

Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs, Inc.
Fred D Langdon, Recording Secretary
311 Downing St.
Buffalo, NY 14220

ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUB'S, INC.

Member of New York state conservation council
Monthly newsletter and minutes
January 24, 2003

Federation Meeting Agenda 1/24/03

Call to order - 7:30 Elma Conservation Club

Pledge to flag - President Kruse

Lt. Ken Didion of the DEC swore in the new Officers for the year 2003.

Roll call -- Officers and Directors

Excused: Bob Fuller, Bob Church

Absent: Joe Fischer, Al Comerford

Quorum of member clubs -- Present: West Falls Cons. Soc., East Aurora F& G, NWTurkey Fed, SCOPE, Bison City R&G, Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Assoc., Alden R&G, WNY Trout Unlmted, Niagara River Station, Hawkeye Bowmen, Safari Club, Blasdell R&G, Depew R&G, JR R&G,

Niagara Musky Assoc., NYSCC, Allied Sportsmen, New York Bowhunters, Simon Girty LR, Elma Cons. Club, Hamburg R&G, Lackawanna Cons., Lake Shore Exmpt's, Buffalo R&G, Deer Search, Erie County Trappers. 26 Total

Approval of previous month's minutes

Motion to approve- Nelson Cronin 2nd Pat Schlicht Carried

Secretary's report -- Fred Langdon

No Report

Membership report -- Mike Smith

Mike has sent each club a questioner to up date the club's information Please fill out asap and return it to Mike. These questioners are important as they contain the most updated information about your club and are used thru out the year to contact the right people when needed.

Treasurer's report -- Tony Scime

Balance December 12, 2002 - \$11,029.74 Receipts - \$857.32, Expenses - \$1,680.98

Balance January 23, 2003 - \$10,206.08

Motion to approve - Tom Fischer 2nd Don Davis Carried

Correspondence report -- Will Elliott

Will said that he contacted Sam Concilla Re: the Hamburg Show and that has been straightened out as per president Kruse E-mail to Sam. Will also reported that he was forwarded a letter sent to the DEC by the president of Pheasants Forever responding to the Safari Clubs request to change the restrictions on hunting hens in WMU's, where restricted. Pheasants forever are opposed to the lifting of these restrictions and a return letter was sent to them on behalf of John Majors Chief of the Bureau wild life, explaining the procedure used to initiate the present restrictions.

Dan Tone passed the sign up sheet so that those interested could reserve the time that they wanted to volunteer for the Show, on March 6-9 at the Hamburg Fair Grounds.

Next meetings and locations:

2/27/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - George Washington F & H, 2805 Niagara St. Bflo, NY

3/27/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Lake Shore Fire Co. Exempts, 4591 Lake Shore Rd. Hamburg, NY. Take Rt. 5 and just past Hamburg Town Park, corner of Rogers Rd. is the Firehouse.

4/24/03 - Bd. Mtg. - 6:30, Reg. Mtg. - 7:30 - Hawkeye Bowmen, 13300 Clinton St. Alden, NY

Guest Speakers:

None

Standing Committee Reports:

Archery & Bowhunting--Dave Reed

Archery Shoot Dates - Hawkeye Bowmen - March, 22&23 - Alaskan Shoot, April 13 - Wild Animal Shoot,

August, 15&16 - Traditional Shoot, Sept., 1 - Labor Day Safari Shoot.

Collins Conservation - Feb. 16 - 15 Targets, March, 16 - 15 Targets, April 13 -

Annual Spring fun shoot 30, targets, June 7&8 - I.B.O. qualifier

July 27 - 30 Targets, August 31 - Trophy Fun shoot, 30 Targets,

October 5 - Final tune-up, 30 Targets

West Falls Conservation Society in house archery every Friday night. Call Mike Cummings for info (716) 655-5030

IBO Takes Lead in Defense of Sportsmen's Rights

(Columbus) - The International Bowhunting Organization (IBO), a longtime supporter of conservation issues and sportsmen's rights has contributed \$10,000 to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance as it works to defeat the anti-hunting movement.

