

POWWow

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association

Fall 2023



Brad Isles Photo

POWA members recognized at the Spring Conference for winning Excellence in Craft awards included, front (from left): Tyler Frantz '13, Joseph Faux '19, Linda Stager '16, JoAnne '17 and Alex Zidock '72, Jerry Bush '02; back: Rich Faler '78, Gerald Putt '80, Bob Frye '97, Steve Sorensen '05, Bob Steiner '84, Doyle Dietz '88, Charlie Burchfield '81, Marshall Nych '12 and Michael Kensinger '22.

POWA lauds Excellence in Craft Award winners

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

Overall, 45 members submitted a total of 342 entries across a combined 228 categories.

POWA CORE AWARDS

1. Best Newspaper Column (*sponsored by Bob & Linda Steiner*) – “Humphreys, Daniel and Fly Fishing’s Past, Present and

Future” by Brian Whipkey, published in the Daily American, Aug. 27, 2022.

Runner-up: “Jaws revisited 47 years later” by Tom Tatum, published in the Daily Local, Sept. 6, 2022.

2. Best Newspaper Feature (*sponsored by Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest*) – “Plight of the Firefly” by Linda Stager, published in the Juniata Sentinel, July 6, 2022.

Runner-up: “The Silent Places” by Wade Robertson, published in The Bradford Era, June 15, 2022.

3. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Column (*sponsored by*

See WINNERS, page 6

State College conference success

By Jerry Bush
Conference Chair

I must begin by thanking every person who worked to make the May conference at State College a success, especially fellow committee members Mark Nale '89, Jeff Mulhollem '83, Edward Stoddard, and Dave Gerdes, and of course I would be remiss if I didn't mention the work of our Executive Director, Paula Piatt '10.

Appreciation is also due to the Craft Improvement Chair, Ben Moyer '83, for working with the conference committee to arrange worthwhile presentations.

It would be shocking to me if the vast majority of attendees did not agree it was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. The event was well-attended, and if you

See CONFERENCE, page 7



Doyle Dietz Photo

Life member Gerald Putt '80 took this 20-pound gobbler with a 10-inch beard and 1.25-inch spurs during a hunt at the POWA spring conference held in State College.

Passing the gavel...



Todd Lepley Photo

Outgoing POWA President Kyle Hey '17, right, passes the presidential gavel to incoming President Jerry Bush '02 during Saturday's Awards Recognition Banquet at the spring conference held in State College.

2023/24 POWA Committees

Committee	Chair	Liaison
Awards	Grey Berrier	Tom Tatum
Craft Improvement	Ben Moyer	Randy Ferguson
Conservationist of the Year	John Kline	Steve Sorensen
Ethics	Mark Nale	Ron Rohrbaugh
Executive Committee	Kyle Hey	
Exploratory	Brian Kightlinger	Jerry Bush
Financial Auditing	Ralph Scherder	Rich Faler
Fundraising	Dave Bates	Jerry Bush
Logo	Brad Isles	Jerry Bush
Media/Technology/Publicity	Brad Isles	Brian Kightlinger
Membership Audit	Kyle Hey	Grey Berrier
Membership Development	Tyler Frantz	BradenEisenhower
Member Screening	Don Knaus	Steve Sorensen
Nominating	Jeff Woleslagle	Rich Faler
Organizational Documents	Marshall Nych	Jerry Bush
Outdoor Press Outings	Steve Piatt	Ron Rohrbaugh
Past Presidents Council	Kyle Hey	Kyle Hey
Scholarship	Jeff Woleslagle	John Allen
Sports Shows	Dennis Scharadin	Tom Tatum
Supporting Member Development	Wade Robertson	Randy Ferguson
Youth Education Grants	Dennis Scharadin	Tom Tatum

PowWow

Fall 2023

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www.paoutdoorwriters.com

PAULA PIATT

POWA Executive Director
P.O. Box 885 / Sayre, PA 18840
Phone 570-886-1609
Email: info@paoutdoorwriters.com

POWA Officers 2023-24

President – JERRY BUSH
875 Donna Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148;
724-977-5790; joutdoors2@msn.com

First V.P. – GREY BERRIER II
Second V.P. – BRAD ISLES
Secretary – STEVE SORENSEN
Treasurer – JOHN ALLEN
Board Chair – KYLE HEY
Board of Directors (term ending): BRIAN KIGHTLINGER ('24); TOM TATUM ('24); BRADEN EISENHOWER ('25); RON ROHRBAUGH ('25); RICH FALER ('26); RANDY FERGUSON ('26)
Sup. Mbr. Rep. – SARA MUELLER
Parliamentarian – DENNIS SCHARADIN
PowWow Editor – BRAD ISLES
POWA Legal Counsel - METTE, EVANS & WOODSIDE, Harrisburg, Pa.



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Member contributors to this issue:

Jerry Bush, Todd Lepley, Doyle Dietz, Steve Piatt, Ben Moyer, Brad Isles, Paula Piatt, John Allen, Timothy Flanigan, Grey Berrier.

SEND **POWWOW** CONTRIBUTIONS TO
POWA Exec. Director Paula Piatt
P.O. Box 885 / Sayre, PA 18840
Phone: 570-886-1609
Email: ppiatt@paoutdoorwriters.com

-or-

Brad Isles, PowWow Editor
P.O. Box 23, Grove City, PA 16127
Phone: 724-967-2832
Email: powwow@paoutdoorwriters.com

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President's Message

by Jerry Bush

My fellow POWA members and supporting members, this message is from the desk of President Bush. Sorry, I couldn't resist!

I hope you are enjoying your autumn camping, fishing, and hunting adventures.

Allow me to inform you of issues being handled administratively within your professional organization.

I went straight to work after arriving home from our 2023 conference. More than five dozen acknowledgments of thanks were mailed by me to members and supporting members who helped us enjoy one of the best conferences in POWA history. After all, gratitude and respect are professional traits, and I assume you thanked at least one contributor as well. If you meant to but it slipped your mind, it's never too late to say thanks.

We started our administration without a Second Vice President, and filling that position was an obvious priority. We reached out and five members came forward who were willing to fill the vacancy. One member withdrew, leaving the board four to choose from. Your board elected Mr. Brad Isles. Please join me in congratulating Brad. POWA will be blessed by Brad's experienced leadership. Also note that I am pleased to inform you that the other three candidates remain willing to serve, and their names will appear for various positions on the 2024 ballot.

Gratitude is also owed to the members who agreed to continue serving as committee chairs, as well as those who honored my request to fill vacancies. Because of their willingness to serve, I am pleased to inform you that POWA has a leader for every administrative committee, and several members agreed to serve as committee assistants. See page 2 for a list of committees and their board liaison.

The following key positions are filled.

- Parliamentarian – Dennis Scharadin
- Supporting Members' Representative – Sara Mueller
- Historian – Harry Guyer

I have assigned the following three temporary committees.

"Revised POWA Logo" Committee, chaired by Brad Isles, and assisted by Dana Twigg and others. The goal of this committee is to create alternative logos. My vision is that we will present two or three designs for a membership vote at the 2024 conference.

The "Committee to Explore Conference Date Alternatives" is chaired by Brian Kightlinger. The goal of this committee is to determine if a summer conference would provide increased attendance. Though a challenge to avoiding conflicts with other organization's conferences, a summer conference might be more attractive for our substantial number of members who are employed as educators and challenged with end-of-school-year attendance.

"POWA Conservationist of the Year" Committee, chaired by John Kline. Assisted by member Gerry Putt, this committee will examine the concept that POWA would award any deserving Pennsylvania resident for exceptional conservation improvement efforts.

The following is a list of items resolved:

- Per the suggestion of member Alex Zidock, the board agreed to set up a "Hardship Fund," which will allow the board to approve one year of unpaid membership for a current member, who, through no fault of their own, is met with an unfortunate, financially-draining event. (Examples could include long-term healthcare needs for a member or a spouse, home fire, and so on.)
- By email, with photos and contact information for each, I introduced Sara Mueller, our new Supporting Members' Representative and Dave Bates, our new Fundraising Committee chair to all of POWA's supporting member contacts.
- I contacted "former" members who left the organization since 2018, in a desire to learn what they felt POWA needs to do to be more worthy of their interest, and to see if I could recruit any of them to return.



