game Commission on June 7. We were well represented and accomplished quite a bit at that meeting.*

NWTf REGIONAL SUPERVISOR REPORT - *Jerry Zimmerman reported that membership is around 22,000, second in the United States. The Super Fund is in the red now, but with the fall banquets coming up we should be even by the end of the year. We have approximately 20 banquets left this year. He doubts that we will go into the next year with a surplus like we have done in the past. Southwest Regional Director is Bob Farkasovsky who previously just had West Virginia. He will have 6 chapters, 5 from Larry and 1 from Jerry. Washington County, Greene County, Fayette County, Somerset County and Bedford County. We have one new chapter, Hidden River Longbeards down in Conshohocken, which is just northwest of Philadelphia. He has talked with some*

people about the southeast area and may be getting some new chapters there also. They are changing the computer system in Edgefield and we should soon be able to get numbers faster.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES REPORT - Since Mary Jo Casalena had to leave early, her report was given next. Harvest report cards reports from spring 2001 show a preliminary spring gobbler harvest of 38,300, compared to a preliminary spring 2000 harvest of 36,200. The wild turkey page on the PA Game Commission web site (www.pgc.state.pa.us) and select "What's New" or "Wildlife" sections has been updated. We also have a study journal section with periodic updates regarding our research on TMA 7B.

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B. Nesting season on our study area shows a large percentage of our hens nested this year, 88% or 57 or 65. Twenty-five hens (45%) successfully hatched nests, but hatching success averages around 45-50% for eastern wild turkeys. Five hens were unsuccessful because they were killed during incubation. One of the unsuccessful hens was killed illegally close to Old Forge Road. (If anyone has information on this senseless killing, please contact the PA Game Commission. A reward is offered for information that leads to a conviction). This year's high nest attempt rates could be attributed to last fall's good acorn crop coupled with the average winter weather, which resulted in these turkeys entering the spring nesting season in good health. We have been keeping track of the hens and conducting poult counts to determine survival of the young. We thank the PA Chapter NWTF for the continued support of this important research project.

The annual meeting between the PA Chapter and PGC to discuss the goal, objectives and strategies of the Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Management Plan was held on August 2, 2001. A report was provided by the PGC on the progress that has been made with the plan: thus far 23 of the 35 strategies (66%) are in progress or have been completed. PGC biometrician Dr. Chris Roseberry is currently tabulating the results of the 2001 Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Survey. Preliminary results will be available this fall.

REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR - Larry Holjensen reported a new chapter called Curry Run Ridgerunners that are members of the Black Hills Conservation Hunt Club who will host a banquet for us in October or November. With the split, he is going to take the Nesmont Chapter in Mansfield, the Shade Mountain Chapter which is in Mifflin/Juniata, and Bald Eagle Longbeards. The Jakes Raffle is underway, and Bill Mackereth has tickets available.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR - Tammy Mowry has a written report since she is at a women's event and is unable to be here. Pennsylvania currently has 19 events scheduled for this year. We are one event shy of the goal she had set for Pennsylvania for this year. We now have 16 Regional Coordinators in the Women in the Outdoors program. We also have two National Spokespersons: Irlene Mandrell and Nancy Johnson.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL BIOLOGIST - Bob Eriksen provided a written report. Some of the projects Bob has been involved in are: (Bob represents four states, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and PA) an apple seed project with Asplund tree expert folks in a state park in Bucks County. Jerry rounded up a lot of volunteers who planted 100 crabapple trees in the park one evening, press coverage for NWTF. He attended several Game Commission meetings with Jerry, Larry and Mary Jo. Under habitat work he has been involved in several different projects in New Jersey. Bob will be compiling a report on how many states allow 10 year olds to hunt and will present it later. He also worked with Mary Jo on a 7B study.

Bob is working on an article on West Nile Virus and presented a written report on it. It is a concern to turkey hunters and also to the poultry industry. Wild turkeys can contract the disease but it generally is not fatal to them and they do not become carriers of the disease. Only a handful of birds have tested positive in New York State. We appear not to have to worry about the West Nile Virus and the wild turkey population. He is currently working on Pennsylvania Super Fund article for TURKEY CALL magazine and the deadline is September. It gives credit to the chapters and the PA Chapter of NWTF. It was suggested that it might be an article for PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS. He is doing the same for some New Jersey Super Fund projects and working on an article on survival and productivity of wild turkeys in southeastern New Jersey. It is a story that needs to be told. Research was successful and the results were positive, so we want to tell that story.

He has worked on the turkey license considerably. Bob prepared a chart that shows other states that have a turkey stamp or turkey license. He has been corresponding with an orchard owner down in 7B and we are talking about a project to distribute pesticides control of meadow gold in orchards. They are broadcasting the rodenticides on the orchards to control moles. However, rodenticides can be picked up by wild turkeys and other birds as they forage in the orchards and there has been some accidental poisonings of wild turkeys. We would like to have a volunteer effort to put out bait stations in the orchards in that area that would not be attractive to wild turkeys. This is planned for late fall.

COMMITTEE CHANGES - President Carl Mowry has some changes in the committees and committee chairmen. The Finance Committee Chairman is Jim Panaro and Don O'Brien has been added to that committee. The Properties Committee has Dwight Kuntz in charge of that, basically the Dart System. The Women in the Outdoors has Rhonda as chairperson. Wheelin' Sportsman Committee Chairman is Gary Huff.

PENNSYLVANIA TURKEY TALK - Jeff Mulhollem reported the first issue went pretty well. The deadline for getting articles to him for the next issue is September 2. He will probably be starting the 13th or 14th of August. He can combine the circulation with this newsletter and the TROUT UNLIMITED magazine and also PENNSYLVANIA BOW HUNTERS and come up with about 32,000 families that get this magazine and we can

sell it to advertisers. He has not completed negotiating with the BOW HUNTERS OF PA. We will be pushing 14,000 this time. We want to jump from 4 pages to 20 pages and have ads in it. It was suggested that families that are getting 2 or more copies of the magazine could give a copy to some friends. It was also suggested that a chapter article indicate who wrote the article.

JAKES AND YHEC - Bill Mackereth presented the treasurers report for the JAKES fund, and the balance is \$6,036.09. One of the expenses was the postage for the upper gun raffle which will be reimbursed to the Jakes fund. He reported on the chapters using their Jakes memberships and a few who donated their Jakes memberships to other chapters. He mailed out 120 letters in the central PA area announcing the State Jakes Event to be held at Elliott Park on Saturday, August 25, 2001. YHEC had 8 more shooters than last year and there were volunteers from the state chapter and our local chapter. The \$2000 you give to YHEC is well received and well used.

Larry Holjensen said one thing we are going to do this year is encourage the chapters to submit their Jakes memberships with their banquet (the memberships are from the Jakes raffle) instead of periodically throughout the year as they get the memberships.

PROMO COMMITTEE - Skip Sanderson reported on NWTF license plate which would have National Wild Turkey Federation across the bottom and PA Chapter around the bird. The license plate is yellow, white and blue. The artwork from National after a long wait was not adequate. Skip asked Larry Smail to redo the logo. It took him several weeks to get it back to Skip. Denny Strawbridge also agreed to work on a logo that might work. Skip will mail the information to PennDOT on Monday. They have to do a die and send it to Skip for approval and, if Skip approves, they will start making the plates. There will be applications but not sure how it will be handled. The last time it was in the newsletter with a picture of the actual plate and an order form to send to PennDot.

Skip asked whether we want to Make-A-Wish donation next year and that the ad for the Pennsylvania Digest looks good.

WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN - Gary Huff reported on the possibility of a state event next summer or early fall. National is getting a manual available and will send it to us when it is available. Possibly we could do it in Warren County where it is nice and flat and we would have access to a local shop of golf carts. We are getting the procedure started and any help would be appreciated. It might be Lawrence County or Warren County. The way our program is set up, the chapters can do anything they are comfortable with. Last year 80 people were turned away. Do we have the people to support this? PA Sportsmen for Disabled is a PA group headquartered out of Latrobe. If someone wants to take the challenge of contacting Pennsylvania Cable Network, Don Heckman will get the address and phone number and send it to you. We could sit down and talk with them about the State Jakes Event and Women of the Outdoors, film of 3 of the PA Chapter Turkey Events in the state of PA and put that into a one hour program. Jerry reported on the possibility for a chapter to make a choice and add Wheelin' Sportsmen to the 5-star option. We will

discuss this with chapter presidents and give them that option.

AWARD POSTERS - Ray Smith reported that in the early part of the year we approved the Award Posters. This year they are made of vinyl. It has the new PA Game Commission logo and the new NWTf logo with Canada, one for the turkey and one for the person. We want to get these into the hands of the PA Game Commission people and Department of Forestry people to distribute these posters. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will be meeting from January 4-6, 2002, in Carlisle, PA which is the same weekend as our Awards Banquet. They asked if the Dart System could be at the meeting. Dwight Kuntz offered to check with his chapter since that is practically in their backyard. It is a nice invitation and we should do something. It should be worked out on a committee basis and we should know by the October meeting.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Chairman Dwight Kuntz reported that the Dart System is getting a lot more use and going to a lot more chapters. People are asking questions about towing the trailer and what is needed, etc. It is important that whoever is towing it treat it like it is their own \$50,000 behind their vehicle. This trailer, when loaded, weighs 3540 pounds, so we are close to 2 ton. It really should be towed by a full size pickup truck or something similar with a class 3 hitch, with 2 inch receiver. It is required to have brakes and inspection. Please be responsible with this trailer. He totally reorganized and cleaned the trailer this spring. This trailer represents the organization and should be treated accordingly. If anything goes wrong with the trailer notify Dwight and he will take care of it. He developed a new set of guidelines going out to every local chapter president. Should you send the operating instructions and guidelines to the person reserving the trailer? Mark Davis needs to tell them the conditions for getting the trailer, the things you must have. Dwight as Property Committee Chairman should be scheduling the trailer.

COMMUNICATIONS - We are putting a board up and you should post your communications for everyone to read while on breaks instead of taking time to read to all members as we have in the past.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Jim Panaro reported there was a meeting at Greg's camp on July 7 where the Finance Committee came up with a preliminary budget. We cut the budget from \$114,000 last year down to \$78,000. A lot of that was Super Fund greensheet activities that were taken out. Another change is we had 3 checking accounts, Jakes, General Fund and Convention Fund. Now the Convention Fund will go through the General Fund. There were some adjustments made to the Jakes Raffle income and to the expenditures on TURKEY TALK because of the increased membership. Now the budget is up to \$82,000. At the next meeting Him will have the final draft for approval. Don O'Brien thanked Howard Myers for working with Jim and it has been a smooth transition.

