



## Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603  
[www.dutchessfishandgame.org](http://www.dutchessfishandgame.org)

*The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932*

### **February 14, 2019 Regular Delegates Meeting**

Madison's Cafe, Pleasant Valley, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:53 PM by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Anthony Pittore.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Anthony Pittore

A moment of silence was observed for armed services personnel and first responders who have died in the line of duty, for former Federation members, and for Jackie Emlie's father who recent passed.

Roll Call: 28 people were in attendance, representing 22 clubs.

#### **Guests**

Mike Shaw, president of Viola Rod & Gun Club, was recognized. On behalf of Viola, Mike thanked the Federation for the Club of the Year award, which was based on their strong support of a Women-On-Target event held there in 2018. He stated that his club strongly supports getting women and youth involved in the shooting sports.

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on Dec. 13, 2018 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Skip North. All-in-Favor (AIF)

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on Jan. 28, 2019 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Bernie Walker. AIF

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Bill Conners. AIF

#### **Communications**

A donation was received from Sali Wohlbach to the CAF to help fund the DEC camp sponsorships.

Bill Conners reported that the annual Sullivan County Coyote Hunt Contest resulted in 76 coyotes being taken. He noted that he will be interviewing a female hunter from Red Hook who seems to be a very prolific coyote hunter and participated in the contest, and took 9 coyotes.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Annual Dinner**

Penny Hickman reported that the dinner seemed to be well received based on responses from attendees and comments from the floor. Anthony Pittore stated that many awards were presented including to Penny Hickman, Bill Conners, DEC ECO Bob Hodor, Tom Holsopple, Anthony Pittore, hunter education instructors, and Viola Rod & Gun Club. Penny thanked all for her award.

A question was asked about the reason for inviting and providing free dinners to elected officials at the Annual Dinner. Bill Conners responded that over the years in their roles, those folks have exhibited positive actions and support with regards to sporting community issues. So the cost of a dinner is a very small price to pay to thank them for their support and foster good relationships. It is just good business practice to support our mission.

### Hunters Helping the Hungry

Penny Hickman reported that over 5800 pounds of game meat has been distributed to food kitchens this program year.

### Fish

Ken Rose stated that there was nothing to report at this time, but trout stocking activities will start up again in mid to late March.

### Conservation Education

Scott Emslie reported that out of 12 kids chosen for sponsorships this year, 8 have claimed their codes and chosen their week for camp. There are various reasons the remaining 4 have not signed up, mainly to do with the kids or their parents. One backed out with no replacement supplied by the club. One was having problems signing up online, but they have to contact the DEC for support for those kinds of issues. Since at least 6 were signed up, we got 1 free code, for which we were able to find another youth to sponsor.

### Legislation

Bill Conners reported on U.S. Senate bill S47, called the Natural Resources Management Act, which would provide for acquisition of lands and keeping lands open to hunting, etc... But the paper copy of the bill is 258 pages long, which shows how bad it is that lawmakers can't legislate a simple concept. Bill will try to summarize and send it out to the membership.

Regarding state issues, Bill spoke about a court case in Northern NY challenging the constitutionality of the 7 round limit provision of the SAFE Act. The case revolves around due process and has a slight chance to get to the Supreme Court level. It was noted that even though previously a western NY district court ruled against the 7 round provision (10 rounds instead), that does not apply to all other court districts in the state. Legally in Dutchess County, the 7 round limitation is still the law, even though many gun magazines hold 10.

Bill reiterated how the current Albany legislative environment will not be conducive for any kind of legislation favorable to the sporting community. Many unfavorable bills have already been passed by both houses, which have Democrat majorities, and await the Governor's signature.

### **New York State Conservation Council**

Bill Conners reported that the Council is financially stable in the short term, thanks to donations from organizations like ours. But they are still facing long term financial viability and it will take shifts in attitudes within the Council leadership to effectively address the issue.

Bill mentioned that one of the issues in the state at the FWMB level, is the apparent tacit approval given by DEC to construct snowmobile trails on Wildlife Management Area lands that are not connections trails. This is not a valid use based on what the WMA properties were to be used for. In one instance, a trail bridge was built over a trout stream with no impact assessment considered prior to its construction.

### **Unfinished (Old) Business**

Board of Directors members were reminded to bring the essential contact lists for their committees to the next board meeting for compilation into a common repository.

### **New Business**

Anthony Pittore stated that the owners of Madison's Café, our current meeting place, have purchased the former Groggers Restaurant on Rt. 44 a few miles from here. It has a larger meeting space, so we will consider changing our meetings to that facility when it is ready, possibly as soon as our March meeting. Notifications will be sent as soon as possible, if and when that decision is made.

### **Announcements**

Bob Hann stated that the North East Sportsman show will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, at the county fairgrounds in Rhinebeck.

Anthony Pittore announced that our annual Family Fishing Day will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Overlook Park in LaGrange. The participation seems to be growing every year. It is a family event, not just a youth event.

Manchester Hunt Club will hold their annual Game Dinner on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the American Legion Post 1302 in Poughkeepsie. Flyers were handed out.

Scott Emslie announced that the annual Friends of the NRA Banquet will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Raffle items for underwriting are still available and many clubs have already underwritten items. Scott reiterated that 50% of funds raised stay in NY and can be acquired via a grant application process, and 50% stays with the NRA to support their programs.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Adam Yaszko.

Next meeting date: March 14<sup>th</sup> (at Madison's café unless notified otherwise).

The meeting was adjourned at 08:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Holsopple,  
Secretary