



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.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

The Habitat meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the S.B. Elliott State Park Office.

The JAKES Scholarship Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at Bill Mackereth's camp. The Executive Board Meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. (or directly after the Scholarship Meeting) on the same date and same location.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the S.B. Elliott State Park Office.

Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF Board of Directors Meeting Ramada Inn State College, PA January 7, 2007

Director's Present: R. Henry, B. Mackereth, D. O'Brien, B. Schmid, R. Smith, S. Motts, J. Panaro, P. Ferrara, D. Heckman, J. Drolet, T. Buntly, G. Huff, D. Butler, E. Couch, R. Johnson, H. Shields, J. Pries, G. Alwine, D. Burdge, G. Beatty, G. Caldwell, & K. Fernburg

Director's Absent: None

Guests: Ed Mascka, Ron Fretts, Dennis Strawbridge. We also had some gentlemen visiting from Canada; Kevin Townsend, Tome Howe, Jim Rance, Mark Clifford, Chris Patty, and John Todd

The January 7, 2007 Board meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m., by Chairman of the Board Dave Burdge. Chairman of the Board Dave Burdge opened the meeting by having everyone go around the room and introduce themselves.

Dave Burdge read the names of the new directors who have been appointed to the Board of Directors. The are: Bob Schmid, Ken Fernberg, Joe Drolet, and Ed Couch. We welcome them aboard.

Gary Beatty relayed the Executive Committee discussed where we would place the new board members on the roster. Ed Couch was put in a 3-year term to expire in year 2010 to replace Dwight Kuntz. The other 3 applicants were placed in order as their application was received to the Board of Directors. Due to not having an election because we had 3 seats open and only 3 people who asked to serve on the Board of Directors, they were placed as follows: Ken Fernberg, 3-year term which expires 2010, Joe Drolet a 2-year term which expires in 2009, and Bob Schmid for a 1-year term which expires 2008.

Motion made by Don Heckman to appoint the 4 new directors to the PA Board of Directors, Second by Tom Buntly, Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Overlooked in the election of officers, Jon Pries moved from being an Executive Officer to become the new Vice-President. This leaves a vacancy on the Executive Committee for one of the two Executive Officers. The Executive Committee has appointed Phil Ferrara to that position. Gary Beatty is no longer on the Executive Board, as he went back to just being on the Board. With regard to the new Executive Officers we will be sending it to committee and come back with a recommendation and come back at the next meeting.

Motion made by Jon Pries to bring Phil Ferrara onto the Executive Committee, second by Bill Mackreth. Motion carried.

PA Game Commissioner Greg Isabella, also Chapter President of the Fighting Spurs, and NWTF member, stopped by the Board meeting to say hello. Commissioner Isabella was thanked for attending our Board meeting.

Chairman of the Board Dave Burdge went over the ground rules for the meeting. Chairman Burdge also asked that as reports are given we will hold questions and comments until the end of the report.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Dave Burdge had a written report.

Vice – President: Gene Alwine had a written report.

Secretary's Report: There were a few corrections to the last meeting minutes. They are as follows:

- **1st Correction:** On page 10 of the minutes where it says Carl Mowry read the guidelines for the Rodger Latham Award – the minutes say Don O’Brien was nominated by Dave Burdge, *the minutes should read: Dave Burdge was nominated by Don O’Brien.*
- **2nd Correction:** Dwight Kuntz was marked as in attendance, *however, Dwight Kuntz did not attend.*
- **3rd Correction:** Tammy’s title is not correct. She is not the Women’s Regional Field Supervisor. *Her title is: National Women in the Outdoors Coordinator.*

Motion was made by Don O’Brien to approve the minutes with the corrections, second by Gary Beatty and Fuzzy Shield. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Jim had 2 written reports.

- **1st written report:** Jim had was a 3 month summary from October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.
- **2nd written report:** Jim had a financial statement for the last fiscal year January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 prepared by the CPA.

Motion made by Bill Mackereth to accept the Treasurers Report, second by Don Heckman. Motion carried.

Discussion: Don Heckman stated that at the Executive Committee Meeting on Friday evening there was discussion regarding the inventory that is the on Treasurer’s Report.

Jim Panaro gave an overview of the inventory and how the depreciation would work.

The suggested value of our art going into 2007 was 21,000 plus which is a secondary market value estimated guess for the purpose of the financial report. This will be a starting value for this financial report. Jim is going to check with Dave Cotton and see if it is to be the market value or cash value. Jim will generate an asset value for the next Board meeting.

Chairman of the Board: Gary Beatty had no written or verbal report.

NWTF REPORTS

Senior Regional Director: Larry Holjencen had a written report.

Chevy Sponsor Program: It is back for 2007. Is a Southeast Regional Program at this time, however, they are trying to get it across the state. Chevy will donate 1 sponsor membership per banquet. Chapters are encouraged to invite their local Chevy dealer to their banquets and let them display vehicles outside, if they choose.

Other Partners Giving Free Merchandise To Banquets: Delta Ag has donated samples of Grow Cote Seed Treatment; Bass Pro is donating a sheath knife, and Cabela's is giving a \$50.00 gift card for the banquets.