The IBO's generous contribution will help fund efforts by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance to facilitate the introduction of two important model bills in state legislatures. One bill contains proposed language to limit birth control projects for wildlife, while the other was created to protect those who are targeted by animal rights terrorists. The first bill is designed to limit the unrestricted use of birth control on wildlife. The use of birth control drugs on deer is promoted and funded by animal rights groups that seek to eliminate hunting as a means of controlling wildlife populations. Legislators in Ohio and West Virginia are poised to introduce it in 2003.

The second bill, The Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act, will protect individuals and companies engaging in legitimate medical, biomedical, agricultural and research activities and aid in the arrest and punishment of those supporting and carrying out animal rights or eco-terror acts. "Both of these bills would be of great benefit to bowhunters, and all sportsmen," said Ken Watkins, IBO president. "Anti-hunting groups continue to mislead the public and the media with unsubstantiated claims about deer birth control. It's time states put the brakes on this unregulated, so-called science."

Since 1990, the IBO has contributed in excess of \$180,000 to the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance to defend bowhunting, further pro-hunting legislation and preserve hunter's rights. This year's contribution was made possible by the IBO Bowhunter Defense Fund, which is generated through the efforts of IBO affiliate clubs, special donations, and the shooting participation of members at IBO Bowhunter Defense ranges during IBO Triple Crown and World Championship 3-D tournaments. The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance protects the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers nationally in the courts, legislatures, at the ballot, in Congress and through public education programs. For more information about the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and its work, call (614) 888-4868 or visit its website, at www.ussportsmen.org.

Crossbow - Tony Gonnello

UPDATE N.Y.:

A bill is currently being drafted/formulated. It will be short and be to legalize the crossbow as a hunting implement in N.Y.S. It will let The D.E.C. set the seasons for the crossbow whenever and wherever the department feels it will benefit the sportsmen and sportswomen.

It appears the Commissioner and Governor is pro-crossbow. When the bill numbers and the sponsors are announced, it will be communicated through the Federation.

ACF

The American Crossbow Federation has a new website: <HorizontalBowHunter.Com>. If you have Internet access, please visit the site and share your feelings about what ACF is doing.

Will Elliott referred to an e-mail warning from New York Bowhunters, (NYB), VP Kevin Armstrong admonishing Will for a column he wrote a few weeks ago. He printed a letter from a local sportsman expressing his difficulty understanding the opposition of the Crossbow by the New York Bowhunters, Will did not comment just printed the letter. The e-mail accused Will of breaching his membership (life member) in that organization, and he also got a phone call from a founder of the NYB accusing him of being on the staff of Horton Bow Co. Will stated that he belongs to four writers organizations and that is not ethical and he vehemently denies that he would jeopardize his integrity by accepting any product that has anything to do with fishing, hunting or trapping. Will sent a registered letter to the President of the NYB requesting to meet with their board of directors, and he will. Will said that his only position is that he wants to see more and more people involved in the sport of fishing, hunting and trapping that is what he is all about. He said if the Crossbow will get more people to enjoy the outdoors he is for it, it's as simple as that.

Fish - Dave Barus

BUFFALO RIVER WALLEYE STOCKING

who would have ever thought that we might see the day when walleye and the Buffalo River would be used in the same sentence? Amidst confusing press and negative views on Lake Erie and contamination to be found in Lake Erie sediment, source reports on other toxins, dead zones, deeper algae growth, and new exotic species in the Lake, there is also good news. The fish are cleaner now than ever before, and the water is clearer and cleaner too. All things have a comparative baseline and the press recently circulated in public forum looked at only one side, the negative side. There is a positive side. The Buffalo River is cleaning up, albeit, there is baseline data to measure and review. In an case, there is much good news in that the Erie County Fish Advisory Board working to coordinate with the Erie County

Federation of Sportsmen fish committee, the Southtowns Walleye Association, the New York Walleye Association, and management conjunction with the Department of Environmental Conservation, have been meeting in joint forum to develop plans for walleye stocking the Buffalo River (Lake Erie source walleyes). The first official stocking could take place as early as 2004, in the meantime, a study is planned and data is being collected to evaluate the current walleye status in the Buffalo River. If the program is successful, it could lead to an annual walleye-spawning run in the Buffalo River and tributaries, and a locally enhanced population of eastern basin walleye. The initial program calls for annual stocking of several thousand pond-raised walleye fingerlings into the Buffalo River, and for this activity to recur for a period of 5 to 7 years. At that time, the activity will be reassessed and determined if a naturally sustaining

walleye population has established.

