

Luzerne County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Website: www.luzcofed.com

Member Clubs: Nanticoke Conservation Club, Nescopeck Hunting and Rifle Club, Norway Ridge Sportsmen's Club, Nuangola Rod and Gun Club, Wilkes-Barre Rifle and Pistol Club, Edgewood Sportsman's Club.

Call Meeting to Order: 7:30 pm; April 8, 2024.

Meeting Pledge: Pledge of Allegiance and Conservation Pledge.

Roll Call of Officers: Dennis Grimes, President; Norman Frederick, Secretary/Treasurer absent; Phil Levandowski, 1st V.P.

Roll Call of Clubs: Norway Ridge (Dave Centak), Nanticoke Conservation (Phil Levandowski).

Reading of Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. (Dave Centak/Phil Levandoski)

Communications and Bills: SB1087, HB777

SB1087 – An agriculture bill that increased penalties for trespass by hunters and their dogs on properties without getting permission from owner. The most onerous part of this bill was to prevent hunters from retrieving their dogs from land owners property. The dog owner was subjected to the same fine as if the hunter trespassed. This was brought to our attention by one of our former officers. The www.sportsmensalliance.org also sent out an alert on this matter. The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, www.pfsc.org , quickly responded to my inquiry that the language regarding hunting dogs had already been deleted.

HB777 – A bill introduced by two Philadelphia representative was introduced to ban so called ghost guns, and any parts used to assemble guns without serial numbers. This was poorly crafted legislation that was passed by the democratic controlled state house. The PFSC quickly responded to my inquiry that the bill would not be taken up by the PA senate.

If a bill does not have a full house and senate vote in favor, it is tabled and needs to be reintroduced next year as a new bill.

The following is my best attempt to explain the legislative process to our members. It is a general outline based on my experience and subject to correction.

Any representative or representative can introduce a bill regarding any proposed legislation. We focus on hunting, fishing, trapping, conservation of resources and second amendment bills. As you can see above an agriculture bill can affect our focus areas. Last year there were over 300 bills proposed

affecting the federation and its members. Two thirds of the 300 introduced bills were second ammendment issues. About 2/3 were anti 2A, 1/3 pro 2A.

A senate bill like SB1087 or house bill like HB777 will be referred to the committee responsible for the subject like agriculture. Committe will discuss and seek input from state agencies, advocacy groups and the general public regarding legislation. Legislation will be scheduled for a vote in that legislative body and if passed sent to the other body for passage and then on to the govenor. Any legislation that does not make it for a vote is tabled and has to be reintroduced next year as a new bill.

The NRA and Sportsmen Alliance monitor proposed bills for every state on a nation wide basis. The PFSC monitors the state of Pennsylvania. This is a fee based national legal system that tracks legislation and the states use. Any modifications are also updated and tracked by the states.

We do not identify and track these bills but our state organization in Harrisburg tracks and lobbies on our behalf. Nationally the NRA for 2A issues and Sportsmens Alliance for our issues of hunting, fishing, trapping, 2A, outdoor recreaation and conservation.

Our state lobbying organization PFSC advocates for us in Harrisburg. They are effective and important. They need county wide organizations like Luzerne County Federation of Sportsmen to mobilize sportsmen and sportswomen to let their county legislators know what they want. We are the boots on the ground in the county. Together we have tremendous influence on advocating for our members. The above named organizations are a resource that can be used by our members directly even if they do not join (highly recommended) those organizations.

We work with and support the national organizations for Federal legislation. Contact Dennis Grimes, President, for questions or input on above. grimesdj@comcast.net

Club Reports: Norway Ridge: None

Club Reports: Nanticoke Conservation Club: None

Committee Reports: None *Old Business:* None

New Business: None

Good of the Federation: None

Treasurers Report: The current balance is \$1,493.98. Two checks were deposited(\$400), one check issued to PFSC for (\$500). (Phil/Den)

Agency Report: None

FYI: We currently have two firearm stores that sponsor our Club:

Advanced Arms, www.advancedarms.com

Bear's Gun Room, www.bearsgunroom.com

The annual fee for a sponsor is \$50.00. As a sponsor to our Club, the store is advertised on our Club's website.

Individuals – Life Membership(\$30) Clubs(\$1 per active member per year up to max of \$300 per year)

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn by Dave/Phil. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm. Our next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on May 13, 2024, at American Legion Post 609 in Hanover Township. The address is 328 Lee Park Ave, Wilkes-Barre, PA.