Bank of America Credit Card Offer at Banquets: This offer is similar to what we had 2 years ago with MBNA. *The program with Bank of America is our largest licensee program and has tremendous potential to raise money for the NWTF.*

- Everyone that signs up at the banquet gets a chance for a turkey sculpture.
- Once you are approved and activated, you can purchase a Dale Rohm Long Box Call signed by Rob Keck for \$20.00 plus shipping. The call is valued at \$100.00.

National JAKES Event: This event will no longer be held. Memo from NWTF is included. Bill Mackereth will go over the National JAKES Event in his report.

Super Fund Balance: Since Bob Eriksen was unable to attend the meeting, Larry gave an up-date on the super fund balance. Right now the balance is: \$32,218.00.

Regional Director: Carl Mowry had a written report.

New 5 Star Program: Carl showed a power point presentation on a new 5 star program called Adopt – A- Unit. Carl read a letter sent by Carl Brown. The first program, which is the pilot program, will be held with the First Calvary Unit in Texas. There will be outreach programs held on base, magazine subscriptions, etc.

Changes in Five Star Commitments for the PA State Chapter are:

Adopt – A – Unit:	\$10,000 (state chapter); \$250 (local chapters)
Hunting Heritage Fund:	\$2,500 was \$5,000 (state chapter)
US Sportsman's Alliance:	\$5,000 was \$10,000 (state chapter)
4-H Shooting Program:	\$1,000 was \$5,000 (state chapter)

The PA State Chapter can change, if they choose to, the minimums to \$100 from \$250 for WITO Events, Wheelin' Sportsman's Events, and JAKES Events if they choose to do so. The National JAKES Event will not be held again this year. With the shift changes nothing will change for the PA State Chapter.

Local Chapter Up-Date: We currently have 83 local chapters in Pennsylvania, with the latest chapter being the Shippensburg Strutters in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. They will be hosting their Hunting Heritage Banquet at the Shippensburg Fish and Game on Friday, February 16, 2007.

Membership Numbers:	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
• Adults (regular & sponsors)	9,844	11,133
• JAKES	11,415	6,611
• WITO	2,210	1,861
• Wheelin' Sportsman	720	354
• Hunting Heritage	<u>869</u>	<u>82</u>
TOTALS	25,058	20,041

4-H Shooting Program: There are over 300,000 shooters participating in the program as of today. The NWTF Has donated over 1.7 million dollars to the program to date.

New Membership Price: There is a new \$10.00 membership for people in the military, students, or the media.

New Time Slots for TV Programs on the Outdoor Channel:

- **Turkey Call:** Thursdays @ 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m.
- **Turkey Country:** Thursday @ noon, Saturday @ 2:00 a.m., and Sunday @ 6:30 p.m.
- **Get in the Game:** Wednesday @ 3:00 a.m., Saturday @ 3:30 p.m., and Sunday @ 6:00 a.m.

The Week of January 8, 2007 on Turkey Country will be a Montana hunt with Janice Nyce.

Board of Directors Chapter Call List Up-Date: Gene Alwine had asked for a new Board of Directors Chapter Assignment List. Carl passed them out to the Board of Directors.

Regional Director: Ray Smith had a written report.

Leads on New Chapters: Currently has some strong leads on new chapters in the Towns of New Hope in Bucks County and Quarryville in Lancaster County.

Diamond Life Dinner: Ray is currently organizing a Diamond Life dinner in the Allentown area. If anyone knows of anyone who might be a potential Diamond Life member or would like to upgrade to a higher level, please let Ray Smith know. The dinner will be limited to 40 – 50 people. The home chapter of the person stepping up would receive the credit towards their chapter banquet. It will be in the month of June. It will be a very special evening with very special speakers. The cost to the invited will be free. The understanding is that those people invited have the potential to step up to the plate. My goal is to generate 6 Diamond Life members.

Regional Director's selling tickets for 2008 Chevy Tahoe: All 3 RD's are selling tickets for a 2008 Chevy Tahoe. As in the past the RD's are asking the Pennsylvania Chapter for support by purchasing one chance from each RD. The 2008 Chevy Tahoe will be given away on August 19, 2007 at the Meadows National Gun Club. This issue will be brought up under new business.

National Convention: The convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on February 22 – 26, 2007. Rooms are still available by calling 888-777-6779 which is the hotel. The convention floor has been sold out with many vendors on a waiting list.

Entertainers throughout the weekend are Rhett Akins, Aaron Tipton, Bryan White, Craig Morgan, Darryl Singletary, Josh Turner, T. Bubba Bechtol, and Arlene Mandrell. The speakers will be our Former Homeland Security Director and Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Ridge, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and NRA President Sandy Foreman. The weekend of seminars is packed with anyone and everyone in the hunting industry. More details can be found on the website.

One Team/One Voice Leadership Workshop: This workshop will be held in Edgefield, South Carolina from June 28, 2007 until July 1, 2007. We are told this will be one to remember. The Head Staff stated that anything could be possible at this event. All participants are encouraged to bring a state flag along to show our presence at the meeting. The list of the invited are were sent into Nationals and there is approximately 30 people coming and information will be sent in the near future. Bring state flag. We have approximately 30 people representing PA.

National Women in the Outdoors Coordinator: Tammy Mowry had a written report.

2007 State WITO Event: Plans are underway for the March 2007 State Event at Camp Soles. Registration forms have been mailed out. Press releases will be done in the very near future.