- Organizational Documents Committee, led by Marshall Nych and assisted by Mary Hosmer, defined the duties of the Supporting Member Development Committee.
- I contacted Hornady reps to inform them that some of our members took up a collection at the last conference to pay for one year of supporting membership, and I encouraged Wade Robertson (Chair of the Supporting Member's Development Committee) to reach out to them as well for future supporting membership status.
- The organization's secretary has always been a "non-voting" position of the board because they are assigned by the president and not elected to the position. Remarkably, our Constitution did not clearly address this issue, so the board approved clearly defining that stipulation within the Duties Manual.
- The board approved adding a \$5 surcharge to members who desire to receive a printed version of our Membership Directory, to cover publication and postage fees. A "free" digital version of the membership directory will continue to be provided as a benefit of membership.

These items are in the consideration phase:

- We have reached out to the Nomination Committee for input regarding the possibility of seeking members to serve as officers and board members earlier in the process, which would

Continued on next page...

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support a proper process for members to propose a “write-in-candidate.”

- Believing past presidents are underutilized as a valuable resource, I suggested a committee of past presidents would be ideal to combine efforts with the Ned Smith Center to create a tribute for POWA “Hall of Famers,” so to speak, and that is taking place. Kyle Hey is also seeking a couple of past presidents to assist with the “POWA Conservationist of the Year” Committee.
- Consider reducing the milestone for the Campfire Elder’s achievement recognition to 25 years of membership. I believe a quarter-century of membership is worthy of recognition. I have reached out to Ben Moyer, who served on the committee that settled on 30 years to make certain we understand why that milestone was selected.
- We are considering adding historical events of the last 25 years to the book “50 Years of POWA” and creating a 75th anniversary book. I have reached out to historian Harry Guyer for his advice and input.
- First VP Grey Berrier and Second VP Brad Isles, presented to the board actions they would like to see accomplished during their “probable” 2024-25 and 2025-26 terms in office. More on their desires will be included in your next newsletter.

- Because we no longer gather at autumn conferences, we are considering Autumn POWA-sanctioned “Regional Camp” gatherings. The thought is that a member in each region would volunteer to host two to three active members for an overnight camping/fishing/hunting experience. A couple of paragraphs and photos from the event would be sent to the *PowWow* editor. Meeting more than once a year would increase our bonding experiences with peer professionals and could be another attractive benefit of membership. The counties per region follow:

- Northwest – Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence, Butler, Warren, Venango, Forest, Clarion, Jefferson Counties.
- North Central – McKean, Potter, Tioga, Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Union Counties.
- Northeast – Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wayne, Sullivan, Wyoming, Lackawanna, and Pike Counties.
- Southwest – Armstrong, Indiana, Westmoreland, Cambria, Somerset, Beaver, Allegheny, Washington, Greene, and Fayette Counties.
- South Central – Blair, Huntingdon, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Mifflin, Snyder, Juniata, Perry, Cumberland,

Adams Counties.

- Southeast – Schuylkill, Berks, Lehigh, Northampton, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, and Philadelphia Counties.

- Note that I volunteered to host an event this year and sent email invitations to each member residing in the northwest region, and nobody was available for the event. Hopefully, it’s just a matter of needing more publicity and promotion. (Or maybe nobody likes me! LOL!)

I am aware these are lofty goals, but I can assure the membership it is all about you and what I hope will lift us into the future. Kicking the can down the road is not one of my characteristics. We have a great board and committee leadership, which makes me confident we will achieve much.

Please consider getting involved. Of course, you’re busy, but so are the people who are serving. Can you imagine POWA if everyone who could justify being busy threw their hands in the air? Most of our committees require fewer than 10 hours of service during an entire year, and with the help of two or three committee members, even less time would be required.

Many hands make light work. I promise to do everything in my power to make POWA the best state-level organization in America.

Please join me in that cause. May God bless.

New Members

New members since last printed *PowWow*:

Jeffrey Frischkorn ’23

Active

7621 Dahlia Dr.

Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060

Ph: 440-567-5036

Email: jfrischk@ameritech.net

Sponsor: Darl Black

Todd Lepley, ’23

Active

717 Magnolia Lane

Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

Ph: 412-716-1666

Email: hemingway35@me.com

Sponsor: Brad Isles

Eric Zimmerman ’23

Associate

500 S. Chestnut St.

Derry PA 15627

Ph: 724-396-3179

Email: zeke@zekestheory.com

Sponsor: Grey Berrier

Christopher Ross ’23

Associate

331 Lismore Ave.

Glenside PA 19038

Ph: 610-952-7317

Email: g.chris.ross@gmail.com

Sponsor: Gerry Putt

Ruby Korenoski ’23

Student

149 Adda Lane

Johnstown PA 15905

Ph: 814-255-6417 • 814-691-0901 (work)

Email: rubykorenoski722@gmail.com

Christian Alexandersen ’23

Active

3 Grant St.

Enola PA 17025

Cumberland County

Ph: 908-692-8301

Email: hemlockstohellbenders@gmail.com

Sponsor: Jeff Woleslagle

Brian Pitell ’23

Apprentice

707 Little Creek Rd.

Evans City PA 16033

Butler County

724-713-6135

Email: bpitell@bpgplanning.com

Sponsor: Ralph Scherder

Executive Director's Report

by Paula Piatt,
Executive Director

Our 2023 membership campaign began Oct. 1, with emails going to all current active, associate, student and supporting members. Please return your renewal as soon as possible after it lands in your email box to help POWA avoid follow-up postage fees. As well, we'll need to have your renewal in the office no later than Dec. 31 to include it in the printed 2024 directory.

An important note on this year's renewal form: The board of directors has approved that POWA change *PowWow* from print to electronic distribution for a significant budget savings starting with the Winter/Fall 2024 issue. A print document will still be available, but members desiring a print version will have to opt-in for that mailing on the annual renewal form.

Also starting with our fiscal year on Sept. 1, was our new Apprentice membership category. Approved virtually unanimously by the membership this spring, the new category will open POWA membership up to those who have not yet received compensation for their work, but are interested in pursuing work in outdoor media. Many of us can remember just starting out and not having a clue or receiving a check. One of POWA's missions is of legacy: encouraging the mentoring to current and future generations of outdoor media.

I'm so encouraged to see the addition of this membership category. I get phone calls and emails from people interested in joining POWA so that they can learn more about outdoor media and start their own career. Sadly, until this category was added, I had to tell them that we had nothing for them. Now, as Apprentice members, they can join for up to 18 months with no proof of compensation and take advantage of all the POWA has to offer – especially our annual conference. The 18-month mark was chosen so that they would have the opportunity to attend at least one conference.

If, after 18 months, they have not secured remuneration for their work, their membership will be dropped. But at any time during that period, should they "sell" their work, they can then apply for either

Associate or Active membership.

This is a win-win-win. First and most definitely for the new member embarking on a new career; for POWA growing its membership; and also for the general public, which is now gaining another member of the professional outdoor media to help spread the word about our fantastic resources here in the Keystone State.

As we introduce you to our new Apprentice members – and yes, we have some waiting to join – please take the time to reach out to them and see how you can help them!

Looking ahead to 2024, I can report that we have secured the venue for our 2024 conference in Luzerne County. We'll be at the Holiday Inn Wilkes Barre – East Mountain, May 16-19. The committee is already brainstorming some great eastern Pa. activities and the Craft Improvement Committee is starting to think about Saturday morning sessions.

If there is anything you would like to see and/or do, please let me know, and I'll pass it along to the committees. And, as always, if you would like to help plan the 2024 conference, I'll take that information, too!

Membership Changes/Corrections

The following contact changes have been received.

Individual members

Tom Austin '77
austintracks@yahoo.com

Don Feigert, '95
PO Box 1381 Hermitage, PA 16148

Jim Fitser '70
Please delete these phone numbers from Jim's profile:
610-797-7886; 610-797-7417

Krista White, '21
kristawhitewrites@gmail.com



Supporting Member Changes/Corrections

The following contact changes have been received.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art '75
Agata Czopek
Interim Executive Director
Email: acaopek@nedsmithcenter.org

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists '91
Catherine Elser
Director of Marketing, Outreach and Fundraising
Email: catherine@pfsc.org

Ruffed Grouse Society '16
100 High Tower Blvd. Ste 101
Pittsburgh PA 15205-1155

Toyota '18
1023 Ridgeview Circle
Lake Orion, MI 48362
Curt McAllister
Email: curt.mcallister@toyota.com

Whitetails Unlimited '19
1414 Kings Run Rd.
Shinglehouse PA 16748
Ph: 814-697-7453 • 717-713-7062 (cell)
Clyde DeHart
Email: cdehart@whitetailsunlimited.com

Wildlife Leadership Academy '07
Sara Mueller
Executive Director
Email: smueller@wildlifeleadershipacademy.org

Winners

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POWA EIC Entries) – “Compound, Crossbow, Classic” by Tyler Frantz, published in Pennsylvania Game News, February 2022.

