



BEAVER COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CONSERVATION LEAGUE



December 12, 2024, Minutes
Meeting Location – Five Points Hunt Club

MEMBER CLUBS & AGENCIES

P = Present, A = Absent

P	Aliquippa	Guy Cable	P	FOAC	Craig Holdren	A	NWTF 2 nd Chance Toms	Tim Reichl
	(Alt)	Rick Caton		(Alt)	Frank Kelly		(Alt)	Jeff Ruckert
P	Ambridge	Tim Watson	A	Forest Grove	Mike Karkalla	P	Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen	Lee Heeter
	(Alt)	Tim Reichl		(Alt)	Tim Hartzell		(Alt)	Ron Neff
P	Beaver Falls	Larry White	P	Green Valley	Mike Sabat	A	Pine Run	Rob Smith
	(Alt)	Frank Eder		(Alt)	Joe McMullen		(Alt)	Jeff Ruckert
A	B.V. Archers	Walt Ketterer	P	Hopewell VFW	Gary Grey	A	Rochester	George Sullivan
	(Alt)	John Suroweic		(Alt)	Sue Tranter		(Alt)	Jerry Hooks
P	B.V Rifle & Pistol	Rich Wall	A	Marion Hill	Daniel Freed	P	Sewickley	Mark Crevar
	(Alt)	Lee Gower		(Alt)	Keith Radcliff		(Alt)	Laurie Bush
P	Conway	Ray Eppinger	P	Midland	Jerry Wamsley			
	(Alt)			(Alt)	Mark Benzio			
P	Ellwood - Wampum	Tim Kelly	A	North Boroughs	Robert Zeman			
	(Alt)	Dick Bayer		(Alt)	Dave Herko	A	PFBC	Jeremy Allen
P	Five Points	Jim Farland	P	Northside	Al Straub			
	(Alt)	Dan Losco		(Alt)	Jason Hominsky	P	PGC	Madison Pugh

OFFICERS

P = Present, A = Absent

P	President	P	Vice President	P	Treasurer	P	Secretary
	Rich Kerlin		Dan Householder		Mark Benzio		Tonya Cable

Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance & Sportsmen's Pledge & Moment of Silence

- Keep Jim Tillia family & friends in your thoughts and prayers
 - o [James B. Tillia Obituary 2024 - Marshall Funeral Home, Inc.](#)

Host Club Welcome – Ronald McDonald, Secretary of Five Points Hunt Club

Guests

- Welcome Sara Benzio back as an Agriculture Conservationist for the Beaver County Conservation League.

Last month's minutes

- Motion to accept for audit. Hopewell VFW / Five Points. Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Benzio (see Mark for details)

- No movement in the account. Balance remains unchanged from last month.
- Camp account balance \$ 2,722.14
- Time to submit 2025 Credential Sheets & Dues.....[2025 Credential Sheet](#)

REMINDER: Dues and credential sheets must be turned in at the January meeting for those clubs that have not already done so. Don't forget the club member count for sportsmen / women representation. Thank you to the clubs who have already turned in dues / credentials!

Motion to accept for audit. Sewickley / Ellwood-Wampum. Passed.

Elections

- No report.

Communications

- No report.
 - ALL League correspondence to the Post Office Box address listed below.
 - BCSCCL – PO Box 276, Beaver, PA 15009

State Agencies

PA Game Commission (PGC) – Madison Pugh

www.pgc.pa.gov

Summary:

Firearms Deer Season is ending Saturday December 14th.

Several Seasons start again on December 16th including small game.

There have been several Hunting Related Shooting Incidents (HRSIs) this year. Just a reminder to be vigilant and aware.

Hunter Ed classes are becoming a discussion again. Contact Mike Zon if you would like to schedule one.

Purple Paint discussion.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from Group 1!