OLD BUSINESS - Bill Mackereth moved we take from the table the motion to support the PA Game Commission Canine Unit for \$1000/year for 3 years. The motion was that

the program would be a 3-year feasibility study in the development of canine teams which provide increased evidence collection resulting in prosecution. Motion was seconded by Don Shawkey. The motion to take from the table passed. The motion was reopened for discussion. A question was raised as to whether we would have enough money to support this program since the Super Fund is in the red. On the call for a vote, the motion was defeated.

Don Heckman has the Federation of Sportsman's Clubs flyer for their fall convention on September 14, 15, and 16 which is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Ramada Inn at State College. We have been invited to speak at their game committee Saturday. If we could get someone to speak on behalf of the PA Chapter NWTf, about the things we are involved in from the outreach programs we have and also tell what we do as an organization that they might support. The turkey hunting stamp might be brought up in general.

On my executive committee report the list of our contacts for the conservation organization that we have to continue our dialog with. Does the list need to be reviewed and updated. On the Habitat Committee, Don O'Brien's name should be taken off and Bob Eriksen's name to be added. The PA Deer Association new person is Greg. The PA Trappers is still Skip Sanderson. POWA representative will be Don O'Brien. The POWA Fall Conference will be Carl, Gary and Don.

Gary Beatty reported on PA Outdoor for Youth. We need a volunteer for representative. Make sure we are award of changes in Youth Field Day.

Gary Beatty regarding State Game Lands Recommendation. A new recommendation No. 11 has been added to the State Game Lands Use 10 Recommendations. Several people reviewed position statement and voted to support the 10 Recommendations. Gary didn't agree and would like to revisit the recommendations. Don wrote a follow up letter to Clay and the advisory working group and the fact that PA Chapter supported those 10 recommendations. Several public meetings will be held across the state and everybody has opportunity to go. There will be input at the time the final draft gets put together. It will be reviewed by 75 and we are part of 75 groups. He is hoping they will give us time to review the final draft before it goes to the Board of Commissioners. Then they will vote on it. Number 11 is a very high level blanket approach that tells the horseback riders, motorized vehicles, trail bike riders and the hikers that PA is not closing every game lands road. They are only keeping open the designated roads for those uses. There will be designated trails available to those organizations that will be doing these activities. It clarifies better what the previous 10 recommendations are. We will have another chance to vote and it is not necessary at this time to do anything.

NEW BUSINESS - *Skip brought up whether we want to make a Make-a-Wish donation again next year. Skip moved we proceed with the Make-A-Wish project as we have in previous years. Seconded by Ray Smith. Discussion of the motion. Greg thinks we should do something else. Rhonda's chapter wanted to donate money to Hunt of a*

Lifetime. Carl Mowry has had some people and chapters talk about this donation. A lot of chapters didn't agree last year and we want to make a change. Gary Beatty suggested that as hunters we need to show anti-hunters that we support other things besides hunting. He suggested we should drop Make-a-Wish and support Hunt of a Lifetime. We can support non-hunting things to show we are good people and we can still support Hunt of a Lifetime. Greg stated we, as an organization primarily for hunting, should support non-hunting organizations that are not opposed to what we stand for. He thinks we should support non-hunting organizations for P.R. Call for a vote on the question. Motion failed. Since motion failed, what can we as an organization do to show the rest of the world that besides the hunting we also support the interest of human beings. Bill Mackereth suggested the committee come up with another organization that is not anti-hunting. Gary Beatty moved that we investigate supporting either the Children's Miracle Network or Children's Hospital. Seconded by Jim Panaro. Discussion. We should investigate the list of organizations that are anti-hunting by NRA. Gary Beatty suggested that rather than limit to those two we form a committee to investigate who we can make a donation to. Don O'Brien asked Jim to withdraw his second and Gary to withdraw his original motion and made a motion that we form a committee to investigate who to donate to. Seconded by Clyde Gouker. Motion passed. Gary Beatty volunteered to head the committee.

Wheelin' Sportsmen for 2002 - Jerry Zimmerman reported a new outreach program is being set up by the Jakes Program. It's geared to provide opportunities for disabled people and events we will be holding with outdoors will be open to anyone who wishes to participate, no membership needed. One of the problems of getting this off the ground is the funding. We were wondering if the state chapters and all the regional directors come to state chapters about this to support the commitment to the program. We were looking at starting with next Super Fund year of \$5000 to start with until the program gets up and running. It needs to be revisited every year, if we could start funding. Moved by Gary Huff and seconded by Gary Beatty that we commit \$5000 for one year starting next calendar year. Motion carried.

Carl Mowry reported that the Elk Outdoor Expo presented by Pennsylvania Northwest Outdoors Visitors Bureau will be September 28, 29 and 30. We have been contacted about putting a booth on Windslow Hill. We can sell raffle tickets and memberships. The booth costs \$150 or if we make a donation the booth is free. We will be listed on advertisements as a sponsor for the weekend. Gary Beatty moved to participate with the \$300 level of donation, seconded by Don Shawkey. Do we have volunteers to man the booth? A \$300 donation to the Travel Bureau in that area will give us the right to be listed on all material and a 20 x 20 booth. Motion carried.

Roger Latham Sportsman Service Award. Carl Mowry read memorandum from national for outstanding volunteer to be presented at our national convention in Nashville. Any nominations for this award? Don Heckman nominated Carl Mowry, seconded by Rhonda Henry. Dennis Strawbridge moved the nominations be closed and seconded by Gary Huff. Motion carried.

Howard Myers reported that NRA Grant and applications have to be in by the end of October. If you need a grant please apply by October 31. Motion by Howard Myers that any member of the PA Game Board of Commissioners will receive a complimentary membership. Seconded by Clyde Gouker. Motion carried.

We haven't heard from Ron Sanders but we have gotten two resumes for Board of Directors. They will automatically be placed on the Board. We have one opening, depending upon Ron Sanders.

Jakes BB Guns. Bill Mackereth checked with Bob's Army and Navy and Daisy doesn't give free guns any more. Crosman has a better BB gun. There are cheaper models. I received a \$1000 grant which is in our treasury and I would like to purchase good BB guns. We have a lot of young people and need a more appropriate gun for them to shoot. The BB guns are the 795 air gun which with brake in the middle and is easier to use. I will order 10 guns and will receive 10 cross block trigger blocking keys, 1000 standard pellets, 200 official NRA paper targets, 30 pairs of amber shooting glasses and 10 logo stickers. We get each kit for \$53. This means I will be spending \$530 of our \$1000 grant. Carl has agreed to take 5 of them to the western part of the state and I'll keep the other 5 at my place. You are welcome to use them at all your Jakes Events. I filled out the form to send in by Monday so they will be available for the State Jakes Event on August 25. Motion by Don Shawkey to allow Bill to purchase these guns and seconded by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.

Are there any other firearms or archery equipment for any of the local chapters to use for Jakes Events. Yes, the Game Commission. All division offices have ten 20 gauge shotguns purchased by the PA Chapter NWTF. You have to request the guns through your Game Protector.

Upper Gun Raffle. Gun raffle tickets were mailed out before the Board Meeting. Carl started receiving money back on Monday. This year's guns are basically unique and we are going to take a couple guns to the Elk Expo and sell tickets there. There are more tickets available if needed. Bill also has Jakes Raffle tickets for the chapters.

GOOD OF THE ORDER - *Gary Beatty stated we need to bring the Board up to date as to what we discussed in the executive session. Volunteers keep coming up through the ranks and are doing a great job. Don Heckman informed the Board at length about the turkey license options. PA Chapter of NWTF Board of Directors should be able to talk to turkey hunters of the state and gain their support for a turkey license. If you don't utilize the tag in the fall you would utilize that tag as a second bird tag in the spring would be an option, helping to gain support for a turkey hunting license. Cost would be Adult \$5 and non-resident \$25, youth and seniors will not have to purchase a license. The funding from the license may be directed to turkey management. Since the PA Chapter voted to support a turkey hunting license we should now start educating our hunters, educating the turkey federation members, and Game Commissioners. Gary Beatty stated we need*

*to do a survey to find out what our members want. It should list some very specific options. We should spend some time educating through the Turkey magazine, the membership giving a few reasons we think it is good, then in another issue the survey. The legislators control the action and Game Commission controls the seasons and bag limits. Under Title 58, the commissioners cannot influence any other commissioners. Jerry Zimmerman stated we need to do a survey now, for we don't have much time to sell it. That survey should be accompanied by an article outlining our position and, if we can, get the legislators talking about a fall option. Jim Panaro stated we can go to the public comment meeting and indicate that we want a turkey hunting license and then we can go to the Game Commission to get our spring or fall choice in there. **Motion by Jim Panaro and seconded by Gary Beatty that we do a turkey hunters survey published in the fall issue of Turkey Talk; there is to be an article and survey.** The Game Commission wants to see our commitment. They want to see our plan of how we are going to support this legislative initiative with the legislators. Bob and Mary Jo are putting together a presentation in October. All of us as Board Members should speak to that presentation across the state. The only thing we can do is do the best we can do as an organization. **Motion carried.** Gary Beatty stated if we care giving all those hunters an opportunity for additional recreation, they may want to become members. The Game Commission said 68% of hunters belong to some organization. We need to introduce Bob Eriksen to the membership through an article in Turkey Talk.*

Motion for adjournment by Dwight Kuntz, seconded by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried. The August 4 Board Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.



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 E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

July 7, 2001

TO: BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

The Executive Committee of PA Chapter Board of Directors will meet on Friday evening, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn at 1450 South Atherton Street in State College, PA. The PA Chapter Board of Directors meeting will be held at Warriors Mark beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2001.

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 then 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.

Chapter Presidents meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn at 1450 South Atherton Street, State College, PA, on Sunday, August 5 at 9:00 a.m.

Remember that the State JAKES Event will be held on Saturday, August 25 at S. B. Elliott State Park off Interstate 80 at Exit 18 in Clearfield County. Please send some Jakes from your chapter.

Looking forward to seeing all of you Board Members on August 3 and 4.

For the Wild Turkey,

William J. Mackereth, Secretary
Pennsylvania Chapter of
National Wild Turkey Federation

Enclosure



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

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PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 2, 2001

S. B. Elliott State Park - Moshannon State Forest
District 9

The June 2001 Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Don O'Brien at 9:22 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and the review of the meeting ground rules, it was noted that a quorum was present and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct business. The floor was opened for officer report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Bill Mackereth asked for additions or corrections to the April 2001 minutes. A motion was made by Gary Beatty to accept the April 2001 minutes as printed. The motion was seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chapter Treasurer Howard Myers reported \$6,985.02 in revenue and \$9,915.94 in expenses. A final balance of \$8650.72 and a cash balance of \$1,877.72. A motion was made by Dwight Kuntz to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Clyde Gouker and the motion carried.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice President Don Shawkey presented the board with a written report.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: Board Chairman Don O'Brien presented the board with a written report. He also welcomed the new directors and gave them an opportunity to tell us a little about themselves. The new directors are Rhonda Henry, Clyde Gouker, Gary Huff and Jim Panaro.