Runner-up: “A complete I-80” by Marshall Nych, published in International Game Warden Magazine, Fall 2022.

4. Best Magazine or Regional Newspaper Feature (sponsored by Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists) – “Deer Wars: The Pennsylvania Deer Controversy 20 Years Later” by Steve Sorensen, published in Deer and Deer Hunting, September 2022

Runner-up: “The Hunted” by Timothy Flanigan, published in Covers magazine, Summer 2022.

5. Best Published Newspaper Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA Past Presidents) – “Long Walk to Water” by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald, Oct. 8, 2022

Runner-up: “Wildlife Romance” by Dave Wolf, published in the Dillsburg Banner, Feb. 10, 2022.

6. Best Published Magazine Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “West Branch Life – Fox Kit” by Linda Stager, West Branch Life, Winter 2022.

Runner-up: “Woodcock Flight” by Timothy Flanigan, Covers Magazine, Summer 2022.

7. Best Book Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “River Boots: A Fish Warden’s Tales of Pennsylvania Fish and Game Law Enforcement” by Bob Steiner.

Runner-up: “Echo: Living Wild with the Orions” by Ron Rohrbaugh Jr.

8. Best Published Art Award, Color or Black & White (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Spring Challenge” by Gerald Putt, Pennsylvania Game News Cover, April 2022.

Runner-up: “Back of the Mountain: Radiant Passage” by Linda Stager, Mountain Home Magazine, October 2022.

POWA SPECIALTY AWARDS

1. POWA Pass it on Award (sponsored by PA Environment Digest) – “Kids, Sports, Hunting, and a Proud Father” by Brian Kightlinger, published in Crossbow Magazine, Summer 2022.

Runner-up: “Kidding around in the turkey woods” by Steve Piatt, published in The (Sayre) Morning Times, April 28, 2022.

2. Wildlife Conservation Partnership Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Game Commission) – “The Muck” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, May 22, 2022.

Runner-up: “Donations of dough, as well as bucks and doe, allow HSH to continue feeding the needy” by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald, Sept. 24, 2022.

3. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Raptor Conservation and Eco-Tourism Award (sponsored by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary) – “The Fall Migration is Underway” by Charlie Burchfield, published in the Ridgway Record, Oct. 28, 2022.

Runner-up: “Searching for Kestrel Clues” by Bob Frye, published in Pennsylvania Game News, July 2022.

4. The Pennsylvania Elk Resource Award (sponsored by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance) – “The Elk Experience, Pennsylvania Style” by Ben Moyer, published in Pennsylvania Outdoor News, Oct. 14, 2022.

Runner-up: “PA’s Elk County Success Story” by Charlie Burchfield, published in the Ridgway Record, Oct. 28, 2022.

5. Best Action Hunting, Trapping or Fishing Photograph (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Moment of Truth” by Joseph J. Faux, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald, June 11, 2022.

Runner-up: “His Life’s Passion” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown Herald-Standard, April 3, 2022.

6. Best Conference-Related Material Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “POWA – Tioga County” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, May 26, 2022.

Runner-up: “Writer gets ‘sucker punched’ on Little Pine Creek” by Tyler Frantz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald, June 4, 2022.

7. Best Published Pennsylvania Fishing or Boating Related Newspaper Photo, Color or Black & White (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission) – “His Life’s Passion” by Ben Moyer, published in the Uniontown

Herald-Standard, April 3, 2022.

Runner-up: “Steelhead” by Marshall Nych, published in The (Greenville) Record-Argus, Oct. 2022.

8. Don Heckman - Tell the Story Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the NWTf) – “Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Sighting Survey important for turkey population management,” by Doyle Dietz, published in the Pottsville Republican Herald, July 23, 2022.

Runner-up: “Pennsylvania’s Feathered Heritage” by Timothy Flanigan, published in NWTf Pennsylvania’s Turkey Talk, Fall 2022.

9. Handloading Promotion Award for Broadcast Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Easy Reloading with Brygider” by Alex & JoAnne Zidock, Out in the Open TV, Dec. 8, 2022.

10. Handloading Promotion Award for Electronic Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “Reloading your own ammo provides flexibility” by Charlie Burchfield, published at www.ridgwayrecord.com, Aug. 12, 2022.

11. Handloading Promotion Award for Print Media (sponsored by Redding Reloading) – “The Hunter Handloader” by Jerry Bush, published in New York Outdoor News, Sept. 23, 2022.

Runner-up: “Navigating the Reloading Component Shortage” by Mike Raykovicz, published in New York Outdoor News, March 25, 2022.

12. Outdoor Blog Entry Award (sponsored by POWA EIC entries) – “Borderline Prospects – North Branch of Potomac offers fine trout fishing” by Tyler Frantz, published at naturalpursuitoutdoors.com, May 22, 2022.

Runner-up: “How to Fit a Shotgun to You – Length of Pull, Comb Height, and Cast” by George Konetes, published at newhuntersguide.com, Nov. 11, 2022.

13. Pennsylvania Trappers Award (sponsored by the Pennsylvania Trappers Association) – “Cubby Boxes” book by Rich Faler, published in 2022.

14. Trout and the Coldwater Resource Award (sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited) – “A number of species are naturally reproducing in Stonycreek River” by Brian Whipkey, published in the Daily American, Sept.

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Conference

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skipped it, well, I could assure you that you missed a good one.

The fun began Thursday evening at Otto's Pub & Brewery, when many early attendees gathered for dinner, which featured a visit by Tim Schaeffer, executive director of the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission '14. Story ideas materialized quickly afterward when members of the Central PA Tasting Trail helped open our hospitality suite that evening.

Per tradition, our Friday morning included fishing, hunting, kayaking, and hiking opportunities. Congratulations to Life Member Gerry Putt '80 for killing the first gobbler I remember being tagged during a conference for a few years. Mark Nale presented an educational tour of the Soaring Eagle Wetlands for members interested in birding and conservation material. O.F. Mossberg '14 and Kahr Firearms '16 provided guns to shoot on Friday afternoon. Congratulations to Mark for placing the best shot at 100 yards with the Mossberg Patriot rifle chambered in 7mm PRC, with ammunition provided by Hornady. For his efforts, he won a handgun safe, which was also donated by the ammunition manufactur-



Brad Isles Photo

Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Bryan J. Burhans speaks to POWA members during the annual Friday Night Barbecue held at Scotia Range.

er. Kahr sent representative Randy Clark, who brought along a number of distinguished handguns.

Shotgun enthusiasts were exposed to Mossberg's 940 Pro, a semi-automatic shotgun. A special thanks to the Pennsylvania Game Commission '08 for the seemingly limitless clay targets and shotshells they provided, not to mention their employees who unexpectedly showed up to help. The generosity of the PGC enabled us to raffle a case of White Flyer Clay Targets '18, which had been sup-

plied by its representative, Robert Crow. Archers were able to shoot a Wicked Ridge crossbow while learning about the design of Ten Point's illuminated Alpha Nock, which helps eliminate string pinch.

The shooting got off to a clumsy start due to a couple of last-minute, emergency absentees that had been scheduled to supervise events. Thanks to First VP Grey Berrier '13, and Secretary Steve Sorensen '05, who stepped in to fill the vacancies.

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Runner-up: "Trout Unlimited needs you!" by Dave Wolf, published in The Dillsburg Banner, Aug. 18, 2022.

15. Lantz Hoffman White-Tailed Deer Award (sponsored by Karen Wolf) – "Deer Wars: The Pennsylvania Deer Controversy 20 Years Later" by Steve Sorensen, published in Deer and Deer Hunting, September 2022.

Runner-up: "The Quiet Hunter" by Lilace Mellin Guignard, published in Mountain Home Magazine, November 2022.

