

POWWow

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Late Summer 2022

POWAers take to PA's Northern Tier

Members enjoyed another great conference in Pa's Northern Tier this spring, as Tioga County hosted the 2022 annual POWA conference.

With so much to do in the area, the conference committee (chaired by Don Knaus '06, with help from Linda Stager '16, Chris Espenshade '18 and Lilace Melin Guignard '20) opted for an extra day of activities, giving members a half-dozen choices for hunting, fishing, biking, hiking and touring the outdoors. Many arrived Wednesday evening to get out early and enjoy activities on Thursday.

See **TIER**, page 8



Contributed Photo

Past President Tom Tatum with a dandy rainbow trout caught prior to Friday night's barbecue dinner at the Mill Cove Environment Education Center.

Spotlight Series value is apparent to supporting member

By Scott Croft
VP Public Affairs, BoatUS

While I've only been a supporting member of POWA for a couple of years, I have recognized the value of professional outdoor writer groups for a long time.

Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS) has been a member of AGLOW, NYSOWA, NEOWA, NOWA, TOWA and a few others for nearly a decade, and supporting memberships in these organizations have helped me grow awareness of our advocacy, services and safety offerings for boat owners throughout that time.

See **SERIES**, page 7



Steve Piatt Photo

Excellence in Craft Award winners recognized at the POWA Spring Conference included: (Front, from left) – Timothy Flanigan, Alex and Joann Zidock, Bob Steiner, Linda Stager and Paula Piatt; Back – Marshall Nych, Gerald Putt, Tom Tatum, Brian Kightlinger, Doyle Dietz, Tyler Frantz and Charlie Burchfield.

POWA recognizes Craft Award winners

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association presented its the annual Excellence in Craft Awards at spring conference banquet held Saturday, May 21 at Mansfield University. Awards Chair Brad Isles presented first-place awards to 18 winners across a total of eight Core Award and 20 Specialty Award categories.

Overall, 39 members submitted a total of 347 entries across a combined 225 categories.

Winners are:

POWA CORE AWARDS

1. **Best Newspaper Column**
(sponsored by Bob & Linda Steiner)

See **WINNERS**, page 6

Paying dues on time is a simple act of POWA professionalism

By Jerry Bush

POWA 1st Vice President

During September's POWA board of directors meeting, our executive director justifiably expressed frustration that some members must be contacted four or five times before paying their delinquent dues. Her statement caused me to think. Is delinquency a professional trait? POWA is, after all, an organization that exists to develop, promote and preserve professional, outdoor communicators.

What do our organization's constitution & bylaws have to say about dues? I'll make this short and simple by using capital letters to highlight keywords.

The annual dues **SHALL BE** payable within (60) days of invoice. If payment is **NOT RECEIVED** at the end of (60) days, that member is considered **DELINQUENT**. It is not written that members "may pay" within (60) days. However, understanding things happen in life, our organizers

included a contingency. After (60) days, if dues haven't been received, our executive director shall submit "ANOTHER" invoice offering a grace period of (30) days. That is (2) notifications (not more), allowing a total of (90) days. Let that sink in!

We have the privilege of membership with the best outdoor communicators in Pennsylvania, (many of whom are among the best in the nation) and enjoy membership benefits if we pay our dues within one quarter of a calendar year. When asked why she must contact members repeatedly, even after one quarter of a year, our executive director made a shocking statement. "If we adhered strictly to our (90) day requirement, up to 30% of our members would be disqualified." Obviously, nobody wants that to happen!

Consider how much time and effort you can save our executive director and our treasurer, simply by paying dues in a timely manner. I dare to suggest consideration for others is a professional trait!

Wildt, Bixler named Will Johns scholars

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association announces two Penn State University students as the recipients of this year's Willard T. Johns Memorial Scholarship Awards.

Alexis Wildt is furthering her education at the University Park campus this fall, in the field of Wildlife and Fishery Sciences. A native of Riverside, Pa., Alexis is involved in Student Government (Sustainability Committee) and THON on campus. Her personal interests include hiking, fishing, mountain biking, camping and just enjoying nature and seeing wildlife. After college, her career goals include being a park ranger and possibly getting into marine rescue or animal rehabilitation, all of which will involve speaking with the public and incorporating outdoor communications.

Brandon Bixler is originally from East Earl, Pa. and is a 2019 graduate of Garden Spot High School. He currently attends Penn State University Schreyer Honors College where he studies Agricultural



Wildt



Bixler

and Extension Education with a minor in International Agriculture. By combining his passions for the outdoors and the agricultural industry, Brandon seeks to make an impact with integrity through education. Brandon is involved in the PSU FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter, the Presidential Leadership Academy and the University Park Undergraduate Association student government. In his free time, Brandon enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time with family and friends.

PowWow

Late Summer 2022

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www.paoutdoorwriters.com

PAULA PIATT

POWA Executive Director

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POWA Officers 2022-23

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President's Message

by Kyle Hey

It is an honor to serve as President of POWA this year. It is amazing to see the work that has been undertaken to maintain this organization and I thank each and every one of you for contributing to our collective success. I hope you were able to make it to the conference this year at Mansfield University. The planning committee did an amazing job and we all left impressed and grateful for their efforts. The sessions were great, and it is always great to catch up with old friends. Be on the lookout for information on next year's conference.

I wanted to take some time to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me. I live in south central Pennsylvania, between Dillsburg and Mechanicsburg. I am married to an amazing woman, Mary, and we have two young children. It is amazing to see the love of the outdoors pass so quickly to children so young. I teach social studies at Palmyra High School and my wife is a school counselor in the Carlisle School District.

It was through my work that I met another writer, Tyler Frantz, who introduced me to POWA. It has been a fun ride ever since. I have met great friends and found mentors that I respect within our ranks. I truly feel that the relationships we have with one another are the greatest benefit to being a part of our organization. I have felt welcomed into POWA since my first conference, when I had only one or two articles to my name.

That welcoming spirit is key to our future as an organization.



The outdoor communication landscape certainly looks different than it did 10 years ago. As we navigate change together it is important that we continue to be generous with our time and efforts with each other and new members. As hunting and fishing licenses are on the rise, more potential communicators will be using increasingly creative ways to get their stories out to the public. Now is the perfect time to reach out to any outdoor communicators that you may know and ask them to join POWA. Together we can continue to build on the strong foundation that has been built over the years.

I look forward to a great year!

New Members

Changes/Corrections

Executive Director's Report

by Paula Piatt,
Executive Director

We've worked our way through the "summer lull," that never came and we are already beginning to gear up for 2023's activities.

First, let's look quickly back on our successful 2022 conference in Tioga County. Check out the photos in this issue of PowWow! I want to thank the committee (Don Knaus, Linda Stager, Chris Espenshade and Lilace Mellin Guingard) for their hard work and dedication to making our Mansfield experience special. There is so much going on behind the scenes that members will never see (unless they've been part of a conference committee). My hat is off to these four POWAers who spent a lot of time and talent to make the conference a success!

Another committee of members has now taken the baton and is already working on our 2023 conference in Centre County. Jerry Bush has agreed to serve as chair; helping him are Jeff Mulhollem, Mark Nale and Edward Stoddard of the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau. Of course, if there's anyone out there who would also like to help, there's plenty to do. We've got the venue locked up (we're at the Ramada Conference Center in State College) and the committee is now planning a great weekend of activities, newsmakers and story ideas, and fun. We're certainly centrally located this year – put May 18-21, 2023 on your calendar now so you don't have any other plans!

Summer is an opportunity to reflect a bit on the past year, as POWA's fiscal year ended Aug. 31. We saw good growth in 2021-22 in our individual membership, welcoming a dozen new members (with some still in the application process). On the supporting member side, it's been slower, with only two new members in '21-22. I would challenge the membership to more than double that this coming year... can we get to five new supporting members by August 2023? Do you know or work with an outdoor business that could benefit from a relationship with POWA? As outdoor communicators, we're talking all the time with businesses, non-profits and companies that could use our help to get the word out. At the same time, all of POWA's members benefit from having those experts at their fingertips. If you're not sure about the process of reaching out to a supporting member, contact the POWA office (info@paoutdoorwriters.com/570-886-1609) and I'll be glad to walk you through it. And don't forget – sponsor two members in '22-23 and we'll waive your 2024 membership dues!