NWTF REGIONAL SUPERVISOR REPORT: Jerry Zimmerman welcomed all new board members and new officers. Membership is at 20,000 plus members.

The Super-fund balance is \$36,628. Ned Smith Center for the Arts donated a print for every one of our banquets for next year. New chapters: Upper Delaware Limb Hangers, Lower Lackawanna Long Beards, and Tuscarora Long Beards.

NWTF REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR: Larry Holjencin reported on the Strut and Rut Seed Program. The Jakes Raffle will again be 40 guns in 40 days with distribution of chances on August 5. New chapter: Friendship Field Spurs Chapter of Fayette County.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL COORDINATOR: Tammy Mowry submitted a Women of Outdoors Report. Pennsylvania currently has 19 events scheduled for this year. The PA State Event was held on April 21 and 22 at Camp Soles in Somerset County. On Saturday twenty-nine women enjoyed classes in various subjects. Tammy thanked Rhonda Henry, PA State Volunteer Coordinator, and Carolyn Huff, Northwest District Coordinator for all the hard work and time they put in hosting the great weekend event. Tammy also thanked the instructors Whitehorse Mountain Chapter members, State Board members, and Camp Soles employees who gave of their time to help us reach out to women about outdoor activities that are available.

NWTF REGIONAL BIOLOGIST REPORT: Wildlife Biologist Bob Erikson talked about restoring wild turkey populations and also study wild turkeys. His work with wildlife agencies is top priority. His next priority is to work with state and national foresters and other government agencies or projects that affect the wild turkey. He will also work with private land owners on habitat management projects.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: Bob Boyd had a written report. He gave highlights of report cards from spring turkey gobbler season. Harvest report cards from spring 2001 are arriving in Harrisburg. As of May 21 the numbers are 4.8% lower than the same time last spring. Preliminary 2001 harvest results will be available for next board meeting. Final spring and fall harvest figures will be available in October. The wild turkey page on the PA Game Commission web site has been updated. We also have a study journal section with periodic updates regarding our research on TMA 7B

NWTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ron Fretts was not present.

TURKEY TALK REPORT: Editor Jeff Mulhollem discussed whether newsletter should be 8 or 12 pages, and Jeff recommended 12 pages. There was discussion about getting information to Jeff about what we want, as well as information and articles we want printed in the newsletter. The cutoff date for TURKEY TALK is June 2 with mail date about July 2 since it takes time for all the processing to be done. Jeff can put the newsletter together with other circulations and have at least 30,000 circulation.

JAKES AND YOUTH COMMITTEE: Bill Mackereth gave a NWTF Jakes Fund balance of \$10,780.61 on June 1, 2001. We have sold 2733 Jakes memberships. Bill is to send a letter to chapters that have not used up their memberships requesting back a letter allowing Bill to give them to another chapter. Also send stamped envelope inside. Last

year's Raffle was worked out in committee with Jerry and Larry. This year we will send letters asking if the chapters want to participate in the Raffle and, if they do, how many tickets they want. Last year 2/3 of tickets were sold.

The Jakes Event will be August 25, 2001, at S. B. Elliott Park with Denny Gulvas, Rawley Cogan. Members of Bureau of Forestry, PA Game Commission, Vance Dunbar of PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Bob Erikson with a station on turkey biology. Bill received a \$1000 grant from National Rifle Association that he turned over to treasurer. He would like to use part of the grant for pellet and BB guns to be used with Jakes events. PA Yhec meeting was at Scotia on April 1. We are expanding from 138 to 220. There will be a gun raffle the same time as the Jakes Raffle. The Yhec Shoot will be held at Scotia Range on Saturday, June 16. We need members to volunteer. If the NRA sends us \$20,000 we will sell raffle tickets and have money to send 20 kids and 2 coaches to New Mexico.

ART COMMITTEE: Reed Johnson reported that Don Shawkey talked to a young lady about a conservation print. Reed said it will be taked back to committee. Another way of generating state funds is to have a print by Dan Christ. Print won't be ready til next year, and the committee will make decision by the fall meeting. Reed also had the newest Super Fund Manual with update on seed program. Jerry gave commendation to Reed on Conservation Seed Program on getting approximately 24,000 bags of seed. Maybe we should go to a wholesale seedling program. Could we find how many seedlings each chapter would want?

LOGO FOR LICENSE PLATES: Skip Sanderson asked Nationals for logo for license plaates. Jerry Zimmerman will call and expedite it. One month after we get the right logo we will have drawing of actual license plate to approve and the plates will be available 2 months after that.

DART SYSTEM: The Dart System was brought up by Dwight Kuntz and discussed. A youth gun has been ordered for a year and we haven't received it yet. The Dart System is no longer being made.

COMMUNICATIONS: Bill Mackereth read letter of resignation as secretary from Rick Moroney as requested. Also received card from Rhonda Henry thanking PA Chapter for help both financially and with print for Women in the Outdoors Event. A thank you was received from Dwayne R. Diefenbach of Penn State University for check in the amount of \$14,000 toward turkey research. Don O'Brien read letter he received from Sam Mars III who was elected to National Board of Directors thanking our Chapter for the support. Don O'Brien received a letter from Robert P. Scott thanking the Chapter for support of PA 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Don received a letter from Thomaas E. Dunkleberger thanking us for supporting the PA 4-H Sports Shooting Program. On the back table are 6 newspaper articles Don collected from Outdoor Life Across Pennsylvania. Don suggests that if you know an outdoor writer, give him information so he can get it sent out. Let Jerry or Larry know who they are so they can E-mail press releases. Don feels that we have made a turn with the media and they are now looking to us for information and we are seeing more of it printed. We need to keep Jeff Mulhollem informed, give him ideas

and tell him our needs. Ray Smith's father-in-law died during last night and Bill Mackereth will send a sympathy card on behalf of the PA Chapter.

OLD BUSINESS: Skip Sanderson reported the ads for Hunters Digest is ready to publish. We appreciate Skip's effort. Gary Beatty asked if there is any progress on searching for the cameras we approved at last month's meeting. Larry checked and recommended Canon 820 or Kodak 3400. The Kodak is \$349 and the Canon is \$399. We have approval to buy them, but he didn't order them because of situation with Super Fund.

Bill Mackereth reported that the Board gave permission to buy a computer or word processors but they don't make word processors anymore. Plan to get a used computer and a panasonic fax machine. It was questioned whether it would be enough to serve the needs. Also questions about buying a new one.

Don Heckman asked where we are on news releases schedule. He says we have to begin telling our story to outdoor writers by getting it written down and to the people who will write about it. We should be sending out news releases at least 8 to 10 times per year. He asks that chairmen of those committees doing really worthwhile functions to write an article and get it to Jon Farley and also to Jeff Mulhollem.

Don Heckman brought up the web site of PA Chapter and was asked to put the list of officers and directors on the web site. We need to get the PA logo, 25th anniversary logo, onto the web site.

Gary Beatty asked a question about Penn State University's Conservation School. Reed Johnson has a request to send 3 kids from the central part of the state. The instructor retired, but Reed understands they have someone to do it at least for this year.

NEW BUSINESS: Howard Myers has submitted his resignation as State Chapter Treasurer which leaves a vacancy. **Jim Panaro was nominated by treasurer Howard Myers and seconded by Reed Johnson.** Since there were no other nominations, **Dwight Kuntz made a motion the nominations be closed. It was seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.**

Awards Banquet: Don Heckman said the 2000 Awards Banquet would be held on Jan. 5, 2002 in Altoona, PA and asked for a nomination to carry that forward. **Motion by Don Heckman that PA Chapter hold its Awards Banquet at Altoona on Jan. 5, 2002 and it was seconded by Rhonda Henry and motion carried.** Gary Beatty moved we name next January's get-together the PA Chapter Annual Rendezvous and Awards Banquet. It was seconded by ClydeGouker and motion carried.

Turkey Stamp: There was discussion about the Game Commission and a spring turkey stamp. **Don Heckman made a motion that the PA Chapter of NWTF support a turkey hunting stamp. It was seconded by Skip Sanderson and motion carried. I opposed.** It was indicated that Legislation is going to propose a \$5 spring stamp. The issue of spring/fall was put on the table and discussed at length. The legislative body

agrees it would be nice to have a \$5 or \$10 spring and fall stamp, but they feel legislatively the easiest thing to get passed is a spring stamp, because it would get much more visibility at legislative level. We will have a meeting with the Game Commission staff to talk about finances. We have results of a pilot survey which says by a margin of 2 to 1, a general turkey license is going to be more popular than the spring license. Bill was asked to read the motion by Don Heckman.

Upper Level Gun Raffle: There was discussion about holding an Upper Level Gun Raffle again to supplement our treasury in July with winners drawn in October. The committee is in place. **Gary Beatty made a motion the PA Chapter does another Upper Level Gun Raffle. It was seconded by Don Shawkey and motion carried.**

Jakes Gun Raffle: The Jakes Gun Raffle of 40 guns for 40 days will commence November 1 and end December 10 and information will be out in June. There will be a letter going out to the chapters to let them indicate whether or not they want tickets. The same people are chairing it as last year. **A motion was made to hold the raffle by Dwight Kuntz, seconded by Reed Johnson and motion carried.**

Long Range Plan Review: The three year period is now up. It was discussed we need a long range plan committee to update the PA Chapter's Long Range Plan. We need a meeting date to get people together and start reviewing regionally and hope to have it done by the October meeting. We are looking for a volunteer to chair the committee. Typically, the Chairman of the Board has done that. Don O'Brien volunteered. **A motion was made by Don Heckman to carry forth the long range plan by committee with Don O'Brien as chair. Motion was seconded by Rhonda Henry and motion carried.**

Sportsman's Coalition: We owe \$200 in dues, only \$100 per year. Don Heckman suggested because we have the issue of the turkey stamp, the Chapter needs to be part of the nine sportsman's organization in the Coalition. **Don Heckman made a motion we pay \$200 for the years 2000 and 2001 dues. The motion was seconded by Gary Beatty. Bill was asked to read the motion back as above. The motion passed with 2 opposed.**

Ned Smith Foundation: Earlier Jerry discussed the Ned Smith Foundation with a banquet package for next year. The Foundation has asked us for cooperation in a project they are undertaking. They plan to have a raffle on a custom-made long rifle by one of the most well known maker of these things. It will include several accessories. This rifle would be one of a kind, historically correct and a very collectable firearm. They are asking if the PA Chapter would help sell tickets that are \$10 or 3 for \$25. They are operating now from a rented property, but want to build a center to house all Ned's artwork and make a nice visitor's center. Jerry recommends we do that in light of the donation they are making to us. **Gary Beatty made a motion that we sell 100 tickets for the Ned Smith Foundation for the Long Rifle Raffle. It was seconded by Don Shawkey and motion carried.** The premier showing of the long rifle will be in July.