16. Wildlife Art Award (sponsored by Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art) – "Two Grouse" by Michael Kensinger

17. Young Trees Habitat Award (sponsored by the Upland Bird Hunt Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society)

– "Pains & Gains: A Greater Future for Grouse" by Bob Frye, published in Pennsylvania Game News, April 2022.

Runner-up: "Winter Maintenance" by Charlie Burchfield, published in the Ridgway Record, Jan. 28, 2022.

18. Youth Fishing Award (sponsored by USA International Sportsmen's Show and Outdoor Recreation & Travel) – "The Golden Boy" by Marshall Nych, published in Pennsylvania Angler & Boater, March/April 2022.

Runner-up: "A 'great program': Mentored youth trout fishing planned Saturday across Pennsylvania" by Brian Whipkey, published in the Daily American, March 23, 2022.

19. Youth and the Hunting/Shooting Sports Award (sponsored by Taurus Holdings Inc.) – "I don't know who was more excited" by Brian Whipkey, published in the Daily American, April

27, 2022.

Runner-up: "Kids, Sports, Hunting, and a Proud Father" by Brian Kightlinger, published in Crossbow Magazine, Summer 2022.

20. Archery Award (sponsored by United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania) – "Scoring Big Bucks: Pirate" by Brian Kightlinger, published in Global Outdoors, March 22, 2022.

Runner-up: "Finding a peace in the fall rut" by Wade Robertson, published in the Olean Times Herald, Nov. 5, 2022.

21. Humor Award (sponsored by POWA/EC entries) – "River Boots: A Fish Warden's Tales of Pennsylvania Fish and Game Law Enforcement" by Bob Steiner, published in 2022.

Runner-up: "Cup of Jo Momma" by Chris Espenshade, published in Wellsboro Gazette Buck Roster, Jan. 27, 2022.

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Supporting member Robin Sharpless of Redding Reloading '09 was on hand to present a PowerPoint presentation about handloading for precise shooting. He graciously provided clip sheets of his presentation to members, and he'll happily send information to interested members who were unable to attend. Contact him at Robin.Sharpless@redding-reloading.com.

As for the Friday evening barbecue? Several members claimed it was the best they remember occurring at any conference. The PGC also provided insight regarding the new means of applying for antlerless licenses, and we were reminded that "ride-along" opportunities with officers are available for the asking.

Saturday morning included four Craft Improvement seminars that were presented by expert members Ryan Furrer '21 (podcasting), Mark Nale (photography), Tim Flanigan '87 (writing), and Bob '84 & Linda Steiner '80 (Promoting Self-Published Books).

Story material was provided by Tom Keller of the PGC, who informed attendees about the Pine Marten Reintroduction Program. Jess Brown, a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology at the Veterinary Entomology Lab at Penn State informed an audience about ticks, and bears, and presented insight regarding what she terms "The Wacky World of Wildlife Research."

Coincidentally, the Bluebird Society of PA '08 was conducting a rendezvous in the same facility. POWA members had to walk through their display area to access our seminars, which meant a bonus opportunity to gather more story ideas materialized.

Saturday's lunch, provided by the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau '12 was splendid. We have come to expect nothing less from Edward Stoddard and that organization. The State College Ramada Inn and Conference Center provided a great setup for the luncheon, which was followed by an hour dedicated to networking.

During our membership meeting, I was honored with the opportunity to present members Tim Flanigan, Gerry Putt, and Dennis Scharadin '76 with plaques honoring their selection as Life members.



Todd Lepley Photo

POWA President Jerry Bush '02, far right, had the honor of recognizing Life members, from left, Dennis Scharadin '76, Tim Flanigan '87 and Gerry Putt '80 with commemorative plaques during the membership meeting.

If you have ever attended a POWA awards banquet, you know how delightful they are, as we gather with family and friends. A great banquet was once again sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation '88. Thank you, Mr. Bill Brassard!

Congratulations to this year's award recipients and the runners-up! Awards Chair Brad Isles '05 provided interesting data regarding the number of entries that were submitted, making it clear that being recognized is an honor. I would like to also thank everyone who created and submitted entries worthy of consideration. Your professionalism is worth a round of applause.

Our fundraising raffle was a huge success, thanks to early ticket sales and the spectacular donations from generous supporting members. We couldn't do it without them! Special thanks to Tim Flanigan for offering a special POWA commemorative rifle, which helped us raise an additional \$1,100. It was won by Bob & Linda Steiner. Please see the list of donors, and if you haven't done so yet extend a thank you communication to one or a few of them. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness!

It was somewhat sad to disband on Sunday morning, but I know those who were in attendance anxiously await the 2024 conference!



Todd Lepley Photo

Outgoing President Kyle Hey '17 with Toyota Scholarship winner Christian Crabtree at Saturday evening's awards banquet.

Conference Supporters

Thanks to all our supporting members and sponsors who have made this conference a success!

Atsko • BoatUS • BPI Outdoors • Dardevle by Eppinger
Happy Valley Adventure Bureau • Hawk Mountain
Sanctuary • Hunters Sharing the Harvest • International
Bowhunting Organization • Keystone Elk Country Alliance •
Media Direct • Birchwood Casey, GSM Outdoors, SEVR •
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art • Neshannock Creek
Fly Shop • O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.
PA Environment Digest • Pennsylvania Chapter Of
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers • Pennsylvania Chapter-
National Wild Turkey Federation • Pennsylvania Council of
Trout Unlimited • Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen
and Conservationists • Pennsylvania Fish & Boat
Commission • Pennsylvania Game Commission
Pennsylvania Trappers Association • POWA Past Presidents
• Redding Reloading Equipment • Taurus Holdings, Inc. •
Toyota • United Bowhunters of Pennsylvania • Upland Bird
Hunt Chapter, Ruffed Grouse Society • USA International
Sportsmen's Show and Outdoor Recreation and Travel •
White Flyer Clay Targets • Wildlife Leadership Academy •
Karen & Jerry Bush • Chris Espenshade • Tim Flanigan •
John Punola • Bill Sharpe • Linda and Bob Steiner • Karen
Wolf • Hornady • Sheetz

*Please take some time to thank those
who made this weekend possible*

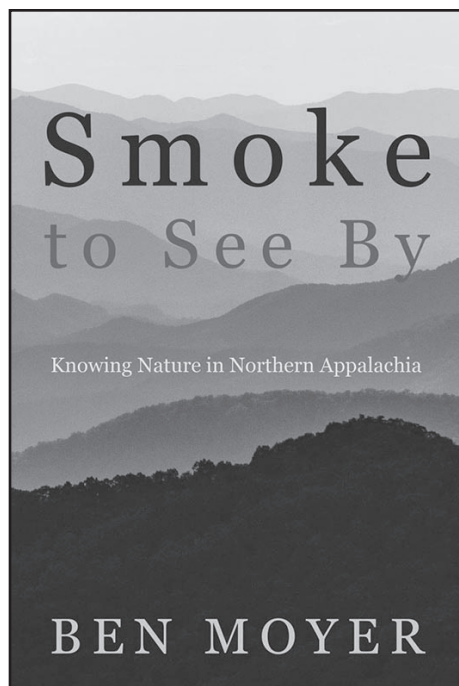
Member News

Moyer publishes 'Smoke to See By'

POWA member Ben Moyer '83 has announced the publication of a new book. "Smoke to See By" is a collection of 21 essays and stories that track the writer's quest for connection to nature and the outdoors in his home region.

Moyer reveals the link to place he finds in butchering a deer in a freezing garage or in gathering blackberries amid summer's heat. Readers will follow Moyer along mountain streams and through woodlands to encounters with rare salamanders, wild trout, rattlesnakes, bears, songbirds, and bobcats, through a hurricane that turned to a blizzard, and working with troubled adolescents in a therapeutic camping program. Here, Moyer's prose is a quietly joyous celebration of the ecological resilience and diversity of a region which harbors marvelous natural wonders, offered to those who would know them up close.

"Smoke to See By" is available through the publisher, Sunbury Press, or its "Nature" and "Regional" imprint Catamount Press at www.sunburypress.com.



Contributed Photo

Ben Moyer '83 recently released 'Smoke to See By' which is available for purchase through Sunbury Press at www.sunburypress.com.

