Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
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The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

February 13, 2025 Regular Delegates Meeting

Poughkeepsie Elks Lodge, Poughkeepsie, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:38 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Pittore.

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members.

Roll Call: 26 people were in attendance, representing 18 clubs.

Guests

- Victor Zamalof – MHA Veterans Affairs Programs and Veterans Sportsmen's Association (VSA)
- Adam Roche - Dutchess County Director of Veterans Affairs
- Andrew Pelletier – new delegate from Chestnut Ridge Rod & Gun Club
- Robin Moore – new delegate from Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club

Financial Report and Minutes

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by Tom Gannon. All-in-favor (AIF).

Treasurer Pete Kraayenbrink reported that we have not yet received 2025 dues from the following clubs: Dutchess County Pistol Association, Neighbors Gun Club, Viola Rod & Gun Club

There was a correction to the January 9, 2025 minutes, in the Announcements section:
It stated that Hudson Valley Sportsmen's Association was starting monthly trap shooting in April.
It should have stated that HVSA will be hosting a Trapping Education course on the last Saturday April 26th, followed by a Hunter Education Course and an Archery course on subsequent last Saturdays.

The corrected minutes of the previous delegates meeting on January 9, 2025 were approved upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by John Lucas. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on January 27, 2025 were approved upon a motion by Jim Guyette and a second by John Lucas. AIF

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner
Anthony Pittore reporting – The Bill Conners Memorial BBQ will he held on August 24th. Details to follow.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony Pittore reporting – About 1000 pounds of game meat was distributed on January 28th, some of which went to MHA Veterans Affairs. There is about 500 pounds remaining to be distributed and 1 deer in the cooler awaiting processing. We are still waiting on the red stags from an upstate preserve. A question was fielded about the recent Vassar College deer cull; answer was that 22 deer were taken, which we processed. Replacement of the old, leaking hot water heater at our processing facility in is process.

Fish

Anthony Pittore reporting – Our annual Veterans Fishing Day will be held on April 26th at Overlook Park in Lagrange, with the Family Fishing Day held the day after on the 27th. Flyers will be available soon.
We are still waiting on the Town of Lagrange to install a concrete pad, for a pavilion that we will be providing. Not sure if it will be completed (pad or pavilion) by the April events.

About 330 trout were recently stocked through the ice on Morgan Lake in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Anthony Pittore reporting – The hunt will be held September 27th. We would like to get 35-40 kids signed up. We always need help to run this event.
We may provide some help with future Manchester Hunt Club veterans pheasant hunts. Anthony attended a recent one, and was very impressed with the event.

Conservation Education

Anthony Pittore reporting for Chairman Dave Morrison – Camp sponsorship applications are available and need to get back to Dave very soon, by February 23rd. The state announced that Camp DeBruce should be open this year. 11-13 year old kids are accepted for DeBruce, and 14-17 year olds are accepted for the Pack Forest camp.
A discussion ensued about how we can get more kids to sponsor. In the past, we have sent up to 14 kids (12 + 2 free sponsorships from the state if we get 12). But lately, it has been a struggle to get kids to go, in part due to camp closures in recent years.

Fundraising

Chairman Tom Fiumarello reporting – The Clays for K9 Cancer Benefit Shoot will be held on June 21st at Mid Hudon Sporting Clays in New Paltz. The web site (k9cancershoot.com) is completed. It has a lot of information, and everything can be done on the site, e.g. register to shoot, donate, sponsorships. Tom also has printed sponsor packets available. There will be special events this year:

- A Friday evening social event "Paws to Party" at Hudson House Distillery in West Park, to allow folks who don't shoot to participate in this worthy cause.
- A sporting clays instructional clinic the day after the shoot on Sunday.
- Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Co. will have their portable showroom there the entire weekend, with their entire line of guns and products.

Also, at a recent Westminster AKC event, the Purina pet food company CEO approached Tom and they will likely become a major sponsor of the shoot.

Youth Trap Shooting

Chairman Tom Gannon handed out flyers about this program. This year's season will start on March 15th at Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club, with other clubs participating throughout the season. Tom encouraged everyone to spread the word. Youth of ages 12-17 can participate
We recently received an NRA grant providing 24 cases of ammo, about $2500 worth.

Publicity

Anthony Pittore reporting - He and Ian Hendler have been meeting with the marketing firm that is revamping our web site. It is almost complete. Stay tuned.

Legislation (and other conservation news)
Tom Gannon – reviewed a list of bills in Albany that our sporting community needs to be aware of and concerned with. Tom encouraged all to reach out to their legislators to make their voice heard. The list will be emailed out to the clubs. Questions were fielded from the floor.

Anthony Pittore recently spoke with County Executive Sue Serino to get support asking the state to purchase the property in Milan that would connect 2 existing Multiple User Areas. This would be a big win for sportsmen. He believes she will provide some level of support.
He also asked her for a letter of support to help us when we approach landowners to gain, and regain, public fishing access, as part of Stream Access Verification initiative.

New York State Conservation Council
The Council will be holding their Spring meeting on April 11-13. They are trying to get more members and rejuvenate their influence.

Communications
None reported.

Unfinished (Old) Business
None reported.

New Business
An application for affiliate membership was received from the Veterans Sportsmen's Association (VSA). This will be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Millbrook delegate John Lucas raised a question from his club regarding the possibility of a spring bear hunting season. Anthony Pittore will inquire about it at the next Region 3 FWMB meeting.

Announcements
Brian Mihans announced an upcoming Ruffed Grouse Society dinner and gun raffle.

Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club will be having an upcoming game dinner. They will also be starting an evening spring trap league beginning March 12th. There are also a number of other events. Check their web site.

Manchester Hunt Club will be having their annual game dinner on March 8th. $40 per ticket.

Pleasant Valley Trout & Game Club will be hosting a Next Steps Hunter Ed class, with trap shooting afterward. The class is intended to augment the regular Hunter Ed course with live gun safety and handling. They will also be starting their weekly clay shoots soon.

East Hook Sportsmen's Association will be hosting a Hunter Education course on March 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Next delegates meeting date: March 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary