

North Dakota State Trapshooting Association
Winter Meeting
Draft Minutes
December 3, 2022

The annual NDTA board meeting was called to order by President Norm Howard at 10:00am in the State Center Building in Bismarck, North Dakota. Present were President Norm Howard and Directors Pat Bosh, Brian Knutson, Matt Monson, Brian Schultz, Tom Stoe, Todd Wendel, and Bill Woodworth. Vice President Jeff Iverson was not present at the beginning of the meeting, but arrived later in the meeting. Also present were the non-voting attendees: ATA Delegate Tim Kaffar and Webmaster Steven Goldade (who was present only during his report). Not present were Secretary–Treasurer Chris Kittleson, and Directors Bill Gauslow and Darryl Howard.

President Howard first called for any additions to the agenda. No other items were added to the agenda at this time.

Webmaster Goldade gave a report regarding the current status of the website. He indicated that the website went live approximately a week after the State Shoot. Clubs can now post their programs and results on the website. The club can submit the documents through a web form, and Webmaster Goldade manually determines whether it is spam or should be added to the website. He also showed where members could access achievement information such as the Hall of Fame, Hall of Honor, and the AAA27AAA and AA27AA recognitions. Informal feedback was provided to Webmaster Goldade to improve the website, including making it clearer where visitors can access the programs and results once posted to the site, adding pictures and documentation to the Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor pages, and creating a web form for users to send messages directly to the webmaster if questions arise.

The Board then considered approval of the Minutes of the October 2021 Fall Board Meeting. President Howard asked to amend paragraph 4 on page 3 to strike “Grand Trophies” and replace with “ATA Trophies” without objection. No objections were made to the amendment. Mr. Wendel moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Monson. The motion carried.

The Board also considered approval of the Minutes of the July 2022 Re-organizational Meeting. Vice President Iverson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Monson. The motion carried.

President Howard asked for the Treasurer’s Report. In the absence of Secretary–Treasurer Kittleson, Mr. Woodworth was asked to give the report. The board temporarily moved on to other business to allow Mr. Woodworth time to pull up the financial reports.

The Board considered Old Business. A question was raised as to whether the current Bylaws were on the website, to ensure the latest amendments were available to the membership. It was confirmed that the most recent amendments were posted on the website.

Mr. Woodworth then delivered the Treasurer’s report. In total, the NDTA had a net loss of \$3, [REDACTED]. The Board also received the report regarding the Gifts, Grants, and Memorials fund, although there was not a significant change from the report received by the membership in July.

The Board moved to new business. First, the Board considered issues relating to the Calendar for the 2023 season. Mr. D. Howard had provided correspondence prior to the meeting indicating he would be willing to make the pocket calendars for 2023. Mr. Monson indicated he had received a request from NDTA Member Lynn Miller to list the Canadian Nationals to be held in Brandon, Manitoba, if no other ND shoots were scheduled for that weekend. Mr. Knutson indicated he had already requested the Roughrider and ND State Shoots to be also listed on the shoot calendar for Manitoba in response. No objections were made to including the Canadian Nationals on the shoot calendar. The Board reviewed the specific dates for the shoot calendar and approved the dates by unanimous consent.

The Board next considered issues relating to the finances of the NDTA. First, the board addressed the stipends for the ATA Delegate, Secretary–Treasurer, and the category champions from the State Shoot for attending the Grand American. Mr. Knutson moved to keep these stipends the same as last year, seconded by Vice President Iverson. The motion carried.

Second, the Board considered methods of increasing revenue for the NDTA. Mr. Monson moved to increase the target fee by \$1.00 per hundred, which was seconded. During the debate on the motion, it was calculated based on the number of targets thrown in the 2022 season that the target fee increase would approximately match this year’s deficit. The motion carried. The Board also informally considered other options, such as applying to host a charitable hunting license lottery or a challenge fund.

Third, the Board addressed the webmaster stipend. By unanimous consent, the Board found that the website was not considered up and running and the previously authorized stipend of \$500.00 could be released to Webmaster Goldade, if it had not already been released. Additionally, by motion of Vice President Iverson, seconded by Mr. Bosh, the Board set the annual webmaster stipend at \$250.00, to be paid at the end of the target year like the other stipends.

Fourth, the Board considered the NDTA’s added money for the State Shoot. By unanimous consent, the Board decided to keep the added money at its current amount of \$1,400.00.

Fifth, the Board debated target fees for the State Shoot. In light of the likely continuing increases in target costs, by unanimous consent the Board decided to keep target fees at the current rates for the State Shoot.

Sixth, the Board discussed the process of ordering trophies for the State Shoot and the appropriate budget. The Board received correspondence from NDTA Member Blaine Dukart proposing a budget of \$12,000.00 and authorizing him to spend more from donations received in his discretion. Mr. Wendel made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Knutson, which carried:

The NDTA approves a budget of \$14,000.00 for trophies for the 2023 State Shoot. Additional donations may be applied to additional trophy expenditures, but total expenditures shall not exceed \$17,000.00. Any donations raised beyond \$17,000.00 shall be applied for future years for the amounts beyond what the NDTA spends. All expenditures must be pre-approved by the NDTA Treasurer, and all donations shall be accounted as donations to the NDTA.

