

# WINCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE NEWSLETTER



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[www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org)

**September 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**

This issue of the newsletter will be primarily about a legal demand made by member Jent Mitchell to the Board of Directors to provide him with membership contact information and our Attorneys' legal opinion of how we should respond. This demand for information has privacy concerns for our membership so please read carefully. Thank you.

### **Jent Mitchell demand for member contact information and financial records**

Our members should be aware that Chapter member Jent Mitchell has demanded, under Virginia law, certain information that may cause privacy concerns. At the conclusion of our August 1, 2017 Board of Directors meeting, Mr. Mitchell handed Brian Callahan a letter demanding that the Chapter allow him to copy our membership roster, including names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses. He later sent a letter stating his reasons for demanding the membership information, and reiterated those reasons in a second letter dated August 16, 2017. That letter is reproduced verbatim below (font changed to highlight):

Date: August 16 of 2017

To: Winchester Isaak Walton Club Board of Directors  
and  
President Brian Callahan

From: Jent P Mitchell III  
132 Trunk Drive  
Stephens City, VA 22655

Subject: Copy of the records of the WIWC

Reference: Code of Virginia 13.1-933 & 13.1-934 & 13.1-935 & 13.1-935.1

President Brian Callahan,

This letter is my second amended formal request to copy the records of the Winchester Isaak Walton Club. I am requesting the WIWC to select a date and time for me to copy the current membership roster of the WIWC as of August 16 of 2017. The selected date and time must be within the rules stated in The Code of Virginia, 13.1-933. I will also be copying the accounting records of the WIWC to include all checks and financial drafts issued by the WIWC between January 1 of 2012 until August 16 of 2017.

Whereas at the meeting between the WIWC President Brian Callahan and Jent P Mitchell III on Tuesday, August 15th of 2017 at 6:30 p.m. President Callahan refused to comply with the request of Jent P Mitchell III under The Code of Virginia, 13.1-934 therefore I, Jent P Mitchell III, will now make my request under The Code of Virginia, 13.1-933.

At the WIWC Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, August 1 of 2017 when I submitted my original request for a copy of the roster of the membership of the WIWC you demanded that I describe with reasonable particularity my proper purpose for

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requesting a true copy of the WIWC membership roster. There are four reasons that I am requesting a true and current and complete roster of the members of the Winchester Isaak Walton Club.

#1 We, the members of the WIWC and Board Members, were told all throughout the calendar year 2016 that the number of our WIWC members was in excess of 700 members, well in excess of 700 members. We, the members of the WIWC, were told that our membership was in excess of 700 members in January, February, March, April and May of 2017. Then on Thursday, July 20th of 2017 at our WIWC member's meeting the Treasurer, Chris Barltrop, told all of the assembled members of the WIWC that we only had about 650 members of the WIWC. Last night, Tuesday night, August 1st of 2017, Chris Barltrop reported to the WIWC BOD that we only had about 655 members. Our Finance Committee Chairman, Gil Markbein, had been reporting to the WIWC BOD in 2016 that his financial planning for the club was based on an estimated membership of about 720 people. I want to know what happened to the 60 or 70 members that just disappeared in July of 2017. I intend to research this large discrepancy in our membership numbers. I was a member of the Board of Directors of the WIWC in the last half of 2016 and the first half of 2017. I want to know if I was being lied to about our WIWC membership numbers in 2016 and 2017. I intend to count the number of names on our current WIWC membership roster for myself.

#2 The Secretary of the WIWC, Michael Mercer, has failed to keep the members of the WIWC informed of the business of the WIWC. He has failed to post the minutes of the meetings of the WIWC in a timely manner. I intend to keep the WIWC members that wish to be informed about the business of the WIWC informed. I intend to offer our members an opportunity to stay informed about the current events at our WIWC. As an example, at the August of 2017 WIWC BOD meeting the Secretary discovered that he had double booked the rental of our WIWC club house. The Secretary is completely incapable of managing the calendar of events for our WIWC. He is completely incapable of or unwilling to communicate with our WIWC members.

#3 I desire to send Christmas Cards to my fellow members of the WIWC. This roster will provide me with the USPS addresses of my fellow WIWC members so that I can mail them a Christmas Card.