Scheduled Events: There are currently 21 events scheduled with more in the process. I am always on the lookout for new areas that events can be held. If you have any suggestions that can help me identify individuals, chapters, facilities, or businesses that would be willing to host an event would be greatly appreciated. Or, if you know of anyone who would be interested in instructing at an event, please let me know. We are always looking new ideas for classes and instructors.

New WITO Spokesperson: The Women in the Outdoor Program has a new spokesperson. Cindy Garrison came on board September 11, 2006. She is the host of ESPN's "Get Wild with Cindy Garrison".

WITO Programs in Mexico: The Women in the Outdoors Program is going to Mexico. Several events will take place in 2007.

WITO Leadership Meeting: There will be a Women in the Outdoors Leadership Meeting will be held at the National Convention on Thursday afternoon.

Northeast Regional Biologist: Bob Erikensen was unable to attend the Board Meeting, however, he did have a written report which was given by Tammy Mowry.

Writing Projects:

- Prepared an article on turkey hunting safety for "On Target", a publication of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Club.
- Completed an article on 2006 landowner field days for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk".
- Wrote an article on the recently completed rights of way habitat improvement project in southwestern Pennsylvania for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk".
- Prepared an article for the Delaware Chapter newsletter.
- Prepared news tips for the NWTF Communications Department on fall turkey harvests, ballot questions to provide wildlife agency funding, disabled hunter events, and other issues.

Meetings and Presentations:

- Attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Wild Turkey Technical Committee, a gathering of all the wild turkey biologists from this region.
- Participated in the TMA 7B Task Force Meeting at Michaux State Forest.
- Participated in a press event on New Jersey Ballot Question Number 2 in Sussex County.

- Attended the November meeting of the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance.
- Met with the Spruce Run Local Chapter in New Jersey to use of Super Fund dollars for Wheelin' events.
- Presented power point shows on wild turkey ecology and management to the Governor's Youth Council meeting in Bellefont, at a meeting of the Reading Ridge Runners Local Chapter, and at a meeting of the Northampton County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Special Projects:

- Completed Habitat Protection Area and Land Preservation Area descriptions and justifications for areas in four states for inclusion in the NWTF North American Wild Turkey Management Plan.
- Completed draft comprehensive stated wild turkey management plans for Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware for inclusion in the NWTF North American Wild Turkey Management Plan.
- Began work on the Northeast Region comprehensive plan summary for inclusion in the NWTF North American Wild Turkey Management Plan.
- Completed filming a fall turkey hunt for use on "Turkey Call Television".
- Began to plan distributions sites for getting "Operation Oak" seedlings to members of Pennsylvania.

Super Fund:

- Processed 18 Super Fund request forms for Pennsylvania, 2 for New Jersey, and 1 for Maryland.
- Discussed Super Fund habitat project proposals with local chapter members and the Game Commission Land Managers.

Information Requests:

- Provided information on wild turkeys in suburban locations to writers from the "New York Times", the "Pittsburgh Post Gazette", and several local papers in New Jersey.
- Answered requests for information on wild turkeys from members and non-members in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and California.

Chairman of the Board Dave Burdge recognized PA Game Commissioner Dave Schleffler and welcomed him to our meeting. Commissioner Schleffler had stopped by to say hello to and to let us about a new certificate on the PA Game Commission website for “Pennsylvania Big Game Harvest” which were original for kids who harvest their first big game.. There is a certificate for deer, bear, and turkey. Commissioner Schleffler has been handing them out to WCO’s for the kids, takes them to schools, etc. Commissioner Schleffler also thanked the PA Board of Directors for their hospitality at the banquet.

NWTF Technical Committee: Mary Jo Caselena had a written Report.

Harvest Management

Current report cards received from the fall 2006 wild turkey season are down approximately 13% from the same time last year and 18% from the same time in 2004. Final report card figures will be available in March.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations

PGC Staff recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for fall 2007/spring 2008 turkey hunting seasons are as follows:

	1A, 1B & 2A		
Shotgun/Archery	October 27 – November 12	2 weeks	limit 1
	2B		
Shotgun/Archery	October 27 – November 17	3 weeks	limit 1
	2C, 2E, 4A, 4B & 4D		
Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	October 27 – November 12	2 weeks	limit 1
	2F & 2G		
Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	October 27 – November 12	2 weeks	limit 1
	2D, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C, & 4E		
Rifle/Shotgun/Archery	October 27 – November 17	3 weeks	limit 1
	5A & 5B		
	Closed	0	
	5C & 5D		
Shotgun/Archery	October 27 – November 2	6 days	limit 1
	Spring Youth (statewide/bearded)		
Shotgun/Archery	April 19, 2008	½ day (noon closure)	limit 1

Spring – Statewide (bearded birds)

Shotgun/Archery

April 26 – May 26, 2008

27 days

limit 1

(Noon closure Season limit 2 with appropriate license)

