



Rich Davenport, 2017 ECFSC Recording Secretary

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

ECFSC March 2017 General Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2017
Evans Rod & Gun Club, Evans, NY

Call to order – 7:20PM

Pledge to Flag: Completed

Roll call – Officers and Directors:

Excused: Tom Fischer, Tony Gonnello, Joe Fischer, Dan Tone, Larry Jones, Cheryl Schenne

In Attendance: 6 Officers, 8 Directors, 20 Delegates, 7 guests

Quorum of member clubs – Yes

Approval of previous month's minutes

Hope Melnyk Motions to approve
2nd Frank Miskey, Sr.

Motion carries

Secretary's report – Rich Davenport

No report tonight

Membership report – Hope Melnyk

45 Members, 16 still not paid

We have a 3-panel brochure that describes the Federation and our programs, etc.

Treasurer's report – Debbie Godfrey

Statement released before Banquet activity

Reports in electronic form are available upon request

Motion to Approve Rich D

2nd Hope Melnyk

Motion carries

Correspondence report – Joe McAdams

We will be signing onto the letter from CCE supporting legislation to require pharma fund a pharma disposal center

IJC – Public Meeting on Great Lakes to review initiatives on March 28, WNED-17 studios, 6P-9P

1:30-4:30, panel discussion – Great Lakes experts presenting and talking, not a public input format

Iroquois Refuge Spring Celebration

Received email from Gastown Sportsmen’s Club
Forwarded to Membership Secretary
He stopped at our booth to inquire

Received letter from President Seneca County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs
Read into the minutes

A2260 – Firearms Insurance Bill
Frank Miskey, Sr. Motions to write to oppose this bill
2nd Mark Alessi

Will letter be on the website? Yes

Motion carries

Running low on Federation envelopes - #10 printed envelopes
Joe will get a quote and then send to Debbie

President’s Report – Joe McAdams

Binder will be at each meeting, annual binders. Will have at the meetings
Asked to have a speaker at the next meeting – Mike Todd from the DEC.

James Tresmonde will be at the June meeting in Hamburg Rod & Gun.

Niagara County Banquet – have 4 tickets – one being used
Need people to go

Next meetings and locations:

Date		BM Time		GM Time		Location
4/27/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	West Falls Conservation, West Falls
5/25/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Erie County Cons. Society, Chafee, NY
6/22/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Hamburg Rod & Gun, Hamburg, NY
7/27/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Niagara River Station, Grand Island, NY
August						No Meeting
9/14/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Springville Field & Stream, Springville, NY
10/12/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Hawkeye Bowmen, Marilla
11/2/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Southtowns Walleye (TBD)
12/14/2017	-	6:30	-	7:00	Gen Meet	Bison City Rod & Gun, Buffalo, NY (TBD)

GUESTS:

Dan Slade – LECIFFF, Roxanne Pirazzoli – Hamburg Rod & Rod, Don Lombardo – Hamburg Rod & Gun, Eric Vail – Deer Search, Georgina Grososky – NFFNRA, Scott Klubek – Boston Valley Conservation, Bob Putzbach – Evans Rod & Gun, Mac Melnyk - NRMA

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Law enforcement – Jeff Jondle

Not a whole bunch, another academy is going on
 Still short on officers
 Some interesting arrests for deer cases

ECO Scott Marshall will be inducted in NYSOHOF on 4/29/17

Question – how do ECOs feel about enforcing AR?

Archery & Bowhunting – Jim McCann

None

Crossbow –Frank Miskey, Jr.