#4 The Code of Virginia entitles me as a member of the WIWC to inspect and copy the record of the members of the WIWC. I intend to exercise this entitlement to prove the Code of Virginia is enforceable. At the August 1st of 2017 WIWC BOD meeting Chris Barltrop declared that he would never give me a copy of the roster of the membership of the WIWC. By exercising my entitlement we will see who has the greater authority, Chris Barltrop or The Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Code of Virginia allows the corporation, the WIWC, to require that I "describe with reasonable particularity his purpose and the records he desires to inspect; and the records are directly connected with his purpose". The Code of Virginia does not allow the WIWC to sit in judgement of the purpose of my request. The Code of Virginia only requires me to describe

my purpose. I have now complied with the request of the President of the WIWC, Brian Callahan, by describing with reasonable particularity my purpose.

This copy of the WIWC roster of members that I intend to copy shall include each members name and United States Postal Service mailing address and phone number and email address in accordance with The Code of Virginia, 13.1-932.

Respectfully, Jent P Mitchell III

August 16th of 2017

This is a follow up request

We made a good faith attempt to provide Mr. Mitchell with information that would satisfy his concern about the membership count; the material did not include members' addresses, nor any other contact information. He refused the offered document because it did not include all the information he had requested. After refusing the offered document Mr. Mitchell said, "I'll see you in court." Given Mr. Mitchell's past history with the Chapter we are taking his comment very seriously.

We have consulted with the IWLA State and National authorities as well as the Chapter legal counsel, to answer two questions:

1. Are we legally obliged to comply with Mr. Mitchell's request, and if so,
2. What member information are we legally obliged to provide.

This required substantial discussions with our legal counsel, resulting in the legal opinion shown on our web site currently shown on the home page of our web site – [www.winchester-iwla.org](http://www.winchester-iwla.org).

We believe that Mr. Mitchell's assertions on membership count and notification to members of Chapter information are without merit, that we have a responsibility to your membership to protect their privacy, and have sought to avoid complying with his demands if at all legally possible. Unfortunately, Mr. Mitchell has left us no option other than to comply with his demands to the extent the law requires. Incurring the legal cost of defending against a new law suit would just add to the over \$100,000 in costs his last law suit caused the Chapter.

We should point out the following:

1. Our communications to members includes posting all significant documents on our web site, including corporate documents, board resolutions, minutes of meetings, the monthly newsletter that is also mailed to every member, and events that are also shown on our Facebook page. Monthly Membership Meetings provide members an opportunity to raise questions, and our Board meetings are open to the Membership. This does not mean there will not be the occasional glitch – we are unpaid volunteers, and do the best we can. We do not see how Mr. Mitchell could improve on this process using the mailing list provided, so do not understand how the information he demands would benefits either him or the Membership.
2. The copies of the bank statements are being provided back to January 1, 2016. Our current Treasurer took office in June, 2016. At that time, he downloaded statements back to January 1, 2016

and has downloaded every months' statements since, so that is what we have on file electronically and are providing to Mr. Mitchell. The YHB report on the web site covered prior periods, and we would not object to Mr. Mitchell requesting prior statements from the banks involved, at his expense. Our policy is full disclosure of our financial records, as you have seen from the financial statements routinely posted in the Chapter House and on our web site, so we have no objection to this part of his demand, and are also providing him with a general ledger report showing each of the over sixteen thousand entries posted to QuickBooks since it was set up in 2015.

3. We do not understand how Mr. Mitchell believes that his actions are in either his interests, the Membership's interests, or the Chapter's interests.

## New Member Meet & Greet

There is a new member meet & greet held at the Chapter House on September 7th and 21st from 6:30 to 8pm. This is a chance to meet new members and prospective members wanting to join our Chapter. If you would like to help with these meetings please contact our Membership Director, Dan Arico and let him know you would like to help. [dan\\_arico@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:dan_arico@winchester-iwla.org)

## RSO Course

The Chapter is offering a NRA Certified RSO Course for members interested in becoming Certified RSOs and staffing, on a volunteer basis, the Rifle-Pistol Range, Shotgun Range and future Air Gun Range during open hours, special events, matches and some training classes. The RSO Course is restricted to Chapter Members 21 years of age or older & SASP Registered Adult Volunteers at this time.

The Course is 9 hours long and will be taught on a Saturday, September 30th from 8:30 am-5:30pm at the Chapter House. This initial course will be limited to 15 participants. Additional NRA Certified RSO Courses and other NRA basic courses will be offered in the near future.