Seventh, the Board discussed the awards for the State Team recognition and high average honors. By informal consensus, it was agreed that these awards should remain a separate line item expense separate from the State Shoot trophy package. Options were considered to reduce the costs of the plaques, such as giving a shooter a large plaque the first time they receive an honor, and then have a pin or ribbon if they receive subsequent honors in later years. The consensus of the Board was that this was an issue that required membership input and that this should be an agenda item

during the 2023 annual membership meeting. A clarification was made that a shooter does not need to meet the minimum target requirements for all events for their average to be considered for the high-average recognition. The shooter only needs to meet the minimum target requirement for that event type.

Eight, the Board considered the budget for advertising in Trap & Field. Vice President Iverson moved, seconded by Mr. Wendel, that the budget stay at \$400.00. The motion carried.

The Board then addressed issues relating specifically to the State Shoot. First, Mr. Iverson moved, seconded by Mr. Stoe, to return to a 1,000 target program by increasing the total doubles by 100 and returning the championship doubles to Sunday morning. The motion carried. By consensus, it was agreed that the program should have the annual membership meeting begin at 8:30 on Sunday morning.

Second, the Board reviewed the director assignments for the State Shoot. No alterations were made to the list previously provided by Secretary–Treasurer Kittleson.

Third, the Board discussed All-State Teams and their requirements. Mr. Knutson moved, seconded by Mr. Wendel, that no plaques be purchased for the Honorable Mentions, but that they could still be recognized and listed on the website. The Motion carried. The Board discussed how the teams are determined and it was clarified that the current rule is, and remains, that shooters will be automatically assigned to an age-based category. For example, a shooter of Veteran age must be on the Veteran All-State team even if their average would qualify them for the top of the Men's team and even if they never declared to shoot as a Veteran. For further example, a female youth shooter would be required to be placed on the Junior team until they are no longer of Junior age, and thereafter they would be eligible for the Lady's All-State team.

Fourth, the Board considered the trophy package. Mr. Woodworth moved, seconded by Mr. Bosh, to eliminate the Lady & B classifications at the State Shoot. The motion carried.

Fifth, the Board reviewed the history of penalty yardages and classifications at the State Shoot. North Dakota once had penalty classifications and yardages, but it had been a long time since they were eliminated. The penalty classifications had been replaced with the class advance system. Mr. Bosh moved that during the State Shoot, shooters who do not have 500 handicap targets in the current target year would receive a penalty yardage of an additional two yards up to a maximum of 25 yards, or the shooter's current yardage, whichever is greater. The motion was seconded by Mr. Iverson, and the motion carried.

Delegate Kaffar then presented his ATA Delegate's report. He stated that the meetings at the Grand were relatively noneventful. Western Zone Vice President Ed Wehking became the new ATA President. Penalty classifications were restored for the Grand after an absence due to Covid. It is back to a minimum of 1,000 targets in each discipline to avoid a penalty. A rule change was made that age-based categories are determined on the date of paying for a membership, not when they first shoot in a target year. For example, a new shooter who is a Junior on the date they pay for their membership, but Junior Gold by the time they attend the first shoot of the year will still be eligible to shoot as a Junior through the end of the target year. North Dakota in total threw approximately 411,000 targets in 2022, compared to 500,000 in South Dakota and about 1 million in Montana. The most amount of targets thrown by ND clubs included the NDTA (for the state shoot) with 163,775 targets; CCGC with 46,100; and Walsh County with 39,100; and Grand Forks with 39,100. Three ND shooters made the All-American teams: Evie Janousek, Mike Kempel, and Bob Monson. Perry Weiner also achieved his ATA Grand Slam, and also received a Grand Slam at the Grand itself. ATA Delegates are still supposed to sell 2 books of tickets for the Gun Club raffle, but there are more tickets being sold due to online sales. Kohler is the partner for the Gun Club raffle as they are offering the best deal on the guns. The Alexandria Trap Club has been sold to new owners, with closing on the sale occurring on November 18. There was a stipulation that Alexandria had to remain a gun club, and would continue to host the MN high school state shoot, but there is no requirement that Alexandria continue to host the MN ATA state shoot. Delegate Kaffar reaffirmed that he believed that his biggest responsibility at the Grand is refereeing shoot offs and not politicking.

At the Spring Grand, target fees will be \$46.00 and daily fees are \$6.00. Shells will be available, however at the Autumn Grand Top Guns were \$92.75 and there is a 10% increase expected for next year. In response to a question by Mr. Knutson, Delegate Kaffar said that for the Gun Club Grants, the largest individual grant was around \$5,000; no club has received consecutive grants, but there may be cases where a club earned it 5-6 years after their first award; the grant amounts are determined by the Executive Committee. And finally, Delegate Kaffar indicated that a proposal to increase ATA fees was rejected, although it is likely to be proposed again.

The Board then considered applications for Greg Vaage and Louis Kuster to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The board first clarified that the process would be to review the applications and score them on the secret ballots. Then, if the candidates were determined to be qualified, there would be a subsequent vote. By 9-0, it was determined that Mr. Vaage was eligible. And by 8-1, it was determined that Mr. Kuster was eligible. By voice votes, Mr. Vaage and Mr. Kuster were approved to be inducted into the ND Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

The Board then considered a letter by NDTA Member Rod Gilmore requesting that Jerry Gulke be posthumously inducted into the ND Trapshooting Hall of Honor. Vice President Iverson moved, seconded by Mr. Monson, to induct Mr. Gulke into the NDTA Trapshooting Hall of Honor. The motion carried.

Vice President Iverson then moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mons. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.