



**BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE
ANNUAL PRESIDENTS MEETING
Held on 3/25/25 at Hopewell VFW Post 8805**



CONSERVATION PLEDGE I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country, its soil, air, mineral, forests, water, and wildlife.

Call to order at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Conservation Pledge

Moment of Silence & Prayer

Welcome from Host Club by Gary Grey, Hopewell VFW Delegate

Welcome by the BCSCS President, Rich Kerlin

Roll Call

Club / Organization	President / VP	Delegate / Alt	Other
Aliquippa	X	X	X
Ambridge			
Beaver Falls	X	X	X
BV Archers			
BVRP	X	X	X
Conway			
Ellwood / Wampum	X	X	
Five Points	X	X	X
FOAC & FOAC Illea	X	X	
Forest Grove	X		X
Green Valley		X	
Hopewell VFW	X	X	X
Koppel / Big Beaver		X	X
Marion Hill			X
Midland	X		
North Boroughs	X		
North Side			
NWTF 2 nd Chance Toms		X	
Pine Run		X	
Rochester	X	X	
Sewickley	X	X	
WPAYO	X		1

Total	13+	13+	1+
--------------	------------	------------	-----------

Other Invited Guests, Clubs, Organizations in Attendance

Beaver County Conservation District
Beaver County Coon Hunters
Connoquenessing Valley Bowman
Mars Rob & Gun Club
Millvale Sportsmen's Club
Moraine Conservation & Sportsmen's Assoc.
Possum Hollow Sportsmen's Club
Trumbull County Rod and Gun Club
We The People of America

Total number in attendance: 70 (A total of 21 Clubs / Organizations in attendance.)

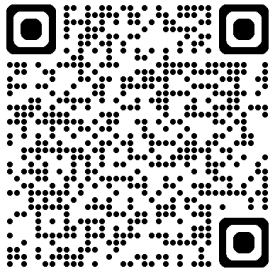
Thank you to the PA Game Commission and the PA Fish and Boat Commission!

Clubs and Organizations Presentations / Guest Speakers

a. “We the People”- Jerry Hooks, President

- Tony Rich was the founder.
- The meeting is held on the 4th Thursday of every month. See Facebook page for location. www.wtpoa.net
- Created and distributed to PA politicians. (handbook)
- Would you like to join or support “We the People of America”? [Click here for application.](#)
 - Mail Membership Application and payment to:
We the People of America
c/o Amy Swartzlander
2413 Front Street
Monaca, PA 15061

Make checks / money orders payable to “We the People of America”.



QR code takes you directly to the Facebook page.

b. BC Conservation District – Lindsey Shepler, Watershed Specialist / Environmental Educator

- Location: 156 Cowpath Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
Office: (724)378-1701 Ext 212
Cell: (412)480-3492
- www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org
- www.facebook.com/beavercountyconservationdistrict



For Power Point presentation, [click here.](#)

c. B.C.S.C.L. Youth Foundation – Jeff Ruckert, President

- 501c3 nonprofit organization made up of officers, directors and supporting members.
- Annual events include but are not limited to: Joe Craig Memorial Fishing Derby, Week-Long Conservation Camp at Raccoon Creek State Park, Youth Family Field Day held at Midland Sportsmen's Club, Youth Mentored Hunts (Pheasant Hunt at Raccoon State Park Game Lands & Goose Hunt at Brady's Run Park).
- Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except for November or December) at Aliquippa Bucktails beginning at 7 pm.
- Our Annual Fundraising event is a Sporting Clay Shoot that is being held on August 9, 2025, at Rochester Sportsmen's Club. All are invited to attend. For details visit Rochester Sportsmen's Club website.
 - <https://rochestersportsmen.com/sporting-clay-shooting/2023-sporting-clay-shoot-schedule/>
- Would you like to support and / or be involved with the Youth Foundation? [Click here for application.](#)
- If your club / organization needs support, reach out to us and we will assist as we are able.



QR code takes you directly to the Youth Foundation Website.

www.bcsclvf.com

d. W.P.A.Y.O. – Ron Neff, President

- Established in 2022.
- 501c3 non-profit organization.
- Donated over \$25,000 to “Youth” programs since the inception of the organization. ONLY donate to youth programs.
- WPAYO Youth Trap Invitational Shoot is held at Beaver Falls Sportsmen's Association in August. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The number of youth shooters for this event is growing rapidly.
- Discussion on grant opportunities.
- Gun Bash fundraising event to be held on October 11, 2025, at SNPJ.

