

PALICA YEAR Summer Picnic/Scholarships Awards BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, July 1, 2023, Greenville PA



Members Present: Ron Roncaglione, Richard Cottrell, Michael Martino, Dan Micsky, Barry Mutzabaugh Jr., David Cottrell, Joe Greco, Steve Latimer

Absent: Gary Theuret, Chris Moore, Jeremy Pruskowski, Justin Hoover

Others Present: Cassie, Evelyn and Trish Cottrell, Crystal & Chloe Mutzabaugh, Joanie Micsky, Nancy, Lawrence and Cole Micsky

- **SPECIAL GUESTS:** Jack Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Seeley Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Porterfield, Jane and Jim Addison
 - The Pledge of Allegiance was said and roll call was taken.
 - Motion to approve minutes made by Barry Mutzabaugh Jr., seconded by Ron Roncaglione, all were in favor, motion passed.
- **Officers Reports:** Barry Mutzabaugh said he'd comment throughout. There were no other reports.
- **Executive Directors Report** – Joanie shared a handout recapping the activities since the March convention from the Executive Director's position.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Associates:** Joe Greco-BEG Group talked about his partnering with PALICA to join PIOGA in an effort to try and get us new members. Joe split the cost with PALICA for membership costs and to run an ad in their membership directory.
 - **Scholarships:** Michael Martino was nominated to serve on the scholarship committee – Joe Greco motioned, Barry 2nd.
 - **Legislative/LRP:** Dan reported that there were a lot of issues coming forward along with the new Farm Bill.
 - **Education Training Safety:** No Report by Ron Roncaglione – he gave an update on Gary Theuret's health.

OLD BUSINESS:

- It was voted to keep the meet and greet at the convention on the Thursday night start of the convention. It was also voted that we could skip the closing banquet at least for next year, because so many don't stay for it and some would like the option to be able to head home after lunch on Saturday's. For 2024 it was discussed that a trip to the nearby casino was a great alternative activity.
- Barry spoke about working w/ Bestline Equipment to help fill up the space we have for Ag Progress Days. Joe will bring Silt Sock/Barry will bring a Norweco Septic Tank and possibly a machine.

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- **Camp Freedom** Barry talked about the grant they received and about the fundraising banquet Barry/Crystal and Dan/Joanie attended along with National LICA (Jerry Biuso, Chris/Pat Wager, Eddie Mahen). A tremendous undertaking but since everything is donated, it's all profit for the camp
- Steve Latimer spoke about the changes at CASE Equipment to John Deere that have been made public. They will sell road construction equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Joe Greco spoke about the French Creek Watershed project and he asked if PALICA would put out a letter stating we didn't support the project – we did and now we're all waiting to see what direction it goes. This explanation of what is taking place is this:
 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is evaluating creation of a new national wildlife refuge to conserve currently unprotected, high priority fish and wildlife habitats in northwestern Pennsylvania and southwestern New York.
 - In collaboration with landowners, outdoor enthusiasts, conservation partners, and local communities, the Service proposes to identify lands for protection as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System within the French Creek watershed. If approved, these lands would be incorporated into a new National Wildlife Refuge that may encompass portions of Chautauqua County, New York and Crawford, Erie, Venango, and Mercer Counties, Pennsylvania.
 - An in-depth, collaborative effort over the past 20 years indicates that currently unprotected habitats within the French Creek watershed support critical populations of fish and wildlife appropriate for protection by the National Wildlife Refuge System, primarily threatened and endangered freshwater mussels, and significant populations of native darters. This assemblage of aquatic life, once common throughout the northeast, is now largely absent. Further, the associated wetlands and other habitats support waterfowl and migratory birds of conservation concern. These species and habitats face habitat loss from land use changes, climate change, competition from invasive species, and other stressors.
- It was discussed that the addition of Brenda Riegle to the Board as an Associate Member will be very instrumental in keeping our membership updated on what's going on within the state.

Final Comments: Jack Brown addressed the group and said he appreciated being invited and how much he enjoyed his time as a member of PALICA and still likes to get the newsletters from Joanie.

Motion to adjourn came at 5pm by Jack Brown, seconded by Steve Latimer.

Next meeting to be announced.