Madison Pugh | State Game Warden

Pennsylvania Game Commission | Southwest Region Office

4820 Route 711 | Bolivar, PA 15923

Phone: 1.833.742.4868/9453 | Fax: 724.238.5127

www.pgc.pa.gov

[*PA Hunting and Trapping Digest*](#)

PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) – Jeremy Allen - absent

[*PA Fish and Boat Commission*](#)

Affiliated Organizations

Conservation District

Lindsey Shepler, Watershed Specialist / Environmental Educator – [BCCD Newsletter pdf](#)

- Beaver County Conservation District finished the year with 43 education events both as field trips on their grounds and community events. 7 events are already scheduled and on the books for 2025.
- 2 new ag techs started with BCCD on December 3, 2024. Kendra Schreck and Sara Benzio. They will be handling all agricultural conservation efforts going forward. If you have an agricultural concerns or questions contact either of them at the district office 724-378-1701
- BCCD did get approved for the West Nile Virus grant and will be holding a tire collection day again in 2025. More details will be provided in the coming months.
- Envirothon 2025 planning is underway, we will begin seeking volunteers to help with that event soon.

BCSCL Youth Foundation – Jeff Ruckert – absent

Rick Caton – Vice president

- BRAND NEW website for the Youth Foundation. Check it out! www.bcsclyf.com
- Thank everyone for their support.
- Openings
- Left-handed muzzle loader donated by the family of Patrick D. Boyer. Thank you!
- Next meeting Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 7 pm at Aliquippa Bucktails. **NO MEETING in DECEMBER**

We The People of America – Amy Swartzlander

- Next meeting will be January 23, 2025

Committee Reports – Reviewed and Validated Committee Chairpersons for 2025

Audit Committee – Mark Benzio

- Audit Committee Dan Losco, Mark Crevar & Craig Holdren
 - Complete. Everything reviewed and appropriate without any need for corrections.
 - Recommendation for the future. To use a receipt book for better tracking of expenses.

Booklet – Rob Smith / Mark Crevar / Tonya Cable

Contact info (724) 407- 3945 or rasmith10@comcast.net

- Still waiting for several clubs to validate their bio for the 2025 booklet.
- A sample booklet was made by a UPS store employee. Once all bios are received, added or updated, we will get ready for print.
- Mark C. will need reimbursed for the fee paid for the sample booklet that was put together.
 - Price estimate \$3 per booklet.

Game – Lindsey Shepler

- Lindsey Shepler volunteered to head the game committee for 2025.

Pollution – (vacant)

- No report
 - If interested, please reach out to Rich Kerlin with questions regarding the expectations of this committee. Rich Kerlin at kerlinkanine@aol.com or 724-601-6974
 - This committee will only need to report quarterly or as needed.

Fishing Derby – Mike Zon – *absent*

- No report

Fish Committee – Mark Crevar

Neshannock Creek Fly Shop – Stream Conditions.

<https://ncflyshop.com/pages/stream-reports>

Lake Erie Fishing:

The steelhead fishing has been hit & miss early fall, but recent water levels the last couple of weeks are starting to favor migration into streams. Then again, the snowfall and current conditions will blow out streams real soon. Check local listings for current fishing report before you head up and walk the streams. Anglers have been using single eggs, egg sacks, spoons, spinners, squirmy wormies, mom flies and zonkers. The best timing is when the water levels rise or fall, it seems to trigger the fish.

<https://www.fisherie.com/fishing-reports>

Conservation Camp – Tonya Cable

- Will reserve Group Camp #2 for June 2025 Camp (week of Father's Day). Initial Planning meeting will be arranged for some time in January.
- Expecting Group Camp application to come any day from the Beaver County Courthouse "Department of Conservation and Natural Resources". Will apply for Group Camp 2.
- Will be renewing the 2025 food license.

Archery – Walt Ketterer - absent

- No report

Events Coordinator – Craig Holdren

- BCSCCL website under construction.

Once all club credentials for the BCSCCL are updated and ready for booklet print, they will also be updated for the BCSCCL website.

- Email club information that you want shared on the website to Craig, Frank & Tonya
 - Craig - contact at Ch316@comcast.net
 - Frank - contact at frankkelly51@outlook.com
 - Tonya - contact at gtcttc@yahoo.com

Legislative – Craig Holdren



FOAC-ILLEA

Firearms Owners Against Crime
Institute for Legal Legislative and Educational Action
www.foac-illea.org

NEWSLETTER

Well, whatta know.... he did it!



