



## Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League Membership Meeting March 16, 2023

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the IWLA pledge. Thirty three members were in attendance.

**President's Report.** President Dan Arico reported that the speaker for the evening is John Massoud, candidate for Virginia State Senator in District 1, and that his presentation would immediately follow dinner. Dinner was provided at no charge to the members and was prepared and served by the newly formed Winchester Chapter Ladies Auxiliary members Margaret Thompson, Sandie Beny, and Frances Norris. The meal was wonderful and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks, ladies.

**Speaker:** John Massoud, candidate for Virginia State Senator in District 1, presented his point of view on liberty, freedom, voting, and civic responsibility. His remarks were well received. Dan Arico presented a wooden bowl, handmade from wood harvested from the Chapter grounds by a talented member/woodworker, as a token of the Chapter's appreciation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Paul Sattler reported that the chapter is in good shape financially. The Treasurer's Report was approved. Paul also announced that the equipment raffle initiated a year ago is again available to all members. Raffle tickets are available through the Chapter website.

**Secretary's Report:** The November 17, 2022 minutes were accepted.

**Membership Report:** Peg Sattler reported that paid membership now stands at 844. Peg mentioned several innovations and activities that have been implemented or are in the planning stage, including the newly formed Chapter Ladies Auxiliary, family fun day and a game night for adults, Bingo, and others to be announced. Members can look forward to a number of new and enjoyable activities.

**Facilities Report:** Paul reported that the exit sensors for the front gate are working intermittently, and require repair or replacement. Sourcing and pricing, along with alternative solutions, are being sought. The emergency exit sensor, immediately before the inside of the gate, is working reliably and has been clearly marked on the pavement. Members are cautioned to approach the closed gate slowly when exiting.

**Range Report:** John Suter again invited members interested in learning shotgun shooting to come out on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, emphasizing that Range Safety Officers and instructors, as well as loaner shotguns and reasonably priced ammunition make entry into the shotgun shooting community easy and enjoyable.



## Lake and Conservation Report:

- Brian Callahan reported that a new campsite, built by an Eagle Scout, has been named for Chapter President Dan Arico in recognition of Dan's many contributions to the success of the chapter. Brian read a letter signed by all members of the Board of Directors announcing the campsite's naming.
- The February Chapter workday was a success. 20 Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop 2 and our volunteers, we were able to clear 3+ acres of the thickest foliage in the chapter. This area was dense with autumn olive, multiflora rose, Virginia creeper, grape vine and poison ivy. Our combined team worked for 5 hours. We cannot thank the scouts from Troop 2, their Scoutmaster Roy Walker and his Assistant Scoutmasters enough for their assistance. We also need to thank our Chapter Volunteers that worked tirelessly on the workday including Terry Henry, Steve Nurkowski, David Campbell, Dennis Adams, Tom Sherwood, Charlie Weiss, Braydon Gilson, Dean Gilson, Eric Raybuck, Jeff McCall and Tim Mayfield.
- The first stage of the introduction of honeybees at our chapter is complete. Volunteers on chapter workday were able to create a bee enclosure including a leveled surface, ground cover, and protective fence. Volunteers removed dead standing trees that had the potential to impact the enclosure, cleared the overgrown access road and bush hogged the area around the enclosure. The protected enclosure is large enough for 12 hives and we will be beginning with 8 hives. The bees and hives have an expected arrival date in April. Special thanks to Bee Team chapter volunteers John Lewis, Steve Nurkowski, Eric Raybuck, Dean Gilson, Braydon Gilson and Jeff McCall.
- We have a massive estimated 70' black walnut tree that is dying in the campground. The first 20 feet of the tree is most likely hollow, blighted. One of the vendors we worked with on selling our wood would be interested in the tree. He will bring his own sawmill, select his pieces then cut the remaining for the chapter. We would be responsible for bringing the tree down. The tree will need to be removed in the next 2-5 years and at that time we would be responsible for all costs. The tree has been reviewed by our resident forester.
- A member has offered up to 80 saplings for transplant. The chapter would be responsible for digging them up and transplanting. The costs will be minimal and there would most likely be trees available for members. We will be using topsoil from the chapter for the root balls.
- The Chapter house cooler is fully stocked with bait. The Lake and Conservation committee sells bait in the chapterhouse as a convenience to our members. We are able to maintain our current prices of \$5 for red worms, night crawlers and wax worms due to tremendous support from Jake's Bait and Tackle.
- The facilities team has been working to clean up much of the foliage prior to the chapter entrance. The scrub trees have been cut back to make the entrance easier to find. Please also notice that the daffodils planted at the fall chapter workday are blooming!
- The Chapter was the location for the Shenandoah Area Council Shawnee District Pinewood Derby Race. There were 68 cars entered and over 150 people at the Chapter. The women's auxiliary provided concessions. The event was very successful. We handed out fishing gift bags to every participant and sibling which included our derby flier. We are working with 5 new cub scout groups who are requesting fishing nights.
- Ian Liang, Troop 22 in Stephens City, completed the project for the new water rescue stations.
- Opening Day Event is Saturday March 18. The lake will be closed from March 5 at 14:00 - March 18 at 8:00 AM when the event opens. The event is members only and members can a guest for \$10. We will be serving cast iron breakfast sandwiches, coffee and hot chocolate from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.



- The Mike Mercer Memorial Kids Fishing Derby will be held on Sunday April 23 from 12:00 - 4:00 PM. Please note that Lake Neff will be closed from April 13 at 2:00 PM through April 23 due to the trout stocking.
- Open Work:
  - Firewood cutting/splitting/stacking
  - Painting – Green building trim (once repaired), Glaze shelter pillars, front gate and posts
  - Brush clearing along roads
  - USDA prairie restoration project at shotgun (April)

**New Business:** President Dan Arico reported that Howard Beny has joined the Board of Directors. The Board now has eleven members, the largest number of members since 2016.

**50/50 Raffle:** The 50/50 Raffle, in the amount of \$63.00, was won by Chapter member Warren Hoke. Door prizes were won by several members present.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm. The next Membership Meeting will be held on April 20, 2023.

/s/J F Sherry

J. F. Sherry, Secretary