The Course Cost is \$90.00. A \$20.00 deposit is required to reserve a space for the course. **Balance must be paid by Sept 15, 2017, to maintain a seat.** The cost includes an NRA RSO Student Workbook and related materials, lunch, soft drinks/water and donuts and coffee/tea/water throughout the day.

**NOTE: The cost of the Course does not include individual NRA RSO Rating Registration Fees after completion--\$50 first time registrants or NRA non-member or \$30 for NRA Members; \$10 if holding another certification. All NRA registrations are good for 2 years)**

The Board is currently working on reviewing and refining the dues credit guidelines associated with the RSO program.

## SASP Youth Team

Looks like practice time is paying off – and good shooting fundamentals are really transferrable. Three members of the WIWL SASP Team and one Adult volunteer recently competed in a at a multi-council BSA Camp Sponsored Rifle shooting event in Pennsylvania.

The team not only took first place in the event but outscored their nearest competitor by over 100 points. Congrats to the team and their SASP coaches.

SASP Practices are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 5:30PM to 7:15 PM on the WIWL R-P Range. The R-P Range is closed to all others but SASP Team Members, Adult Volunteers and Invited Guests for safety during the practices. The Team appreciates the members allowing them to exclusively utilize the R-P Range during this time. September Practices are scheduled for September 13 and September 27.

## New IWLA R3 Hunting and Shooting Sports Program

The IWLA National organization has joined with the Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, The Wildlife Management Institute, State Game and Fish Agencies, The Archery, Firearms, Ammunition and Shooting Sports industry and other conservation groups in implementing a national R3 plan. The plan, designed in 2016, focuses on Retaining, Reactivating and Recruiting (3R), new hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts. It is no secret that hunting has been declining for a number of years and the number of shooting sports participants has not grown. This decline is having an impact on the amount of funds from excise taxes available to state Game and Fish agencies to meet their program needs.

The National IWLA is enlisting the help of Chapters to implement an active R3 program and utilize the facilities and members knowledge to attract new participants and act as mentors. The Winchester Chapter has joined this effort and will be looking for volunteers to suggest new programs and to act as mentors in those programs. The Board will review the information presented at the National Convention at its September 5th meeting.

Further information is available on the WIWL Website <http://www.winchester-iwla.org>; the National IWLA website <http://www.iwla.org/outdoor-recreation/shooting-sports>. You also can find more information about the National Plan in the [Outdoor America](#) issue, Volume 1, 2017, or at <http://www.nationalr3plan.com>.

## Lake-Conservation

The Chapter has received another large grant – \$6,240.00 – from the IWLA National Endowment Board to address the weed problems in the lake and the steep slope erosion problem that exists on the far side. There are also some additional funds for stocking fish for special events. The Lake and Conservation Committee will be working on implementing the program outlined in the grant. They also are looking at possible solar powered aeration of the lake as a long term solution to the weed/algae problems. For further information, contact David Prater at [david\\_prater@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:david_prater@winchester-iwla.org) or 540-324-9076.

The National IWLA is actively developing their Clean Water Initiative, Save our Stream (SOS) Programs, and reinstating the Creek-Freaks program. All of these programs require volunteers. If interested, visit the WIWL website and sign up on line for the Lake-Conservation Committee or on the sign-up sheet in the Chapter House.

IZAACK WALTON  
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WINCHESTER, VA 22604

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WINCHESTER, VA.

The Committee is trying to line up a Clean Water Challenge Workshop for October and a SOS Monitors certification sometime later. Monitors must attend a workshop and be certified to participate in the SOS Monitor program. Look for updates on these programs on our website.

Further detailed information on these programs is available at <http://www.iwla.org/conservation/water>.

## **Save The Date**

Saturday October 14th will be a Chapter Work Day! We have many projects lined up and we need some members to come out and assist. This will include landscaping improvements, repairs, lake cleanup, stream cleanup and other tasks. We need folks of all abilities. More information will be sent.

## **Want to learn how to roast your own coffee?**

We will be having a seminar on September 30th which will show every step from buying raw beans and developing your own roast to enjoy with your outdoor adventures. This seminar is free of charge! Please RSVP to [announcements@winchester-iwla.org](mailto:announcements@winchester-iwla.org).

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