Regional Directors in Turkey Shoot: Our two regional directors are involved in a turkey shoot in Atlanta, GA, and there is a truck raffle ticket for \$100 each that is sold to

the Board of Directors. This year it is a Chevy truck. **A motion was made by Gary Beatty that we purchase two tickets, one for each regional director. It was seconded by Gary Huff and motion carried.**

Conservation Law Enforcement Pilot Program: The program will be a three-year feasibility study in the development of canine teams. The canines provide increased evidence collection resulting in prosecution. He gave an example of how this might be valuable to turkey people. The Game Commission is asking NWTf to financially support the effort to develop and expand this canine program. **Don Heckman made a motion the PA Chapter support the Game Commission Canine Unit for \$1000 per year for 3 years. Motion seconded by Howard**

Myers. After discussion Bill Mackereth moved to table the motion until August meeting. Clyde Gouker seconded the motion to table it and it carried with one vote opposed.

Scholarship Award: Howard Myers asked about scholarship award and picture and news article. Discussion followed. We need a picture of Stoney Valley Chapter. Jerry Zimmerman will help get picture.

Computer for Secretary: There was discussion of purchasing a computer for use by secretary Bill Mackereth. **Skip Sanderson made a motion we purchase a new computer with a limit of \$1000, and seconded by Gary Huff.** Don asked about a desktop with pentium 3 with microsoft office and a printer and a fax machine at possibly \$1200. Dwight Kuntz suggested checking with a school district that is upgrading. **Motion passed with one opposed.**

Renewal for National Rifle Association: Our affiliation with NRA is due, and we sign up for three years at \$95. **Don Heckman moved we renew our affiliation with the National Rifle Association for three years at \$95. Motion was seconded by Reed Johnson and motion carried.**

State Game Lands Use Booklet: Don Heckman reported we have been approached by the PA Game Commission to submit comment for State Game Lands Use Booklet. Ten recommendations to manage game lands by PA Game Commission and State Game Lands Advisory Committee several months ago. The Committee was founded to determine the Title 58 regulations for PA Game Commission managed game lands. Don wrote a position paper for the PA Chapter NWTf and sent it in. Jerry, Don, Larry and several people reviewed that position statement. As an organization we should respond to the 10 recommendations. If the Chapter feels positively about it, Don would write a quick letter and send it to Clay Van Buffer. After discussion **Don Heckman made a motion that the PA Chapter support the 10 recommendations. It was seconded by Skip Sanderson and motion carried.**

Directors' Roles and Responsibilities: Friday night we talked about directors roles and responsibilities update. It was suggested that all the new directors and one year directors get together as a committee and rewrite the directors' roles and responsibilities and have

something back to the Board for approval in six months. There was discussion also regarding officers' responsibilities and job description. The outgoing officers are going to write their responsibilities and include that in the booklet so that everybody has a clear, precise understanding of what they do once they fill the chair. This year's new directors and last year's directors would form a committee, determine a chairperson and report back to the Board in six months with an update.

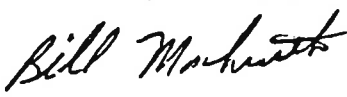
A motion was made by Don Heckman that the PA Chapter Director Responsibilities and the Officer Responsibilities get updated. Seconded by Skip Sanderson and the motion carried.

Alen Emlet Resignation: Alen Emlet was appointed to the Board for one year and must tender his resignation due to health problems. We have an opening on the Board and we do have someone in mind.

Chapter Presidents Meeting: Leadership Workshop for Chapter Presidents will be held on August 5 at the Ramada Inn in State College. Would Jerry check at Worriors Mark to see if that Saturday is available. Encourage your chapter president to be there and receive much information. Directors haave a responsibility to look at chapters in their home area and have personal contacts with chapter presidents.

Outstanding Bills: On the expense sheet there are two bills that are outstanding with the NWTF: one is for \$36.35 and the other is \$85 bill from 1999. It will be the Executive Committee's decision to pay these bills.

There was no additional business, and there was nothing for the good of the order, so Don O'Brien will accepted a motion to adjourn. **A motion to adjourn was made by Don Shawkey and seconded by Clyde Gouker to adjourn at 3:00 p.m on June 2, 2001. The meeting is adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,


William J. Mackereth, 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 E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING April 7, 2001 Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the April 2001 Annual Membership Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Chapter President Don O'Brien at 8:08 a.m., on Saturday, April 7, 2001. It was then noted that a quorum was present, and the Pennsylvania Chapter could conduct the business to come before it.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Chapter Secretary Rick Moroney stated that all of the seated board members had received a copy of the Annual Membership Meeting Minutes from last year, March 11, 2000. That having been noted, Rick suggested that we forego reading of the Minutes. **A motion to suspend the reading of the March 11, 2000 Minutes was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried. A motion to accept the March 11, 2000 Minutes, as presented, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chapter Treasurer Howard Meyers mentioned that the report given at our January meeting was the annual report. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented in January, was made by Dwight Kuntz, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chairman Gary Beatty announced the results of our membership's election of Board Members as follows: Carl Mowry, Reed Johnson, Rhonda Henry, Clyde Gouker, and Dennis Strawbridge were elected by the membership to serve a three year term on the Board.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: Chairman Gary Beatty thanked the Board for all their help over the years. In noting that his term as chairman would soon be ending, Gary thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board in a leadership role.

CHAPTER PRESIDENT: Chapter President Don O'Brien mentioned that it was a real pleasure serving as president. Don said that the best part of being the Chapter president was meeting all the volunteers who have done a tremendous job in helping to make our organization so successful. Don provided the Board with a written report of his activities.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter Vice President Carl Mowry said he was looking forward to serving as our new Chapter president. Carl said he is looking forward to working with the Board, and expects everyone to provide input into the decision making process. Carl provided the Board with a written report of his activities.

NWTF BOARD REPORT: NWTF Board Member Ron Fretts mentioned that, among the many ongoing changes within the NWTF, one of the biggest changes has been the hiring of a new NWTF Regional Biologist, Bob Eriksen, who will be helping us spend our money wisely on turkey related projects across Pennsylvania.

Ron mentioned NWTF's commitment to support the National Shooting Sports Foundation - \$1 million over the next four years - through state and local chapter donations.

NWTF membership is over 367,000.

Outreach programs - JAKES, WITO, and Wheelin' Sportsmen - doing well and/or good start.

750 Super Fund banquets were conducted in March.

Approximately 140 people are employed at NWTF headquarters.

Expect to reach the one million member level within the next five to six years.

NWTF BIOLOGIST REPORT: Wildlife Biologist Bob Eriksen spoke briefly about his responsibilities as an NWTF Regional Biologist. Bob said he was looking forward to working with ANF, State Forest, and Game Commission personnel, along with state and local chapter volunteers. Bob mentioned that he plans to follow up on habitat projects - to photograph habitat sites and to assure that money is being well spent.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND ALL AROUND NICE GUY REPORT: Don Heckman thanked Chairman Gary Beatty for his commitment to the Board as a leader of the Chapter over the past six years. It was noted that Don has been our Chapter representative on Capitol Hill and in Harrisburg for many years, and continues to do a tremendous job in communicating our concerns and wishes on important issues.

In mentioning the respect that our Chapter and the NWTF has earned throughout Pennsylvania, it was emphasized that this respect was gained from the hard work and dedication of our local chapter volunteers. Our local chapter volunteers are the foundation of our organization, and they serve the most important role in our success. **We thank you, and salute you, for your efforts.**

ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST REPORT: ANF Representative Janeal Hedman thanked everyone for working so closely with the ANF on habitat improvement and other projects. As reported, the ANF sent out a mailing that showed some photographs of cooperative projects on the ANF. A brochure was also distributed which illustrated some of the habitat projects we have worked on together over the years.

CONVENTION CHANGE: Board Chairman Gary Beatty reported that our Chapter will continue to have an annual convention. However, the format of our state convention will change. The convention for next year is scheduled to be held in January, and will be a one day event. In addition, the Board has decided to conduct a convention without exhibitors. Over the years, having exhibitors at our convention has been a troublesome, costly venture, and has not been profitable or worthwhile for the exhibitors. Bottom Line: Changes will be made and, hopefully, we can continue to improve upon our **annual convention.**

There being no further business to come before the assembly, **a motion to adjourn the April 2001 Annual Membership Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.** The April 2001 Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m., on Saturday, April 7, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 7, 2001
Hidden Valley, 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 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, April 7, 2001. 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. Moving forward with the business at hand, Nominating Committee Chairman Gary Beatty read the slate of officer nominees as presented by the Chapter's Nominating Committee during the January 2001 Board of Directors Meeting as follows:

President.....Carl Mowry
Vice President.....Don Shawkey
Secretary.....Bill MacKereth
Treasurer.....Howard Meyers
Chairman of the Board.....Don O'Brien

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 Don Heckman, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried. A motion to cast a unanimous vote for the slate of officers, as presented by the Nominating Committee, and duly elected by the Chapter Board, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion carried.**

A motion to appoint Skip Sanderson to serve a three year term on the Board was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Rick Moroney. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Alan Emlet, Gary Huff, and James Panaro to serve a one year term on the Board was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.

A motion to appoint Gary Beatty to serve as an Executive Officer on the Executive Committee was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.

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 9:20 a.m., on Saturday, April 7, 2001, and directed the Board to reconvene at 8:00 a.m., on Sunday, April 8, 2001.

**PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 8, 2001
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the April 2001 Board of Directors Meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 8:03 a.m., on Sunday, April 8, 2001. 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 activities.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Chapter Vice President Carl Mowry provided the Board with a written report of his activities.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Chapter Secretary Rick Moroney asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the January 2001 Minutes. It was mentioned that the Minutes should reflect that our January 2001 Board meeting was held on Sunday and not Saturday. There being no other corrections or additions made, **a motion to accept the January 2001 Minutes, as corrected, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chapter Treasurer Howard Meyers reported that cash in the bank beginning the period which ended March 31, 2001 was \$11,475.65. Total revenue, year-to-date, was \$59,787.59. Total expenses, year-to-date, was \$66,454.60, leaving a checkbook balance at the end of the period at \$4808.64. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented, was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Dwight Kuntz. Motion carried.**

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: Chairman Gary Beatty stated that he would cover the business he had to report under other agenda items.