Berrier reaches column milestone

The Hutchison Family of New Castle has published the *Weekly Bargain Bulletin* since 1972.

It is distributed every Friday throughout Lawrence County in western Pennsylvania, and in portions of neighboring Beaver, Butler, and Mercer Counties, as well as Mahoning County, Ohio.

The Hutchinsons this spring celebrated their first and only outdoor writer, Grey Berrier '13, POWA's 1st Vice President, who achieved the distinct milestone of bringing to their readers over 500 editions of his weekly column, "Outdoor Opportunities," for the past 10 years.

Grey's initial piece appeared in print on March 1, 2013, the very first day after he retired from military service following 31.5 years in uniform.

All of Grey's outdoor columns are available online at www.weeklybargainbulletin.com.



Contributed Photo

Pictured are, from left: Frank Hutchison, Jr.; Karen Hutchison (who founded the *Weekly Bargain Bulletin* with her late husband Frank Hutchison, Sr.); Grey Berrier; Mark Beers; and Joyedell Hutchison Beers.

bulletin.com, where each weekly edition is attached as a .PDF and can searched to read "Outdoor Opportunities."

Supporting Member News

HSH reports historic year

Pennsylvania deer hunters fed the hungry in historic fashion during the 2022-23 hunting season – donating a total of 235,532 pounds of venison from 6,201 deer and four elk via Hunters Sharing the Harvest '94 – Pennsylvania's nationally emulated venison donation program. The season totals were announced by HSH executive director Randy Ferguson during the Pennsylvania Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Reception at Tavern on the Hill in Enola in June.

Reflecting a nearly 25% increase, the recent season numbers eclipsed the previous record of 190,302 pounds from 4,896 deer donated during the 2020-21 hunting season.

"Pennsylvania deer hunters continue to astound us with their generosity and selflessness," said Ferguson. "When that hunter generosity is combined with the efforts of our participating processors, area coordinators and financial supporters around the state, we have an extremely effective mission. And this is what we're seeing in these historic donation numbers."

Based on the American Heart Association's recommended serving size of three ounces of lean red meat per serving, the 235,532 pounds of venison donated during the 2022-23 season provided approximately 1.25 million servings of lean, high protein venison to the food insecure in Pennsylvania this year.

"We are proud and excited to have reached this important milestone," said Bill Sordoni, chairman of the HSH board of directors. "With strong leadership, a clear vision for our future and the growing support of a tremendous network of hunters, processors, volunteers and partners, we believe the impact of the HSH mission will continue to grow in the years to come."

Continued on next page...



Mueller

WLA's Mueller to serve as Supporting Members' Rep.

POWA is proud to announce that Sara Mueller, executive director of the Wildlife Leadership Academy '07 has agreed to serve as the Supporting Members' Representative. Members who attended the conference at State College had an opportunity to meet the personable, talented young woman face to face. Supporting members can expect to be contacted by Sara very soon. We are sure all will find her to be a great asset to the organization and a valued advisor to conference committees and the Board of Directors. We look forward to seeing Sara and her husband Nathan often at future events.

...Continued from previous page

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has been a key supporting partner with HSH for many years, providing a substantial annual allocation of state and federal hunger relief funds to help HSH defray the costs associated with reimbursing participating processors for their services.

"Protein-rich meats are often difficult for families on tight budgets to afford," Pennsylvania Agriculture Russell Redding said. "The generous donations of hunters stretch the dollars of cash-strapped families and the food pantries that serve them."

The HSH program is a coordinated effort of nearly 100 participating deer processors who accept donated deer from hunters and process the deer into one-, two- and five-pound packages of ground venison for distribution to regional food banks and food pantries.

In its 32 years of operation, HSH has delivered 2.2 million pounds of hunter-donated venison, providing over 10 million servings to food insecure Pennsylvanians.

POWA Budget

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer

Account Description	Forecasted 22-23	Approved 23-24
Active Members' Dues	7,700	7,860
Supporting Members' Dues	7,400	7,400
Merchandise Sales	27	25
Awards Income	5,200	5,200
General Contribution	-	-
Grant Income	400	-
Conferences (Net)	2,953	3,150
Miscellaneous	-	-
REVENUES	\$23,750	\$23,635
Member Awards	4,200	4,200
Executive Dir. Stipend	11,075	11,700
Plaque Expenses	1,822	1,400
Pow Wow	3,345	2,500
Website Expenses	-	200
Membership Directory	-	1,150
Postage, General	824	750
Office Expenses	509	500
Marketing	-	-
Merchandise Expense	-	-
Insurance	545	545
Professional Fees	-	400
Credit Card Fees	90	75
Travel	212	215
Miscellaneous	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,822	\$23,635
Net Increase/(Deficit)	(72)	-

Treasurer's Report

By John Allen, POWA Treasurer / Expenditures as of April 30, 2023

Income Accounts	Budget 22-23	Actual	% of Budget
Active Members' Dues	7,620	7,770	102
Supporting Members' Dues	6,900	6,900	100
Merchandise Sales	10	27	270
Craft Award Income	5,000	5,090	102
Cash Back Rewards Income	-	166	-
General Contribution	600	641	-
Grant Income	-	400	-
Spr. Conference (State College) Net	3,015	3,898	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,145	\$24,892	108%
Expense Accounts	Budget 22-23	Actual	% of Budget
Executive Dir. Stipend	11,100	7,375	66
Pow Wow (Print/Edit)	3,200	2,245	70
Member Awards	3,950	-	-
Membership Directory	900	-	-
Plaque Expenses	1,000	1,822	182
Office Expenses	650	349	54
General Postage	700	677	97
Insurance	545	-	-
Credit Card Fees	50	69	138
Professional Fees	400	-	-
Website Expenses	50	-	-
Miscellaneous	100	-	-
Travel	500	92	18
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$23,145	\$12,629	55%
Net Income	0	\$12,263	

Cash Accounts as of April 30, 2023: General Fund, \$67,657; Youth Education Fund, \$3,853; Scholarship Fund, \$45,618; Jacquelin Knight CD, \$14,436; Board Designated, \$11,924. Total Cash Accounts: \$143,488.

Market News

The **Keystone Trails Association** is expanding its blog and newsletter to include articles written by guest authors. Topics should be relevant to, engaging, and educational for Pennsylvania's hikers, KTA's primary audience. Suggested topics include wildlife, the environment, local history, hiking stories, native plants, and photography. KTA promotes and protects PA's hiking trails by offering trail maintenance volunteer opportunities, hiking excursions, and more. Questions and writing submissions can be sent to Holly Tritt, KTA Manager of Communications and Membership at tritt@kta-hike.org.

Dark Skies Fly Fishing '23 is a digital regional fly fishing magazine featuring how-to, personal experience, product reviews, and destination pieces featuring rivers, lakes, and streams in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. We are looking for content regarding all species that can be caught with fly rod and reel in both known and lesser-known waters in this region.

Our goal is to provide readers a complete resource for traveling to specific destinations and for improving their fishing skills. Feature destination articles should:

- Describe useful techniques, tackles, flies, and local perspective.
- Thorough and specific in regards to access points, hatch charts, and other important information for destination topics.
- Include important historical information, angling history, conservation issues, etc.
- Include high quality photography to illustrate each piece.
- Maps of the area that our artist can use for reference to illustrate certain destinations mentioned in the work.

Types of articles we prefer:

- Personal experience/adventure stories.
- How-to pieces that are unique and offer fresh perspectives.
- Destination-type articles for waters within our coverage area.
- Photo essays featuring known and lesser-known waters within our coverage area or aspects of fly fishing of interest to readers in this region.

- Profiles of famous anglers, fly tyers, or conservationists from this region.
- Conservation issues of interest to fly fishers in this region.
- Conservation projects that include reclamation projects for waters throughout the region.
- Fly tying articles and videos featuring local fly patterns and techniques.
- Product reviews that are fair and relay both the pros and cons of the products and are not just fluff pieces used as payback for free products received from the company.

Photography requirements: Article submissions accompanied with high quality photography will receive priority and maximum payment. We prefer images submitted in JPEG, PNG, or RAW format. For large files, please use a transfer service such as WeTransfer.com or Hightail to submit photos. We do not accept slides or transparencies or files on CDs. Files on thumb drives are acceptable if discussed with the editor first.