The board of directors, treasurer John Allen and I have been working to finding new and different ways to help with our revenue streams. Two simple and easy ways have been through our new VISA Business Rewards account and registration with Amazon Smile. For every qualifying purchase, Amazon will donate .05% of the



purchase price back to us. Our first cash back amount was \$5, but I know there are more members than just me who visit Amazon for purchases throughout the year, so here's your chance to help POWA. Scan the QR code below, or use this link (https://smile.amazon.com/?ref_=smi_ext_ch_23-7291889_dl) when you buy on Amazon, or just Google Amazon Smile and then search for "Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association Inc" to find the link to our page. And then bookmark it! (Believe me, I'm doing my best to increase our donations!)

We've also opened a Business Rewards VISA account which gives us cash back on purchases. As you know, most things these days are "on the card" and this has given us yet another way to boost that "general contribution" line in our budget. It all goes back into POWA to help us do the work of our mission. In two months, we've already earned over \$125.

Continued on next page...

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For each of your eligible purchases,
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In terms of member benefits, I would encourage everyone to take advantage of our monthly Spotlight Series... the virtual get together held the first Thursday of every month. This fall, we featured such supporting members as the Keystone Elk Country Alliance, Martz's Gap View Hunting Preserve, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Oswego County Tourism. We're taking a break for hunting season from October through December and then we're back January for another year of great topics and conversation. Brad Isles and Tyler Frantz of the Media Committee are being very strategic with the Spotlight – inviting guests that will give you the opportunities for stories and story ideas and filling the calendar with enough lead time to get the word out in a timely fashion. If you haven't already found our monthly Spotlight... plan on joining us! Email and Facebook reminders are routinely sent.

Our 2022-23 directory is now complete and you should have received that in the mail. It is also online. As it is for member use only, it is password protected. You can contact the POWA office for password information. And please let the office know of any changes in your directory listing when you send in your '22-23 membership renewal.

I'm looking forward to working with the new slate of officers and board members – there are a lot of great ideas floating around that will take POWA to even greater heights. Just remember that a handful of people can't do this on their own. If and when someone reaches out to you to help in some way, please consider giving POWA some of your time and talent – there is no shortage of talent in one of the largest outdoor communication organizations in the country!

POWA on the Web

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Supporting Member News



Paula Platt Photo

POWA members John Plowman '62, Rose Anna Moore '22, Roger Kingsley '16 along with supporting member Hunters Sharing the Harvest's Randy Ferguson '22.

POWAers on hand as HSH receives \$20K grant from Bradford County

A \$20,000 grant will help hunters and processors in Bradford County supply fresh venison protein to those in need in the coming years.

Bradford County's commissioners, Daryl Miller, Doug McLinko and John Sullivan were on hand to present Hunters Sharing the Harvest with the money from the county's American Recovery Act funds to ensure venison donations are processed and delivered to the organizations that are positioned to provide the protein at no cost to those in the community who need food assistance.

The announcement was made by the commissioners and HSH during a check presentation and news conference at the Towanda Gun Club on Wednesday, May 18.

POWA was well represented at the event, not only by supporting member, Hunters Sharing the Harvest '94, but through individual members John Plowman '62, founder of HSH; member Roger Kingsley '16, Bradford County's HSH coordinator; and Rose Anna Moore, '22, an HSH board member. POWA Executive Director Paula Piatt '10 was also on hand for the event.

"We at HSH couldn't be more thankful for this major funding commitment to support our mission in Bradford County," said Ferguson, executive director of HSH and an individual POWA member. "Last season alone, Bradford County hunters donated 4,212 pounds of venison, providing over 22,000 servings of this lean and healthy protein source to the food insecure in Bradford County. The generous funds provided by the County will help us defray the processing costs associated with our efforts here this year and for hunting seasons to come."

The allocation of \$20,000 is the largest gift to date in Bradford County and it comes at a critical point in time when the organization has reported a season total of 187,426 pounds of venison donated statewide from 4,691 donated deer.

The recent season numbers are on-par with the 2020-21 season when 190,302 pounds were donated from 4,896 deer for a record year. This is significant considering the statewide deer harvest decreased approximately 13% according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Winners

from page 1

– “Man’s best friend” by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on June 6, 2021.

Runner-Up: “When all feels right, it’s OK to take archery shot” by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on Nov. 7, 2021.

2. Best Newspaper Feature (sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest) – “Boxed Inn” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown Herald Standard on Aug. 22, 2021.

Runner-Up: “More than 200 practice falconry in PA” by Brian Whipkey, published in The Daily American on July 17, 2021.

3. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Column (sponsored by POWAEIC Entries) – “Backtracking” by Bob Sopchick, published in Pennsylvania Game News, December 2021.

Runner-Up: “Summer’s upstream allure” by Ben Moyer, published in Pennsylvania Game News, Sept. 10, 2021.

4. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Feature (sponsored by Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists) – “The Ruffed Grouse – 90 Years” by Timothy Flanigan, published in Covers Magazine, Spring 2021.

Runner-Up: “Special Abilities Deer Hunter” by Steve Sorensen, published in Deer and Deer Hunting, December 2021.

5. Best Published Newspaper Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA Past Presidents) – “Cooper’s Hawk with Chipmunk” by Karen Wolf, published in the Dillsburg Banner on Nov. 11, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Vulnerable Eagle” by Steve Sorensen, published in the Jamestown Gazette on July 26, 2021.

6. Best Published Magazine Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Trout Cover” by Linda Stager, Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Cover, November/December.

Runner-Up: “Spring Peeper” by Joe McDonald, published in Nature Photographer, Summer 2021.

7. Broadcast Media Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Saltwater Fly Fishing 101” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, June 3, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Pennsylvania Game Wardens Reflect on Fall 2021 Hunting Seasons” by Brian Whipkey, Daily American Videos, December 2021.

8. Best Published Art Award, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Music from Winslow Hill” by Gerald Putt, Pennsylvania Game News cover, October 2021.

Runner-Up: “Sycamore Retreat” by Michael Kensinger, 2021 PA Waterfowl Management Stamp Design.

POWA SPECIALTY AWARDS

1. Pass it on Award (sponsored by PA Environment Digest) – “Deployment Deer” by Paula Piatt, published in Pennsylvania Game News, December 2021.

Runner-Up: “Special Abilities Deer Hunter” by Steve Sorensen, published in Deer and Deer Hunting, December 2021.

2. Wildlife Conservation Partnership Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission) – “The Ruffed Grouse – 90 Years” by Timothy Flanigan, published in Covers Magazine, Spring 2021.

Runner-Up: “PA Outdoor Corps aids fishers on state forest” by Ben Moyer, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on Aug. 27, 2021.

3. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Raptor Conservation and Eco-Tourism Award (sponsored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) – “Focus on Raptors” by Dave Wolf, published in the Dillsburg Banner on Aug. 5, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Remote raptors in Pennsylvania” by Tyler Frantz, published at outdoornews.com on March 11, 2021.

4. The Pennsylvania Elk Resource Award (sponsored by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance) – “Elk tag winners have options to consider” by Brian Whipkey, published in the Daily American/Erie Times on Sept. 23, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Scouting the sweet spot” by Bob Frye, published in Pennsylvania Game News, October 2021.

5. Best Action Hunting, Trapping Or Fishing Photograph (sponsored by POWAEIC entries) – “Hitting hard water” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown Herald Standard on March 7, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Early bird buck” by Tyler Frantz, published in Pennsylvania Game News, September 2021.

6. Best Conference Related Material (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Finny Foray on Shenango Lake Yields Mixed Bag” by Tom Tatum, published in the Daily Local on Aug. 10, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Shenango from the shadows” by Ben Moyer, published in the Herald-Standard on Aug. 8, 2021.