NWTF WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS: WITO Coordinator Tammy Mowry reported that 14 events have been scheduled for this year in Pennsylvania. Tammy feels that she will meet or be close to reaching her goal of 20 events by year's end. **A motion to increase Women in the Outdoor funding for events to \$500.00 was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

NWTF REGIONAL FIELD SUPERVISOR: RFS Larry Holjencin reported that 255 bags of Strut & Rut were purchased through the seed subsidy program. This was approximately \$5500.00 of the \$10,000.00 allotted for the program. As a result, orders were still being filled after the deadline.

Super Fund: Thus far, 102 Super Fund projects have been funded in 2001. We have deposited \$90,798.00 into the account, and have spent \$239,249.00. Although the account currently shows a deficit, it does not reflect spring banquet deposits, which will more than cover the costs.

Membership: Presently, Pennsylvania is ranked second with 19,146 members. Illinois is first with 28,219 members, and Wisconsin third with 18,871 members.

2002 Awards Dinner: Larry reported that our convention is penciled in for January 12, 2002 at the Ramada Inn in Altoona.

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena reported that the Game Commission has included a "wild turkey page" on their website at www.pgc.state.pa.us (select "What's New" or "Wildlife" sections). This new section is a comprehensive listing of wild turkey history, management, biology, hunting information, harvest figures, safety tips, and research in Pennsylvania, and it also contains a study journal, similar to the fawn mortality study journal. In addition, the site has links to the PA Chapter and NWTF websites.

2000 Turkey Hunting Related Shooting Incidents: In 2000, 23 of 69 hunting incidents were during turkey seasons, which is one-third of all incidents. Additionally, 18 of 21 incidents (85%) of people shot in mistake of game occurred during turkey seasons. Turkey hunters caused 5 of the 21 in-line-of-fire incidents (24%). Fortunately, no fatalities occurred during turkey seasons in 2000.

Turkey Blind Legislation: As reported, the Commissioners will give final consideration to a change in Title 58, Section 141.45, allowing turkey hunters to use certain turkey blinds, in accordance with the new state legislation which passed last December. Under the new regulation, turkey hunters may use any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer located outside of the blind. Safety was the driving factor behind the change. The change would take effect immediately, if approved by the PGC in April. Following some discussion, **a motion to add the word portable to the blind legislation, in an effort to avoid shacks/shanties being built in the turkey woods, was made by Rick Moroney, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.**

Wild Turkey Research in TMA 7B: Fieldwork for the 2.5-year wild turkey research study in Adams, Cumberland, and Franklin counties continues, as the research team has just completed their second winter of turkey trapping. Using rocket nets, the team trapped turkeys within the study area, placed backpack style transmitters on the hens, and released them at the trap site to monitor turkey survival, reproductive success and habitat use in order to determine why the turkey population has declined on TMA 7B. Winter trapping began in mid-January. In early January, the research team began intensively scouting the Michaux State Forest and surrounding woods for flocks to trap. This included taking long hikes through the woods in hopes of finding turkey sign. The research team also used telemetry while hiking to observe many of the radio-tagged hens to see how many other "unmarked" hens they were flocked with. This method of finding flocks proved very useful. The research team also relied heavily on information provided by private landowners and Bureau of Forestry personnel. Early into the season the team realized that trapping was not going to be easy this winter. Snow was not deep and natural food was abundant, making it difficult to attract turkeys to the bait. However, with the increased snowfall in February, trapping improved, and the team successfully augmented their sample size of hens wearing radio transmitters.

The research team entered the winter trapping season monitoring 42 hens in TMA 7B. As reported before, one of those 42 hens was missing. Her status has not changed. Two additional hens are missing. Both hens were together in the Caledonia State Park area, and their signals were lost on the same day (i.e., one day they were present and the next day they were gone). The last day these hens were heard was January 3, 2001. After searching for both transmitter signals over several days and nights, the area they were last observed was investigated. Evidence was found along Rt. 223 just south of Milesburn Road, suggesting that a vehicle could have killed one or more turkeys when the turkeys crossed the road. This flock regularly crossed Rt. 223 so a collision may have been the cause. However, the research team can merely speculate because only feathers were found in the area. **If anyone has information regarding a turkey-vehicle collision in this area, the research team would appreciate the assistance with finalizing the fate of these two hens.** There also were three other known mortalities of hens prior to winter trapping. An avian predator (hawk or owl) killed the first hen. The second hen was killed after consuming rodenticide pellets that were legally applied to an apple orchard. Spreading rodenticide during the late fall is a legal method of managing rodents in orchards but, unfortunately, it can, on occasion, cause mortality to nontarget species like wild turkeys. The research team is investigating a hair sample left on a briar patch by a mammalian predator where the third mortality occurred. The three mortalities, along with the three missing hens, brought the sample size to 36 transmittered hens.

The research team trapped 35 hen turkeys at five locations throughout Michaux State Forest and surrounding areas, nearly doubling their sample size. One hen was a recapture from last winter. All others were new additions to the study, boosting the sample size to 70 hens. The total number of turkeys radio-tagged to date, including those hens that died during the study, is 120 hens. The team lost one of the 34 new hens to an unknown cause of mortality. Only the transmitter was found underneath the snow with no evidence of what killed the turkey.

Currently, the research team is monitoring 69 hens in TMA 7B. Sixteen are juvenile hens, and the remaining 53 are adult hens. These hens are distributed across TMA 7B from the King's Gap area at the northern end to the Fountain Dale area to the south.

The TMA 7B turkey research staff will be monitoring each turkey's movements closely. Careful telemetry locations will be taken daily as nesting season approaches, so the team will know exactly if, when, and where each hen begins nesting. Last spring, the first hen with a transmitter began incubation on April 27, which means she began laying eggs in mid-April. Telemetry equipment allows the team to remotely monitor

the hens without disturbing them off their nests.

TMA 7B Task Force: The Task Force met on Tuesday, April 3. Don Heckman questioned if the research study should be extended through the summer of 2002 to collect data on a third nesting season. Last year, the study was extended from the original two years to 2.5 years in order to collect three years of data during the fall turkey hunting season. Currently, fieldwork is to end during the winter of 2002. The PGC does not have money budgeted for a third nesting season. PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena will determine the funds necessary to fund three biologists aides through August 2002 (and possibly purchase telemetry transmitters), and will conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

Several task force members will conduct the fourth annual Michaux Turkey Summer Sighting Survey, a weekly survey carried out from June-August to record the turkeys seen while driving 30-mile routes. Data is used to help determine population trends.

At the recommendation of the Task Force, the Michaux-Yellow Breeches chapter submitted and received Super Fund money (\$8000.00) to mow 40 permanent herbacious openings (81 acres) on the Michaux State Forest during July. Research team members will monitor turkey use of these mowed openings to determine the importance of mowing for turkey broods on this study area.

Trap and Transfer: Efforts to restore wild turkey populations in southeastern Pennsylvania were a great success this past winter. Two hundred thirty wild turkeys (168 females, 62 males) were relocated to 10 release sites in southern Berks (1 site), Chester (3 sites), southern Lancaster (2 sites), and York (4 sites) counties. Turkeys were trapped from across the state where landowners desired to have turkeys trapped or where turkey-hunting opportunities were limited. To facilitate restoration efforts, the Commissioners gave preliminary approval in January to close the fall turkey-hunting season throughout TMA 9A. Spring gobbler season will not be closed in TMA 9A as spring gobbler hunting has been shown to not impact wild turkey populations.

Turkey Hunter Survey: In accordance with the Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Management Plan, an updated Turkey Hunter Survey will be conducted this spring. This is an update from the 1995 Survey. The 2001 Turkey Hunter Survey questionnaire has been drafted and reviewed. A pilot survey will be mailed in April to 100 randomly selected turkey hunters before final instrument design. The survey will be mailed to a randomly selected sample of 5000 turkey hunters after the conclusion of the upcoming spring season. Results will be available later this fall.

Wild Turkey Population Model Study: Principal Investigator, Gary Norman, provided a funding agreement template which each state chapter may use and replace the sections in bold as needed. Dr. Kennamer would like these agreements signed and submitted by May. Dr. Berkson (From VA Tech) has tentatively selected a student and would like to finalize funding also. The amount is slightly higher than was initially planned, but Vermont and New Jersey were unable to participate. Estimated project costs are: (may be reduced if teaching assistantships become available.) 2001-\$26,843; 2002-\$25,181; 2003-\$27,097; and 2004-\$26,516.

NWTF Regional Wild Turkey Biologist: The NWTF Technical Committee and PA Chapter is pleased to announce that Bob Eriksen, from NJ Department of Fish, Game, and Wildlife will fill this position beginning May 1, 2001. We all are eager to work with Bob and welcome him to the PA flock.

NWTF Convention: Commissioners Vern Shaffer, Sam Dunkle, and Roxann Palone, Deputy Director Larry Harshaw, and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representatives Robert Boyd and Mary Jo Casalena attended this worthwhile and entertaining event. The committee meetings were well attended and we came away from the convention with a better understanding of turkey management and research. This also gave us the opportunity to interact with turkey biologists and administrators from across the country to learn about current issues in other states. We greatly appreciate the support from the Chapter that makes our attendance there possible.

COMMUNICATIONS: Under the first item of communications, the Chapter received a thank-you letter from Commissioner Sam Dunkle relative to his attendance at the NWTF convention.

Received a thank-you letter from Lee Humberg for our support of his research work on TMA 7B.

It was noted that the April issue of "Outdoor Times" contained an article about the Chapter. Copies of this issue were distributed to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Youth Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that YHEC had received our Chapter's donation, and were appreciative of our support. As reported, the YHEC National Shoot will be held in New Mexico this year. YHEC shoot at Scotia Range will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2001. Bill is seeking Chapter volunteers to help with this event. Along those lines, Don Heckman mentioned that it has been rumored that the Game Commission was giving consideration to withdrawing their support of the YHEC program. Some concern was expressed over future financial and volunteer support of the program. It was believed that the NRA would pledge \$20,000.00 to support the YHEC program.

JAKES: Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that the checkbook balance was \$12,930.61. Thus far, 2733 JAKES membership have been issued through the raffle. We still have 1537 JAKES memberships available for the chapters who have not, yet, taken full advantage of their allotment through the JAKES raffle program. It was discussed that consideration might be given to allowing chapters who are, for some reason, unable to sign up enough JAKES members to cover their eligible allotment to give that allotment to another chapter. Bill was directed by the Board to mail a letter to local chapter presidents to more thoroughly explain the program and concept of exchanging membership eligibility. In other business, **a motion to donate a framed print to the YHEC program was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Starwbridge. Motion carried.**

PSU Conservation School: It was rumored that PSU was considering the possibility of closing their conservation school. Along those lines, Skip Sanderson and Reed Johnson were directed to formulate a letter to investigate this rumor and to express our support/interest in keeping the school open.