FOAC-ILLEA Files Suit Against Pen Argyl Borough In Relation To Unlawful Firearm Regulations

Originally Posted on the Prince Law Blog [November 26, 2024](#) by [Joshua Prince, Esq.](#)

Today, [Chief Counsel Joshua Prince](#) and [Dillon Harris](#) of the [Firearms Industry Consulting Group](#) ("FIGG), a division of [Civil Rights Defense Firm, P.C.](#), filed a 41 page, 11 count, Complaint under the Declaratory Judgement Act and Mandamus, on behalf of Plaintiffs [Firearm Owners Against Crime – Institute for Legal, Legislative and Educational Action \(FOAC-ILLEA\)](#) and Mr. Heinsohn, against Pen Argyl Borough over its unlawful and illegal regulations preventing discharge in the Borough that it refused to repeal.

Please join us in thanking FOAC-ILLEA for always remaining steadfast in its dedication to defending Article 1, Section 21, 18 Pa.C.S. 6120 and the Second Amendment. We would highly encourage anyone in a financial position to do so, to [donate to FOAC-ILLEA](#) so it can continue to support important litigation defending our Rights.

MONUMENTAL Decision By The Pa Supreme Court Regarding Firearm Preemption In The Commonwealth!

Originally posted on the Prince Law Blog [November 20, 2024](#) by [Joshua Prince, Esq.](#)

Today, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a [55 page, unanimous decision](#) in *Crawford, et al. v. Commonwealth, et al.*, 19 EAP 2022, affirming the Commonwealth Court's decision throwing out the City of Philadelphia's lawsuit contending that Pennsylvania's firearm and ammunition preemption statute – 18 Pa.C.S. 6120 – was unconstitutional on numerous grounds. In fact, the City's argument was that our state firearm preemption statute violates "the Pennsylvania Constitution's guarantee of all Pennsylvanians' right to 'enjoy[] and defend[] life and liberty' in Article I, Section 1 by prohibiting the enactment of local firearm ordinances?"

(Yes, that is the exact language, including the right to defend one's self, from their question presented... you simply cannot make this stuff up!)

As many of you likely remember, I wrote [an Amicus Brief](#) on behalf of Allegheny County Sportsmen's League ("ACSL") and Firearms Owners Against Crime – Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Educational Action ("FOAC-ILLEA"), and portions of the decision seems to parrot many of my arguments. While the Court didn't explicitly address my argument that the Uniform Firearms Act ("UFA") provides for field preemption (beyond the express preemption of 18 Pa.C.S. 6120), it seems to have T'ed that issue up for a ruling consistent with my arguments, given that the decision spends over 8 pages (10-11, 14- 19) addressing the breadth of the UFA and explicitly declares that "it is important to be mindful that [Section 6120] is just one of many in the UFA's relatively longstanding and comprehensive statutory scheme of firearms regulation;" which is required for field preemption. And, as the Court notes in footnote 15, the Court has held three cases – *FOAC-ILLEA v. Pittsburgh*, *Armstrong*, and *Anderson* – the first two being my cases, pending its decision in this case. As such, I suspect in the very near future, we will likely receive an Order in either *FOAC-ILLEA v. Pittsburgh* or *Armstrong* (with Pittsburgh being the most likely), or both, lifting the stay and directing briefing, so that the Court can finally, explicitly hold that the breadth of the UFA provides field preemption; whereby, only the General Assembly may, in any manner, regulate firearms and ammunition.

Please join us in thanking FOAC-ILLEA and ACSL for always remaining steadfast in their dedication to defending Article 1, Section 21, 18 Pa.C.S. 6120 and the Second Amendment. We would highly encourage anyone in a financial position to do so, to [donate to FOAC-ILLEA](#) so it can continue to support important litigation defending our Rights.

If your state or federal constitutional rights have been violated, or the federal, state or local government ever violate your statutory rights, [contact FIGC today](#) to discuss your options.

So here we sit, two days of co-sponsorship memoranda have been presented in the state House and Senate for proposed legislation, and we are already at twenty-one gun related bills proposed. **Two are pro-gun**, one is to be watched, and **SEVENTEEN that will violate Article I, Section 21**. In my tracking table I have shared below, you will also see three hunting related bills. We keep tabs on those for communication and discussion with partner organizations vested in the hunting issues.