Email queries are preferred. Please send to ralphscherder@gmail.com.

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 National Wild Turkey Federation is a nonprofit conservation/education organization dedicated to the conservation of the North American wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting heritage. They publish two magazines, Turkey Call and

JAKES Country: **JAKES Country** is a bimonthly magazine for NWTf members — hunters, conservationists and everyone who cares about the outdoors lifestyle. It is an educational publication, dedicated to news and information of interest to young people. Their goal is to involve young people in preserving and transmitting the North American hunting tradition, to learn hunting tactics, tips for safe shooting and the character needed to be true outdoor sports fans. **Turkey Call** is dedicated to everything from features and field research to updates on the latest products tailored to the turkey hunting enthusiast and conservationist. Turkey Call articles focus on the biology, distribution, history and hunting of wild turkeys. Articles range from 1,000 to 1,200 words (features), and 500-1,000 words (departments). Contact: turkeycountry@nwtf.net.

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, conservation 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.

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.

Meeting Minutes

POWA Board of Directors Meeting

January 22, 2023

Google Meet

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Jeff Woleslagle.

Present: Kyle Hey, Jerry Bush, Grey Berrier, John Allen, Woleslagle, Ralph Martone, Brian Kightlinger, Tom Tatum, Braden Eisenhower, Ron Rohrbaugh, Paula Piatt. Absent, excused: Steve Sorensen, Gerry Putt.

**Motion* to approve Minutes of the September 2022 Board of Directors meeting by T. Tatum. Approved.

**Motion* to approve Minutes of the Board Reorganizational Meeting by B. Kightlinger. Approved.

**Motion* to approve Minutes of the General Membership Meeting from the May POWA Conference by T. Tatum. Approved.

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

- As of Dec. 31, 2022, we have 125 individual members (of 148) renewed; 58 Supporting members (of 72) renewed.

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

President's Report: (K. Hey) – Tabled until the April 30, 2023, meeting.

Treasurer's Report: (J. Allen) As of Dec. 31, we have 84% of membership dues and 74% of supporting member dues. We have collected about 52% of our projected revenue for the year, and 31% of our expenses for the year.

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

Correspondence: (P. Piatt) – As posted.

CONFERENCES

2023 Centre County: J. Bush has worked hard to bring a great conference, with many new ideas. Much is planned, with more opportunities in the works. It is shaping up to be an outstanding conference.

2024 Location: P. Piatt has reached out to Visit Luzerne County regarding the 2024 conference. They are excited about hosting and have already agreed to sponsor the Saturday lunch. Requests for Proposals have gone out to venues that could host our conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – As posted.

Constitution and By-Laws – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Craft Improvement – As posted.

Duties Manual – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Editorial Review – No report. Chairmanship

vacant.

Ethics – As posted. No activity to report.

Finance-Auditing – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Finance-Budget – As posted.

Historical Archives – Nothing to report.

Media/Tech/Website – As posted. Our online Spotlight sessions resumed in January, which occur the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Member Screening – 2022 new members are Brandon Bixler, Student; Michael Kensinger, Active; Stephen Meyer, Active; Kim Garriss, Active; Jessica Decker, Student; Will Meiser, Active; Rick Methot, Active; Rose Anna Moore, Active; Robert Newland, Active; Leah Zerbe, Active.

Membership Audit – Nothing to report. Additional information will be given at the meeting just before the May conference.

Membership Development – As posted. Action requested to recommend to the membership: (1.) Approve or disapprove of the addition of a new "Apprentice" member category as outlined in the committee report: An Apprentice Member shall be a person who has not received compensation for any of the accepted membership criteria as listed herein but has expressed an interest in professional outdoor communications. An Apprentice Member agrees to work toward achieving Associate or Active status within an 18-month probationary period from the date of their acceptance as an Apprentice Member and is subject to review by the Membership Screening Committee.

**Motion* to adopt the committee recommendation as a constitutional change by T. Tatum. Approved.

(2.) The committee recommends (a.) Changes to the point value of podcasts, vlogs and web shows to reflect the one point per minute rating in TV and radio, while keeping it within the 15-point threshold (just now 15 minutes instead of 30). (b.) The inclusion of blogs within the 10-point category along with columns and stories but requiring a word count of 500 or more words. (c.) Removal of the previous stand-alone blog category. (d.) Changes to the point value (from 3 to 5) for blogs, short stories or sidebars of less than 499 words, (with the addition of poetry added to the language).

**Motion* to adopt the committee recommendation by T. Tatum. Approved.

Nominating – Nothing to report, except to thank the board and officers for their efforts.

Outdoor Education – As posted.

Outdoor Press Outings – As posted. Several media tours are planned or in the works, including trips to Maine, Niagara Falls, Maryland, and more.

Past Presidents' Council – Nothing to report.

Scholarship – As posted. We have no applicants so far for the Toyota scholarship. Information was sent to the schools within a 70-mile radius of the spring conference site in State College on Oct. 20, 2022. J. Woleslagle will contact the schools by phone next week to try to garner some interest. P. Piatt updated the Will Johns scholarship forms and contact information, and it will go out to the appropriate schools soon with an application

deadline of April 1.

Sport Shows – As posted.

Supporting Member Representation – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Supporting Member Screening – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Supporting Membership Recruitment – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Ways and Means – No report.

**Motion* to approve all committee reports by J. Bush. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee realignment – Proposed Duties Manual changes in packet (Executive Committee).

**Motion* to realign our committees according to the proposed Duties Manual changes suggested by the Executive Committee; Retaining the Board Chairman and addition of the Second Vice President to the Executive Committee (page 10 of the Duties Manual); Removal of Sport Show Committee as sub-committee of Fundraising Committee (remaining a stand-alone committee); additional language to require Sport Show Committee chair to communicate Supporting Member auction donations to Fundraising Committee chair by R. Rohrbaugh. Passed 9-1 (YEA: Hey, Berrier, Allen, Woleslagle, Martone, Kightlinger, Tatum, Eisenhower, Rohrbaugh; NAY: Bush.)

New member category – Constitutional change (Membership Screening): This was addressed in the Membership Screening report and discussion.

Changes to membership application – Detailed in Membership Development Committee.

Board/Officer election voting methods/options – (Nominating Committee): Tabled to May 2023.

October Mini-Meets – (J. Bush): Background in board packet. Tabled to May 2023

Internal Financial Audit – Referred to the next Executive Committee Meeting for a recommendation on how to move this forward.

Conservationist of the Year Award – Suggested by G. Putt. In Gerry's absence from this meeting, this is tabled to May 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Waiving initiation fee for new memberships – P. Piatt suggested we waive membership initiation fee for new memberships that came in from the Sport Shows.

**Motion* to approve waiving of initiation fee for new memberships that came in from Sports Shows by J. Bush. Approved.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Sports Shows – We will again need help for the Harrisburg show from Feb. 4-12 and Monroeville from Feb. 17-19.

Awards Committee – J. Bush announced that Grey Berrier has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the Awards Committee, and Brad Isles has agreed to continue creating the awards video for the Conference Banquet.

**Motion* to adjourn at 8:32. J. Bush.

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– Respectfully submitted
Steve Sorensen, Secretary
In absentia,
Minutes transcribed from recorded meeting.

Addendum (Action on March 29, 2023): This expenditure generated discussion, and needed a motion and a second which failed to come through emails.

We currently have \$12,752.83 in the Kermit Henning Youth Education Grant account. The

following disbursements of \$8,900 would leave \$3,852.83 in the account for 2024:

- Blue Ridge Rifles, \$200
- Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, \$700
- Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities, \$500
- Camp Compass, \$700
- Capital City Bassmasters, \$700
- Dauphin County Office of Parks and Recreation, \$700
- Friends of Schuylkill Parks and Recreation, \$700

- Jefferson County Youth Field Day, \$700
- Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, \$500
- Perry County Sportsmen's Association, \$700
- Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association, \$700
- PA Wildlife Habitat Unlimited Inc., \$700
- Wildlife Leadership Academy, \$700
- York Area Sportsmen for Youth, \$700

Meeting Minutes

POWA Board of Directors Meeting

September 25, 2022

Google Meet

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chairman Jeff Woleslagle.