Habitat Committee: Chairman Reed Johnson reported that 32 chapters responded to the seedling program. The seed program received responses from the Bureau of Forestry (7 districts), PGC (all regions), and most of our local chapters. It was noted that the PGC and Bureau of Forestry provided much needed help and assistance with the distribution of seed through the seed program. Over 20 tractor trailer loads of seed was distributed across Pennsylvania. (Birds are singing and wildlife species are dancing with joy in woodlands and fields throughout Pennsylvania, thanks to all who participated in this most worthwhile project - "Fed & Alive.") A big tip of the camo hat and salute is extended to Reed Johnson for all his hard work and commitment to this project and other habitat programs. **Thank You!** In other business, it was suggested that work should begin on updating the habitat brochure with a draft to be available for the June or August meeting.

"Turkey Talk:" Jeff Mulhollem spoke to the Board and discussed his proposal for publishing "Turkey Talk." Much discussion took place prior to and following Jeff's presentation to the Board. Following this discussion, **a motion to accept Jeff Mulhollem's proposal to publish and serve as editor of "Turkey Talk" was made by Bill MacKereth, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.**

Promotional Items: Chairman Skip Sanderson reported that most of the 25th anniversary items have been sold out. Concerning Make A Wish, Skip reported that response was very poor. An official application was submitted to PennDot for a Chapter license plate. The first draft of the proposed ad for the Hunting Digest was made available for review and changes. Relative to the license plate, much discussion took place regarding whether to use the state or national logo on the license plate. It was a consensus of the Board to use the NWTF logo.

Paper Supplies: Chairman Dennis Strawbridge reported that Ray Smith has taken steps to acquire plastic reward posters. Dennis indicated that we needed to order more letterhead and envelopes. It was emphasized that the state logo would remain on new letterhead and envelopes.

Gun Raffle: Chairman Howard Meyers reported that about 600 tickets were not sold. It was also reported that some of the exhibitors at our state convention were complaining about the lack of sales. Otherwise, Howard felt that the convention went really well and was successful.

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, Rick Moroney suggested that the Board should consider purchasing a word processor and a fax machine for our new Chapter secretary. Rick mentioned that he has an old typewriter, word processor, and a computer that belongs to the Chapter, but these machines are outdated and extremely slow compared with today's technologically improved equipment. Along those lines, **a motion to purchase a word processor and a fax machine to be used by the Chapter secretary, at a cost not to exceed \$600.00, was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, Larry Holjencin suggested that the Board should consider providing two complimentary meal tickets to local chapters who are receiving an award at the Chapter awards banquet. Cost to the Chapter would be approximately \$2000.00. According to Larry, this just feels right, since we are telling chapters that they are receiving an award, and could they send two representatives. Oh, and by the way, you need to purchase two banquet tickets... Following some discussion, it was decided that the Board could not make a decision on Larry's suggestion until after reviewing the awards banquet report from January 2001.

In other business, **a motion to purchase four digital cameras for Chapter use, at a cost of \$450.00 each, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.** As a sidebar to the motion, it was suggested that the cameras would be distributed to our two RDs; Larry and Jerry, WITO Coordinator; Tammy, and our NWTf Regional Biologist; Bob Eriksen, so that they can take pictures of Chapter events and help to provide a photographic documentation of our Chapter story.

HTE Program: Don Heckman mentioned that the PGC was taking steps to retool their Hunter, Trapper, Education program. It was suggested that the Chapter should seek permission from the PGC to be allowed to provide input and suggestions to the PGC's decision making process on this matter.

State Game Lands Advisory Committee: Don Heckman reported that the Chapter provided input for State Game Lands recommendations. Copies of our input were provided to the Board.

Wild Turkey Hunting Stamp: It was reported that legislators are preparing to submit a proposed Bill before the House Game and Fisheries Committee for consideration of a turkey hunting stamp. It was suggested that the Chapter should meet with PGC personnel and state legislators in an effort to delay this proposal, and to help assure that, if necessary, it is done right. The current proposal is for a spring stamp for \$5.00 for adults only - no juniors, no seniors, no fall season, and no earmarked funds. Bottom Line: We need to work with the Game Commission and legislators to iron out the wrinkles.

POWA: It was suggested that the Chapter Executive Committee should receive the POWA directory and newsletter. Our dues to the POWA need to be paid, if not already done so. Chapter President Don O'Brien was making arrangements to attend the POWA breakout session in May.

Chapter Affiliation: Don Heckman mentioned that a Board decision needed to be made in June to determine whether or not the Chapter should continue to be represented with the Pennsylvania Sportsmen's Coalition, Habitat Alliance Committee, Conservation Alliance, and the Governor's Sportsmen's Advisory Committee.

Preliminary Convention Report: Howard Meyers reported that income was \$43,360.00, and expenses were \$18,977.29 prior to the convention. A final report of all income and expenses will be available for the June Board meeting.

Resignation: Howard Meyers announced that he would be resigning as Chapter treasurer following the June Board meeting. As an NRA representative, Howard felt very strongly that a financial donation should have been made to the NRA during the NWTTF convention, especially since NRA President Charlton Heston was a featured speaker at the national convention.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: The Chapter has been asked to provide guides for POWA members who wish to go turkey hunting during the POWA spring meeting in Mercer county during May 2002.

The June Board meeting of the Board will be held June 2, 2001 at the Moshannon State Forest District office. The Executive Committee will meet Friday night, June 1, 2001, at Reed Johnson's camp in Clearfield county.

Dan Roessner has taken a new job in Erie, and will be moving from Oil City. His e-mail address is no longer in effect. Use Dan's home number and leave a message, until things are worked out.

Carl Mowry mentioned that "First Day's Night" prints (40) are available to those who can use them at chapter banquets. Cost is \$40.00 per framed print.

It was mentioned that Mary Jo Casalena had an excellent article published in WITO magazine.

Don Heckman thanked Rick Moroney for his 15 years of Chapter service.

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 April 2001 meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors was adjourned at 12:34 p.m., on Sunday, April 8, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Directions to Board Meeting: Meeting will be held at the District Forest Office in S.B. Elliott State Park.
From the West: Take I-80 east to Exit #18 / Clearfield-Penfield Exit. Turn left onto Rt. 153. Cross over I-80 to first road on Right.

From the East: Take I-80 west to Exit #18. Turn right onto Route 153. Go to first road on Right.

Executive Committee Meeting: Meeting will be held at Reed's camp off Curry Run Road.
From the West: Take I-80 east to Exit #19. Turn onto Route 879 south towards Curwensville. Follow Route 879 to Grampion. Bear left onto Route 219 south towards Mahaffey. At Curry Run, turn Right onto Curry Run Road. **(If you pass stone church on left traveling south on Route 219, you missed the turn off.)** Follow Curry Run Road for approximately 3.5 miles. Reed's camp is down the hill on Left. Look for signs.

From the East: Take I-80 west to Exit #19. **Follow directions from the west given above.**

Good luck and have a nice meeting. I will miss not being a part of the decision making and all of you. I won't miss the meetings.



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 E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING January 14, 2001 State College, Pennsylvania

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag, the January 2001 Board of Directors meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation was called to order by Board Chairman Gary Beatty at 9:06 a.m., on Saturday, January 14, 2001. 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 activities. President O'Brien also mentioned that he had a report from Mark Davis on where the DART system was used last year and a schedule for this year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Acting Secretary Bill MacKereth asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the October 2000 Minutes. As noted, on the last page, under Good of the Order, it was reported that Charles **Pardell**, a member of the **Susquehanna Chapter**, had died as a result of a hunting accident. This was corrected to read: ...Charles **Pardoe**, a member of the **Susquehanna Longbeards Chapter**, had died...

There being no further additions or corrections to the October 2000 Minutes, **a motion to accept the October 2000 Minutes, as corrected, was made by Don Shawkey, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Howard Meyers reported that, for the period ending December 31, 2000, our checking account balance was \$13,233.39, and our inventory (fair market value) was \$6773.00, which brought our total assets to \$20,006.39, with no liabilities. Total revenue for the period was \$47,068.59, and our total operating expense for the period was \$45,310.85, leaving a budget balance of \$1757.74.

As reported, cash in the bank (beginning) was \$11,475.65, and income received for the period was \$47,068.59, giving us total cash available of \$58,544.24. Total expenses for the period was \$45,310.85, leaving cash in the bank (ending) at \$13,233.39. **A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Dennis Strawbridge. Motion carried.**

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

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT: Board Chairman Gary Beatty indicated that anything he had to report would be covered under Old and New Business.

NWTF WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS: WITO Coordinator Tammy Mowry reported that there were 11 WITO events held in Pennsylvania last year. Currently, Pennsylvania has 1311 WITO members. Nationally, we have 26,394 members. Goals for 2001 are to host 20-25 events, have at least five events reach Golden Hen status, and to reach 2000 members. Tammy is looking forward to a rewarding year, and looking forward to working with all the chapters to host great events. **Bottom Line:** With over 65 chapters in the state, these goals should not be hard to reach, but will require the cooperation of everyone.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: NWTF Senior Regional Field Supervisor Jerry Zimmerman reported that, as of the last issue of "Turkey Call," we had 18,041 NWTF members in Pennsylvania (10,670 adults) and (6140 JAKES).

Super Fund: In 2000, there was \$415,219.79 deposited into the Pennsylvania Super Fund account. We spent \$393,244.99 on 214 projects in Pennsylvania. A big tip of the camo hat, and a sharp salute, is extended to all of our Pennsylvania chapters, membership banquet chairpersons, and banquet committee members for all your hard work, commitment, and support. You've answered the call... When you hear that resounding gobble reverberating down Pennsylvania hollows and valleys this spring, you can take pride in the knowledge that YOU are a part of the wild turkey success story. **Thank You!**

Local Chapters: As reported, a new chapter was organized in eastern Pennsylvania (Upper Delaware Limbhangars), which brings our total to 67 chapters in PA.

Banquet Awards: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman gave a brief report of the Awards Banquet held on Friday night. As mentioned, 36 chapters achieved Golden Gobbler status, and 26 chapters achieved Grand Slam status. Local Chapter #1 took first place, Armenia Mountain Spurs was second, and Whitehorse Mountain was third in the Ron Sandrus Local Chapter Awards. Best new banquet was Allegheny Valley. Most improved chapter was Armenia Mountain Spurs. High net to gross percentage was Sherman's Valley (94%). And the most JAKES was Local Chapter #1 (547). Board Chairman Gary Beatty thanked everyone for their hard work and effort in improving their banquets every year.