If anyone has confirmed knowledge of walleye being harvested in the Buffalo River or trib's in the early part of the 1900's or since then, on hook and line, please call Dave Barus at 687-4757.

Chuck Godfrey reported that Trout Unlimited will be working with Jim Marcum from the lake Erie fisheries unit looking into a way to bi-pass some of the obstacles on Buffalo creek and Cazenovia creek that keep steelhead from going further up the creeks. Chuck said that they are going to stock thousands of steelhead in Caz. Creek.

Kent gave the tentative dates for the 2003 fish days, Chestnut ridge is June 28 and that corresponds with the State's free fishing dates. Tiff fishing day will be June 14th this year, please mark your calendar because we need all the help we can get. The fishing poles have to be set up for the fish days and right after the Banquet Kent will set a day to work on the fishing poles.

Small game -- Dan Tone

Dan said that the 4H pheasant program didn't get the donations like they did in previous years and the federation contribution sponsor almost the whole program. The kids and the number of people involved in the program increase every year, the number of birds increase every year. We are doing great, we brought this program back as it was 6 or 8 years ago, it's an excellent program so any clubs that have donated in the past or who would like to donate get a check to Dan and he will forward it and they would appreciate it. Dan said the latest band they got back was stocked in Erie County and ended up the other side of Lockport. Dan urged all dog owners to keep their pets locked up in this weather because the wildlife has enough problems just surviving let alone being chased by dogs.

Big game - Paul Stoos

DEC ANNOUNCES STATEWIDE MEETINGS ON CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

CWD is a neurological disease found in deer and elk that causes the animals to become emaciated and display abnormal behavior, and invariably results in the death of the infected animal. Since the method of transmission of CWD is not fully understood, New York and other states have enacted various surveillance and preventative measures to minimize the risk of the disease affecting deer herds. Regulations to Prevent Introduction of CWD in Effect New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Erin M. Crotty today announced a series of statewide public meetings to inform the public of measures being taken by the State to prevent the introduction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) into New York. The meetings will aid in DEC's development of permanent regulations for CWD. DEC has enacted temporary regulations to reduce the likelihood of chronic wasting disease occurring in New York, along with other measures to reduce possible methods of transmission of CWD and other communicable deer diseases. DEC is in the process of developing permanent regulations, based on the best scientific information available. "Although extensive sampling has not detected chronic wasting disease in New York State, we have taken precautionary steps to safeguard our white-tailed deer population from the threat of this disease," Commissioner Crotty said. "The meetings will present the most current information available on CWD and provide an opportunity for hunters, outdoor enthusiasts and other members of the public to share their views and concerns about our efforts to keep the disease out of New York." On January 9, 2003, DEC issued a temporary regulation to protect the health and welfare of the State's wild, white-tailed deer herd.

This is the fourth temporary regulation issued by DEC on CWD, replacing a previous temporary regulation that had expired. The regulation includes a ban on the importation and release of live

deer and elk; restrictions on the handling of carcasses and parts of deer and elk taken in other states or Canadian provinces where the disease has been detected; and a prohibition on many traditional wild deer feeding practices. The new regulation was amended from the previous version to include the State of Illinois under provisions that ban the import of the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils or spleen from wild deer or elk taken in states or Canadian provinces where CWD has been found. CWD was reported in Illinois on November 1, 2002.

The current prohibition on the import of carcasses and parts of deer and elk applies to a list of states with known occurrences of CWD and to all captive or captive-bred deer and elk. However, the prohibition on import may be applied more widely in the proposed permanent regulation.

This issue is important because it could change the common practices of hunters returning to New York with carcasses, heads, or field-dressed animals from neighboring states such as Pennsylvania.

The full text of the regulation can be found on DEC's website at:
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/regs/part189.htm>

Region 8

Tuesday, January 28, 2003, 7p.m. - 10 p.m. at Corning-Painted Post West High School, 35 Victory Highway on the north edge of the Village of Painted Post, Steuben County.

Wednesday, January 29, 2003, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at the Ontario County Safety and Training Facility, 2914 County Road No. 48, in Canandaigua, Ontario County.