Crossbow
 Bill is in the budget
 Don't like the practice, and AR folks took a page out of their book

Fish – Tom Marks

Sturgeon Point will be opening soon, will be dredged this year

Dredging grants and permits – paperwork went from 1/2 inch thick to 3 inch thick due to Obama. Original dredger refused to work based on regulations newly imposed
Safe Harbor is picking up the bill for the dredging this year

Teach Me to Fish Clinics – OPEN

May 28 – Bison City Jimmy Griffin Teach Me to Fish

June 10 – Ellicott – Pavilions 9 - 10

June 24- Chestnut – All set on the cabin

Family Fishing Day, June 24-25, Buffalo United Front

Two locations on Sat (Broderick and Black Rock), only Broderick Sunday – see flyer in back of minutes

Triple S has some stock on rods, Joe reserving inventory

New Rep for Cabela's Tim

Very anxious to help, requested 125 poles

Mike Todd sent letter – Dan Rizzo – Parks is supportive, 2 Pavilions 9 and 5 at no cost, we have a friend in Dan Rizzo

Sahlen's confirmed the dogs

Mike Todd will be at the next meeting for program discussions

Small Game – Dan Tone

None

Big Game – Paul Stoos

NYSCC

Need phone calls – call Tom O'Mara and make sure they know

Language is out of the budget bill as of mid-day today, but it could come back

Lots going on

CWD – mature deer illness

CWD prevention and response plan being developed

Much more – see full report in back of minutes

Trapping – Patti Wattengel

Otters – 15 years after reintroduction, still under restricted season

I've had input from our members requesting a look at the current beaver season in Erie County. The complaint is the season ends too early.

Before the otter reintroduction our season lasted well into March. We understand the reason for reducing the season after the otter release but roughly 15 years later we still have the restricted season.

We know otter, beaver, and muskrat are very active in March. It's also the time when we get most of our beaver complaints. The only choice is to trap these beaver under permits which allows traps to be set on dams and lodges where most otters are

historically caught. Very few otter are caught in traps set 15 feet from a dam or lodge so it seems sensible to extend the regular season to the end of March instead of issuing all these permits.

Thank You
Rick Wattengel
President, Erie County Trappers Association

Nuisance complaints are now growing on beavers, trappers cannot set traps on dams or lodges. But, nuisance trappers can. Does not make sense

Can you send on letterhead
Approached by fisheries – wildlife will be doing otter survey in the area next year

Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski

Waterfowl – seasons not changing – NYSCC meeting considering many things, not a lot of happy hunters across the state

Conservation Council - Dan Tone

Meeting was last weekend

New Director of DEC FW, Tony Wilkinson spoke to several issues. State Deer Herd management, DEC needs our support as some legislative initiatives, such as Mandatory AR would negatively impact DEC's effectiveness, and they need us to help.

Deer feeding issues – and examining additional potential tools for deer management could create conflicts, especially for suburban and urban deer management.

Seasons – discussion concerning Regular season opener, length of seasons, etc.
Implements allowed – crossbow, air bow, big bore air rifle, etc, all being examined still.
Crossbow continues to be in demand as additional implement for deer management.

Hunter recruitment and retention a high priority for DEC – and expansion of National Archery in Schools program being revisited as a tool to help recruit.
Additional items being worked on include the CWD Prevention and Response Plan, and the rising concern of lead is also being examined

Hatchery infrastructure is a concern, and more projects in the works to address and improve.
Urban wildlife management – deer, bear, coyote, all getting more attention, and programs are expected to be drafted and rolled out soon.

Jim Farquart – NYS DEC Wildlife Chief
Young Forest Initiative is showing success and moving forward – 18 plans currently approved for WMAs, 100 more to go. Expect 26 additional unit plans to be finalized and

implemented soon. Not all WMUs will get a plan (some are swamps and have no forests to manage).

Once the eligible WMAs have been completed, expansion of YFI to other state lands (Forests and Parks and MUAs that are under FWMB designation) Last expansion is hoped to be promotion of this initiative to private lands.

DEC is solid in their position concerning mandatory AR.

WMA public use on these lands being evaluated as certain uses are not appropriate or beneficial to wildlife. Hunting, trapping, fishing all good, but ATV/ Trail Riding carrying big concerns. Field dog training and trials use depend on timing of events. DEC to release statements and updated policies to protect the WMAs properly will be dealt with this year.

Hunter Ed – Reviewing course curriculum for uniformity across the state. Course delivery – all classes will have online homework requirements before attending the physical class.

