

WINCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



www.winchester-iwla.org

February 2017

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Board Meetings occur the first Tuesday of every month, unless rescheduled due to Board schedules. See Chapter Website for updated date/time.

Membership Meetings occur the third Thursday of every month. A dinner is served starting at 6:15pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. Please arrive early. The cost for this membership dinner is \$10.00 per adult person – \$5.00 for children – reservations required.

Board Notes

The Board wants to recognize member, David Kikel, and express its deepest gratitude to him for installing the new water heater in the Chapter House kitchen. This type of volunteerism is a model for all of us to follow as fellow members of the WIWL Chapter.

We also want to recognize a young, dedicated conservationist within our Chapter. Garrett Brackbill, 11 year old son of member, Randy Brackbill. Garrett was fishing with his father and brother, Ben, right after the heavy rains in late September 2016 and noticed that a number of fish had been swept over the spillway at the far end of the lake. Rather than leaving them to die in the low water or be washed into the creek, he undertook to move all 29 fish back into the lake over a period of a few days. An example for all of us—both young and old—of what it means to be an “IKE”. We will be nominating Garrett for consideration of a conservation award from the National IWLA. Congratulations, Garrett!!! We are so glad to have you as part of our Chapter.

The Board will consider the appointment of a new Bard Member at the February 7th, 2017, meeting—Dr. James Silvester, an 18 year member of the Chapter has volunteered his service as a Board member. He is focusing on coordinating the National Water Monitoring Program and related activities along with his Member-at-Large Board duties

The President has a new number for member contact. **Please call 540-324-9076** with any problems, comments or concerns. Calls normally will be returned within 8-24 hours. If He doesn't hear from you, it is more difficult to operate the Chapter effectively. You members are the backbone of the WIWL and your opinions really count. All conversations or messages are treated confidentially.

If you are receiving e-mails from a 3rd party about the WIWL without your consent, please forward a copy to secretary@winchester-iwla.org then you can block the sender from sending email to you or email the sender and say you do not want emails from them and to take you off their email list.

The official website for the Winchester Chapter is www.winchester-iwla.org; the official Face Book page is www.facebook.com/winchesteriwla other pages referencing the WIWL or WIWC are not an official site and often contains incorrect and misleading information or have copied information from our official site without permission.

Membership Meeting

Join us on Thursday, February 16, 2017 for the Monthly Membership Meeting. Dinner starts at 6:15 PM. The Business Meeting starts at approximately 7:00 PM. Reservations can be made at dinners@winchester-iwla.org or by calling Jent Mitchell at 703-855-1110 and leaving a message. **Reservations should be made no later than Monday, February 13 at 6 PM.**

Again, sorry -- no Guest Speaker has been scheduled yet for the February 16th Membership Meeting. It will be announced on the official WIWL web page — www.winchester-iwla.org — and on the official WIWL Face book page — www.facebook.com/winchesteriwla — Please check both sites for information as well as other important updated communications regarding other Chapter activities and operations. If you know of an interesting speaker, or want to hear about a particular subject, please send your request to Mike Mercer at secretary@winchester-iwla.org.



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New Member & Range Qualification Orientation

An Orientation Session for New Members and Range Qualification is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th, 2017, at the Chapter House from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. Please bring eye and ear protection for the range visit portion of the Orientation. Contact Brian Callahan (membership-director@winchester-iwla.org).

Help Needed

We still badly need Chapter Volunteers — your volunteer work hours count towards our requirement as a 501(c) (3) organization to provide public benefit plus you can earn work credit towards your annual dues. Whether 2-3 hours or a full day of work, we can use your assistance and commitment to the Chapter. Some areas of immediate needs are shown:

Admin/ Clerical Assistance

All Ranges - Chair/Members

Special Event Committee Members

R-P & Shotgun Range RSOs (training available)

B & G Work Party/Trades Volunteers

National Water Monitoring Program Liaison Person

Special Events

We are planning on reviewing and updating the excellent Spring Fish Derby Plan prepared and presented by John Berglund at the July 2016 Membership Meeting. The traditional Spring Fish Derby held in late April each year will be integrated with other events similar to the activities at the Fall Family Festival held in October 2016. We need volunteers to join in the planning and implementation of this event which is open to the public. Please contact Harold Whitacre at 540-533-8996 to get your name on the volunteer list and receive updated information. We have started our planning and can use your help.

National Water Monitoring Program

IWLA National has hired a new Director and established a new program focused on engaging water quality monitoring volunteers, delivering hands-on local environmental education, and supporting active policy advocacy on water-related issues in communities. Each Chapter needs to identify and appoint a volunteer member (see above) to act as the Chapter contact for the National program within the next 30-40 days. The April 2017 Divisional Meeting will focus on implementing this Program and establish the guidelines for Chapter involvement. Chapters will be given their initial water testing kit (approx. \$500 value) from Division at that meeting. Contact David Prater (president@winchester-iwla.org).

Gate Cards

Reminder — All members now need a proximity card to access the chapter. Please get your card confirmed as active or replaced if you have not done so earlier. The Key Pad Entry has been taken down effective January 1, 2017. If you arrive at the park and realize you forgot your gate card, or your card does not work, please contact: Brian Callahan (membership-director@winchester-iwla.org) or Chris Barltrop (treasurer@winchester-iwla.org) and they will give you a one time access pin to allow you into the park. You will need to either have your card replaced as soon as possible to correct issues.

