

Tennessee State Board of Directors January 2025 Meeting
Wilson County Fairgrounds
January 18, 2025

Call to Order 10:57 AM
Prayer and Pledge

Roll Call- Sherri Letner

Mark Darnell PRESENT
Lee Kies PRESENT
Open - East
Keith Hickman PRESENT
Melissa Orton PRESENT
Tim Agee PRESENT
Gary Clinton PRESENT
Jason Noe PRESENT
Jereme Odom PRESENT
Pup Westfall PRESENT
Sherri Letner PRESENT
Gary Spears PRESENT
Jason Craig **ABSENT**
Tim Capps PRESENT
Patrick Paysinger PRESENT
Josh Painter PRESENT
Curtis Rich **ABSENT**
Jeff Jackson PRESENT

Tim Yates- RD
Kolbie Jackson- RD
Derek Alkire- District Biologist
Roger Shields- TWRA Turkey Biologist
Glen Schuerenburg- Media Coordinator

Jason Craig's absence was approved by vote because he was doing a Wounded Veteran event. Tim Agee made a motion to approve this, Gary 2nd. We will discuss Curtis Rich later in June, he did send a letter of resignation.

Treasurers Report - Doc Agee

Tim stated that we have used all of the Wheelin money and now we support Moment of Freedom. Plateau Long Beards also received money. Josh spoke about who took Mickey's place. Keith talked about license plate and who did renew, with 40k to that account. Tim broke down all of the details of the funds from the License Plate Account. Keith made a motion to approve the treasurers report, Jereme 2nd

RD Report- Tim Yates

Darnell stated earlier that Charlie would not be with us today because he had to have emergency surgery. Tim said that 3000 Calendar for 2025 have sold so far, 56k in revenue. Tim stated that next year's calendars will be \$60 that will be up from the last price of \$50, but will offer better guns.

Darnell brought up the topic of "Do you think calendars have ran their course?" He asked a question do you think \$60 is too much or is it still popular? There was a group discussion, we agreed to continue on with the calendars. Tim spoke about Tennessee being number one on a national level and the money from the calendars have helped to push us to the top. The \$100 Gun bash tickets were also discussed. For this ticket, you also get a mail and entry to the event. They are going over well. Joe mentioned the gun bash was really a big event for him last year and helped get into the top 500 in the US. Tim says about 75% of the tickets sold the people come to the banquet. One ticket for one person and the spouse can buy a meal ticket or another \$100 ticket or membership. 50th Anniversary we raised 1.8 million.

RD Update

Tim Yates

Charlie Tollett

Kolbie Jackson

Dillion Williams

Kolbie had the opportunity to introduce himself as a new RD, He lives in middle Tennessee. He has already started some new chapters. He also spoke about making a promotional video for the Tennessee NWTF.

RD Report Cont-

Tim says he has a few new chapters coming up, one in Roane County and one near Cumberland gap. He says that last year's banquets were all approved and funded out of tag sales. He mentioned that everyone needs a debit card to deal with vendors.

Tim requested extra money for banquets.

Keith made a motion to approve up to \$5000, Melissa second the order.

We approved for two PA systems last year, Kolbie needed one, but the NWTF at Edgefield approved his.

Tim says 50% of the people are using the EMS now and making it easier.

Jeff also added that you needed to have a prepaid line to speed up check-in at the banquets.
Tag sales / License plate 281k In 10 years And will be over 300k by July.
Tim said we did 40k in tag sales with no advertising or even trying. We had a discussion about having a second plate design.

RD Report Cont-

Tim says we need to make more money, we need banners at every chapter banquet placemats with a TN Information in a QR code to a link would be helpful. Approved \$3000 to go to a tag fund. Keith made the motion to approve, With Gary second motion.

Banner \$2000

Video \$2000

Total \$7000

Some of this was already approved in the last meeting, see minutes for details.

We will discuss the second plate design in June or maybe January 2026.

Milan Hunt – Lee Kies

\$10,000 Donated last year by DCI And they are set financially for 4-5 years with that money. Darnell says we should still donate. Lee said they are going to cut back on hunters and guides it's getting too busy.

