



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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the IWLA pledge. Twenty seven members were in attendance. Dinner was provided by the Chili Cook off competitors and the Winchester Chapter Ladies Auxiliary.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Dan Arico. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Izaak Walton League pledge.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September, 2023 Membership Meeting were read and, there being no corrections or questions, the minutes were approved.

Chili Cook off: Three members competed for the tastiest homemade chili, providing a full dinner with the skillful and cheerful assistance of the Winchester Chapter Ladies Auxiliary. Members tried each of the chili versions prepared by Howard Beny, Paul Sattler, and John Suter. After dinner the members cast their votes for the best chili in five categories: Presentation, Smell, Flavor, Texture, and Overall Impressions. The competition was fierce but cordial, with first, second, and third places awarded to Howard Beny, John Suter, and Paul Sattler respectively. Interviewed after the voting was complete and the ballots tallied, most members confessed the choice of best chili was a tough one. All of the competitors received accolades for their renditions, and nobody went hungry. Our thanks to Howard, John, and Paul for their efforts, and we would be glad for any (or all) of them to insist on a rematch. Our thanks as always to the Ladies Auxiliary for producing all the fixins', without which a full meal wouldn't have been possible.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paul Sattler reported that the Chapter financial records are up to date and that all Chapter departments are operating under budget.

Membership Report: Membership Director Peg Sattler reported that the Chapter now has 960 members and continues to grow. Peg reminded members to complete the Range Qualification quiz if they desire to use the Chapter ranges in 2024.

Lake and Conservation: Brian Callahan submitted the written report that appears below, and announced his resignation as Chair of the Lake and Conservation Committee. Brian has devoted hundreds of hours of his time, brilliant leadership and initiative in his efforts to improve the conditions of Lake Neff, and innovations in controlling invasive flora in the forests and field that comprise our approximately 150 acre property, and a couple of months ago introduced beekeeping



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to the Chapter. Volunteer members interested in taking on Brian's position as Chair of the Lake and Conservation committee may make their interest known to him or President Dan Arico. Brian has pledged to advise the new chair to assist in enabling continuation of the Chapter's improvements.

Brian's report:

The 2024 Lake and Conservation proposed budget has been submitted to the treasurer for review based on the November 8 committee meeting.

The primary expense for 2024 is the repair and possible replacement of the handicapped fishing pier. The pier was originally built in 2007 and is in need of an overall structural review with replacement of key components. More than likely the dock will be closed soon as the inspections begin. A permit will be required from the county for the rebuild. Initial reviews of the concrete foundation indicated that it is sound.

The committee has suggested that the first Saturday of every month be a chapter workday. Other committees can provide input and assistance for work in their areas that needs to be completed.

Event dates and stocking schedules have been set and sent to the Board of Directors for approval. The committee needs to place our order with our vendors as soon as possible.

We had a conference call with our USDA contact and we will not be able to remove the trees of heaven for up to 2 years. We will begin killing them ASAP but cannot cut them down until they are completely dead otherwise they will spawn (up to 50 new shoots) and spread from the roots. As these trees are cut down, they will be used to backfill the berms on the rifle pistol range. We will be closing the shotgun project this winter with reimbursements expected of about \$200.

The chapter has been working with a former member who is a land developer in Northern Virginia. He has a situation where a 4 acre lake must be drained to repair the dam. We have agreed to take all of the fish from the lake into Lake Neff. The transfer will include shocking the lake then loading the fish into an aerated transport and will be completed by a professional company. The transfer was supposed to happen but is now tied up in concerns/logistics from the HOA. The 35 year old pond is located in Herndon and is landlocked.



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An unscientific review of Lake Neff indicates about a 2 foot drop in silt levels around the pond. About 15 measurements were taken around the pond with positive results with silt levels between 1/2 foot and 2 feet. Previous measurements indicated 3-4 feet across the pond. Behind the silt dam, silt levels are between 4-6 feet. The silt levels are dropping because of the aerators cycling bacteria from the top of the lake to the organic material on the bottom. Unscientific reviews indicate healthy levels of zooplankton and phytoplankton which are primary food sources for minnows and small fish.

The Arico campsite was tilled and reseeded for the fall. The site was primarily covered in Japanese stilt grass (invasive) and is now seeded with natural, cover and hardy grasses.

Project Healing Waters will be holding a fishing event on Lake Neff on Saturday November 18 with about 20 veterans and staff.

Door Prizes: Door prizes were won by several members.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm. There will be no Membership meeting in December.

/s/J F Sherry

J. F. Sherry, Secretary