e. Hunt of a Lifetime – Ronald McDonald, Secretary

- 11th Annual Fundraising Event for Hunt of a Lifetime Hosted by Five Points Hunt Club in August. This year's event will be held on August 9th & 10th.
- This is a two-day 3-D shooting event to benefit the Hunt of a Lifetime Charity Foundation. This non-profit foundation partners with other donors, outfitters, and various other individuals / businesses to assist in providing world class fishing & hunting opportunities for children and young adults with life threatening illnesses. The average cost of one of these excursions is \$8,000.
- Five Points Hunt Club has raised over \$176,000 over the past 10 years!
- Thank you, letters received from these individuals that attend these hunts bring tears to your eyes.
- Would you like to support this event by sponsoring a target? [Click here for sponsorship application.](#)
- All are encouraged and welcome to attend. [More details here.](#)

f. Tony Rich Scholarship – Jerry Hooks, Committee Chair

- Two \$2500 scholarships are given each year.
- Criteria are set and all applications are submitted blindly to the family to review and select the top 2 senior applicants.
- An initial fundraising event was held to start this scholarship fund. Additional fundraising events will be organized in the future so scholarships can be given out each year.
- Do you know of a senior in need of this scholarship? [Click here for Scholarship Application](#).
- Application deadline is May 5th.

Dinner: Beyond Parsley Catering provided by BCSCCL and organized by Hopewell VFW.

Youth in the Outdoors Presentations / Guest Speakers

BCSCCL Conservation Camp – Tonya Cable, Director

June 15th – 21st, 2025

- History of the camp by Rich Kerlin. We celebrated 25 years in 2024; however, in 1978 the Beaver County Conservation School initially began with the help of Larry Smith. This school was run until 1987 when the camp then had to close due to insufficient funds to run the school. Approximately 25 years ago, Doug Carney, with the help of Rich Kerlin and 2 others (former staff of the school), put together a weekend-long camp with 7 youth in attendance. Eventually, the camp was turned into a week-long camp with up to 50 youth in attendance. Unfortunately, Covid shut camp down in 2020 and it took until 2023 to get the camp back in motion with 20 plus campers evolving to 40 plus campers in 2024. Also, the number of counselors and staff continue to grow each year!
- Held at Raccoon Creek State Park the week of Father's Day each year. Campers get dropped off on Sunday, family night on Thursday and campers are picked up on Saturday.
- \$250 camper sponsorship fee. Most if not all campers are sponsored by BCSCCL clubs, affiliated organizations, and individuals.
- Looking for campers ages 13-15, counselors ages 16-20 & staff willing to volunteer for the week of camp.
- Looking for donations to help have a successful camp. We are 501c3 non-profit.
- We already have many clubs that have stepped up to sponsor campers.
- Extensive training for staff and counselors prior to camp including but not limited to CPR and basic first aid. Background checks are mandatory.
- Extensive team building on the 1st day of camp. Teaching conservation, survival skills, patriotism, responsibility, respect, etc.
- Travel off site to Conservation District, Five Points Hunt Club, Wildflower Reserve, Raccoon State Park Fish & Canoeing.
- Visits from the Raccoon State Park Rangers, PA Game Commission & PA Fish & Boat Commission.
- Picture presentation of weeklong activities at camp! And so much more!!!!
- We have a week-long jam-packed schedule that involves so much more than we have discussed. Come out to camp and check it out for yourself to see what we do!
- Need a Camp poster to hang for the youth to see? [Click here](#).
- Do you know a camper interested in attending? [Click here for application](#).
- Do you know a counselor interested in attending? [Click here for application](#).

ALL are welcome and encouraged to come!

BCSCL Youth Field Day – Amy Swartzlander, Committee Chair

June 19th, 2025

- Youth Field Day is held on the 3rd Saturday of July each year at Midland Sportsmen's Club.
- Need a Field Day poster to hang for the youth to see? [Click here](#).
- Registration is on-line through the PA Game Commission.
- Introduction into conservation and outdoor sporting activities through multiple stations. 30-minute stations.
- Many clubs, organizations, businesses, and individuals volunteer their time to run these field day stations and make this event possible.
- NRA certified instructors on-site for shooting stations.

BCSCL Youth Fishing Derby – Mark Crevar, Committee Chair

May 3rd, 2025

- Joe Craig Memorial Fishing Derby held at Hopewell Community Park from 8am – 12 pm. Registration begins at 6:30 am.
- Many prizes will be given out to the youth! Prizes for tagged fish!
- Bait sold on site. Concessions open. 50/50.
- Together, the Youth Foundation & the Hopewell Park stock the lake with many trout a week prior to the derby.
- Need a Fishing Derby poster to hang for the youth to see? [Click here](#).
- ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Aliquippa Young Bucks – Dave Sparkman, Co-chair

- Aliquippa Young Bucks started 10-12 years ago with 4 boys in attendance. Currently the youth membership has evolved to 50 plus youth and continues to grow.
- Age 11-17 welcome to join! Must have membership for insurance purposes. Membership is \$15 a year. When the youth member turns 18, he or she can be moved to adult membership without being put on a wait list.
- All adult staff volunteers MUST have background checks prior to working with this youth program.
- Meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Aliquippa Bucktails.
- Activities include shooting trap & skeet, shooting 22's LR, survival skills, pistol shooting, fishing, and so much more.
- Aliquippa Bucktails website for more details. <https://bucktails.us>

BVRP – Kelsey Cade-Bosse, Jr Rifle Program Coach

- Since 2015, Kelsey has coached the Junior Rifle Small Bore program at Beaver Valley Rifle & Pistol Club.
- For ages 8 – 17. Do NOT have to be a member of the club.
- Shoot all year round. (Labor Day till May shooting indoor with air rifles.)
- Everything is provided. (ear protection, eye protection, guns, ammo, targets, range rules, expectations, safety brief, etc.)