7. Best Published Pennsylvania Fishing Or Boating Related Newspaper Photo, Color Or Black & White (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission) – “Trip Around Allegheny Reservoir” by Bob Steiner, published in the Derrick/News Herald on July 30, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Hitting hard water” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown Herald Standard on March 7, 2021.

8. Don Heckman - Tell the Story Award (sponsored the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTF) – “The Iron Gobbler” by Bob Sopchick, published in Pennsylvania Game News, November 2021.

Runner-Up: “Declining turkey populations prompt proposed hunting changes in state,” by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on Feb. 14, 2021.

10. Handloading Promotion Award for Electronic Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Crafting your own ammo” by Charlie Burchfield, published at ridgwayrecord.com on July 23, 2021.

Runner-Up: “Ammo shortage ignites a big boom in reloading” by Tyler Frantz, published at outdoornews.com on Feb. 18, 2021.

11. Handloading Promotion Award for Print Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Ammo shortage ignites a big boom in reloading” by Tyler Frantz, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News on March 26, 2021.

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Series

from page 1

I've also been doing PR at BoatUS for 20 years. However, it was a recent POWA Spotlight Series that taught this old dog a new trick, if you will, and showed me the value of POWA's monthly Zoom series. I highly recommend POWA's supporting members take advantage of this opportunity.

My Spotlight Series event was held on May 5, and I was on the agenda that night along with Mark Holyoak of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. We were each given about 15-20 minutes to speak along with a Q&A.

Now, before you bemoan another online Zoom meeting, let me point out this is more like a bunch of friends getting together to talk about passions they all share. There was a lot of camaraderie – active member discussions focused on who was catching or hunting what, where folks have been



Scott Croft

traveling, and 'how's the family?'" kind of banter. Definitely an easy place to be. Since my travel budget was cut years ago, I haven't been able to attend any outdoor writer events. This was my first opportunity to meet and engage POWA members, and it went great.

After Mark was up, I took the 'floor' and discussed what BoatUS is and what we do for the nation's boat owners.

I sometimes have concerns with outdoor writer organizations that I can't speak to the core topics of hunting and fishing, and my

message may fall flat. Boy, was I wrong.

POWA members had some really good questions, and I could tell they understood the passion of boat ownership. It worked out so well that after the meeting, one active member reached out to me to discuss our on-water towing fleet for boaters, TowBoatUS. A short while later he placed a story in several of his outlets across the state just in time for the start of the summer boating season.

While I can't ensure that kind of success will happen for every supporting member, I can tell you POWA's Spotlight Series gave me the opportunity to reach active members in a way that is much more engaging than simply sending news content. You don't need to make it fancy. Mark had a great video to share on elk restoration, and we both had short PowerPoint presentations with the basics.

It was a great investment of my time and allowed me to start making connections and friendships with POWA members I never knew.

Continued from previous page...

Runner-Up: "Handloading Challenges in today's times" by Wade Robertson, published in the Olean Times Herald on Nov. 13, 2021.

12. Outdoor Blog Entry Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – "Scoring Big Bucks: The Traveler" by Brian R. Kightlinger, published at globaloutdoors.com on Nov. 11, 2021.

Runner-Up: "Should I get my buck mounted?" by Kyle Hey, published at bowhunting.com on Sept. 1, 2021.

13. Pennsylvania Trappers Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association) – "Setting a trap" by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on Dec. 19, 2021.

Runner-Up: "Boxed Inn" by Ben Moyer, published in the Herald-Standard on Aug. 22, 2021.

14. Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award (sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited) – "What's the difference between wild and stocked trout?" by Lenny Lichvar, published in The Somerset Daily American, Oct. 27, 2021.

Runner-Up: "Award for service" by

Doyle Dietz, published in the Republican Herald on Jan. 17, 2021.

15. Lantz Hoffman White-Tailed Deer Award (sponsored by Karen Wolf) – "A deer hunter's anticipation," by Charlie Burchfield, published in the Daily Press on Nov. 26, 2021.

Runner-Up: "Wonder and the Whitetail" by Bob Sopchick, published in Pennsylvania Game News, August 2021.

16. Wildlife Art Award (sponsored by Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art) – "Solo Drummer" by Gerald Putt.

Runner-Up: "Carved Turkey Feather" by Ken Hunter.

17. Young Trees Habitat Award (sponsored by the Upland Bird Hunt Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society) – "The Ruffed Grouse – 90 Years" by Timothy Flanagan, published in Covers Magazine, Spring 2021.

Runner-Up: "Why are the trees dying" by Dave Wolf, published in the Dillsburg Banner, Sept. 2, 2021.

18. Youth Fishing Award (sponsored by Expositions, Inc.) – "How some pumpkinseeds saved kids' day" by Ben Moyer, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor

News on July 16, 2021.

Runner-Up: "Daddy One" by Marshall Nych, published in International Game Warden, Summer 2021.

19. Youth and the Hunting/Shooting Sports Award (sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation) – "After Effect" by Brian R. Kightlinger, published in Pennsylvania Game News, December 2021.

Runner-Up: "Plan Now – Share the Experience" by Charlie Burchfield, published in The Ridgway Record on Sept. 10, 2021.

20. Archery Award (sponsored by United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania) – "Footsteps Followed" by Marshall Nych, published in Pennsylvania Game News, June 2021.

Runner-Up: "The art of archery under pressure" by Wade Robertson, published in the Olean Times Herald on Sept. 11, 2021.

21. Humor Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – "The sad saga of Cooney and Earl" by Tom Tatum, published in the Daily Local on April 20, 2021.

Runner-Up: "Raptor Conservation, Warden Consternation" by Marshall Nych, published in American Falconry, Fall 2021.

This year's conference was based in Mansfield at the university and offered a complete package from rooms, dining and space for a great Saturday of seminars, speakers and breakout. The hospitality suite on the third floor of Hickory Hall – which POWA had all to itself – gave everyone an opportunity to reconnect after two years.

One of the many highlights of the weekend was the Friday afternoon and evening BBQ at the Mill Cove Environment Education Center, a 200-acre parcel just outside Mansfield. Members had the opportunity to fish, bird and hike the area before our traditional BBQ dinner catered by Mansfield University's dining services.

Saturday was a "work" day with seminars beginning just after breakfast, which was sponsored by our Supporting Member, Wildlife for Everyone Foundation '07. Mark Nale '89, a WFEF volunteer, gave a short presentation about the organization.

Concurrent sessions focused on craft improvement and newsmakers, giving members a choice of some great speakers. Craft improvement sessions included "How to Break In & Break Out: Creating a Niche and a Platform," with Lilace Mellin Guignard '20; an Editor's Roundtable, facilitated by Lilace featured Teresa Capuzzo, editor and publisher of Wellsboro's own Mountain Home magazine; Jeff Mulhollem '83, editor of Pennsylvania Outdoor News, Steve Piatt '14, retired editor of New York Outdoor News, and Edward Stoddard, Communications Director at Happy Valley Adventure Bureau '12; and Ralph Scherder '05 gave us a glimpse at "How to Write Full-Time Through Blogs and Self-Publishing."

Our newsmaker sessions included DCNR's Nathan Reigner, Pennsylvania's first director of outdoor education; Pa. Fish and Boat Commission '14 Executive Director Tim Schaeffer; Hills Creek State Park Naturalist Jim Mucci with a presentation on bobcats; and Denise Mitcheltree, land management group supervisor for the Pa. Game Commission '08, discussed State Game Lands 313, locally known as The Muck, a large wetland area about 3.5 miles north of Wellsboro on Route 287.



Brad Isles Photos

Above, members and guests learn about the Mill Cove Environment Education Center, a 200-acre parcel just outside Mansfield where members had the opportunity to fish, bird and hike the area prior to Friday night's barbecue dinner. Below, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation representative Mark Holyoak joined the conference via Zoom to address POWA members with the latest news from RMEF.