Here is a list of what we have so far:

Sen. Laughlin	Repealing Sunday Hunting
Rep. Dan Frankel	Empowering Local Government to Protect Their Residents
Rep. K.C. Tomlinson	Madatory Jail Time for Illegal Possession of a Firearm
Rep. Rob Leadbeter	Defending Due Process by Prohibiting Red Flag Laws
Sen. Lisa Boscola	Changing Opening Day of PA Deer Rifle Season
Sen. Lisa Boscola	Checking-In of Firearms in Municipal Buildings
Sen. Jay Costa	Divestiture and Investment Prohibition from Assault Weapon Manufacturers
Sen. Art Haywood & Sen. Amanda Cappelletti	Gun Violence Survivors Week
Sen. Art Haywood & Sen. Vincent Hughes	Permit to Purchase
Sen. Art Haywood & Sen. John Kane	Requiring Background Checks to Purchase Ammunition
Sen. John Kane & Sen. Art Haywood	Protect Children by Requiring Identification for Ammunition Purchases
Sen. Doug Mastriano & Sen. Chris Dush	Right to Bear Arms Act
Rep. Jose Giral	Statewide Gun Buyback Program
Rep. Jennifer O'Mara	Extreme Risk Protection Orders
Rep. Perry Stambaugh	Effectively Deterring Trespassing on Private Property
Rep. Perry Warren	Background Checks for Firearms

Rep. Perry Warren	Civil Liability for Failure to Report Lost and Stolen Firearms
Rep. Perry Warren	Cruelty to Animals : Ending Live Pigeon Shoots
Sen. Wayne Fontana	Extreme Risk Protection Orders
Sen. Vincent Hughes	3-D Printed and undetectable firearms
Sen. Vincent Hughes	Pennsylvania Center for Gun Violence Research
Sen. Vincent Hughes	Adding Additional Disqualifying Criminal Convictions to the Uniform Firearms
Sen. Vincent Hughes	Requiring a Firearms Safety Training Court as a Condition of Obtaining a Carry Permit

So I hope you are all geared up, buckled in, and got your helmets on... looks like two more years of work in the trenches. We have a lot of irons in the fire and obviously these things cost money to fight. Though we enjoyed a pro-gun national election cycle, on the state level we made only a little headway, specifically Attorney General-Elect Sunday, who I'm hoping we can count on to help with all of the preemption violations. But the list above shows us the fight is winding up again, and we need your support.

I'm going to ask for three things again this year as "A FOAC ILLEA Christmas Wish"...

1. Please send me a list of any and all licensed firearms dealers you work with, preferably name and contact number or email.
2. Please send me a list of any and all industry related businesses in your area. i.e. manufacturers of arms, ammunition or accessories, distributors, advocacy groups, gun or outdoorsman clubs, sportsmen clubs, anybody and everybody that has something to lose in this fight! Especially those you have a contact with!
3. Please consider donating to the organization war chest. I understand the economy is tight and the holidays are here, but we have two years of legislative combat ahead of us, and this is a fight we cannot afford to lose.

[Donate to the cause, here!](#)

Okay FOUR things, if you are reading this as a subscriber... please consider becoming a MEMBER. We love to educate our fellow like-minded Pennsylvanians on what is happening, but members matter in the halls of Harrisburg!

I asked for these lists last year and did receive about a dozen replies, which I have on file. But it's going to take a lot of us to win this fight and reverse the course of our Commonwealth government. Certainly, more than we currently have. We need to recruit allies!

Thank you all for your time, and I sincerely hope every one of you enjoys a safe and prosperous holiday season!

Jim Stoker, President, FOAC Institute

Hunter Education – Mike Zon – *absent*

- 1/18/25 – Beaver Falls Sportsmen’s Association
- 2/8/25 – YMCA (Life Center) will be hosting a class.
- Aliquippa Bucktails looking at scheduling a class in May & September.

Please get ahold of Mike Zon to get classes scheduled!

REGISTRATION for classes are on-line [PGC](#)

Contact Mike 724-683-5880 (call or text) to host a hunter-trapper education class.

Fundraising – Guy Cable

- \$10 Gun raffle ticket – All tickets sold!

- The winning ticket number will be based on the first 7 PM 3-digit PA Lottery drawn on Wednesday, December 25th, 2024. All proceeds benefit the conservation camp. Guns on the ticket donated by Tim Watson.

Youth Mentored Hunts – Rich Kerlin

Pheasant

- No report

Goose

- No report

Youth Field Day – Tonya Cable / Amy Swartzlander

- July 19, 2025, at Midland Sportsmen’s Club.
- Will begin planning meetings in January.
- Tim Watson offered a “Henry Mini bolt” to raffle off at the Youth Field Day.