Explanation: Fall season recommendations are based on trends in 2 independent population indices; spring harvest densities (harvest per square mile), and summer WCO turkey sightings (number of turkeys seen per 1,000 mi driven). Fall wild turkey hunting seasons were liberalized (lengthened) from 2000 – 2003 in response to population growth as indicated by the indices; however, 2 consecutive years of poor fall mast crops (2003 – 2004) and 2 harsh winters and cold/wet springs caused poor recruitment and lower turkey populations. With poor recruitment, the fall turkey harvest typically comprises a large percentage of adult birds that normally would survive through the winter and breed the next spring. In 2004 and 2005, we shortened fall seasons in some WMUs to help reverse the declining population trends. We recommend maintaining season length changes for at least 3 consecutive years to track any changes in population trends. The “Management Plan for Wild Turkeys in Pennsylvania, 2006 – 2015” contains decision making criteria for establishing fall turkey season lengths. This criteria states, “Decrease gradually, or eliminate the fall season in WMU if: a) the previous 3 years of trend indices are consistently below index values when the most recent season length change occurred, or b) the previous 3 years of trend indices show a consistent declining trend if no recent season length change has occurred. Based on the above criteria, the fall season in 3 WMUs (2A, 2F, & 2G) should be reduced and the existing fall turkey seasons maintained for the 2007 season. For WMUs with a 2-week season, we are proposing keeping the hunting open through Monday, November 12 to take advantage of that day being a holiday (Veteran’s Day) in 2007. Also, we are recommending the spring gobbler season remain open to Monday of Memorial Day weekend.

Preliminary 2006 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

The preliminary Spring 2006 Turkey HRSIs were 4 with no fatalities. One was self-inflicted (sporting arm was defective) and the 3 victims shot by another hunter were mistaken for game. All 3 of these victims were sitting. All victims and hunters were hunting.

Preliminary results for the Fall 2006 turkey season were 3 non-fatal incidents. Two victims were shot in the line of fire (victims were standing) and one was mistaken for game (archery deer hunting sitting in a tree stand). All victims and hunters were hunting. Summaries for spring and fall seasons are provided at the end of this report.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision

The second draft was made available for public comment from October 24 to November 24, 2006 (30-day comment period). We received 34 correspondences from individuals, along with comments from the Pennsylvania Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation (3) and the National Wild Turkey Federation (2). Duplicate correspondences were excluded. Most correspondences contained more than one comment. A total of 90

comments were identified, covering 36 topics. The PGC Executive Office is reviewing the plan once more prior to final adoption.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

All 3 states (NY, OH, & PA) had fall turkey hunting seasons. New York hunters reported 6 banded turkeys harvested in the fall and one from the spring season. From Pennsylvania, 6 fall harvests were reported. No banded birds were reported in Ohio. These data do not provide information to estimate harvest or survival rates (because no birds are banded during the fall), but information on missing butt-end bands can be used to estimate loss rates of butt-end bands. Five of the 12 reported turkeys were missing butt-end bands.

Bands for the 2007 trapping season were distributed in November, with additional non-reward bands provided in each state, which will allow banding of additional birds beyond the quota of 300 per state if the opportunity arises. Wendy Vreeland of Penn State handles band distribution, database management, and contacts with hunters, and she is doing an outstanding job.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Nashville, TN

Thanks to the support from the State Chapter, the PGC will again have excellent representation at the Convention. Attendees will include Commissioners, Executive Director Carl Roe, Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient Brad Kreider (Northhampton County), Land Manager of the Year award recipient David Henry (Forester, SE Region), and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative Bob Boyd.

Discussion

Ron Fretts asked Mary Jo if there were any hunting accidents during the Mentor Youth Hunting season. Mary Jo stated that there was none during the spring turkey season.

Ron Fretts asked Mary Jo about adding fall turkey hunting and deer hunting for the Mentor Youth Program. Ron asked Mary Jo what is her recommendation on deer and turkey for next fall. She stated she was not asked about that. Biologically it won't have an impact. Ron feels Mary Jo should be giving her recommendation to the PGC whether she is asked or not.

Larry Holjencin stated that 2 of the recommendations made by the PA State Chapter in October were:

1. Extending the youth spring gobbler hunting day to an all day hunt and;
2. Extending the closing of the spring gobbler season to May 31 of every year.

Neither one of those recommendations were done according to her report. Currently extending the youth season we can continue to ask for it. Currently there are some issues with regard to conflicts with other user groups using the Game Lands. Some of these user groups are horseback riders, bird watchers, etc. The Commissioners have decided they don't want to address this issue right now. Biologically this is not going to make a difference especially for the youth season.

Don Heckman stated the PGC has to change the Game Lands regulations from noon to dusk before we can get the all day youth spring gobbler hunting.

Mary Jo was asked about the Gobbler Leg Band Study. What is the time line, as she didn't address it in her report. They purchased equipment, nets, trapping equipment, etc. Trapping teams are purchasing bait and straw. Next week they will start baiting and trapping will start after muzzleloading season. They will be trapping turkeys in different areas. They will not be using the 6 regions from last year. They have a trapping criteria for the trappers to follow. If they do have to re-trap in the same areas as last year, there is a box on the form for re-trapping areas.

Jim Panaro asked Mary Jo what is the plan if you take a mentored youth hunter out and they get a tagged bird? How are you going to monitor these turkeys for statistical purposes? Mary Jo stated to use either the card in the digest or write it up and send it in.

Wheelin' Sportsmen Coordinator: Jim O'Brien – Jim had a written report.

It is time to start planning for spring and summer 2007 Wheelin' Events. I know a lot of chapters are doing the JAKES Day and WITO events, but there is a very small number of chapters doing anything with the Wheelin' Events here in Pennsylvania. So if your chapter has considered a Wheelin' Event, but then did not know what to do to make it happen, please get in touch with me. We can get together and put the Pennsylvania Wheelin' events inline with all the other Pennsylvania banquets and events that are at the top of the NWTF list across the country.