Hunting The Cure – Keith Hickman/Gary Spears

They raised 73k last year. He's asking for money to buy another gun this year in the price range of \$500-\$600. Gary said they hope to have 40 kids this year. This is a fundraiser for St Jude's. Jeff made a motion to approve money needed for the gun \$500-\$600, Tim Agee second the motion.

TWRA Report – Roger Shields

Roger discussed the summer survey, participation was up last year. 1418 Unique observation, pretty consistent across the state for reporting. 2.4 PPH 3.6 poults per brood, 69% hens with broods. Roger says the numbers maintained. The 13 year cicada hatch had no effect. This year there is a 17 year cicada hatch, It is supposed to be very large. Falls turkey season 257 birds, down 13% from 2023.

Post Season Hunter Survey

3570 responses, 51% adults, 42% youth

Days afield 7.5 days average adults, 3.7 youth.

Banding Project

Roger said that this project is wrapping up. Four years of data in Tennessee, three years in Kentucky. Two year-old birds were harvested the most at 40%.

Roger mentioned other topics; TN Wild turkey research outreach, NWTF Turkey season podcast with Paul Campbell, Featuring UT Dr Butler, Dr Harper, TYU Dr Cohen And Roger included.

Joe Kurts Wildlife management award went to TWRA Damon Hollis, Forestry Biologist.

Regional Biologist Update - Derek Alkire

This year Tennessee will be hosting the 2025 SE Wild Turkey working group management, Turkey managers from 15 southeast states will gather together at Norris Dam. May 19th through the 20th. Derek is asking for \$1500 for this function for swag and beverages “Welcoming Social”. Jeremy makes a motion to approve \$1000, Tim Second, the motion.

We also approved \$1000 For kids National Wildlife Education Program. Jeff made a motion to approve, Melissa second.

Derek broke down what they had spent from the super fund and what balance was left, See handout sheet. 15 habitat management projects impacting over 2500 acres- Habitat for the Hatch. There were 22 outreach events and five scholarships submitted. LBL Request; Creating new stewardship, Veteran Hunt at LBL looking for partnership with LBL to help with the hunt. Keith spoke up and said that he will try to find people that could help with this since he lives near. Jeff mentioned that he appreciates Derek’s hard work. The seed program was also mentioned and discussed this year’s program.

Hall of Fame – Lee Kies He said that we will discuss this in June.

R3 Outreach- Josh Painter

Josh introduced Doug Monday and Wallace Allen from Plateau Longbeards.

They are wanting to expand the program Wheelin Hunt.

Pup Westfall discussed what qualifications are for a Wheelin Person to participate, They should have 10% disability somehow. He said these guy bonds come straight from the NWTF. Doug and Wallace are looking for guidance on defining Wheelin and veterans hunts. Darnell says each chapter should decide on their own, with their own guidelines. There was a motion to elect Doug Monday for TN State Coordinator for Wheelin Hunts, Josh made a motion to approve, Pup second. Wallace nominated as the assistant coordinator. Both of these positions are on TN Board as non-voting positions.

Golden Gobbler - Jereme Odom

Jeremy wants members to have a bigger impact on more areas. He suggested we try to go to more meetings and banquets. He suggested that we take more initiative to help more.

Old Business –Mark Darnell

Darnell wants to know if anyone is getting emails after the Zoom meetings for presidents.

Darnell is also proposing quarterly meetings two in person and two by zoom calls. We would have to look into a Zoom subscription, they say that Microsoft is free. Jeff says that we could publish them later, as it could be recorded. The June meeting, we will make a recommendation on bylaws to be approved. Jereme made a motion to approve quarterly meetings, Pup 2nd. Derek asked if we could move June meetings to July or August because of how the fiscal year and the super fund falls. Darnell says first virtual meeting will be in April.

Trailers- Skeeter Clinton

We need assistance to track the trailers. Skeeter and Darnell want all trailers to be in one spot to fully check out any problems and evaluate what needs to be done.

Darnell says he will vote on Superfund Committee not give people money if they are not going to register for their event in 2025.

Darnell also shared his Amazon list again and if you need help with EMS to let him know.

June meeting election list

Joe and Darnell passed out our new vest and bass pro cards.

Motion to adjourn at 2:52 PM central time Jason 1st, Tim 2nd.