Lunch on Saturday was co-sponsored by Traditions Media LLC '17 and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation '09. RMEF representative Mark Holyoak joined us via Zoom to address the members with the latest from that organization.

Following lunch, members had the opportunity to meet with some of the morning session presenters and we held our annual General Membership meeting at which the members voted Life Membership for Tim Flanigan '87. Congratulations, Tim!

After some relaxation in the afternoon, we gathered at MU's Manser Hall for the annual Excellence in Craft Awards banquet, sponsored again this year by the National Shooting Sports Foundation '88.

EIC winners in 28 categories were honored and we also recognized our 2022 Toyota '18 "Let's Go Places" Scholarship winner, Aaron Morder. Additionally, one of our 2022 Will Johns Scholarship recipients, Alexis Wildt, attended the banquet.

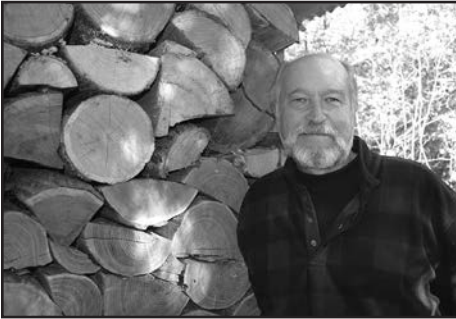
One of POWA's greatest honors, the Meritorious Service Award, was bestowed upon Brad Isles '05 for his tireless work. A long-time chair of the Awards Committee, Brad publishes the *PowWow* newsletter,

oversees the POWA website and co-chairs our Media Committee. Congratulations, Brad!

Next year, we'll be in State College, Centre County, May 18-21, 2023. The committee chaired by Jerry Bush '02, includes Mulhollem, Nale and Stoddard. We'll be headquartered at the Ramada Conference Center.

"Understanding one of the primary purposes of the organization is to provide continuing education, we are striving to make this one of the best-ever conferences regarding craft improvement. Of course, we'll also provide some news-making subjects," said Bush. "I am pleased to inform the membership we are already working fast and furiously to pull in what we hope will be a larger contingency of supporting members than we've seen in a while. We are working as hard as possible to throw in a few surprises as well. If there is anything we can do about it, this will be one of those conferences everyone raves about for years. Please plan to join us in State College."

Member News



Ben Moyer

Moyer wins pair of Golden Quill awards

POWA member Ben Moyer '83 was honored with two Golden Quill Awards at a recent ceremony held at Rivers Casino, Pittsburgh. The Golden Quill Competition is sponsored by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, honoring professional excellence in print, broadcast, photography, videography, and digital journalism in western Pennsylvania and nearby counties in Ohio and West Virginia.

Moyer won Golden Quills in the "Traditional Feature" category, and the "Science/Environment" category for an essay titled "Blackberry, The Humblest Jewel," published in Pittsburgh Quarterly Magazine, Summer 2021.

Moyer has been a POWA member since 1983.

Shane pens middle grade fiction novel

Western Pennsylvania is a long way from Alaska. But a handful of visits to "the last frontier" by POWA member Christian Shane '15 left an indelible mark from the beginning.

It was on his first trip that Shane, a seventh grade Life Science teacher, witnessed the remarkable and tragic life cycle of salmon as they returned to their natal streams. As he made his own attempt to catch the Alaska "Salmon Slam" (all five species of Pacific salmon: chinook [or king], coho, pink, sockeye and chum), Shane also began piecing together the threads of a story. It wasn't a typical "me and Joe" yarn. Rather, it was a story about life and death; about navigating loss and grief after the death of

Ehrig cited by State House

On Oct. 9, past POWA president Dave Ehrig '79 "was honored to receive the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/The House of Representatives Citation from the Honorable House Representative Ann Flood in Nazareth." The event was part of Jacobsburg Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration (1972-2022.)

Ehrig was cited for his years of service as "Past president; prolific writer; video host and narrator for the JHS 'Boulton Historic Site's: Where History Lives;' Editor of "Muzzle Blasts" magazine and one who continues to foster new research on traditional crafts and living history. A champion of the Pennsylvania Longrifle,



Dave Ehrig

Mr. Ehrig was instrumental in the House and Senate passing a resolution and Act 73 declaring it a new PA State Symbol," according to a release from the Jacobsburg Historical Society '08.

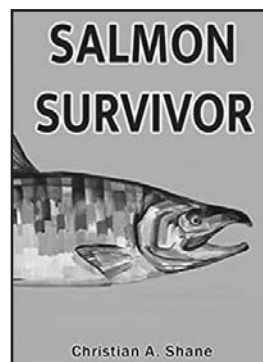
Dietz places 2nd in Chautauqua 2021 media contest

The Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, a supporting member of POWA, announced that the judges have selected winners for the 2021 Chautauqua Outdoor Media Contest. The contest, open to submissions published or aired between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021, is designed to improve public awareness for outdoor adventure and fun in Chautauqua County, NY.

POWA member Doyle Dietz took

second place for "Local Anglers Dream Trip on Lake Erie Catching Walleye and Steelhead," published in the Pottsville Republican Herald on July 17, 2021.

The Chautauqua County Outdoor Media Contest accepts submissions for printed articles, blogs, radio and TV shows published or aired during the contest timeframe featuring a compelling outdoor story about Chautauqua County, NY.



a parent or loved one.

The result is "Salmon Survivor" – a middle grade fiction novel that was released on Aug. 15 by Relevant Publishers.

In the book, 12-year-old Jack Cooper unwillingly travels with his mom from Pennsylvania to Alaska after the death of his father and fishing partner.

There, he meets his so-called grandfather and veteran fishing guide, Fly Bob, for the first time. Jack challenges himself to do something his father, 'Redds' Cooper, had never accomplished. He attempts to catch the Alaskan Salmon Slam in one summer.

While chasing after the Slam, Jack needs the assistance of Fly Bob, who teaches him the secrets of fishing for salmon in Alaska. Against Alaska's mighty wilderness, wildlife, and weather, the question becomes: Can Jack complete the slam before the summer's end?

As Redds used to say, "It's not called catchin', it's called fishin'." And as Jack finds out, nothing comes easy, especially in Alaska.

"Salmon Survivor" is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indiebound, and Relevant Publishers.

Shane's work has been published in magazines such as The Drake, Fly Culture Magazine, and others. He also writes the "Tying Together" articles for *PA Angler & Boater* magazine. Shane lives north of Pittsburgh with his wife and three children. Visit www.christianshaneauthor.com.

Craft Improvement

Author outlines the writing of 'River Boots'

By Bob Steiner
Craft Improvement

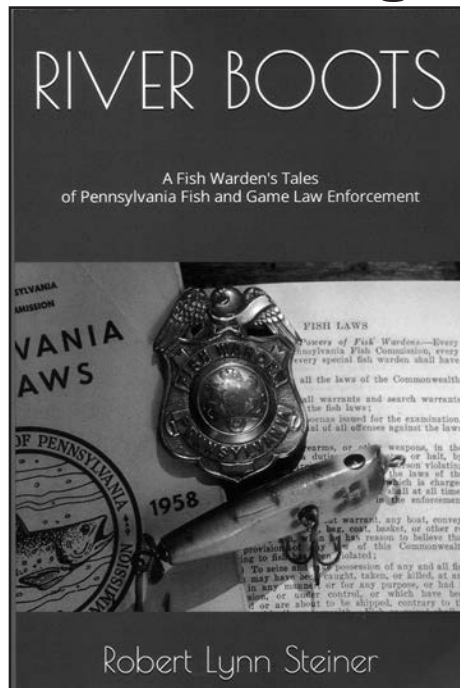
You've heard it. "Everybody has a book in them." Not me. Mine has gotten out. It's called "River Boots" and I'm the guy pictured on the back cover. It took a while. My ego is sated.

As an officer with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, I had done many wild things and had fun. Some of it was for the good of the agency and some ultimately proved not so good. But it all made good stories. Just before I retired as an assistant supervisor, that's a sergeant now, I realized that I had a driving need to document my work history.