ECO participation seen as very beneficial, and DEC hopes to increase ECO participation in classes this year

Cormorant Control – looking to improve – currently the cormorant is not considered part of fisheries issues – looking to get that changed, based on science collected.

CWD Response Plan is in draft to be released for public comment soon

Part of this plan extends the ban on import of live ungulates from all states, not just CWD positive states. Ditto for hunter harvested game from other states – expanding ban to animals taken from the remaining 49, regardless of CWD existence. This will limit hunters to bringing back to NYS only processed, de-boned meat, clean skull caps or finished taxidermy work.

Outdoors Recreation Coordinator to re-teach about differences in public lands and their appropriate uses. National Parks Day – Parks reached out to DEC to include more lands, WMAs, and the effort is calling these lands parks, which they are not – leading to confusion, even within DEC and new personnel. This will be corrected.

Legislative efforts focused on current NYSCC position concerning free licenses to first responders. Existing bill is dead due to tax credits – as this does not account for non-NYS first responders buying a non-NY resident sporting license, cannot get tax credit as they do not file NYS taxes. Further, no language in the bill to protect the CF, and funds for tax credit could be pulled from CF – defeating the purpose of the tax credit. Concerns about perception – over principle? (NYSCC principle is to defend the CF). No brainer – stand on principle – will require amending resolution calling for support of the bill to opposed as written.

Civil Rights Restoration Act discussed by Paloma Capanna – great info available on this one from her website.

Environment & Pollution – Chuck Godfrey

Pharmaceuticals & Such – disposal facility discussed – need to have a facility to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals – help to reduce drugs getting into waterways

Received the following letter from Citizen’s Campaign for the Environment:

Hope all is well. We had previously worked together on microbeads in Erie County, and had great success. Now, I wanted to reach out to you about another emerging contaminant in the Great Lakes—pharmaceutical drugs. I’m hoping we can partner to enact a policy in Erie County to help prevent further pharmaceutical contamination in our waters.

As you may know, trace amounts of pharmaceuticals are being found in the Great Lakes, and studies show that this adversely impacts fish and other aquatic life. One of the most prevalent and preventable pathways of drugs getting into our waters is flushing of unused/expired drugs. Therefore, we have been working to provide the public with options for safe pharmaceutical disposal (e.g. drop-boxes at police precincts, one day collection events). Now, Erie County Legislator Pat Burke has [introduced a bill](#) that would require the pharmaceutical industry to fund a county-wide safe pharmaceutical program. This would vastly increase the accessibility of safe disposal for Erie County residents, without having the taxpayers having to foot the bill.

Given the benefit that this would provide to fish and the Great Lakes, I was hoping that your respective groups would consider being supportive. I’ve drafted a sign on letter that I would ask you consider signing on to.

Given how this bill would help to get opioids and other unwanted drugs out of homes and away from potential drug abusers, I am also reaching out to public health organizations for their support. You will see this issue reflected in the sign on letter.

I’d also be glad to discuss this issue further. Feel free to email or we could always set up a time to talk. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Brian Smith
Associate Executive Director
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
733 Delaware Rd, Box 140
Buffalo, NY 14223
(716) 831-3206
bsmith@citizenscampaign.org
www.citizenscampaign.org

Board approved signing onto their letter.

Legislation – John Susz

Acts to repeal NY SAFE, will die in Assembly

Ammo database – still in limbo

This was tried in Maryland in 1968 and they tossed it as useless.

Push for 12 year old hunting age across the board for uniformity

Safety orange again in the mix – Rich notes NYSCC Big Game Committee had this only resolution presented, from Greene County – discussed this one ad nauseum over the years, and the BGC opposes this resolution. NYS is the safest hunting state in the Nation, and last year's HRSIs were truly not hunting related, as these fatalities occurred after legal shooting hours.

Resolutions – Rich Davenport

Discussed – extend hunting hours to 1/2 hour before sunrise, to 1.2 hour after sunset.

DEC is seeking this change to increase hunting effectiveness without adding more days to seasons.