Region 9

Wednesday, February 5, 2003, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Randolph Central High School, Main Street, Randolph, Cattaraugus County.

Thursday, February 6, 2003, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Big Tree Elementary School, S-4460 Bayview Rd., Hamburg, Erie County.

Trapping -- Patti Wattengel

Erie County Trappers Association will host a "Fur Handling Seminar" Date: Saturday March 1st, 2003 Time: 10 am, Location: Eden 39ers Club, Sturgeon Point Rd. (near Rt. 20), Eden. For more information: Patti Wattengel 337-2556, Join us to learn better techniques for preparing "pelts". Learn about Pelting, Fleshing, Stretching, Drying, & Sizing Beaver, Muskrat, Raccoon, Fox, & Coyote. Refreshments & food available, *Please note the "new" location.

Waterfowl - Paul Pietraszewski

No Report

Conservation Council -- Joe Fischer

Derwood Say, Region 9 Director reported that Bob Keicher of the Western and Central NY Safari Club would be receiving two awards at the Safari Club International Convention in Reno Nevada. He will receive the Presidents award, selected from a field of 42,000 members in 100 countries around the World, secondly he will receive, for the third straight year the top Membership Award, he recruited 96 new members last year. The Big Game Small Game Informational meeting posters are available Derwood said that Bob Church organized this whole thing, and praised Bob for his take charge attitude. Date is Sat. March 29th 9am till 3pm, American Legion, 3740 N Buffalo Rd, Orchard Park NY

March 17th will be the Legislative meeting in Albany and he hopes that every County sends

people to this, there are some very important Bills to be considered and one of the things we are going to push real hard for this year is the 14 and 15 year olds to be able to hunt deer. The march on Albany is the next day, there is no bus going from the WNY Organization however some individuals are going to drive there. The spring meeting is April 26, a one-day meeting in Herkimer, NY this is for committees. The day that Region 9 was assigned to go to Albany is April 8th you have to be a Safari Club member and they're hoping for 55 people to fill the bus, leaving the KLM parking lot at 4am. They will be pushing for the right to hunt legislation and the right to use a rifle in the southern tier, to legalize the use of the crossbow and other council recommended legislation. March 15th is the reservation deadline.

Derwood said that the council's finances are still shaky and they are increasing the County dues to two hundred dollars. He also talked about the internet service program, and we should have some dialog re: the visible fishing license.

Law Enforcement

LT. Ken Didion who supervises Conservation Offices in Wyoming County and Southern Erie County introduced CO Mark Mazurkiewicz of Holland who patrols Southern Erie County and Ron Bosella of Clarence Center who patrols Northern Erie County. Ken thanked Kent who invited him to swear in this years Officers and Directors. Ken touched on the new license system DECALS, there are a few glitches but in the long run this will be a very beneficial system to the sportsmen. There are a lot of things to be ironed out and there are a lot of changes in the works right now, you as sportsmen are making recommendation and we as CO's are making recommendations. He said Albany is very interested and they are calling back to ask questions so that this program will work for us. There was a lot of talk about the size of the print and he thinks that will be improved in the future. No figures on the deer kill for the 2002 season, it started out slow because of the fowl weather but it picked up and the Biologists think the total kill will be close to what it was in 2001. Region 9 had over 20 shooting incidences this year and region 8 had about the same number, Ken said that he was shocked at the number being from the Adirondack region where there are few of these incidences. Ken said that for years the NYS Conservation Officers Assoc. were opposed to Crossbows and recently they voted to change their position form Against to Neutral.

Dave Barus asked about the use of mechanical deer in enforcement, Ken said they used the deer in Wyoming County and there were 34 charges laid during the course of the details when the mechanical deer were used. Ken told of some of the various charges that were brought against some of the violators.

CO Ron Bosella reported on the problem at Tiffit Farm with the deer herd this year, dogs, poachers etc. He also spoke to the problem of Stieglmier Park and the people feeding deer and the new law that prohibits this.

CO Mark Mazurkiewicz talked of the problem with the new fishing licenses and the fact that they won't be able to see them from a boat, this is the rational behind visible fishing licenses.