As I sat riding that desk, a thought would be jogged in my aging brain and I would make a paper note and drop it in a folder in a desk drawer. If a young officer had a problem and came in for direction, I would console them with one of "Uncle Bob's Fables" that relieved their anxiety and sent him or her on their way. It was the pat on the head they needed. I would note the story and file it in the folder.

Upon retirement, the bulging folder went with me. Several years passed and I would occasionally add a scrap of paper with a note. During winter nights, not owning a TV, I would find an hour to enter one of the paper-scrap mind-joggers onto the computer's floppy disks. The stories going to type eventually strayed onto hard disks, hard drives, CDs, flash drives and any other computer format that has been invented. The transition took them a long way from being just a pencil note on a scrap of paper.

Writers such as Patrick McManus and John Gierach came on my radar and I realized that my career, like their hunting and fishing and camping trips, generally had an unforeseen comic twist. I then spent more hours staring at the blue-gray void of the computer screen interrupted by short bursts of flying fingers. When the reread caused me to gasp, pause and reflect or giggle out loud, I knew I was onto something. If it elicited the same emotion again, after being "cold filed" for a week



or two, I saved it.

If it was a serious tale, the details were important, and I would strive to remember the little things that played big parts and recreate them in print. If a giggle was there, I would rework the phrasing and the timing of the surprise to try to get the story to the point it became a "belly laugh." If there was a hidden message, I would try to disguise it and then suddenly lift the veil, creating an "ah-ha" moment. Like all writing, my book was a labor of love. The better I thought it got, the more my hat size swelled. Like most boys, I'm 90-percent ego.

Over the years we, my editor by marriage and I, would discuss publishing a book and the costs involved and a flame would flicker and I would sit down for a few evenings and try to fan the flame to life at the computer. Ultimately, life's distractions and pleasures would allow the flame to flicker down to a mere ember once again. Occasionally, a speaker at a meeting, usually a fellow POWAer, would

publish a book and the flame would roar for a few days, only to return, once again, to an ember. Years rolled on and it was nearly forgotten. A few times, through computer crashes, it somehow dodged extinction.

When mankind became threatened with their own extinction by Covid we, my editor and I, chose to quarantine together. With doors locked, masks on, sanitizer handy, blinds pulled and no TV, options ran thin at this age. We spent the first seven weeks sorting sock drawers and seven suitcases full of blurred family pictures. Then we remembered the book.

I began the first of five or six rereads. This time I was striving to punctuate and spell every sentence and word correctly. I settled on using some real names, some first names only, and a few false names to protect everybody and so I could say, "That wasn't you." I spent countless hours rereading my stories and ultimately deciding which were fit for public consumption, which had spoiled, and which might cause the whole project to spoil. A night or two was then dedicated to grouping stories to form chapters. Some are short, some are long. Just like life, no two days are the same.

"River Boots" the title was selected from a short list of three possible titles. The others were: "Uncle Bob the Fish Warden's Bathroom Reader" and "Fish Trucks Are Better than Women." Fearing copyright infringement liability, I settled on "River Boots."

In a follow-up, Linda and I will discuss putting the book together and getting it published, then our selling and marketing adventures. "RIVER BOOTS" can be previewed and is available at Amazon.com.

SPONSOR 2 NEW MEMBERS IN 1 YEAR ...

AND YOUR NEXT YEAR'S DUES ARE FREE!

Help your professional outdoor media organization; help someone else to benefit from membership in POWA; and help yourself to a free year of membership ... on us.

POWA individual and supporting member applications are available at www.paoutdoorwriters.com.

Information on the value and benefits of membership is on the website. For more information, contact the Executive Director.

POWA announces Youth Education Grant recipients

The Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association has announced the 2022 recipients of its Kermit Henning Youth Education Grants. Fourteen organizations have received over \$9,000 in funding for programs designed to get youth outdoors and to teach them about the valuable natural resources available throughout the state.

The education grants honor the memory of Kermit Henning, a life member and past president of POWA. Kermit's dedication was a driving force behind POWA's annual Youth Education Grant Fund awards, which have supported youth outdoor educational opportunities throughout the state such as conservation camps, field days, fishing derbies, educational activities in schools, shooting programs and many more for over 35 years.

POWA's youth grant fund is funded primarily through the Annual Sportsmen's Auction held at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg in February. This year's auction raised over \$10,000 for the grant fund.

To date, POWA has raised and distributed over \$434,000 to fund youth educational opportunities. Next year's auction is set for Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023 at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg.

Recipients of this year's award include:
Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association, Coplay, Pa., \$700 to support an bluebird trail / nest box educational project for a local high school environmental science class and a spring youth scavenger hunt along the Lehigh River.

Blue Ridge Rifles Muzzleloader Club, Orwigsburg, Pa., \$200, for the Youth Shoot at the club's Memorial Day Rendezvous, allowing the club to waive all fees for youth.

Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, West Chester, Pa., \$700, to support its youth programs, including scholarships for students ages 4-15 at its Summer Nature Camps.

Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities, Emporium, Pa.; \$700; to support youth programs such as the youth doe hunt and Fish Fest, which welcomes more than 125 youth each year.

Camp Compass, Allentown, Pa., \$700, an organization dedicated to introducing urban middle and high school students to various outdoor activities and giving

them the opportunity to experience and participate in the outdoor lifestyle.

Capital City Bassmasters, Landisburg, Pa., \$700 for the annual Leukemia and Four Diamonds Fishing Derby for kids with leukemia, the Capital City Junior Bassmasters program and Casting for Kids events throughout central Pa.

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation, Harrisburg, Pa., \$700 for support of Wildwood Park's summer nature day camps, which provide environmental education to school children.

Jefferson County Youth Field Day, Sigel, Pa., \$700, for its annual free event, giving youth the opportunity to have fun and develop new skills by participating in shooting sports, archery, canoeing and other skills stations.

Monroe County Youth Field Day, Kresgeville, Pa., \$700, for its annual youth field day which attracts over 200 kids ages 8-14 for educational displays, fishing, firearm safety and conservation information.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, Millersburg, Pa., \$700 to support its Ju-

nior Naturalist Camps where kids explore nature and journal about their findings.

Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Unlimited, DuBois, Pa., \$700, for its annual Clearfield County Youth Field Day, which draws 150-200 kids ages 7-14 for a day of fishing, shooting, stream activities, boating and canoeing and outdoor safety.

Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association Youth Field Day, Pottsville, Pa., \$700 for its many programs, including the annual Youth Field Day, which includes free activities for youth like fishing, canoeing, trap shooting, archery, black-powder shooting, air rifle, forestry, and trapping.

Wildlife Leadership Academy, Lock Haven, Pa., \$700; for tuition scholarships to its weeklong summer field schools for high school students. The schools focus on single species, but are used as a springboard to explore ecological concepts and management issues.

York Area Sportsmen For Youth, New Freedom, Pa., \$700 for its Youth Field Day which attracts 200 kids from the area for a day of outdoor and conservation education.

Treasurer's Report

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer / Expenditures as of August 31, 2022

Income Accounts	Budget 21-22	Actual	% of Budget
Active Members' Dues	7,620	7,740	102
Supporting Members' Dues	6,800	7,000	103
Merchandise Sales	20	39	195
Craft Award Income	5,000	4,884	98
General Contribution	100	726	-
Spr. Conference (Mercer) Net	-	1,380	-
Spr. Conference (Wellsboro) Net	2,730	1,676	61
TOTAL INCOME	\$22,270	\$23,576	106%
Expense Accounts	Budget 21-22	Actual	% of Budget
Executive Dir. Stipend	10,800	10,775	100
Pow Wow (Print/Edit)	3,300	2,105	64
Member Awards	4,200	-	100
Membership Directory	850	1,142	134
Plaque Expenses	1,000	1,255	126
Office Expenses	500	699	140
General Postage	575	726	126
Insurance	545	543	100
Credit Card Fees	50	22	44
Professional Fees	100	-	-
Marketing	-	2,970	-
Website Expenses	50	191	382
Miscellaneous	100	-	-
Travel	200	35	18
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,270	\$25,018	112%
Net Income	0	\$2,748	

Cash Accounts as of January 31, 2022: General Fund, \$55,513; Youth Education Fund, \$4,043; Scholarship Fund, \$45,618; Jacquelin Knight CD, \$14,436; Board Designated, \$11,326. Total Cash Accounts: \$130,936.