Upper level Membership: As reported, our organization has developed a monthly payment plan for upper level memberships through bank drafts and/or credit cards. This would cover all membership levels above the annual sponsor membership level.

Hunting Heritage Fund: SRFS Jerry Zimmerman reported that NWTF CEO Rob Keck presented a \$250,000.00 check to the National Shooting Sports Foundation at the Shot Show, with a pledge to donate an equal amount over the next four years (\$1 million). This donation will help the gun manufacturers with their litigation over being sued by city governments, and will help to promote firearm safety. It is important to note that these funds are being donated by NWTF chapters throughout the United States and, thus far, we are the only conservation organization to have done so. The Pennsylvania Chapter has pledged \$10,000.00 for the next four years (\$40,000.00) towards this effort to preserve the Second Amendment and our hunting heritage.

NWTF REGIONAL REPORT: NWTF Regional Field Supervisor Larry Holjencin reported briefly about the upcoming NWTF convention in February.

Hunt of a Lifetime: RFS Larry Holjencin reported that Dave Pringle was our sponsor hunt winner, and will be hunting, sharp-spurred, longbeards this spring in Montanna. Dave signed up as a sponsor at the Wolf Creek Longbeards banquet. Our JAKES hunt winner was Abe Jacobs, who signed up at the Sherman's Valley banquet. Abe will be hunting out of "Gobblers Camp" in Greene County, Pennsylvania this spring (May 3,4,5).

NWTF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: PGC Wildlife Management Assistant Director Bob Boyd reported that the preliminary fall 2000 harvest report card counts were 8.3% lower than this time last year. Last fall's harvest of 37,800 turkeys was a record harvest. It is expected that the fall 2000 turkey harvests will be between 34,000 -

36,000.

Season and Bag Limit Recommendations: As reported, Pennsylvania's wild turkey populations continues to grow, as evidenced by recent harvest and summer sighting trends. Report card counts from the spring 2000 season indicate hunters may have taken 35,000 gobblers, which is close to the 1999 record harvest of over 37,000 gobblers. The 2000 WCO summer turkey sighting survey of 19 turkeys seen per 1000 miles traveled was slightly higher than last year's record high of 18. The combination of high breeding populations, warm winters, and abundant food sources over the past several years has resulted in increasing turkey populations across most of the state.

Bob mentioned that the Wildlife Bureau will recommend maintaining a two-week season in TMAs 1A and 1B for the third consecutive year, in order to evaluate harvest impacts of this one-week increase in fall season length. Similarly, the Bureau will recommend maintaining a 7-day season (two Saturdays) for the second consecutive year in TMA 9B, to evaluate this change on the turkey population.

No extensions are recommended in TMAs 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8, which already have 3-week fall seasons. Last year, the seasons in TMA 6 and 8 were extended to three weeks. Summer sightings in TMA 4 and 5 were down this year, but spring harvests remain stable. 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. Additionally, the Bureau recommends keeping the season in TMA 7B consistent for the duration of the telemetry research project so they can evaluate the impacts of season length on hen survival.

The Bureau will also recommend reducing season length in TMA 7A from 3-weeks to 2-weeks. The season was extended to 3-weeks last year. This population fluctuates widely year to year. Spring harvest densities have been below the statewide average 5 of 6 years. Only four counties have spring harvest densities at or above the statewide average. Ten counties are below the statewide average. TMA 7A has the 4th lowest average spring harvest density in the state. Three-week fall seasons have been held 5 times in the last 10 years, and in 4 of 5 cases the turkey population declined the following year.

The Bureau will recommend closing the fall season in TMA 9A until all suitable habitats have sustainable turkey populations, i.e., for at least three years following turkey transfers into 9A. This is consistent with the Wild Turkey Management Plan. A possible trigger for reopening the fall season should be when spring harvest densities reach one gobbler per forested square mile for three consecutive years.

Wild Turkey Research - TMA 7B: In an effort to increase the research team's sample of radio-tagged turkeys on TMA 7B, the team trapped turkeys throughout the study area from August-September. This fall trapping season, in contrast to last year, was not very productive. An abundance of natural foods kept turkeys from using bait sites on a consistent basis. All 27 turkeys trapped were leg-banded, and 11 hens were fitted with radio transmitters. Turkeys were released at the trap site. With the 36 radio-transmittered hens from last year, the research team ended the trapping season with 47 hens being monitored. Currently, the team is monitoring 38 hens.

In early October, a juvenile hen was lost to poaching. The fall season on TMA 7B was held October 28 - November 4. Hunting pressure was lower than last year, particularly in the Michaux State Forest. Only 2 of the 46 turkeys with radio transmitters were killed. One bird, a juvenile, was shot and not retrieved by a hunter (a wounding loss) on opening day. An avian predator (hawk or owl) killed the other, an adult, the last day of the season. This hunting season, the research team monitored more than twice as many hens as last fall, yet only one death was hunting related, as opposed to 6 of 22 during the fall 1999 season (including one wounding loss).

The illegal kill prior to the hunting season is of particular concern. The team announced the incident to the public, asking for help with information, which would be kept confidential. A \$500.00 reward was offered the PA Chapter for information leading to the conviction of the guilty person(s). Unfortunately, another hen was illegally killed on November 6, 2000. The research team found the transmitter in a creek along Big Pond road in the Michaux State Forest. The team members left the transmitter in the creek overnight to preserve the evidence, and by the next morning, the guilty party retrieved the transmitter and moved it to an unknown location. However, the research team is still seeking information on both cases with the reward still being offered. Three additional disappearances of transmittered hens have occurred. One disappearance occurred

Thanksgiving Day, an adult hen that the team had been monitoring for over a year. Two other signals (two hens from the same flock) disappeared in early January.

The research team has completed some of the statistical analysis, allowing them to summarize findings from year one (September 1999 - September 2000). The statistical analysis allows the team to utilize results of the turkey survival data from their transmittered hens and expand the results to estimate the survival of the entire population on the study area, including turkeys that are not transmittered. Survival of adult hens during year one was approximately 28%, which is lower than average. Juvenile hen survival was about 22%. Roughly 75% of the turkeys did not live through the first year of study. Average annual survival rates typically range from 54 - 62%. However, annual survival varies greatly from year to year. Because of this annual variability, conducting a multi-year study like this is important.

A low percentage of adult radio-transmittered hens incubated nests, only 73% of adult hens and 53% of juvenile hens (one year olds). Typically, 88 - 100% of adult hens and 42 - 100% of juvenile hens incubate a nest. At this point, the research team is not sure what caused the low incubation rate of adults - be it disturbance, habitat, weather, or other factors.

Survival of the young (poults) was low. Of 21 hens that successfully hatched nests, only 7 hens had at least one poult alive with her four weeks later. (The first four weeks of a poult's life are the most critical, after which survival usually increases substantially). This year the radio-tagged hens did not produce enough poults to replace themselves. The research team believes that the prolonged wet weather after hatching may have been a large factor in the low survival rate of poults. Unfortunately, weather is not a factor that can be controlled. Fortunately 1999's production was very good. Again, high variability occurs from year to year.

Winter trapping runs from mid-January to mid-late March. The team welcomes volunteers. Please contact PGC Wildlife Biologist Mary Jo Casalena for information about volunteering to trap wild turkeys at the study area.

TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force: On Sunday, September 24, 2000, the Task Force and Upper Adams County Game and Fish Association presented a turkey rocket-netting demonstration and updates on TMA 7B Task Force and turkey research study. Upper Adams County Game and Fish Association hosted the workshop which was attended by 35 people.

The Task Force recommended that the 40 permanent herbaceous openings on the Michaux State Forest be maintained with annual mowing. Maintaining these openings may help to improve turkey brood habitat, one aspect that may help turkey poult survival. The telemetry research showed that poult survival was poor this past summer. The Bureau of Forestry does not have the equipment or personnel to mow all 40 openings.

The BOF has submitted a State Super Fund Proposal through the Michaux-Yellow Breeches chapter to contract the mowing to an outside vendor. The research team will monitor turkey use of these mowed openings to determine the importance of mowing to turkeys.

Biologist Aide Position on TMA 7B: A request was made to help maintain employment for Wild Turkey Biologist Aide, Lee Humberg, through the end of the field research, November 2001. Following some discussion, a motion to donate \$14,410.26 to Penn State University's PA Coop. Fish & Wildlife Research Unit to maintain field research conducted by Lee Humberg on TMA 7B was made by Dennis Starwbridge, seconded by Ray Smith. Motion carried. Details and the necessity of this request were fully discussed at the Chapter Board meeting.

Regional Wild Turkey Population Model: Professor James Berkson, Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnical Institute (VA Tech), and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries have proposed a four year project to develop a computerized wild turkey population model for the mid-Atlantic northeast states. By working with the turkey biologists and databases from across the eastern United States, the researchers plan to build a new harvest management tool which would incorporate the full range of harvest management options, allowing managers to better access harvest options and better justify harvest policies.

VA is seeking support for this project through State Super Funds from the following states: VA, PA, WV, MD, NC, KY, TN, NY, RI, & MA. A motion to support this request and donate \$4000.00 for the first two years, and \$2000.00 for the remaining two years of the project was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

Regional Wild Turkey Biologist: As reported, the PGC Executive Office will submit a request to the Board of Commissioners to provide a grant to the NWTF to financially support this new NWTF position. The proposed grant totals \$20,000 for each of three years. The Bureau of Wildlife Management fully supports this proposal.

Spring and Fall 2000 Turkey Hunting Related Shooting Incidents: Since 1992, when fluorescent orange requirement was initiated for fall hunting, hunting related shooting incidents have dropped. There were 10 nonfatal incidents this past fall (16 in 1999), and no fatal incidents (1 in 1999). This represents 16.7% of the 60 incidents reported during the fall. Six victims were shot for game with 5 of 6 not wearing fluorescent orange.

During the spring season there were 13 nonfatal incidents (14 in 1999) and no fatal incidents (0 in 1999). Unlike the decrease of incidents in the fall since the fluorescent orange requirement, there has not been a decrease in spring hunting related shooting incidents since the 1993 requirement of wearing fluorescent orange while moving during the spring season. Twelve victims were shot for game, only one of which was walking and the victim was wearing fluorescent orange. Positions of the other victims were standing (3), sitting (8), and unknown (1).