NY Educators recommend against this, as this is where the bulk of shootings happen – the low light periods on either end of the day.

Membership Outreach – The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs. If any club would like a visit from a Federation spokesman, please contact president Chuck Godfrey at 440-6995 or steelheader03@hotmail.com . The president will also try to visit one club or so per month.

IF ANYONE KNOWS OF AN ERIE COUNTY CLUB WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE LET THE PRESIDENT KNOW SO HE CAN CONTACT THEM ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Hawkeye President Nadine Fulle – Youth Archery Camp information, flyers and begging letter seeking funds/ donations. Aug 4-6, 2017, held at Hawkeye Bowmen – will get their archery certification at end of the camp.

Chuck motions to donate \$250.00 to Youth Archery Camp
2nd Hope Melnyk

Question – does the camp reach capacity? Last couple years haven't, have room for @ 35 kids. Late notice last year. Restriction – if you have the archery cert, cannot attend, want the opportunity for all to gain the cert. But will waive that prohibition if they need to fill it.

Very hands on experience

Motion carries

Erie County Federation – awarded recognition for our support of youth archery camp

Sportsman/woman Education – Frank Miskey Sr.

Classes are starting up and booking fast. Refresher course for educators held last month

Moving to everything online

No paperwork, all reservations online, certs will be online

8 hour classes, with home study

All venues – Hunter, Trapper, Bow, Waterfowl now all have homework requirements before you enter the class.

Classes are filling up fast – within an hour, state looking to move opening of class registration to 9AM from midnight. Has reduced no-shows a bit, but still high.

Gowanda teacher – has a hunter education class with full approval in Gowanda Schools! They are loving it!

Wow!!!

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations – Paul Stoos

None

Need corresponding secretary, and a few directors. Need to be a delegate, please volunteer and help fill out our roster.

Awards – Frank Miskey Sr.

Awards Banquet we had 9 people receive awards, and 2 from the President

Sportsmen – Dave Reed

Sportswoman – Ann Wilcox-Swanson, DEC

Volunteer – Chuck Sesean

Public Service – Will Fowler, Jr, Erie County Supervisor of Pistol Permits, retiring this year

Conservationist – Jill Jedlicka – great Niece of Stan Spisiak

Dedicated Service – Dan Sapirski

Youth of Year

Boy – Colton Zach

Girl – Kirsten Mooka

Outstanding Achievement – Mike McCloud

President's Special Recognition – BNRK

President's Award – Paul Stoos

Congrats to all!

Great raffle prizes, great baskets!

Thank you to all volunteers, and special thanks to Frank Jr, fabulous job

Banquet – Frank Miskey, jr.

Will not be going back to that place
Bad performance from the entire staff and such
Bar staff sucked

New location will be announced

NET on banquet - \$4,627.26
Down a little bit – spending this year was tough.
They cannot handle the size of our banquet

Samuel's cannot come close to the price we pay, but they do serve 250 in 15 minutes

Kloc's Grove – Seneca Creek, October meeting at the place, within \$1/ meal of Justin's
\$27.50 per at Justin's, at Clock's \$28.50, includes drinks
Salvatore's \$35
Lucarelli's \$34
Samuel's \$38

Booked for March 3, 2018 at Kloc's Grove
Committee will be meeting soon

Couple menus from them to review

Educational Opportunities – Chuck Godfrey

Still have one application, waiting for the 2nd one.

Fund Raising – Open Position

None at this time

FWMB – Chuck Godfrey

Minutes from last meeting not out yet, Dan Tone as at this meeting, but not here

Shows – Chuck Godfrey will handle for rest of year

Luckily we do not go to make money.
Screw up in contracts again. Were not on the exhibitor's list, but squeezed in, bad location
Made \$63 for Federation, \$183 for youth raffle

Erie County Fair – Change at Fair
Dan is retired, Frank Miskey, Sr. is Superintendent, George Rockey, Asst. Superintendent
Fair was taking 12 tickets away from exhibitors
If you're working, passes are returned
They want the chairman's name and phone, and worker's names and phones – which we already provide.