Meeting Minutes

POWA Board of Directors Meeting

September 26, 2021
Zoom Teleconference

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Marshall Nych.

Present: Paula Piatt, executive director; Marshall Nych, chairman; Jeff Woleslagle, president; Kyle Hey, 1st VP; Jerry Bush, 2nd VP; John Allen, treasurer; Board Members Grey Berrier, Brian Kightlinger, Ralph Martone, Linda Stager, Tom Tatum and Steve Sorensen, secretary. Absent but excused: Mark Demko, Randy Ferguson.

*Motion to approve Minutes of the May 16, 2021 meeting by J. Bush. Approved.

*Motion to approve Minutes of the Board Reorganizational Meeting by T. Tatum. Approved.

Executive Director's Report: (P. Piatt) As submitted and available in the Google Drive packet (or from ppiatt@paoutdoorwriters.com).

Highlights:

- We are currently at 6.4 percent of our membership as life members, just below the 7 percent limit, so we cannot add another life member at this time.
- At present we have 140 individual members and 70 supporting members.

2023 anniversary members

5 Years: Carli Dinsmore, Chris Espen-shade, Michael Parker, Caleb Ritenour, Donna Rae Rutan and Robert Schmid

10 Years: Grey Berrier II and Tyler Frantz

15 Years: Ken Maurer

20 Years: Mary Hosmer

30 Years: Ron Tussel

35 Years: Doyle Dietz, George Dvor-chak Jr. MD, Tom Keller, Mike Raykov-icz, Dave Stevenson, Tom Tatum and Dave Wolf

40 Years: Terry Brady, Jim Collins, John Mahn Jr., Ben Moyer, and Jeff Mul-hollem

45 Years: Rich Faler, Ken Hunter and John Swinton

OPT-IN TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you are interested in receiving PowWow electronically as a down-loadable file rather than a printed copy via postal service, please inform Executive Director Paula Piatt at ppiatt@paoutdoorwriters.com.

- Membership renewal for 2021-22 will begin in October.
- The Mercer County Conference was a success, with 42 registered members and 60 (including guests) at the Saturday banquet. The Saturday raffles brought in \$1862.50.
- The Campfire Elders program introduced in 2020-21 was a resounding success.

President's Report: (J. Woleslagle)

Highlights:

- President Woleslagle introduced himself and congratulated the conference committee on the successful conference in Mercer County.
- Thanked the members, Board and past officers for putting POWA in a good place through hard work and dedication and pledged to continue that.

*Motion to adopt Officers' Reports by L. Stager. Approved.

Correspondence: (P. Piatt)

Summary:

- We received many thank you letters for the new Campfire Elder program.
- We received a letter from the IRS saying we failed to file 990N form due August 2020. J. Allen has taken care of this.
- Letter from T. Flanagan nominating B. Isles for the Meritorious Service Award.

- Letter from the Wildlife Leadership Academy thanking POWA for a \$500 donation.
- Letter from Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Unlimited thanking POWA for a \$500 donation.

Treasurer's Report: (J. Allen)

Highlights:

J. Allen noted that we are within \$100 of budget, and in Supporting Members category we are \$900 above budget. We are slightly behind on Awards. Altogether we are behind \$4,019, but we were ahead \$7,900 last year, so the two years together balance.

*Motion to adopt the Treasurer's Report by J. Bush. Approved.

CONFERENCES

2021 Mercer County: (M. Nych) We had a great conference and received lots of correspondence with positive feedback.

2022 Tioga County: (P. Piatt) Linda Stager reported that the committee has met several times and things are coming together. Mansfield University will be the location; the University has fabulous facilities at a fabulous price. We are now working thorough agreements on housing, meals, activities, craft improvement. The rooms

Continued on next page...

POWA Budget

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer

Account Description	Forecasted 21-22	Proposed 22-23
Active Members' Dues	7,720	7,260
Supporting Members' Dues	7,000	6,900
Merchandise Sales	6	10
Awards Income	4,934	5,000
General Contribution	676	600
Conferences (Net)	4,237	3,015
Miscellaneous	-	-
REVENUES	\$24,573	\$23,145
Member Awards	3,950	3,950
Executive Dir. Stipend	10,800	11,100
Plaque Expenses	750	1,000
Pow Wow (Print/Edit)	3,158	3,200
Website Expenses	191	50
Membership Directory	890	900
Postage, General	628	700
Office Expenses	691	650
Marketing	2,970	-
Merchandise Expense	-	-
Insurance	543	545
Professional Fees	100	400
Credit Card Fees	86	50
Interim Board Meeting	-	-
Travel	326	500
Miscellaneous	100	100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,083	\$23,145
Net Increase/(Deficit)	(510)	-

Continued from previous page...

have no TVs but free WiFi. We are also working to get permission for a hospitality room and on a plan for permission for firearms on campus.

**Motion* to give preliminary approval to work with MU to approve housing contract at \$40 per person per night room rate by T. Tatum. Approved.

The Board noted that the dates for the POWA conference are May 18-22, 2022, and the dates for the OWAA conference are May 21-23, 2022. The question was raised whether we should move our date to avoid conflict. After discussion the consensus was that there was no interest in changing our date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – As posted.

Constitution and By-Laws – As posted.

Craft Improvement – As posted.

Duties Manual (Action Requested) – Changes in Duties manual at Membership Development committee. Discussion will be held there.

Editorial Review – As posted. T. Tatum has joined this committee.

Ethics – As posted.

Finance-Auditing – J. Allen reported that financially we had a good conference (\$3,600 income), and better than it looks because some of the income is in the new fiscal year and the previous fiscal year due to the Covid pandemic.

Finance-Budget – As posted.

Historical Archives – As posted.

Media/Tech/Website – As posted.

Member Screening – As posted.

Membership Audit – As posted. Six people have been audited. One has moved to an associate member status.

Membership Development (Action Requested) – (See report). Separately, K. Hey has asked for a change regarding the Membership Chair.

**Motion* to amend the Duties Manual per C. Ritenour's request by L. Stager. Approved.

Also, C. Ritenour has asked the Board to approve asking podcasters to promote POWA by way of advertising on podcasts.

**Motion* by B. Kightlinger. Approved.

Nominating – As posted.

Outdoor Education – As posted.

Outdoor Press Outings – As posted.

Past Presidents' Council – As posted. Many thanks were received for the new Campfire Elder program.

Scholarship – As posted.

Sport Shows – As posted.

Supporting Member Representation – R. Ferguson needs help on this committee *from another supporting member*. We will be looking for strong help on this committee to keep the needs of our supporting members before us.

Supporting Member Screening – No report. (No recent supporting member applications)

Supporting Membership Recruitment – As posted. (B. Ford needs help on this committee.)

Ways and Means – As posted. K. Hey needs help on this committee so that when he moves into the President's office we have someone ready

to take over the chairmanship.)

OLD BUSINESS

Inclusion of poetry in categories – feedback from membership meeting: We have received some interest in having an EIC award for poetry. Our discussion concluded that poetry is not prohibited from any of the appropriate categories, so the Board recommended that P. Piatt work with the Awards Committee (Brad, and member M. Demko) to insert references to poetry in the award categories where appropriate, and then to have the Duties Manual Committee review it before the Board approves it.

Conference feedback and ideas – see returns on Google Drive: (P. Piatt) We received a suggestion to purchase lanyards for our conferences and have them embroidered with POWA. These can accept the ID badges for conferences and be used by members when doing interviews and on other professional occasions. P. Piatt will look into this.