We did receive a grant from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission in the amount of \$3,390.00 to do some fishing events between now and June 1 (deadline for completion of this grant). I am in the process of getting some events set up in different parts of the state now, so if your chapter may be interested in one of these events please let me know so I can look into other opportunities near you. If you have access to private lakes, farm ponds, etc., they are the ideal location for events. I can provide most of the equipment and we can work out the other details to make it as easy as possible for your chapter to host an event and you will then see the rewards the Wheelin' program has to offer. We also just submitted another grant application for the 2007 grants from the PAFBC. So hopefully we will receive this grant as well and will be able to help fund additional fishing events in the state

Events that are scheduled or have already taken place are listed below. Some are outside of Pennsylvania, but have had Pennsylvania members present at them:

- Early Season Deer Hunt – Greene County
- World Congress on Disabilities Expo – Philly
- Regular Season Deer Hunt – Greene County
- Yellow Creek Indiana, Pennsylvania – Duck Hunt
- Terrace Mountain Chapter Deer Hunt – Raystown Lake
- DelMar Waterfowl Club in Delaware – Duck and Goose Hunt
- Bombay Hook Refuge, Delaware – Duck and Goose Hunt
- Wye Island, Maryland – Duck and Goose Hunt
- January 9 & 10, 2007, Assateague Island SIKA Deer – Archery hunt and benefit dinner.
- April 1, 2007 Cabin Fever Steak and Shoot – Hunting Hills, Dilliner, Pennsylvania

Any questions about hosting an event or helping out at an event, please contact me at (724) 875-4140 or email at wheelinsportsman@comcast.net.

NWTF Board Member: Ron Fretts had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gene redid the committee lists as they were redoing the By-Laws. Left the list open until today for any changes. Gene will be updating again and email and mailing it out to us.

Changes to the Committee List are as follows:

- **Home Page/Internet:** Ed Couch came off that committee.
- **JAKES/Extreme JAKES/JAKES Gun Raffle:** Ed Couch is added to this committee.
- **Public Relations/Advertising:** Skip Motts came off that committee.
- **Wild Turkey Management Committee:** Skip Motts will be added to this committee.
- **Hunting Heritage:** This is a Standing Committee that all staff and board members are on. Everyone will be listed on a sub-committee. If you come off one sub-committee you will be put back on another subcommittee.

- **Delegates for Coalitions:** The back page of the committee list has the Delegates for Coalitions. We do need some alternate delegates on some of the committees, such as PA Federations of Sportsmen's Clubs and PA Sportsmen's Coalition. Don Heckman wants a commitment from someone to take his place on these committees.

Bill Mackereth is our delegate to YHEC, please add him to the list on the back page.

- **Habitat Staff:** Needs to have Ray Smith also included on the list under staff.

Safety and Education Committee: Don O'Brien is the chair on this committee. He wants to be involved with the green sheets, etc.

JAKES 1st Bird Awards: Denny Strawbridge is willing to continue on this committee.

Paper Supplies: Denny doesn't have anymore. Not sure how we want to handle this or who we want to do the printing, etc. We may be able to scan the original letterhead and make copies from that.

Expos/Shows/Conferences Committee: Greg Caldwell doesn't want to be the chairperson for this committee, however, after some discussion, he will stay on that committee.

Information/Education Seminars: No report.

Nominating Committee: No report.

POWA Contact: No report.

Publications/"Turkey Talk": No report

Art/Promotion Committee: We still need someone to head the Promotional Committee. Whoever that person is will be Co-Chairman with Dave Burdge. Anyone interested in this position, please see Gene Alwine as soon as possible. Gene will also want a financial and inventory report from this committee for the meetings and to be posted on the website.

Directors Handbook: Jon Pries gave a verbal report.

All Board Members and NWTF staff are to have a handbook. The empty protectors in the book are being revised at the moment. When completed they will be emailed and sent to all board members. Anything that should be changed or added, please email Jon and they will take it under consideration.

Jon Pries and Don Heckman are going to be reviewing the minutes from over the last few years to be put together a listing of adopted policies and procedures to go into the handbooks. Emails and mailings will be sent out with corrections.

Each director is responsibility to keep their handbooks up-to-date. If you leave the board, please return the manual back to Jon Pries and in the condition you received it.

There is one correction: Page 5 correction should read 2-year term in the By-Law section.

Habitat Committee: Reed Johnson had a written report.

The Habitat meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Any chapter that is planning a habitat project that involves fencing, please contact Reed. The fencing is free. Both electric and woven wire.

Seed Committee: Reed Johnson had a written report.

There is seed now for the West side of the state. Chapters that want to pick seed up early should contact me as soon as possible. More seed is being ordered but delivery could be late. Seed that is here and now available is: corn, wheat, and sorghum.

Dale Butler is going to do the ordering for the East side of the state, however, he has no contact persons, etc. to place his order. How does he get his seed ordered? Larry will give Dale the contact person at National Headquarters.

Reed will take care of the West side of the state.

Sissy at Nationals said the seed will probably be the same as always; corn, sorghum, sunflower, etc.