Legislation - John Susz

To keep in touch what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's web site at - www.scopeny.org

Assemblyman Dick Smith has introduced A11232 Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to the NYS Constitution in relation to the right to hunt, trap, and fish. The senate version of the bill is S7088. Dick Smith is asking sportsmen to write letters in support of this legislation to the respective chairmen of the legislatures. It is vital to show public support in order to

get this passed into law. At the 11/14 Federation meeting it was pointed out that this bill would most likely not pass in this legislative session and would have to be reintroduced in 2003. I contacted the assemblyman's office on 11/15 and asked if our efforts would be better spent on the 2003 session when the bill was assigned a new number. Their response was no, we need to start compiling letters of support for this measure and even if a new bill number is assigned after the new year the letters of support will still be applicable. PLEASE WRITE IN SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION

Send letters to: Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli Hon. Carl L. Marcellino

Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman, Environmental Conservation Committee

New York State Assembly New York State Senate

837 Legislative Office Bldg. 812 Legislative Office Bldg.

Albany NY 12248 Albany, NY 12248

Received from Gun Owners of America: Nov.12

The US House of Representatives has passed HR4757 Our Lady of Peace Act sponsored by NY-D Carolyn McCarthy. Chuck Schumer NY-D is sponsoring the senate version S2826. G.O.A. says that the McCarthy-Schumer bill will keep millions of decent, peaceful citizens will be prohibited from owning a firearm because of some minor offence in their past. They urge you to contact your Senators and demand this bill be stopped.

To identify your Senators, as well as to send the message via e-mail, see the Legislative Action Center at <http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm> on the GOA website.

----- Pre-written message -----

Dear Senator:

I am shocked that the Senate has before it a bill (S. 2826) that would prohibit millions of Americans from owning a gun for self-defense. Those who would be banned present no greater risk of committing violent crimes than does the rest of the population. Are all the rest of us next? Please vote against this monstrosity (also known as the Our Lady of Peace bill) if it comes to the floor of the Senate for a vote. Gun Owners of America will be using this vote for their rating of Congress.

I would like to hear from you about whether you support this massive increase in gun control.

From SCOPE

Marathon USA is a discount long distance phone service. You will find rates favorably competitive with the major carriers such as AT&T, MCI, and Sprint. While some of these companies give money to politicians who oppose your right to keep and bear arms, **Marathon USA actually donates a portion of your phone bill (up to %15) to the gun rights organization of your choice.** SCOPE has recently signed a contract with Marathon USA and you can now donate to SCOPE every time you make a long distance call. To sign up with Marathon USA just call **1-800-894-4081**. Marathon USA is also an Internet service provider.

From 2002 Gun Rights Policy Conference Report

When Doctors And Eggheads Attack

The American Medical Association has been encouraging Doctors and Pediatricians to ask their

patients questions about gun ownership and storage. "Is there a gun in your house? Do your parents have guns? Do you know where they are kept? Do you know where the ammunition is stored?"

These questions are a clear ethical violation. They are not health related. They are an attempt to push a political agenda in the doctors office. There are a number of ways to respond to this but it was suggested that we give a common response and fight back against this unethical practice.

1. The offending physician should be informed that unless he is certified by the NRA as a firearms instructor or safety officer, then he is not qualified to offer advice on firearms handling or storage.
2. The doctor should be informed that he has committed an unethical boundary violation. That is it beyond his scope of practice. Furthermore, the doctor should be told that the violation will be reported to the State Medical Board.
3. Follow this through. To report professional misconduct, call 1-800-442-8106, or e-mail conduct@mail.nysed.gov. Or call the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (State Department of Health) at 1-800-663-6114.

You can also contact your regional office. **Buffalo**, 3530 Union Road Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-685-0102 (phone), 716-685-1906 (fax)

Legislative Report - Compiled by **S.C.O.P.E.**

Assembly Bill A485 Sponsored by Morelle

Prohibits the discharge of a firearm or long bow within 1000 feet of a school or school playground; increases the distance which hunters may hunt near schools from 500 feet to 1000 feet.

This bill has no merit. It is simply an attempt to incrementally chip away at your rights by an Anti-hunting, Anti-gun politician. Current law prohibits firing in the direction of or anywhere within 500 feet of any residence or building unless it is your own house or you have specific permission from the owner.

Please contact your assemblyman and urge them to reject this bill.