Internal financial audit: L. Stager offered an update on where we are with auditing our books. We are not in a position to do a full audit, but L. Stager has a contact willing to look at our finances for a reasonable \$400. P. Piatt mentioned that this is overdue and we need to have transparency. Both J. Allen and P. Piatt strongly support this, and asked L. Stager to get an "arrangement letter" that would include a price and her contact's commitment to review our agreed-upon procedures and give clarity to our financial integrity.

Dates for 2022 Sporting Clays Shoot: We are looking at an April date for a sporting clays fundraiser shoot and/or hunt. People would sign up for the shoot, and shooters would be eligible for the hunt at Martz Preserve.

NEW BUSINESS

Free conference registration for new members: (P. Piatt) In order to encourage attendance from new members, we held discussion on free conference registration for new members who have joined in the last fiscal year (registration only, not room, etc.)

**Motion* to offer free conference registration to new members for the first eligible conference in the year that they join by L. Stager. Approved.

Nomination for life membership: A. Zidock asked if he could make a nomination for a new Life Member. We are currently at our limit (7% of our membership mandated by Board Directives document), so unless we lose a life member or get more members, we currently have no room for any additional life members. P. Piatt referred this to the Membership Development committee to review criteria for life membership.

Meritorious Service Award nomination: Tim Flanagan wrote a letter to nominate one of our members for a Meritorious Service Award. The Board voted to approve this nomination. This member will be named and receive this award at the next annual conference (2022).

Supporting Member brochure: J. Bush noted that our Supporting Member brochure is outdated and we need a digital brochure that is more easily kept up to date. P. Piatt will work on

a revision for this.

2023 Conference Site: (P. Piatt) Some interest has been expressed in getting us back to the State College area for a conference. Another site suggestion is southwestern PA as we haven't been there recently. We also need to think about 2024 and 2025. Paula will explore this.

Board Directives document: (see Google Drive) P. Piatt asks that Board members are asked to review the Board Directives Document (from September 2004) to see if we need to review.

Web/Social media product posting: J. Bush raised the question of whether members should post things on our social media site that names or endorses products that don't come from supporting members. The concern is that we perhaps should not promote things on our sites that compete with Supporting Members. P. Piatt will refer this to the Ethics committee.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Show booth updates (see Correspondence file): P. Piatt received an email from a company that offers updates for show booths. She will look into updating our GAOS booth to make it more modern and appealing.

Insurance Benefits Package (see Correspondence file): We received an email from the area manager of the American Income Life Insurance Company offering a benefits package and enrollment in their McGruff Safe Kids ID Kit distribution program. There is no interest in pursuing this.

Spouses' Conference Activities: J. Bush asked whether we should adjust our "spouses' activities" in our conferences to make spouses activities non-gender specific. Paula will make clear for future conferences that any active member or spouse registered for the conference may participate in any activity.

**Motion* to adjourn at 9:09. J. Bush.

– Respectfully submitted
Steve Sorensen, secretary

ADDENDUMS

Action on Nov. 3, 2021: By email, Chairman M. Nych asked for clarification under New Business, item #1, "Free conference registration for new members," as there is confusion whether that will include supporting members or only individual members.

**Motion* that POWA waive the first-year conference registration fees for new supporting members, mirroring the waiver of first year conference registration fees for new POWA individual members, by L. Stager. Approved.

Action on Nov. 17, 2021: By email to Chairman M. Nych, J. Bush requested board approval to finish a promotional POWA video to be used as an informational and recruitment tool.

**Motion* by J. Bush. Approved.

Action on Nov. 17, 2021: By email to Chairman M. Nych, J. Woleslagle moved that we update display materials for sport shows, conferences, etc., per the specs and prices submitted to Chairman M. Nych.

**Motion* by J. Woleslagle. Approved.

Meeting Minutes

POWA Board of Directors Meeting

January 30, 2022
Zoom Teleconference

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman Marshall Nych.

Present: Paula Piatt, executive director; Marshall Nych, chairman; Jeff Woleslagle, president; Kyle Hey, 1st VP; Jerry Bush, 2nd VP; John Allen, treasurer; Board Members Grey Berrier, Brian Kightlinger, Ralph Martone, Linda Stager, Tom Tatum and Steve Sorensen, secretary. Absent but excused: Randy Ferguson.

**Motion* to approve Minutes of the Sept. 26, 2021 meeting with two additional Addendum items (a total of three) by L. Stager. Approved.

Executive Director's Report: (P. Piatt) As submitted.

Highlights:

- P. Piatt reported that active member renewals stand at 124 of 141 members, with more expected to renew. Supporting members renewals stand at 56 of 72 so far.
- Since the September Board meeting we have added one new Active Member (Ray Hunt of DuBois) and one new Supporting Member (Visit Clearfield County).
- She also reported a large roster of anniversary members reaching five to 50 years. Impressively, Alex Zidock has been a member for 50 years.
- Strong work has begun on the Toyota Scholarship and the Will Johns Scholarship, and planning for the 2022 conference in Mansfield is well underway.
- P. Piatt appealed for volunteers to work on fund raising and to staff our show booths.

**Motion* to approve ED Report by J. Bush. Approved.

President's Report: (J. Woleslagle)

Highlights:

- J. Woleslagle placed our organization in the context of a "golden age" of outdoor writing, suggesting that the quality work POWA members produce "can't be overstated." He also mentioned our display booth has been revamped and will get lots of use.

**Motion* to approve President's Report by G. Berrier. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: (J. Allen)

Highlights:

- With revenue at 65% of our budget and expenses at 43%, we are in pretty good shape right now, with the 2022 conference revenues still to come in.

**Motion* to approve Treasurer's Report by B. Kightlinger. Approved.

Correspondence: (P. Piatt) Since the September meeting, most of the correspondence have been requests for funding through the Youth Education Grant.

CONFERENCES

2022 Tioga County: Planning for the 2022 conference at Mansfield University, May 18-21 is well underway. We are working on funding some additional meal sponsorships.

2023 Centre County (see New Business): P. Piatt asked the board at the last meeting to begin working on the 2023 conference. Four requests for proposal have been received. We do not yet have a conference committee to plan for the Centre County area, but Paula is planning to work with K. Hey and G. Berrier. No site visits are planned at this time. The Happy Valley Visitor's Bureau is excited about the possibility. If the Board wishes to go there, we will need to create a committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – As posted.

Constitution and By-Laws – As posted.

Craft Improvement – As posted.

Duties Manual (action requested) – The Duties Manual has added a note that poetry will be considered for awards as long as the published poem(s) meet the award requirements. (This does not create a new category of awards.)

**Motion* by T. Tatum to accept the new wording. Approved.

Editorial Review – As posted.

Ethics – As posted.

Finance-Auditing – As posted.

Finance-Budget – As posted.

Historical Archives – As posted.

Media/Tech/Website – As posted.

Member Screening – As posted.

Membership Audit – The committee is in the process of auditing about 10 members and will update our President and Executive Director as audits are completed.

Membership Development – As posted.

Nominating (action requested) – The Board needs to nominate someone to complete the term of M. Demko (term expiring in 2023).

**Motion* by T. Tatum that M. Nych contact G. Putt to fill the seat. Approved.

It was mentioned that Gerry Putt has served on the Board in the past, he would make a good first choice as he can quickly get up to speed. Also noted: We need a new Nominating Committee chairman for next year. Historically, the immediate past Chair of the Board serves as the Nominating Committee chair.

Outdoor Education – We have 13 requests for grants this year. The amount of the grants will depend on the funds raised through our GAOS Auction and the Sporting Clays Shoot. Also, P. Piatt will seek a letter of request to let us know what is needed for the New Wilmington Trout in the Classroom outdoor writing contest and what it is to be used for.

**Motion* by T. Tatum to approve \$100 for the New Wilmington Trout in the Classroom outdoor writing contest. Approved.

Outdoor Press Outings – S. Piatt has agreed

to chair this committee. He has information from M. Demko on what plans are in the works.