Need to try to get the shifts filled for fair by June Meeting
April 4, 7PM, will be booth chairman meeting at the main office – booth chair will not be there.

Niagara Frontier Friends of the NRA - Georgina
Presentation – April 29. Flyers available
Interested in tables and tickets – choice

Tickets \$50, Big Shooter, \$150
Chicken
Prime Rib
Salmon

They (NFFNRA) will be joining the Federation...

National Hunting and Fishing Day – Rich Davenport

Meeting in April – Lackawanna Sportsmen will work the air rifle range.

WNY Environmental Federation – Dan Tone

Next meeting is June 11
ECFSC will sponsor their website

Joe Jemiolo, jr. Youth Lifetime Licenses - Chuck Godfrey

Chuck is handling – Paul Stoos and Bob will help with raffle at Banquet

Budget and Finance – Debbie Godfrey – (motion to pay bills)

None – WNYEF website cost, let's wait on this as we need to get the organization to secure the domain name so it's not tied to a specific person

Website – Joe McAdams - eriectyfsc.org

Updated
35,000-40,000 visitors a month

New domain name – ECFSC.org, redirecting shortly.

Old Business:

None

New Business - any new delegates present?

Orvis event cancelled due to weather

April 25, 6P-9P will be the new date for Orvis store even - if you were registered, need to re-register

Also having children's day need another 22 kids between 9-15, May 20 at Reinstein Woods. Morning education, afternoon fishing at Reinstein. \$20.00 plus chaperone, starts 9AM, applications on website <http://www.lake-erie-fff.org>

Petition to raise the speed limit in Outer Harbor to be raised to 25 MPH

State of Lake Erie – SWA – 7PM start April 6

Good and Welfare of the Organization:

New Committee – Sunshine Committee – Cheryl Schenne

Sympathy card sent sympathy card to Tony Gonnello for loss of mother

Conservation of the Year Honor – NY Chapter of American Fisheries Society – Chuck Godfrey

Letter from Messinger Woods – building flight cage for their raptors, cost is \$60,000.00

Have \$30,000 already

Need donations. They have been at several of our events, never charge a dime.

Jeff Jondle motions we donate \$250.00 to Messinger Woods for the new Flight Cage
Hope Melnyk 2nd

Motion carried, 1 opposed

50/50 Raffle

Winner is Trout Unlimited - \$30.00

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Rich Davenport 2nd – John Susz

Meeting adjourned 9:17PM

Thanks to Host Club

Thanks to host Evans Rod & Gun



New York State Conservation Council Inc.
8 East Main Street, Ilion, New York 13357-1899

**STATEMENT OF NYSCC BIG GAME COMMITTEE
REGARDING S4739 AND ANY SIMILAR BILLS
By Rich Davenport, Co-Chair**

In regard to recently introduced Senate S4739, a bill to impose mandatory antler restriction on hunters for buck harvest across NYS, the NYSCC Big Game Committee is not only opposed to this bill in total, but is appalled and disappointed by yet another selfish attempt to undermine the NYS DEC and its ability to effectively manage whitetail deer on behalf of the People of NY.

It is policy of the NYSCC to maintain much responsibility for wildlife management within the authority of the NYSDEC and its wildlife professionals, rather than having management dictated by politicians through a process which cannot ever respond to the often rapidly changing landscape of stewarding our wild treasures.

To be clear, no support of significance exists for mandatory antler restriction, either via regulatory or legislative action. The recent DEC-sponsored study conducted by Cornell University concerning this issue revealed as much. This very expensive and extensive study confirmed NYSCC's position. For a number of years policy resolutions were submitted to the Big Game Committee, made up of representatives from the organized sporting community across NYS. Each resolution failed to gain the positive recommendation of the Committee and failed official adoption by vote of the statewide membership during NYSCC's Annual Meeting. We also note the sponsor's memo for this bill cites a survey done in 2006 rather than the most recent study results released in 2015 – which in our eyes is deceitful at best.