The cost of seed has dropped from \$2.00 a bag to \$1.00 a bag for us, so we will only need to collect approximately \$4.00 per bag, which includes shipping.

Specialized Seeds: Such as winter wheat or alfalfa, how do they get it if it becomes available after seed orders are put in? Sissy at Nationals will notified both Dale and Reed if this specialized seed becomes available then Dale and Reed will notify the chapters.

Dart System: Tom Bunty gave a verbal report.

First system didn't make it for this weekend due to a couple of problems in the process:

- Because of a miscommunication getting it ordered and because of the snow storm out in Colorado.
- Also some problems in getting parts that are needed to have a complete unit.

The unit is small and will fit on a desk top.

We currently have 4 guns in stock. The fifth gun was in pieces, but he thinks he can get enough pieces to get this gun back together to fix it.

The 2 guns that travel with the units are just in silicon socks. Need to get some gun cases for these units. Hard cases would be the way to go, however, they will cost over \$100.00. The cheap plastic cases don't hold up very well. The clips unsnap from their holder after some use. Soft cases are between \$10 - \$15 at Gander Mountain

Larry has information on a gun case company and he will email it to Tom.

Dispose of trailer was given to Jim. Dart cabinet had 10 - 12 hits on Ebay, but no bids. Tent is upstairs in Tom's garage, however too ship this tent is going to be hard because of the legs, etc. Anyone of interest on the board who wants it to see Tom The tent size is a 10 x 20 tent with sides. They will see if Bob Eriksen would want it for the Turkey Woodlands Events.

Dart system guns: Lasers are right in the guns. Don O'Brien recommends no soft side cases because they won't protect the guns from the bumping around.

Larry will email Tom the information on the gun case company that may be able to help us out. Committee will take it under consideration on buying the gun cases.

Need to get these systems in as soon as possible. The warranty is hopefully staying the same. Tom will be contacting the company this week and getting back to the Board when he knows what is happening with the systems and when we will be receiving them.

Joe Drolet will be putting an article in Turkey Talk regarding the new dart system and how to go about scheduling the system for a chapter event.

JAKES/EXTREMEAKES/JAKES GUN RAFFLE: Bill Mackereth had a written report.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance (10/6/2006) \$10,781.86

Income:	\$11,740.00		
	\$18,680.00		
	<u>\$ 1,100.00</u>		
Total Income	\$31,520.00	Balance	\$42,301.86

Expenses:

Allegheny Plateau	\$ 975.00	(195)
Wolf Creek Longbeards	\$ 550.00	(110)
Allegheny Mountain	\$ 90.00	(18)
Lakefront Longbeards	\$ 175.00	(35)
Bob's A & N Store (1)	\$10,000.00	
Lowerbucks Longbeards	\$ 1,010.00	(202)
Delaware Co. Longbeards	\$ 130.00	(26)
Bob's A & N Store (2)	<u>\$ 5,014.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$17,944.00	

Checkbook Balance (1/5/2007) \$24,357.86

JAKES Raffle: Didn't do very well this year. We had 41 chapters take tickets this year and 38 chapters sold the tickets. We sold 1878 tickets and we gave away 38 guns off the tickets.

Lowerbucks chapter sold 632 tickets and was looking for more tickets from October 1 – 15. However, between the end of October and the 1st week in November, Bill received over 600 tickets back unsold. Doesn't know what to do about handling this better and getting chapters to send back unsold tickets faster so we can get them out to other chapters that may be able to sell them.

This year we can only give one JAKE membership per ticket sold.

The total amount taken in from the JAKES Raffle was \$37,560.00.

YHEC Committee: Bill gave a verbal report.

Bill received the 2 prints today from Dave Burdge which will be used for the Junior and Senior winners at the YHEC event.

National JAKES Event: National headquarters will not be holding a National JAKES Event anymore. Three years ago they made the event an EXTREME JAKES Event and the attendance was down, so they are not doing an event.

Greg Caldwell stated that the State Chapter has guns and bows for chapters to use for their JAKES events.

We have the follows:

- 6 – Genesis Bows
- 6 – 410 shotguns (3 shotguns have red dot systems)
- 6 – 22 Crickets w/ red dot systems
- 10 – Pellet guns

Anyone interested in using the equipment for a JAKES event, please contact Bill Mackereth. Joe Drolet stated maybe we could devise a scheduling system on the website for chapters to request the equipment on the website.

Super Fund Budget: Dave Burdge gave a verbal report.

Rendezvous Committee Up-Date: Jim Panaro gave a preliminary report on last nights rendezvous.

Legislative Committee: Don Heckman gave a verbal report.

HB2601: License Increase – This bill never made it to a committee vote in approximately 8 – 9 months that the committee had it. The \$5.00 turkey hunting license was included in this bill for the first time every in Pennsylvania.

Don Heckman feels HB2601 will be used as a model for the license increase if we can get a legislator to stand up and add this into the bill. We will see in the near future.

After the election, the Democrats now control the House of Representatives. Representative Stayback is the Game and Fish Chair.

The Republicans still control the Senate. Senator Madigan is the Game and Fish Chair.

These will be the people we need to speak with when the License Increase Legislatures comes up again.