Senate Bill S39 Sponsored by Dale Volker R 59th District

Relates to fireworks, dangerous fireworks and novelty devices; establishes the crime of criminal possession or sale of fireworks in the second degree, criminal sale of fireworks in the first degree, unlawful possession of fireworks, aggravated sale of fireworks and unlawful sale of ammunition.

This bill would make it a crime to sell ammunition that is made for handguns to anyone who does not possess a pistol permit. As anyone knows there are few if any cartridges made for handguns

that are not also used in long guns, rifles, or carbines. As such any such law would be unenforceable, unnecessary, and an undo burden on sportsmen and commerce.

Please contact Senator Volker's office @ (518) 455-3471 and urge him to strike this language from the bill. While you are talking to them, express your support for Senate Bill S608, which will permit our young adults, ages 14-20, to apply for a JUNIOR PISTOL LICENCE. This will permit them to compete and train for the Olympics, NYS Empire Games, SASS, etc. The Assembly version of the bill (A1530) is sponsored by Richard Smith D 146th District. His number is (518) 455-5197

For current information on pending legislation in New York visit the SCOPE website www.scopeny.org.

To have a speaker from SCOPE visit your club or event call (716) 941-6056 or send e-mail to scope@2ndamendment.net.

Resolutions -- Bob Fuller

Two resolutions were filed as emergency resolutions and will be voted on tonight, the first was a resolution to have the NYS Conservation Council pursue legislation to eliminate the Combined Ballistic Identification System (COBIS), and be it further resolved that this legislation instructs the State Police to destroy all data and cartridge cases gathered from law abiding citizens under the COBIS system. Proposed By S.C.O.P.E., INC. Erie County Chapter Motion by Chuck Godfrey 2nd Dave Barus Voted in Favor - Unanimously

Second, that the NYS Conservation Council pursues legislation to allow the taking of two (2) bearded turkeys on the same day during the spring season. Proposed By Lackawanna Conservation Club, Inc.

Motion by Don Davis 2nd Pat Schlicht, Roll Call vote 4 in opposition, Lakeshore, Simon Girty, Depew and Buffalo R&G 2 abstentions, Turkey Federation, and Niagara Musky

Membership Outreach -- Kent Kruse

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.

Sportsman Education -- Frank Miskey Sr.

Frank reported that the posters are going pretty good right now we have 29 gun classes scheduled, 27 bow classes scheduled, 4 trapper but the interest in waterfowl has dropped off we only have one class.

New Instructor training class, Feb. 22 and 23 at Elma Conservation Club, Master Instructor meeting in Chafee on March 8th, refresher classes for the instructors March 12 at Wood & Brook from 7 to 10pm, March 29th Elma Cons. Club, 9am to noon. Region 9 Bowhunter Youth Camp, applications will be at the next meeting, dates Aug. 15, 16, 17 Frank Miskey Jr. Chairman. Frank told us about Project Home Safe a program he learned about at the State fair last year

and thought it would be good for the Encon Bldg., at the fair. They set up at the fair and everyone coming in just for the asking will receive a Gun Lock. Frank had a sample of the gun lock to show us, and said he would be in contact with the people in charge of this project and secure them for this years fair. Last year at the State fair they gave away 60,000 of these gun locks.

Special Committee Reports:

Awards -- Will Elliott

Will said that the awards are all set!

Banquet --

Anyone who needs tickets for our March 1st banquet, contact Dan Tone - 655-0975. All clubs should have received them by now.

Organizational meeting at Elma Conservation - Feb. 18th, 7PM, volunteers please attend.

Tony Gonnello talked about the Presidents Raffle for the Banquet and asked all members to do the best they can selling these because they are a great moneymaker.

Dan Tone said that the tickets have been going very well and the adds are going well also if your club is interested in an add contact Dan.

Educational Opportunities --Chuck Godfrey

Chuck reported that he received thank you letters and cards from Erin Beiter, Niel Crouthamel, and Kevin Strubel for the scholarship money they received.

CFAB -- Don Kill

No Report

Fund Raising -- Tony Gonnello

Tony reminded us that next year if you want calendars please order them when asked every year members fail to order and after they are delivered want to get some.

FWMB -- Bob Church

Shows --

Kent said that we are going to do the Spring Show this year and the sign up sheet is being passed around this evening we need help to set up the booth and man it. Contact Chuck Godfrey if you can help set up on Wednesday before the show and Sunday after the show is over.