Our position has been education over regulation or legislation, and the DEC's structured decision-making study confirmed this is the best course of action to take concerning alternative buck management, and this is the approach adopted.

Further, considering the incredible time and effort wildlife officials at the DEC spent on the issue of mandatory antler restriction -- dealing with pilot programs, FOIL requests, continual headaches dealing with attempts to legally handcuff their capacities by those unqualified to decide on wildlife management decisions and direction -- they had asked for no further efforts concerning mandatory AR for at least the next 3-5 years.

Yet, once again, the agenda of one very small group with questionable credentials cannot seem to respect the wildlife management and deer management challenges NYS faces. Larger issues such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) prevention and overcoming suburban and urban deer management challenges take far higher priority. Crop damage and public health concerns such as rising rates of Lyme disease would not improve by further restricting NY hunters from being effective deer management tools. Harvest rates will admittedly drop with AR implementation, a costly and counter-intuitive "benefit" to the goals of S4739. And let us not forget that from a

biological standpoint, mandatory AR in any form is completely unnecessary in NYS, as DEC big game biologists have repeatedly stated over the past 8 years.

We are understandably appalled and disappointed with this bill's introduction and are adamantly opposed to its entirety for the above reasons. We therefore urge the NYS Senate and all members of the NYS Legislature to reject this bill and future bills of its kind and continue to allow wildlife professionals to do their jobs.



our 22nd Banquet

Salvatore's Italian Gardens

6461 Transit Rd
Depew, New York 14034

Saturday April 29, 2017
5:00 pm Cash Bar, Games, Silent Auction
7:00 pm Dinner followed by Live Auction

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

NO UPGRADES AT THE DOOR

Featuring 2017 Friends of NRA Gun of the Year or \$500.00 Cash

Daniel Defense * M4 Carbine V7 5.56mm x 45
* Special NRA serial numbers
Embellished * Limited Edition



1 ticket \$5 / 3 tickets \$10 / 7 tickets \$20

Need not be present to win *BUT IT'S MORE FUN!*

Single dinner ticket \$50
Big Shooters Package \$150

1 dinner ticket
\$300 Bucket Drawing tickets
(15 - \$20 strips!)
10 Gun Table tickets

★ **Charlton Heston Table \$1900**

10 Big Shooter Packages PLUS:
70 Gun of the Year tickets
Priority Reserved Seating
Exclusive gun drawing for your table
ONLY! (1 in 10 chance to win)

Liberty National Sponsor Package * \$300

** NOTE does not include dinner ticket*

Case knife with presentation case
Sponsor Only FNRA Hat
Subscription to Traditions Magazine

Groups of "Table of Ten" reminder: Fill a table with ten friends and receive 10 Gun Table tickets.
We will make every effort to seat groups together, but can only guarantee multiples of 10.

Proceeds benefit local shooting sports, youth education programs, firearm safety, range improvements, wildlife and conservation programs in New York State. One half of the money raised will stay in New York and the other half goes to National Programs that benefit the shooting sports.

For reservations, send this form & check, credit card information or money order

Make checks payable to : **Niagara Frontier Friends of NRA**

Mail to: NFFNRA c/o Bob Sieman
P.O. Box 286
Amherst, NY 14226

For information contact:

Georgina Grofsofsky at 716-866-7656, Email: friendsofnrageorgina@gmail.com
or Bob Sieman at 716-870-6871, Email: bob@puddleset.com

Please INDICATE DINNER CHOICE FOR EACH DINNER TICKET PURCHASED

Total Prime Rib _____ **Total Chicken Cordon Bleu** _____ **Total Salmon** _____

Name _____ Address _____

Phone # _____

Credit Card _____ Expiration Date _____

Security # _____ Email _____

Signature _____

QTY	TOTAL \$
_____ Dinner Tickets @ \$50/Ea	_____
_____ Big Shooter @ \$150/Ea	_____
_____ Charlton Heston @ \$1900	_____
_____ Liberty National Sponsor @\$300	_____
_____ Gun of the Year Tickets	_____