Taxes on Game Lands: General Assembly tried to paralyze the PGC with the enrolled up taxes on the game lands. Currently the PGC pays 1.3 or 1.5 million dollars in taxes on games lands to local township school boards. Hunters, sportsmen, and Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs helped to defeat legislation that would have the PGC to pay 5 million dollars in taxes. This bill passed the Senate.

HB2563: Concealed Carry While Hunting – You can now carry a concealed weapon without fear of being cited for a gun violation. For protection for yourself and others. You have to have a valid protection permit. Was signed and approved by the Governor

HB2134: Limits the Collection of Social Security Numbers on State and Local Government Forms - Act was passed by the Governor.

Between game, fish and firearm, there was 47 bills introduced and got passed by the Governor. There was 1 bill that was the Enforcement Officer side of the Pennsylvania Game Commission – The Enforcement Officer HB603 was passed by the House and Senate, but was vetoed by the Governor.

There is already a bill that is going to be suggested to be proposed by a leading republican representative, we think. The Representative is going to introduce a bill that wants to mandate all day turkey hunting. We don't want to allow legislation to do this. We need to fight this and defeat this, it if comes about. This is seasons and bag limits and we don't want the legislators to run this.

Turkey Management Plan: Don Heckman gave a verbal report.

Don sent the committee a list of 28 bullets on the list of issues that the Wild Turkey Management Committee has taken under consideration which deal directly with wild turkey management. Four of them that deals with legislation that can be handled by the legislative committee or executive committee and four of them in the other category that can be handled by other committees.

There are 16 position statements that the Board has voted on over the past several years. All summarized on March 5, 2006 on Wild Turkey Management

Turkey Management Plan meeting was held on January 6, 2007.

Several Action items for the Turkey Management Committee this year with regard to turkey management:

- Take a positive approach and start reporting in the Turkey Talk these issues. We are going to start by summarize the Pennsylvania Game Commissioner and PA Chapter Minutes from July and we are going to summarize the Commissioner Comments that we make and publicize them in the Turkey Talk. They we are going to put a report card out there and start telling our members how successful we are on these issues. Take a pro-active approach.
- Extending Spring Gobbler Season to May 31
- Extending youth spring gobbler hunting to all day.
- Expanding youth spring gobbler hunting day to more than one day.
- Expanding regular spring gobbler season to all day.
- Seasons and Bag Limits

- Additional spring gobbler regulation.
- Gobbler Leg Band Study
- Then once the 4-year gobbler leg band study is completed in 2009, submit research proposal in 2008 and request funding for state wide hen telemetry study for 4-years.

With regard to Legislation:

- Hunting License Increase
- Turkey Hunting License
- Support for Sunday Hunting

Turkey Hunting Dogs: Will be brought up under New Business.

With regard to Others that we are working on:

- Recommendation to remove word “mandatory” from the spring gobbler season orange regulation.
- Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety program – NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD.
- Turkey hunter safety and ethics. HRSI’s and why are the declining.
- NWTF turkey management outreach programs – Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs – seed programs, Johnny Appleseed, Get in the Game, NWTF outreach programs.

Items we are not going to focus on at this time:

- Funding on-going PGC/PANWTF wild turkey management plans for the next 10 years – we are going to concentrate on 1 year.
- Wild turkey population growth – we don’t have a population model – when that happens, then in future years we will try to get the PGC to give us a population growth, habitat carried capacity by management unit.
- 2007 spring gobbler tag application - Mary Jo covered this topic.
- Automated hunting license purchases for 2007 – 2008 is on the back burner.

Orange Committee: Phil Ferrara gave a verbal report.

We are not sure if this is going to be on the agenda for the PGC meeting in January or not. If not do we proceed?

If it is not on the agenda, a commissioner can ask PGC staff to bring information and report on the orange issue to the April PGC meeting. If that commissioner doesn't ask for this, then the issue is dead at this meeting, however, the PA State Chapter can continue on with what we are doing.

If it is on the agenda, then we can continue to proceed as we worked out at the meeting on January 7, 2007.

Public Relations Committee: Greg Caldwell gave a verbal report.

Greg was talking with some TV advertisers about doing advertising on the orange issue. Because we are a non-profit organization we can probably get some 30 second spots pretty cheap. He didn't have any specific figures at this time.

Fox Sports Network is one channel that might be of interest. Also Outdoor Buddies Adventures that hits the east part of Pennsylvania might be another avenue.

We could direct people to our website. We can possibly generate membership to the NWTF. We can do different kinds of ads, such as safety messages, we could do different things with this advertising.

Calling Contest: Greg Caldwell gave a verbal report.

The Master's Calling Contest is coming up on Sunday, February 18, 2007 at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona.

We are having major problems getting sponsors monies. With out the major sponsor monies we can't fatten the cash pay-out for the callers, so this reduces the big name callers from coming in to the event.

Any money we can get for sponsorships will help. The sponsorship amount was \$1,000.00 however, at this point we will take \$500.00. Any help we can get will help out with the event.

We are going to reduce the amount of the pay-outs and the number of pay-outs. The amounts this year after being reduced will be as follows:

- 1st Place - \$1,000.00
- 2nd Place - \$700.00
- 3rd Place - \$500.00

- 4th Place - \$300.00 gift card to Bass Pro
- 5th Place - \$200.00 gift card to Bass Pro

At this point we can guarantee these amounts. The entry fee is \$75.00 for the participants. Last year we had been 20 – 25 callers. Hopefully this year we will have the same amount of participants and hopefully a few more.