Turkey Blind Legislation: On December 20, Gov. Ridge signed House Bill 1393, sponsored by Rep. Dick L. Hess (R-Bedford), which allows hunters to use blinds made of manmade materials for turkey hunting. It takes effect in 60 days. At the April 1998 Commission meeting, the Bureau of Wildlife Management recommended supporting this legislation. This recommendation was based on the fact that hunting safety will not be sacrificed if current fluorescent orange regulations are retained. Additionally, use of blinds to avoid detection while calling to wild turkeys should not be considered unethical unless done in proximity to bait. Pennsylvania was one of only four states that prohibited the use of blinds while hunting turkeys.

Winter 2001 Turkey Trap & Transfer: In an effort to complete Pennsylvania's turkey restoration the PGC will be transferring turkeys into TMA 9A, which includes parts of York, Lancaster, Chester, and southern Berks counties. If conditions permit, 150-200 turkeys will be released, at a sex ratio of three hens per one gobbler. The PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management and Southeast regional staff determined 10-12 release sites that are suitable for wild turkey releases based on a set of criteria. Land ownership and access for hunters also were considered. To facilitate this restoration, the Bureau is recommending a closed fall turkey hunting season throughout TMA 9A. Turkeys will be trapped within Pennsylvania on lands closed to public hunting and where there are surplus turkeys. All turkeys will be leg-banded. Spring gobbler season will not be closed in TMA 9A, as spring gobbler hunting has been shown to not impact wild turkey populations.

Turkey Hunting Survey: As reported, the PGC conducted a survey in 1995, and planned to do another survey in 2000. Presently, a survey is being formatted for possible release following the 2001 spring turkey season.

COMMUNICATIONS: Under the first item of communication, it was noted that the Outdoor Sportsmen's Club had published a thank you to our Chapter in their newsletter, for our donation of a print to their club.

Received an annual report from the Allegheny National Forest.

Received a letter from Jack Crouse.

Received a thank you letter from the PGC, for our support of the BOW program.

Received a copy of the thank you letter sent to PGC from NWTF, for their support of NWTF biologist.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: JAKES Committee Chairman Bill MacKereth reported that the checkbook balance of his October report was \$23,786.90. JAKE memberships which have been paid, since October, totaled \$7805.00, with expenses for postage and envelopes being \$11.29. Total expenses were \$7816.29, leaving a checkbook balance of \$15,970.61, as of 1-10-01. Thus far, 2125 JAKE memberships have been paid, out of 4221, leaving 2096 more potential JAKE members who still need to be identified by their respective local chapters.

Art Committee: Chairman Reed Johnson reported that print and patch sales were slow during the Christmas season. It was believed, however, that sales would pick up again once the sport shows begin. Reed has been working with Wildlife Artist Dan Christ to obtain some prints for Chapter donations. Reed questioned whether the art prints are being put to good use when used as handouts at youth events. Along those lines, it was mentioned that the prints are usually used as auction items/raffles for fundraising purposes as opposed to being randomly distributed.

Habitat Committee: Chairman Reed Johnson reported that the Habitat Committee would be meeting on February 11, in Centre County. Reed mentioned that there has been an increase in requests for corn planters due to our involvement in the seed program. The committee continues to search for alternative seedlings for Japanese barberry and autumn olive. In regards to planting crabapple seedlings, it was noted that seedling protective tubes should be used to prevent the seedlings from being eaten by deer before they have a chance to grow. **A motion to have the Habitat Committee create a new habitat brochure for the Chapter was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.**

A motion which directs a member of the Habitat Committee to attend the PGC meeting on nonconsumption use of state game lands was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried. Larry Holjencin mentioned that the NWTf has offered Strut & Rut seed mix to Chapter members at half price. An article will be published in "Turkey Talk." Reed Johnson sent a letter to chapter presidents explaining the program.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Gary Beatty presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officer candidates to the Board as follows: President - Carl Mowry; Vice President - Don Shawkey; Secretary - Bill MacKereth; Treasurer - Howard Meyers; and Chairman of the Board - Don O'Brien. As reported, ten candidates were included on the ballot for seats on the Board. It was noted that Greg Driebelbis has elected to resign from the Executive Committee, but would continue to serve on the Board. Eric Baker sent a letter of resignation, effective immediately, due to work conflicts. Dan Roessner has also indicated that he plans to resign from the Board. Rick Moroney will be resigning from the Board at the close of the April convention.

Hunting Regulation Digest: Chairman Skip Sanderson is working to get a two page color ad in the PGC Hunting Regulation Digest. As recorded in the August 2000 Minutes: **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.** Relative to Board discussion, it was decided to purchase a two page ad in the Hunting Digest rather than a one page ad. Along those lines, **a motion to amend the previous motion by omitting (\$5000.00) and inserting (\$10,000.00) was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.** Therefore the amended motion is recorded as follows: **a motion to develop an ad for inclusion in the PGC hunting digest, at a cost of approximately \$10,000.00 for the ad, was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.**

License Plate: As reported, we still need approximately 40 more signatures before we can submit an application to PennDot. If we fail to sell 300 plates, the state will charge \$1100.00 to \$1400.00 for the dye and still not offer the plate. It was generally believed, however, that our Chapter would be able to sell 300 or more plates. Along those lines of thought, **a motion to follow through by submitting a license application to PennDot was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.**

OLD BUSINESS: Under the first item of Old Business, President Don O'Brien stated that he would submit a greensheet request to donate an additional \$5000.00 to WLFA, as per a motion made in October.

Public Relations: Don Heckman, once again, emphasized the need for all committee chairman to do their job and submit news releases about their activities. Tell the Chapter story.

NRA: Howard Meyers reported that the NRA Foundation Fund approved all of our chapters' requests for JAKES and WITO funding.

YHEC: A motion to donate \$2000.00 to support the Pennsylvania YHEC program in 2001 was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Bill MacKereth. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Under the first item of New Business, a motion to donate \$2000.00 to the PA Federation of Sportsmens Clubs to help offset the cost of publishing a special safety edition of their publication, "On Target," which will be distributed to students at PGC HTE courses was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.

State Convention 2002: Much discussion took place about the difficulty we have been having in getting a convention site large enough to hold our state convention and getting a local chapter to host the event. A motion to have the current president, president elect, and seated Board members who are past presidents to review possibilities for a state convention in 2002, and to report back to the Board at the April meeting was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion defeated.

Following some additional discussion, a motion to conduct a one day event in January to include an awards banquet and a Board meeting on the following day was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.

Turkey Poster: RFS Larry Holjencin reported that George LaVanish requested placing an ad in "Turkey Talk," advertising his turkey poster, which sells for \$20.00, and the Chapter would receive \$5.00 from each poster that was sold. George also offered this poster to local chapters for \$10.00 each. Following some discussion, a motion to not accept George LaVanish's offer was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Dennis Starwbridge. Motion carried.

"Turkey Talk:" It was reported that "TT" Editor Larry Smail and "TT" Associate Editor Dan Sullivan are resigning their positions, and a search needed to be conducted to find a replacement. A committee was formed to look for a public relations person and a new editor for "Turkey Talk." This committee will be chaired by Gary Beatty, and Don O'Brien and Jerry Zimmerman will serve on that committee. It was also suggested that a contract needs to be written to establish a written agreement of responsibilities between our Chapter and the new editor(s).

Dart System: A motion to purchase a color TV and VCR to be used in conjunction with the Dart system, preferably a 25 inch TV and four-head VCR, not to exceed a cost of \$600.00 was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Ron Sandrus. Motion carried.

Chapter Insurance: It was noted that Chapter insurance would be increased from \$500.00 a year to \$750.00 a year. A motion to continue our insurance coverage at the increased rate was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.

Reimbursement: A motion to pay the IRS rate of \$.34 per mile for reimbursement was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion carried.

PGC Conference: A motion to sponsor the PGC Conference by donating \$750.00 for the Printing Program sponsorship which includes a free booth space was made by Howard Meyers, seconded by Don Heckman. Motion carried.

Print Offer: VP Carl Mowry reported that Wildlife Artist Walt Poniatowski offered to donate 70 "First Days Night" prints to the Chapter and to have them matted and framed at a cost of \$39.00 each. A motion to pay the framing/matting cost of 70 donated prints at a cost of approximately \$2730.00 to be used at Chapter, JAKES, and WITO events was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.

Turkey Reward: A motion to increase our reward for conviction of a person(s) who has illegally killed

a wild turkey in Pennsylvania from \$100.00 to \$500.00, effective immediately, was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.

Other Rewards: It was noted that our Chapter recently offered a \$1000.00 reward for the conviction of the person(s) responsible for illegally killing an eagle in Pennsylvania. Along those lines, it was reported that an elk, the largest antlered bull in the state, has been illegally killed, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is seeking donations towards a reward fund that has been established. **A motion to donate \$1000.00 to support a reward for the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for illegally killing an elk in Pennsylvania, and for this reward to be considered by individual case or incident, was made by Dennis Strawbridge, seconded by Carl Mowry. Motion defeated.** It should be noted that, during the discussion, it was mentioned that several elk have been illegally killed since the well known bull was poached. It was also mentioned that the possibility exists that more elk will be illegally killed in protest of the scheduled elk hunt. Moreover, the last time an elk hunt was proposed, the illegal killing of elk reached a point where the proposed elk hunt was no longer feasible until now - 30 years later. It was also noted that no other conservation organization stepped forward and offered a reward for the conviction of the person(s) who have illegally killed wild turkeys at the site of the PGC's research project in Turkey Management Area 7B.

Pennsylvania Taxidermist Association: A motion to sponsor the PTA taxidermy contest at the Eastern Sports Show by donating \$25.00 to offset the cost of their award plaque for the Best Turkey Mount was made by Skip Sanderson, seconded by Reed Johnson. Motion carried.

Dart System: It was reported that a committee would be appointed at the April meeting to oversee the Dart system program and to work with Mark Davis, who has indicated his willingness to continue scheduling and tracking the use of the Dart System.

NWTF Northeast Turkey Biologist: A motion to contribute \$10,000.00 each year for three years in support of the NWTF Northeast wild turkey biologist was made by Don Heckman, seconded by Skip Sanderson. Motion carried.

POWA Conference: The POWA Conference will be held May 3, 4, and 5, 2001.

George Venesky Lawsuit: It was mentioned that the Pennsylvania Chapter may be named in a lawsuit for our support of Governor Ridge's decision to remove George Venesky as a member of the PGC Board of Commissioners.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: It was mentioned that "TT" Associate Editor Dan Sullivan was having health problems and was not doing well. Board members were encouraged to give Dan a call or send a letter of encouragement.

It was mentioned that Past Chapter President Fred Webster was placed in a home.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ron Sandrus, seconded by Don Shawkey. Motion carried.** The January 2001 meeting of the Pennsylvania Chapter Board of Directors was adjourned at 4:15 p.m., on Saturday, January 14, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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