National Hunting and Fishing Day -- Mike Simkins

Budget and Finance --Tony Scime (Motion to pay Bills)

Motion to approve - Dick Zawacki 2nd-Paul Stoos

Tony gave the members present a run down of the Federation's fiscal situation and the income and expenses for the previous year. He also gave us the estimated proposed budget for 2003.

Old Business

Ron Zielin of the W&CNY Safari Club said that they have a cork shoot at the Sports show in Hamburg and said they are willing to donate the proceeds from this shoot to the Excalibur

Leisure Skills Boat Project if we could supply the manpower at the booth. They usually generate between \$500 and \$ 1500 at this booth.

New Business - WANTED TO RENT! A 100 Yard High Power Rifle Range, 10 or more Shooting Positions preferred. One Sunday per Month for five (5) Months, May, June, July, August and September, for CMP Matches. Contact Pat Schlicht at 949-7511 or E-mail at ncgm13@yahoo.com

To all Federation affiliated Clubs: Diana Racich of SCOPE is spearheading a Youth Development Committee,

That will be working with the Erie County 4-H club to assist Bob Church, Coordinator of the 4-H shooting sports program. Second, to work other NRA affiliated groups to get the "Eddie Eagle Program" into areas it has never been before. The 4-H Shooting Sports program is very well designed and will enhance the existing 4-H programs. Kids will see that it is a cool program and will hopefully learn much and get interested. As always help is needed to make this happen and we ask that you consider becoming a member of this worthwhile endeavor. You do not need to be an NRA instructor or a great marksman to become a 4-H instructor. You do need to like working with young people. Most meetings will be by phone, mail, or yet to be determined location. Please contact Diana Racich, 26 Barbara Pl. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 or 893-6520 EPA, Shooting Sports Industry and Izaak Walton League Sign Agreement on Lead Management at Shooting Ranges

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation's policy not to give out this list to any other organizations for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council's "Grass Roots News" monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - nyscc@nyscc.com with the information. Clubs can also send their "club's news" for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 or e-mail them by the second Monday of the month.

The Council also has the policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

TSA Policy on Checking Firearms

While air travelers are now generally encouraged to leave checked luggage unlocked, sportsmen should note that the Transportation Security Administration Web site says:

"Firearms carried as checked baggage must be unloaded, packed in a locked hard-sided case, and declared to the airline at check-in. Only you, the passenger, may have the key or combination. Ammunition may be packed in the same locked container as the firearm, so long as it is not loaded in the firearm."

SCI advises traveling hunters to contact their commercial airline carriers to determine if airline policy allows firearms to be checked luggage. Also, print out and bring a copy of the TSA firearm regulations for any questions that may arise during check-in. For more, go to www.tsa.gov or call at 202-366-9900.

50/50 Raffle

Winner - Frank Miskey Sr. \$35.50

Motion for Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Nelson Cronin 2nd- Steve Aldstadt

Thanks to Host Club

Elma Conservation Club

**ERIE COUNTY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET RAFFLE**

**1ST PRIZE 4-DAY FISHING TRIP FOR 2 WITH 1 FLY IN AT
GOGOMA LODGE, NORTHERN ONTARIO
Owner – DICK HARLOCK**

**2ND PRIZE FISHING CHARTER FOR 4 - FULL DAY
BOAT – SEACIN
CAPTAIN – DAN DIETZEN**

**3rd PRIZE WHITE WATER TRIP FOR 2 PEOPLE
ZOAR VALLEY RIVER ADVENTURES**

**4th PRIZE 100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
AL DURRETT'S TAXIDERMY
Owner – AL DURRETT**

**5th PRIZE \$50.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE
FRAME DESIGNS**

**DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE BANQUET
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2003**

**WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT DONATION \$1.00 PER
TICKET**

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT THE FEDERATION MEETINGS OR CALL
VAL OR TONY GONNELLO AT 652-4728.**

**THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RAFFLE TO SUPPORT YOUR
FEDERATION.**

**PLEASE PURCHASE/SELL AS MANY AS YOU CAN. SUPPORT FROM
MEMBER CLUBS IS APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.**