Present: Kyle Hey, Jerry Bush, Grey Berrier, John Allen, Woleslagle, Ralph Martone, Brian Kightlinger, Tom Tatum, Braden Eisenhower, Ron Rohrbaugh, Paula Piatt. Absent, excused: Steve Sorensen, Gerry Putt.

**Motion to approve Minutes of the May 9, 2022, Board of Directors meeting by G. Putt. Approved, including the May 11 addendum referencing Alex Zidock's nomination of Tim Flanigan as a new Life Member.*

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

Highlights:

- P. Piatt thanked the conference committee members for their hard work and dedication to making our Mansfield experience special.
- In 2021-22, we welcomed 11 new individual members and two supporting members.
- The Emergency Fund has been renamed the Board Designated Fund, per board action taken at the May 9 board meeting.
- In terms of member benefits, the Spotlight Series continues to offer great information to the members who take advantage.
- Our 2022-23 directory is completed (at an increased but still reasonable printing cost).

**Motion to adopt the Executive Director's Report by T. Tatum. Approved.*

President's Report: (K. Hey) – As posted.

Highlights:

- K. Hey emphasized that fall anticipation and memories of being in the field is analogous to POWA as well with new opportunities on the horizon for outdoor communicators.
- As an organization we are beginning a modest restructure of our committees to better streamline our organization, organizing an executive committee to help facilitate the administrative processes of our organization,

and making an effort to maintain the membership opportunities we offer and enhance our recruitment of new outdoor communicators in our ranks.

- K. Hey outlined the need for an Executive Committee, and recommended the Board add an Executive Committee to its committee structure as follows:

Duties of the Executive Committee – The Executive Committee consists of the Chair of the Board of Directors, the President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Treasurer and the Executive Director. Upon the installation of the new board President and Board Chair, the committee shall hold an initial meeting within the first month of their term to gain an understanding of how to best support the goals of the new President and any unfinished and still desired goals of the Board Chair.

Additions or subtractions to the committee is through Board appointment by a majority vote and at no time can the number of Executive Committee members be less than three.

Responsibilities: Responsible for carrying on the business of POWA with the same force and effect as the Board of Directors during the intervals between Board Meetings. The ED is generally responsible for Board leadership and administrative management, including:

- Provide Board governance and continuity of leadership.
- Coordinate and track committee functions.
- Make administrative, governance, and personnel policy recommendations to the Board.
- Coordinate and oversee the preparation of the annual budget.

Limitations of Authority: The Executive Committee is not authorized to:

- Amend POWA's bylaws and articles of incorporation.
- Elect or remove a board member.
- Hire or fire the Executive Director.
- Approve the budget or authorize financing/investment decisions.

**Motion to adopt the President's Report by G. Putt. Approved.*

Treasurer's Report: (J. Allen) We exceeded the budget in revenues for the fiscal year by about \$1,300. Expenses were higher mainly because of our loss in marketing expense is for show booth materials, for a net loss of \$1,400. We finished well, and we are doing okay.

**Motion to adopt the Treasurer's Report by T. Tatum. Approved.*

Correspondence: (P. Piatt) – We have received thank-you letters from the organizations to which we gave grants this year. Ben Moyer also copied POWA on the thank-you letters sent to EIC Award sponsors, providing a good model for all of us.

CONFERENCES

2022 Tioga County Conference Recap – In Board Packet. The conference was a success, thanks to the hard work of Don Knaus and his committee providing a full slate of activities, craft improvement opportunities, and newsmaker sessions.

2023 Centre County – (J. Bush) P. Paula signed a contract with the Ramada Conference Center for our 2023 conference on May 18- 21, chaired by J. Bush, at the State College Ramada Inn and Conference Center. We have a full conference committee working on this and planning is ahead of schedule. The committee is trying to bring some shooting and shooting representatives to this conference. Everything is shaping up well. The committee is hoping to offer several Sheetz gift cards for a special raffle for those who travel more than 50 miles to the conference. This idea, along with more details, will be discussed and decided at the January meeting. Chairman Jerry Bush says, "I am very proud of this team and believe the membership is going to be pleased with the conference we are determined to deliver! Our goal is that this will be a conference members talk about for years, and those who miss it will regret their absence."

2024 Conference Location – No location is yet determined, but a conference committee is being assembled. J. Bush suggests going back to the eastern side of the state. P. Piatt suggests looking at our supporting member tourist bureaus to see who we might be able to involve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards – As posted.

- Entry criteria for next year's EIC Awards will be published in the fall newsletter. The committee assisted with judging Outdoor Writers of Ohio and Michigan Outdoor Writers Association craft awards entries for their contests this spring.

- P. Piatt mentioned that the Monroeville Show, formerly run by Expositions Inc. has been sold to a new company which has become a supporting member and will pick up one

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of the EIC Awards.

- The National Shooting Sports Foundation has been sponsoring the Youth in the Hunting Shooting Sports Award. They will no longer sponsor the award, but will continue sponsoring the EIC conference banquet. If we want to keep this Specialty Award, we need a new sponsor.
- G. Berrier volunteered to seek a sponsor to replace NSSF for the Youth in the Shooting Sports Award by Dec. 1, so it can be reported in the next *PowWow*.
- It was noted that currently we have no awards for supporting members.

**Motion* to form a committee to explore the creation of a new award for a supporting member's contribution to Youth in the Shooting Sports by J. Bush. Approved.

Constitution and By-Laws – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Craft Improvement – The committee met via telephone conversation with the Chairman for the 2023 POWA Conference to discuss possible Craft Improvement themes. The committee also participated in a virtual meeting on the 2023 Conference planning committee on Sept. 7.

Duties Manual – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Editorial Review – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Ethics – As posted. No activity to report.

Finance-Auditing – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Finance-Budget – As posted. The Treasurer's Report and Mercer/Tioga Conference reconciliations are in the board packet.

Historical Archives – No activity to report.

Media/Tech/Website – As posted. The 2022 Spotlight Series concluded Sept. 1 after running the first Thursday of each month, beginning in January. It was a strong season, thanks to Paula's efforts in lining up guests.

Member Screening – POWA experienced a year of growth in 2021-22, welcoming 11 new members to our ranks including Active Members Ray Hunt, Michael Kensinger, Stephen Meyer, Kim Garris, Will Meiser, Rick Methot, Rose Anna Moore, Robert Newland, and Leah Zerbe; and Student Members Brandon Bixler and Jessica Decker.

Membership Audit – Nothing activity to report.

Membership Development – Tyler Frantz accepted the Chairmanship of POWA's Membership Development Committee. The committee has a 2022 goal of looking at our existing membership categories and criteria and revising as necessary to keep pace with the evolving outdoors media landscape while expanding opportunities for outdoor communicators to join our ranks. Webmaster/editor B. Isles and experienced podcaster R. Furrer have both agreed to serve on this committee, and together with Chairman Frantz can put together a solid proposal for the board in advance of the

spring general membership meeting, having a draft proposal ready for board review by the January meeting.

The committee met on Sept. 20, 2022, at 7 p.m. via Google Meet and offers the following recommendations on four points from the Committee Report:

**Motion* to remove language related to 500 views by J. Bush. Approved.

**Motion* to require minimum views, downloads, etc. to meet minimum industry standards for monetization. (Example: YouTubers currently need 1,000 subscribers and 4,000 watch hours per month to qualify for monetization.) by J. Bush. Approved.

**Motion* to include a lengthy list of possible types of remuneration to our current language for remuneration by J. Bush. Approved.

**Motion* that K. Hey return the proposal to consider adding a new paid membership category back to the committee for final wording so that it can be refined before the January meeting. Approved.

Nominating – No activity to report.

Outdoor Education – As posted. Action requested: Grants were sent to the organizations listed in the January reports, and most (if not all) have expressed appreciation through correspondence. The chairman requested that POWA try holding a Sporting Clays-Wobble Trap Shoot again in 2023, even though we lost money on this in 2022.

**Motion* that we do not schedule a shoot next year by G. Putt. Approved.

Outdoor Press Outings – As posted. Chairman Steve Piatt continues to work on media opportunities for members in Maine, New York's Niagara Falls Tourism, Fish & Hunt Maryland, and the Keystone Elk Country Alliance in Pennsylvania. More information will be forthcoming.

Past Presidents' Council – As posted. Past president Charlie Burchfield requested that we discuss increasing dues for members and supporting members. J. Woleslagle will refer this to the new Executive Committee to see what a new fee structure would be like. Any action will need to be referred to the membership.

