

**Tennessee State Board of Directors  
NWTF Summer Meeting July 12, 2025  
Hilton Clarksville, TN**

Meeting Start 8:54am

Pledge and Prayer

Roll Call- Sherri Letner

Minutes approved from Winter meeting Jan 2025. Keith 1st, Jereme 2nd

**Treasurer Report - Doc Agee**

Doc went over the report and also stated they moved money from the Outreach Account to the General Fund.

Report approved. Keith 1st, Jason Craig 2nd

Norris Meeting / Biologist Meeting

The outing went well and our donation was appreciated. Skeeter had brought some of his committee members to help.

**Hall of Fame - Lee Kees**

Don Oscai nominated for the award for Jan 2026, he is part of the Cherokee Chapter and has been a member for 28 years. Tim said that he will work on the award.

**R3- Josh Painter**

Josh has decided to step down from this position. He nominated Lindsey Silvey to take his place. Approved for her to take over R3, Skeeter 1st, Jeff 2nd

Josh spoke about all that she had accomplished in her chapter in middle Tennessee, as the chapter's president and also has led many successful Jake Days.

**TWRA Report - Roger Shields**

Roger went over the Spring Harvest Report. He said that 29,037 birds were reported, which was below the 5 year average. Roger discussed influences on harvest, he said there are not as many two year-old birds because there was a poor hatch in 2023. We also had the fifth wettest spring on record in the Nashville area. Also, weather impact on Hunter behavior. He also went over the regulations for 2025- 2026, there are no changes and there is still a two bird by limit.

Gobbler Banding Project

Roger spoke about harvest rate by age class. He said that 40% of all two-year-olds are killed during spring harvest. He also spoke about other factors affecting harvest rate; hunter density, forest cover, open habitat, gobbler density, Most hunters wait on an older bird, and also hunter pressure. He also thought that this year's hatch will be low because of poor weather and conditions.

Summer Brood Survey

This program is still going on, please participate.

## 2025 Legislative Session

They have approved for the color pink to be used in camo like the color orange. Baiting for deer has been passed by permit only and this will not be in effect until the 2026 season. Drones for recovering deer have not been approved until the rules are set. Reelfoot Waterfowl Guide license been established.

## Wild Turkey Working Group Meeting

Norris Dam, TN May 19-22

We sponsored the sport shooting event (shells). Roger thanked us for our sponsorship and also thanked Derek, Skeeter and Jereme for their help.

## Wheelin Sportsman- Doug Monday & Wallace Allen

They stated they have had three meetings, one involved for other chapter members and they're making progress. They have two chapters already that have committed to create a Wheelin Sportsman Program. They said they are having a hard time with the Fishing Rodeo because the location needs to accommodate wheelchairs. They spoke about Hunters State Park and that it had been condemned and is in need of many repairs, it will not be open this year. Jereme said the first step to help with repairs would be to look for grants.

## Wheelin State Dove Hunt is Sept 20th

The Dirt Farm has offered their farm and they hope to have 60 hunters.

Doug and Wallace are requesting Funds for their program. Darnell says we need to entertain a motion to give Wheelin a budget and to also make sure that all events are registered. Jeff spoke about an annual budget for them coming from the plate fund. Jeff made a motion for Wheelin to have an annual budget of \$3000 Jeff 1<sup>st</sup> and Melissa 2nd. Approved

Doc also suggested that they keep the funds separate from their local Chapter. Josh said They need support both physically and monetary to make the impossible possible.

Jereme- spoke about the "Governors One Shot" he said it's a good opportunity to get our name out there. We have the opportunity to get \$5000 in credit, that comes with a table at the event and a gun. Tim says he has a core package, and then we would put a hat in every bag, which are eight dollars each. Motion to approve out of Plate Fund; Pupp 1st, Doc 2nd.  
(\$3500 Core Package, plus cost of hats)

## Super Fund- Doc Agee

Doc stated that it's been the best Super Fund meeting in a while.

Money to spend 2026. \$442,140

Banquets outstanding \$60,000

Projects Outstanding \$20,000

Money Left \$7,714

North Cherokee Has asked for \$6500, we gave them \$6000. Doc 1st, Jereme 2nd Approved.

Tim says he wants to commend the board on how well it is run and how quick the Super Fund Meeting was last night.

Jereme said that he would like someone to go to the Commissioners Meeting. The board had approved money for Dr Chamberland. Derek says the NWTF has to spend 10% for TWRA prescribed burns to get recognized.

### **Biologist Report - Derek Alkire**

Derek spoke about the Cherokee National Forest Project. He also mentioned the current Super Fund project locations and presented a map of those projects. He mentioned two foresters in TN that can aid with projects. He said there is \$17,500 Left to spend on budgeted projects, The North Cumberland access, 22 outreach events and five scholarships funded.