Banquet – vacant.

- No report.

Big Knob Fair – Dick Bayer (Guy & Tonya)

- Working on a rough draft for a new banner.

Lead Abatement / Range Management Best Practices – Dan Losco

To contact Dan: email dlosco@creswellwater.net

- Best Management Practice website at <https://www.epa.gov/lead/best-management-practices-lead-outdoor-shooting-ranges>
- **KEEP your Records!**

Firearms Training – Rich Kerlin

- Aliquippa Bucktails hosting 3 classes
 - 1/25/25 Basic Pistol \$100
 - 2/18/25 Personal Protection in the Home \$100
 - 3/1/25 & 3/2/25 (2-day course) Personal Protection Outside the Home \$150
 - Register online: www.nrainstructors.org/search.aspx

Contact Rich Kerlin with additional details for any firearms training. kerlinkanine@aol.com

Unfinished Business

- BCSCCL received a Thank You Certificate from South Fayette Township for the Handicap Hunt donation.
- Tony Rich Scholarship Application will be sent out in January 2025.
- Review of 2025 Meeting schedule. Western PA Outdoorsmen offered to host a meeting in 2025.
- Rick Caton declined the position with the Conservation District at this time.
 - Lindsey will update us on Board Meeting & elections.

New Business

- Green Valley – 2nd Saturday of month and the 4th Saturday of the month small bore. For youth. Free.
- Looking for a club to host the 2025 BCSCCL President’s Meeting (in March) for an attendance of about 75. The League will cover the cost of the meal. Come back next month and let us know if your club would like to host the meeting!
- A new teacher at South Side reached out through Facebook looking for input on forming a South Side Youth’s Sportsmen Club.
- Zoom meeting with the PA Game Commission Executive Director on Monday (semi-auto used for big game).
- 2025 Archery Class. Looking for a club in Beaver County willing to host. Come back next month and let us know if your club is willing to host the class.
- Hoping to have a Cable Restraint Class in 2025.

- Beaver Archery Boosters presented an appreciation plaque and 2 metal awards for our support in 2024.
 - They are looking for continued support in 2025
 - Motion made to make a \$500 donation. Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen / Ambridge. Passed. The vote to donate was unanimous “yes”. No club was opposed.

Good of the Order

- Dick Bayer donated 250 rounds of .22 LR ammo to the Youth Foundation.
- BVRP Club 4 number: \$10 New Years Raffle Ticket based on the PA lottery. \$500 store credit on the Day number & \$600 store credit on the Evening number at the Survival Ready Store in Ambridge.
- Rochester will be hosting a gun bash on 4/27/25. More details to come.
- Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen will be having a gun bash 10/11/24. More details to come.
- Ambridge Springfest Cash Bash on 5/17/25. \$50 ticket
- 25th Annual TET Remembrance 2/15/25. Tickets \$30 a person. At the FEZ. More details. [CLICK HERE](#)
- Midland gun bash 5/4/25. \$ 50 ticket

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

50/50 Drawing

- Winner John D.

Motion to Adjourn

- FOAC / Sewickley Passed. 9:10

2025 Meeting Schedule

Date of Meeting, Club Name & Address

January 2	Aliquippa Bucktails - Confirmed	2564 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
February 6	Rochester	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
March 6	Rochester – North Boroughs Hosting	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
April 3	B.V. Archers	277 Rothhart Drive, New Brighton, PA 15066
May 1	Green Valley – Confirmed	101 Fishpot Road, Monaca, PA 15061
June 5	Western PA Youth Outdoorsmen –	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115
July 3	Hopewell VFW- Confirmed	181 Sportsman Ln, Rochester, PA 15074
August 7	Midland – Confirmed	142 Eastwood Road, Industry, PA 15052
September 11	Ambridge – Confirmed	2900 Ridge Road, Ext., Baden, PA 15005
October 2	Conway – Confirmed	100 Magill Rd, Zelienople, PA 16063
November 6	Beaver Falls – Confirmed	247 Sportsman Road, Darlington, PA 16115

December 11	Five Points- Confirmed	285 Bocktown-Cork Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001
-------------	----------------------------------	---

Tonya Cable, Secretary BCSCCL
gtcttc@yahoo.com
724-494-6465