We have a company guaranteeing us \$500.00. Walker Game Ears needs a letter from the State Chapter on our letter head requesting some of their products as a donation.

The attendance last year was 8,000 – 9, 000 people, which was down from previous years, however, the day of the calling contest the room was full.

Greg will be contacting the call makers to see about being sponsors for this event. The committee has been contacting knife companies, camo companies, clothing companies, major retail stores, etc.

Awards Committee: No report.

By-Laws Committee: No report.

Publications/"Turkey Talk" Committee: No report.

Upper Gun Raffle: No report.

Communications

We received a thank you letter from the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association for our membership and our donation of a print at each one of their spring and fall meetings.

Old Business

- **WMU 5A Wild Turkey Task Force:** Don Heckman gave a report. They committee meet on November 14, 2006. Mary Jo Casalena did review the executive summary. They approved moving forward on the 8 executive recommendations. None of the recommendations have been completed, however, it is a slow process and Don is committed to stay with this until that task force is shut down.

- **Turkey Dogs:** Motion made by Don Heckman to have the PA State Chapter write 3 letters on behalf of our support for legislative change to legalize turkey dogs for fall turkey hunting. The letters will go to Representative Stayback, Senator Madigan, and PA Game Commissioners and Executive Director of the PA Game Commission under 1 letter. Don O'Brien second the motion for the purpose of discussion.

Voting was taken by a show of hands. **The vote was:** 6 – yes; 10 – no. The motion was defeated.

- **Jim O'Brien's Trailer:** Jim O'Brien had to trade in the old dart trailer for a 2004 wider trailer. Jim stated he has spoken with the New York State Board and they are talking of possibly giving him \$500.00 to help with payment of the trailer, however, they tabled it until their next meeting. Jim has not be able to get to any of his other state board meetings to discuss it with them.

New Business

- **YHEC:** Motion made by Bill Mackereth for the PA State Chapter, NWTF to again this year donate \$1,000.00 to Pennsylvania YHEC. Second by Don O'Brien. Motion carried.
- **Adopt-A-Unit:** Motion made by Don O'Brien for the PA State Chapter, NWTF to green sheet \$10,000.00 toward the Adopt-A-Unit Program. Second by Jon Pries. Motion carried.
- **Tahoe Tickets:** Motion made by Gene Alwine for the PA State Chapter – NWTF to purchase a Tahoe Ticket from each of the 3 RD's at a cost of \$100.00 each for a total of \$300.00. Second by Skip Motts. Motion carried.
- **AT&T Calling Cards:** Board members can use these cards. There are four board members coming off the calling cards. Do we want to give them to the four new board members or do we want to discontinue the practice? The board decided to continue the practice of using the calling cards. Anyone who wants to change their status with the calling cards – see Jim Panaro.
- **Pennsylvania Taxidermy Association:** Motion made by Don Heckman for the PA State Chapter, NWTF to donate \$50.00 to the Pennsylvania Taxidermy Association to sponsor their wild turkey award and mount. Second by Gary Beatty. Motion carried.
- **NRA Club Affiliation Status:** Motion made by Don Heckman for the PA State Board, NWTF to renew our 5-year NRA Club Affiliation for a total of \$150.00. Second by Bill Mackereth. Motion carried.

- **Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs:** Motion made by Don Heckman for the PA State Board – NWTF to renew our annual dues to the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs in the amount of \$1,500.00. Second by Jim Panaro. Motion carried.
- **POWA:** Motion made by Don Heckman for the PA State Board – NWTF to renew our annual dues to the POWA for \$100.00. Second by Jon Pries. Motion carried.

Don Heckman is the PA State Board, NWTF delegate to the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Club. Don needs an alternate delegate to attend the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Club spring meeting and banquet being held in Williamsport on March 23 – 25, 2007. Don has all the information for the person who is willing to attend this weekend.

The PA State Chapter has approved to cover the expenses, which include registration, room, and mileage, for the delegate and the alternate delegate to attend.

The fall convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportmen's Clubs is held in Harrisburg.

- **PA Game Commission Meeting:** The PA Game Commission meeting will be held on January 21 - 23, 2007. The meeting on January 21, 2007 will start at 1:00 p.m. in Harrisburg.

Six Comment points for that meeting are:

1. Extending Spring Turkey Season to May 31.
2. All Day Youth Spring Turkey Hunting.
3. Orange Voluntary rather than Mandatory for the Spring Season.
4. Recommendation for seasons and bag limits.
5. Revise Turkey Management Plan.
6. Mentor Youth Hunting Season in Sprint Turkey (thank you).
7. Plus Tammy's items.

For the Good of the Order

Dave Burdge thanked the gentlemen from Canada for coming and attending our banquet and board meeting.

Gary Beatty also thanked the gentlemen from Canada and wished them lots of luck with their NWTF work.

Rhonda Henry thanked everyone for the watch and recognition at the Rendezvous for her part in doing the registration. It was greatly appreciated.

The gentlemen from Canada thanked the PA State Board for our hospitality over the weekend.

Jon Pries wanted to know if anyone was planning on driving down to the National Convention. If they are, please see Jon Pries.

Motion made by Bill Mackereth for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Second by Rhonda Henry. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Henry
PA State Chapter Secretary