Scholarship – As posted. Executive Director P. Piatt distributed the checks to the Will Johns Scholarship recipients in August. We plan on starting to seek applicants for the Toyota Scholarship earlier this year than we have in the past.

Sport Shows – As posted. Chairman Dennis Scharadin asks that the Board help spread the word on the need to staff the booth, solicit auction items, and help during the auction.

Supporting Member Representation – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Supporting Member Screening – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Supporting Membership Recruitment – No report. Chairmanship vacant.

Ways and Means – No activity to report.

**Motion* to approve all committee reports by

T. Tatum. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

WTU Joint Banquet – This Whitetails Unlimited/POWA joint banquet did not take place due to inability to generate interest.

Board officer voting election option – (P. Piatt) P. Piatt asks for ideas on a new way to handle voting. Postage costs rise every year, and perhaps we will benefit from a lower cost way to have our elections. This is referred to the nominating committee, with the suggestion that we look into using "Survey Monkey" or a similar service. One issue is that a few older members do not use computers.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership renewal date changes – (P. Piatt) The board had a lengthy discussion on changing the dates for membership renewal from Oct. 1 – Nov. 31 (for coming calendar year) to April 1 – July 31 to help synchronize current membership with the Membership Directory. She included a discussion of the rationale in the Board Packet.

**Motion* to have Paula change membership renewals to fiscal year by J. Bush. Approved. After further discussion on what this would mean, J. Bush moved to rescind his motion. G. Putt had seconded it, and seconded the new motion.

**Motion* to rescind the action. Approved.

Committee reorganization – (K. Hey, J. Allen, J. Woleslagle, P. Piatt) The Executive Committee is looking at organizing the Committee structure of POWA to be more streamlined, add more efficiency, and reduce overlap. The Duties Manual document (marked-up in red) in the Board packet describes the changes/eliminations that might be made. This will be added to Old Business for the January Board meeting.

Donation of Commemorative Rifle – (P. Piatt) Background is in the board packet. Tim and Debbie Flanigan have donated a POWA 50th Anniversary commemorative rifle to raise funds for POWA.

**Motion* to offer the rifle in a member's only raffle at the next banquet in May 2023, referring ticket price and raffle format to the Ways and Means Committee. by G. Putt. Approved.

October Mini-Meets – (J. Bush) Background is in the board packet. J. Bush suggests we organize small excursions for members for approximately 10 members, perhaps on an east and west basis to provide for networking and camaraderie between our annual conferences. Tabled until the January meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Life Member plaque – The plaque for Tim Flanigan will be awarded at the May 2023 conference.

Conservationist of the Year Award – G. Putt asks that POWA consider a Conservationist of the Year Award. He knows a deserving recipient who consistently raises \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year for youth conservation. Tabled until the January meeting and will be brought up under Old Business.

**Motion* to adjourn at 9:47. J. Bush.

– Respectfully submitted
Steve Sorensen, Secretary

Craft Improvement

Make the most of your hero shot

By Timothy Flanigan
Craft Improvement

The photo at the top right of a successful huntress is typical of thousands of images taken annually by amateur photographers who overlook certain detracting elements within the image as they press the camera's shutter release.

This photo is not a total waste – it is suitable for a *bad example*, making it a valuable learning aid. The image's many faults detract from its intent: to capture a happy hunter who cherishes her success afield at a particular moment. Such photos preserve that moment and that memory so that it may be cherished and shared with others.

By reviewing the image's faults, we can learn to avoid similar mistakes and capture photos that equal the quality of the memory. Here are some photographic dos and don'ts based on this image of a hunter's first successful deer hunt.

SAFETY FIRST: All firearms included in hunting success photos should be shown as open, empty, and safe. AND they must be placed appropriately to avoid any perceivable unsafe angle. In this image, it appears that the rifle's muzzle is pointed directly at the hunter's left knee. In actuality, it is not, but camera lenses often foreshorten the field's depth and cause such impressions.

The best place for a firearm in a hero photo is in the human's immediate control, such as leaning against one of the hunter's arms with the rifle butt resting on the ground between the hunter and the quarry.

AVOID BLOOD: Don't ever include BLOOD in a photograph. The presence of blood in any hero photo is revolting to most viewers. Big-game kills commonly display blood around the nose and mouth; this is easily removed with a few tissues and a splash of water. There may be a stream, a spring, a pond nearby, or a bottle in your vest to supply the cleansing water.

Be sure to avoid displaying bloody hands or clothing on the successful hunter. Blood on the ground also damages the image. It too must be cleansed or covered or the subject relocated to an unspoiled spot.

RED-EYE, or in the case of deer, green-eye, also detracts from the image's appeal. This is caused by a direct, on-camera flash that bounces back from the animal's highly reflective retina. This can be avoided by placing the flash unit off of the dead center with an extension or PC cord or simply by using a camera setting that disables the flash.

The eyes must also be kept clean, free of debris, and fresh-looking. Dry flat-looking eyes can be refreshed by rinsing with freshwater or misting them with a bit of glycerin. Some photographers carry a small pump-spray bottle of glycerin for such occasions and for enhancing flowers with reflective droplets.



Timothy Flanigan Photos

Don't let the faults of a poorly composed photo detract from a life-long keepsake, like in the image above. Follow a few basic tips to get the best of your hero shot.



POSING: The prized quarry, be it fish or game, must be displayed in a flattering, natural manner and be appropriately placed so that the viewer immediately recognizes them. In this image, the deer on the left displays only one reflective eye, and its nose is buried in the grass. The composition is confusing, requiring the viewer to study it to discern its most essential details.

It is also essential to avoid distorting the quarry's visual impression by holding it in an unflattering manner, such as squeezing or stretching its ears or any other body part. Try supporting a deer's head with one hand beneath the jaw while using the other to raise its ears.

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CLOTHING: When the image depicts any “licensed” activity such as hunting, fishing, or boating, be sure that the human subject’s clothing complies with the legal standard for the activity. In this image, the happy hunter is wearing the proper and legally correct amount of fluorescent orange clothing for the big-game season in the state of the activity. Additionally, these bright colors make this image POP!

EYES: Human eyes are so vitally important in our communication that they are the first thing we notice in a photograph. Human eyes staring directly into the camera lens are intimidating and detract from the effect of the overall essence of the image. This should always be avoided in favor of these better options.

The best posing option for hero photos is to have the successful hunter look at their quarry. Doing so imparts immediate recognition of the image’s message. Be sure that at least one of the human’s eyes is visible and in tack-sharp focus. Avoid shading the eyes with a hat brim or fill

that shade with fill-flash or reflected light.

If a full-frontal face photo of the successful hunter is desired, have the subject focus their gaze upon a point just a bit to the side of and beyond the camera and photographer. Doing so adds depth and interest to the image. Be aware that the image viewers will look at the human’s eyes first and shift back and forth between those eyes and the quarry, be it fish or game, etc.

DISTRACTIONS: If possible, eliminate all distracting elements within an image, i.e., anything that competes with or draws attention away from the image’s principal subject. Strive to place your item on a clutter-free, non-competing background that contrasts with the photo subject.

In this image, the large, dark, elevated hunting blind dominates the background and appears to sit nearly upon the happy hunter’s head. With its large window eyes imparting a monster-like impression, it looms menacingly behind the hunter and takes a big bite out of this image’s appeal. This could have been avoided by moving

the hunter and her deer a little to the right, her left. Doing so would have placed the too-obvious blind out of center focus while still including it in the visual message. This adjustment would also place the deer in a clean spot.

COMPOSITION: Many of this image’s ills could have been healed by applying the age-old “Rule-of-Thirds” composition guide. Imagine a tick-tac-to grid over your subject and position the photo’s key point of interest on or near one of the grid’s four intersecting lines.

DEAD CENTER composition kills an image. The dead-center arrangement only works well for mug shots on the Post Office wall.

TIP: While composing a photo and just before tripping the camera’s shutter, scrutinize your intended composition and quickly open and close your eyes several times as imitating the camera’s shutter. Doing so imparts a mental image of your final photographic image and will guide you toward an eye-pleasing composition.



**Pennsylvania
Outdoor Writers
Association, Inc.
PO Box 885
Sayre, PA 18840**

www.paoutdoorwriters.com