FY26 Highlights:

Total requested \$789,227.03

Total matched \$885,368.45

Anticipated acres impacted by request 14,380. Habitat for the Hatch 90,000 acres impacted towards our goal, including 74,763 in year one.

### **RD Report - Tim Yates**

He stated that seeds are still available, even soy beans located in Vonore.

He wanted to discuss advertising on social media. He wanted to remind everyone that we cannot say "raffle" or "games of chance" on social media. He said we have to be careful of what we put out there until we meet again in January.

Tim says that Tennessee is still number one in memberships. We came out pretty good after covid even with the logo change. He said everyone is doing well selling memberships. He said he would like to raise the amount for start up chapters to \$500. Motion to approve Keith 1st, Lee 2nd. Approved out of Plate Fund.

Tim said that Kolbie has done well with new chapters, with five or six new ones in the last year. We have close to 70 chapters now. Jereme pointed out that we need to get the word out when a new chapter gets started.

Charlie says to make sure you go ahead and book your room for Nashville soon. He also spoke about the online auction coming up. It will reach possibly 100k viewers.

Kolbie said that they filmed a license plate video last week and it will be available soon. There is a new chapter in Bedford. He says that collegiate chapters are a great success. MTSU has doubled their committee members from 6 people to 12, and they want to be number one.

Skeeter says he needs a trailer in Linden in September that one needs to go there.

## **Misc Business- Darnell**

The state chapter bank account will now be with Sunovus Bank, we will be moving the general account. On the account will be Lee, Jerome, and Darnell. The State President has authorization for \$500. The license plate account will be an interest bearing account moving forward. Lee and Darnell are working on moving account with a quarterly deposit going in accordingly.

Endowed Professorship in NY for Suni NY University, 25k from the plate fund. University study for conservation, helping to raise 750k total, for the endowment to pay the professorship. There is a turkey biologist on staff studying wild turkey and teaching kids wild turkey management. Motion to authorize funds from plate fund, Jeff 1st, Jerome 2nd Approved.

2026 placemats out of license plate fund, Motion to approve up to \$5000 Keith 1st, Pupp 2nd.

Darnell recognized Tim Agee for his 29 years, as he will be stepping down now.

Need motion to appoint Lee Kies as Treasurer, he has been Vice Treasurer/ assistant up til now. 1st Pupp. 2nd Keith Approved.

New attendance "recommendation"; Board members may miss up to four meetings in a three year tenure, two being in person and two online. Member cannot miss two consecutive in person meetings. New requirements will go into effect FY 2026, OCT Virtual. We will try for meetings for next year. We will change the bylaws as needed. Excused absences: NWTF sanctioned event / fundraiser, weather event, death and family, wedding for immediate family, or graduation for immediate family. Discussion regarding excuses and future meeting dates being set. Jerome suggested that we provide something in writing regarding absenteeism. Charlie discussed the Kentucky policy, that they go on a case by case to have it approved. Motion for us to do the same, 1st Jason, 2nd Keith, motion approved to evaluate each absence on a case by case situation. They have to plead their case when they show back up at the next meeting.

## **License Plates- Sherri & Darnell**

The suggestion was made for the idea of a second license plate, each discussed the matter. Sherri had got approval from Jack Paluh to use his artwork. Jerome and Charlie stated they would like to use something other than a turkey on the 2nd plate. Darnell said he would get a plate committee together and we would discuss it in the future, no decision made today.

Future Meeting Dates:

Oct 16

Jan 17

April 16 virtual

July 10-11

Oct 15 virtual

Virtual meetings will be held on the third Thursday of that month.

Fall Meeting please note that Darnell is requesting team feedback.

Darnell says the ballots for Joe to be nominated again for national board will come out in late September.

Also, we are not violating our bylaws, state bylaws say that we cannot hire an employee for NWTF and have a family member on the board. These were corporate laws and corporate has fixed it now.

50th Anniversary gun is still available and we need to decide what to do with it.

Jerome says the Wildlife Magazine said that we could do a full page for \$2000 per page, they do three magazines a year, he advises that we should just do the Guide Issue. The price for this is not available yet. We will vote on it in October.

Gary has decided to step down.

Executive Session 1833, Non-board people were asked to step outside for a few minutes.

Meeting back in order

Election for Board Members

Scotty elected by motion of acclimation, Keith 1st, Jason 2nd (East)

Cody Agee, Chris Romines (West)

Jeff Jackson, Melissa Orton, Lindsey Silvey (Middle)

Meeting adjourned 1:54pm