Membership Renewals Update

We have just completed a comprehensive update of our membership and gate card databases. If you have any issues with your gate cards please contact Brian Callahan (membership-director@winchester-iwla.org). If you have not sent in your renewal forms and checks he will help you resolve issues with your membership.

Ranges

Bill Philbin, our former Range Committee Chairman who recently resigned submitted his Comprehensive Range Policy Paper and Review to the President in early January. We

appreciate Bill meeting this commitment despite having resigned on Nov 2016. The Board and a few outside resources were given copies for review and comment at the January 12th BOD Meeting. All comments and suggested edits are due by the end of January. The comments and edits will be compiled and a final draft submitted at the February 7th, 2017 BOD Meeting for approval. There will be some changes in our Range SOP, Firearms Handling and Safety Rules. These changes, when approved, will be published in hard copy and incorporated into our New Member Orientation/RQ program. A copy will be available at the Ranges and be published on line as well. Please read and follow them. Range safety is an individual responsibility for all. We are tentatively targeting early April for implementation. Members who would like an electronic version copy after approval may make a request to the Chapter Secretary via e-mail. Copies also will be available at the Chapter House. Contact: secretary@winchester-iwla.org.

As part of the new SOP, we will be actively utilizing the Range Committees and Range volunteers as well as developing in-house NRA Certified Training for RSOs. If you have volunteered for any Range Committee, you can expect a call in the next few weeks to an operational meeting. The Range SOP covers all Ranges including Archery, R-P, Shotgun and a future Air Gun Range.

Reminder — If you were Range Qualified (RQ) in 2016, you are Range Qualified to bring guests in 2017 provided you have submitted the range test that accompanied your membership renewal. If you haven't completed that test, please do so. You may not bring guests to the Range without having completed that test even if you were Range qualified in 2016. If you are a current member who wishes to be Range Qualified to bring guests but have never attended a Range Qualification Program, please contact Brian Callahan at membership-director@winchester-iwla.org to reserve a seat at the next New Member Orientation.

SASP & Airgun Programs

The WIWL Scholastic Action Shooting Program (Youth—Ages 12-18) held its second meeting on January 12th. We currently have 6 Coaches/Adult Volunteers signed up and 7 Athletes signed with 2 more athletes pending. The Team will be capped this first year at 12-16. Optimum ratio is one Adult Volunteer to two Athletes. We still are awaiting the results of the NRA Grant request; expect announcement of awards in mid-February 2017. The team has acquired a couple of laser pistols and is setting up a computerized portable range scenario for indoor practice. Next meeting is February 4th at the Chapterhouse from 1:30-4:00 pm. The Team is still concentrating on its classroom work on safety, gun handling and SASP Familiarization/Procedures. The Range SOP/Safety Orientation Familiarization and NRA-Winchester Basic Pistol Qualification will begin in March. For information contact David Prater at president@winchester-iwla.org or call him at 540-324-9076.

The Air Gun Program is at a standstill — we have some shooter interest — both juniors and adults — and have obtained professional target stands. The Board will study where and how to set up a temporary range. Unfortunately, no adult volunteers have stepped forward to assist with the program. **Without some volunteers, we cannot undertake this program.** The Board has approved a \$1500 budget for this program. We have spent \$500 already for the professional target stands we bought from the NRA Range in Fairfax at a great savings. **Need Volunteers** — if interested, contact David Prater at president@winchester-iwla.org or call him at 540-324-9076.

The Archery Range only needs a work crew and a knowledgeable Committee Chair to get it back up and running. The Board has allocated money to repair and renovate it. Just need a few volunteers to step forward.

Education & Training

The Chapter will sponsor a NRA Certified RSO Training Class for members only on March 18th, 2017. The cost of the class is \$90 and includes all materials, lunch, and refreshments. Limited Seating: 12 persons max. Individual NRA Rating Registration at completion not included in cost. Sign up at the Membership Meeting on February 16th, 2017. A \$20 deposit is required. Detailed information will be published on website.



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Miscellaneous

Another Reminder — We know that Member communications are in dire need of improvement and believe we have found a solution. We will be introducing a new system to address this need in the near future. We think you will be pleased and will find it a welcomed improvement over our current system.

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All contributions/donations made to the Winchester Izaak Walton Chapter are tax deductible as we are a designated Public Charity under IRS 501 (c) (3) guidelines. Please contact Chris Barltrop (treasurer@winchester-iwla.org) if you require a receipt for your contributions. A copy of our 2016 501 (c) (3) Compliance Letter issued by our parent organization, the National IWLA, is posted on the large bulletin board in the Chapter House. Remember we accept donations large and small. If you would like to donate \$5.00 or \$5,000.00 it will always help the chapter and is very much appreciated! You can mail your donations to our mailing address located on the Web site:

Winchester Chapter of the IWLA
P.O. Box 2955
Winchester, VA 22604

Or you can drop an envelope with your donation into the Drop Box by the office doors. If you need a receipt for your donations please let us know and it will be mailed to you.

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Please contact Mike Mercer
via email secretary@winchester-iwla.org
or call 540-467-6538
for additional information