Past Presidents' Council – As posted. Camp-fire Elder appreciated by many.

Scholarship – Information has gone out on both the Will Johns and Toyota Scholarships to relevant schools, and some are already expressing interest.

Sport Shows – D. Scharadin has asked that we remind people of the need for help at the POWA booth at the GAOS Show.

Supporting Member Representation – As posted.

Supporting Member Screening – As posted.

Supporting Membership Recruitment – As posted.

Ways and Means – As posted. K. Hey has asked whether there's a role for the Ways and Means committee in fundraising shoots, and to make sure we're not over-asking supporting members for too much. P. Piatt will compile a list of funding and which members contribute.

**Motion* by T. Tatum moved that all committee reports be accepted. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Internal Financial Audit: L. Stager approached someone for a proposal to audit our books and did not get a proposal. She is pursuing another avenue for an audit to be done.

2022 Sporting Clays Shoot: We created this event last year to replace funding from the GAOS show that was cancelled last year. Going forward we have very few people to work on this; requests for help have been disappointing. Some of the work is to recruit volunteers; organize bucket raffles; get shooters there; organize food and beverage for this all-day event. Martz gives us the facility for the day. White Flyer donates targets. The event is scheduled for April 23, less than three months away. We need to get busy if this event is going to take place.

Board Directives document review (see Google Drive): P. Piatt asked that we all take a look at the Board Directives document and give her feedback. M. Nych will ask the Past Presidents Council committee to review this document and suggest possible changes.

Supporting member brochure: (J. Bush) As an ongoing project, the Supporting Member recruitment brochure needs review for updating.

Lanyards for conferences: (P. Piatt) A member suggested we purchase official lanyards with POWA printed on them to wear at our conferences. P. Piatt has researched having these created. Minimum order from companies varied from 50 to 100; prices range from \$1.50 to \$2.73, plus set-up fees.

**Motion* by J. Bush that P. Piatt will work up a price on 100. Approved. R. Martone said he can get the NWTF to sponsor these; if she thinks we need a sponsor she will ask Ralph.

Continued on next page...

Market News

Pennsylvania Outdoor News '19 – Editor Jeff Mulhollem will consider any Pennsylvania-specific story, and especially news stories. PON is not accepting first-person tales or anything related to businesses such as call-makers, guides or events such as outdoor shows or youth field days. Please send queries and not finished stories.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation '09 – Bugle magazine, the flagship publication of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is calling for stories on elk and elk hunting. To learn more about RMEF, submission guidelines and writing tips for Bugle, visit the RMEF website, www.rmef.org and click on Bugle Magazine under the Our World tab. Unless otherwise noted, word counts range from 1,000 to 3,000 words. Deadlines are rolling unless specified.

The Drake magazine wants its fishing stories to be educational and entertaining, not instructional. They don't publish "how-to, where-to" pieces. Check out one of the back issues if you have questions. Good writing is paramount. If you want it published, write it well. Think literary and

tell a story. Write about your dog. Make the editors laugh. As for photography, please be creative. No "grip and grins." Editors are also looking for artwork, cartoons, illustrations, etc. All payments are negotiable. Send submissions to: The Drake Magazine, PO Box 11546, Denver, CO 80211, info@drakemag.com. Visit www.drakemag.com.

Since 1925, **Fur-Fish-Game** has been highly acclaimed as the magazine for practical outdoorsmen. Articles are written to instruct and entertain, by real life, everyday outdoorsmen who hunt, trap and fish year-round. Fur-Fish-Game covers a wider variety of outdoor pursuits than any other magazine. It is the only national outdoor magazine that still publishes a new issue each and every month of the year. Query 2878 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43209.

Strung Magazine is a quarterly print magazine with international distribution throughout North America and beyond. Strung is dedicated to mindful outdoor living with a focus on responsible fly fishing, hunting, adventure sports, yoga, conserva-

tion and food/drink. While the majority of the content comes from established, experienced writers and photographers, submissions from all interested parties is welcome. Submissions for both print features and online-only blog/social media content are acceptable. Compensation depends on quality/quantity of the submission and type of licensing allowed. All submissions should be sent to editor@StrungMag.com; Dr. Joseph Ballarini, publisher, Strung Magazine, www.strungmag.com.

Trapper & Predator Caller accepts stories focused on methods and equipment used in trapping, calling or hunting. Highest consideration will be given to stories focused on methods and equipment used in trapping, calling or hunting. Historical pieces, personality profiles and unusual experience stories are also accepted. Feature stories should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words. Pays up to \$250 for assigned articles. Payment is made within 45 days of publication. The amount is based on the quality of writing and photography as a package. Learn more at www.trappermag.com/writers-guidelines.

Continued from previous page...

POWA video: (J. Bush The Board thanked J. Bush for his work on the excellent promotional video. P. Piatt will disseminate it on the website, social media, and any other place it can be viewed in addition to conferences. J. Bush will send a flash drive to D. Scharadin, and we will need to acquire a TV to use at the Harrisburg booth.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Board member: Covered in Nominating Committee report above.

RFPs for 2023 Centre County Conference: (P. Piatt) See Conference Committee report above.

Fund destination for donations: (P. Piatt) We sometimes receive undesignated donations; so far this year we've received \$515.08 in undesignated donations. J. Allen and P. Piatt will review undesignated funds and come up for a suggestion on how these and our "General Fund" should be handled.

Waive initiation fee for show memberships: (P. Piatt) Last year we waived the initiation fee for members applying at the sportsman's shows.

**Motion to waive initiation fee for members applying at sportsman's shows by B. Kightlinger. Approved.*

POWA Youth Writing Contest: (M. Nych)

This program is being done out of New Wilmington this year. See Outdoor Education Committee report above.

Fundraising with Whitetails Unlimited: (P. Piatt) We have an opportunity for some additional fund-raising. Area representative for supporting member Whitetails Unlimited (Clyde DeHart Jr.) is looking for help for their fund-raising banquets and is offering to split half the proceeds. It would involve setting up the day before and helping to run the games at the event. We would receive half the net after expenses are paid. Dauphin and Lebanon County is where he needs help, sometime after June (for this year). Need space for 250-300 people (possible venue, Lebanon Valley Sportsman's Club). We have 29 members within a 50-mile radius, eight members within 20 miles of that venue. Paula is asking for permission to go back to Clyde and say we are positive toward this.

**Motion to pursue this opportunity by G. Berrier. Approved.*

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Show Booth updates: (J. Wolesslagle) P. Piatt did a great job on this, and we look forward to seeing this at the show. Many worked to make this happen. T. Flanigan donated photos for it. We have two of these, one for the eastern part of the state and one for the west. These will be a

real asset to our show presence and will also be used as a photo backdrop for conference awards.

Guest Columns in Tioga County: C. Espenshade reached out to see if students can write outdoor columns in the local newspaper, Wellsboro Gazette.

**Motion to adjourn at 9 p.m. by L. Stager.*

*– Respectfully submitted
Steve Sorensen, secretary*

ADDENDUMS

Action on Jan. 31, 2022: Chairman M. Nych has asked G. Putt if he would be willing to serve out the term of M. Demko. He graciously accepted. No further action required, as the motion was passed.

Action on Feb. 14, 2022: By email, action requested by Chairman M. Nych.

**Motion by L. Stager that the POWA Board of Directors authorize Executive Director P. Piatt to apply for a business credit card through M&T Bank, and that treasurer J. Allen also be given a card. Approved.*

Action on Feb. 24, 2022: By email, action requested by Chairman M. Nych.

**Motion by L. Stager to accept the recommendation of the 2023 POWA conference committee to stay at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Centre County. Approved.*

Vintage POWA in Harrisburg...



A vintage photo of a trio of POWA members taking a break at the POWA booth during the 1980 Harrisburg sport show. Pictured are, from left, Charley Zaines, Tom Fegley and John Punola. (Photo submitted by John Punola)

SAVE THE DATE:
Spring Conference in State College – May 18-21, 2023



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