- Teachings include but are not limited to cleaning the gun, operating the gun, taking care of the gun, breathing control, trigger squeeze, etc.
- Competition shooting each year.
- NRA certified small bore and air rifle coach.
- The Beaver Valley Rifle and Pistol Club. **Follow us on Facebook.**

Blackhawk H.S. Trap Team – Celeste Krut & Cooper Sheffler

- 2 Youth speakers present their own personal story, experiences and share how shooting has impacted their life and the lives of others around them.
 - Celeste Krut – experienced shooter
 - Cooper Sheffler – first year shooter
- Currently, the Blackhawk HS Trap Team consists of 15 schools (67 youth shooters).

WPAYO Youth Invitational Trap Shoot – Ron Neff

August 16th & 17th, 2025

- Annual 2-day event.
- Expecting 250-300 youth shooters.
- All are welcome to come help volunteer to make the event a success and partake in a fantastic youth day of shooting.
- Always looking for sponsors. Some nice prizes are awarded to the winning youth shooters.
- Western PA Youth Outdoorsman Inc. **Follow us on Facebook.**

Blackhawk Coach – Josh Krut, Blackhawk HS Trap Team Assistant Coach

- Director of WPAYO & Beaver Falls Sportsman's Association
- Shared the growth of the program.
 - 1st year – 4 sponsors & 9 youth
 - 2nd year – 40 sponsors & 20 youth
 - This year 67 kids (consisting of 15 counties) & 60 plus sponsors.
- Description of the program in detail from safety to shooting.
- Club membership has doubled over the past 3 years with the influx of youth shooting.
- A family environment is present at all events.

Friends of the NRA

– Anthony Giura, Tri County Friends of NRA anthony@newageenviro.com

– Dale Emerick, PA's 1st Friends of NRA & Western PA State Committee Chairman
dale.emerick@att.net

- The Friends of NRA Foundation is a 501c3 – nonpolitical.
- Money raised to support the youth shooting activities.
- 60 – 75% focus on youth.
- \$298,000 given away just in Western PA in January.
- Currently supporting 118 trap teams.

- Support high school Skeet & Rifle teams.
- Assists with guns, ammo & shooting equipment.
- If you want to grow your clubs, get the youth involved. Teach safety and firearms responsibility.
- All monies are raised through banquets and tickets.
- Support field days, scouts, 4H, archery in the schools, etc.
- For financial help, grants open in September & close October 15th.
- Friends of the NRA are separated from the NRA financially and director wise.
- Good leadership with the NRA & Friends of the NRA.
- Looking for volunteers!

Other Topics Presentations / Speakers

1. FOAC – Jim Stoker, President of FOAC, ILLEA

- 3-6 antigun bills are being written each week. Fewer pro-gun bills are being written.
- Senate Bill 67 is Sunday Hunting.
- Teach Concealed Carry Seminars. Gun laws, etc.
- Free classes / presentations are available for your club or organization.
- Participates in Fish & Game committee meetings, judiciary committee meetings, township / municipality meetings, zoning meetings, planning commission meetings, farm bureau, etc.
- Questions / Educational needs? See FOAC website. <https://foac-pac.org/>
- Do you want to support FOAC, ILLEA and what they do for you? [Click here](#).

2. Lead Abatement – Ed Henle, Vice-President Five Points Hunt Club

- Personal story regarding a call from the DEP.
- Clubs are at risk of being shut down if a plan of action is not in place. Some clubs have been shut down.
- All it takes is 1 anonymous phone call and the DEP will show up at your club to see your plan.
- Best Management Practice website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/best-management-practices-lead-outdoor-shooting-ranges>
- **Be PROACTIVE! KEEP your Records! Be ready to show your plan if asked.**

Open Forum Discussion: Sportsmen & Club Concerns / Issues

- Clubs having problems with Insurance coverage. Looking for Insurance companies that will assist with club insurance.
 - Joseph Keppel & Son Insurance, Moon Township, PA – 1004 Brodhead Road, Moon Township, PA 15108. 412-264-8072
 - Anderson Insurance Company: Paul Duff 724-630-3629

Good of the Order:

- If your club would like help with organizing or beginning a youth program, feel free to reach out to us and we will help you in any way that we can.
- If you have any questions regarding anything in these minutes, please feel free to reach out to Tonya Cable, Secretary of BCSCCL at gtcttc@yahoo.com or 724-494-6465.

50/50 Drawing

Adjournment Time 9:55 pm