

ANNUAL MEETING/FUNDRAISER  
CHAMPAIGN, IL  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

The meeting began with the approval of the 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes and the Treasurer's Report.

Dan Harden

Dan Harden gave an overview of proposed changes that were suggested to be made to the bylaws. The bylaws will always evolve as needs arise. As the initial rotation of the board members came to pass, the rotation of the board is now three years with no limit on the amount of times one can serve on the board. The executive board positions will hold a four year term.

Dan made the proposal of increasing the annual dues from \$25 to \$50 and the lifetime membership from \$250 to \$500.

The other changes made to the bylaws were minor grammatical changes. The words 'board of directors' was changed to board members and executive officers. Doug Marsh made a motion to accept the revised by laws, Cliff Shipley seconded the motion and the revised bylaws were accepted by the group. For anyone interested in reviewing the bylaws, they are available on the ILDFA website.

There have been some questions and concerns brought up about the need for a lobbyist such as what are we paying him to do, where is the ILDFA money going? Dan shared history from the beginning and why it is important we have a lobbyist. In the beginning phone calls were received about deer farmers not being able to move or sell deer because of CWD. There were reactive entities wanting to close down deer farming. Therefore, the ILDFA was put together to help fight legislation against deer farming.

Lobbyist's protect and promote industries/entities they represent. We as deer farmers need to educate those who do not know or understand the industry. Margaret Vaughn was the ILDFA's original lobbyist. She was hired to get our name out there and establish a report with those of influence which she did, but had limitations as to what she could do. Margaret arranged a meeting with Manning, former Director of DNR. Manning had no interest in ILDFA or working with us. Our current lobbyist is Jim Reimer. Jim has an excellent working relationship with high ranking legislators and government officials and has taken ILDFA far. He has been able to get us meetings with key lawmakers. The former Governor's Chief of Staff met with Jim and Dan and informed them the Governor had concerns with shooting deer under high fence. Without Jim Reimer educating the Governor through his Chief of Staff there would more than likely have been restrictions or elimination of hunting preserves in Illinois. To date, we have a better working relationship with the DNR Director, Miller. Director Miller has assured the Board he would work with us through our President and lobbyist to meet our needs as it relates to his agency. We are proactive by retaining a lobbyist, without one ILDFA would be a paper tiger and the existence of hunting preserves in Illinois would be in jeopardy.

## Board Position Changes

Phil Johnson announced he was resigning as the President. Lois Pennock and Jerry Stafford resigned from their positions on the board. Therefore we have three positions open.

Doug Marsh nominated Greg Mills as President, Dan seconded the nomination. It was passed that Greg Mills is now the new President of the ILDFA. To fill the other two positions Greg nominated Dan Painter, Dan Harden seconded. Dan Painter nominated Albert Haller and Doug seconded. It was unanimously passed as the newest to the board are Dan Painter and Albert Haller be accepted as new board members.

## Open Discussion

The floor was open for any topic discussion. No one brought any issue to the table. Dan moved to go forward with the meeting and Doug seconded the motion.

## Albert Haller

Albert wanted to thank all the members for attending. He expressed the understanding of how many left family, other activities and responsibility behind to attend the meeting. It is important for everyone within the association to attempt to attend meetings and get involved in one way or another. There has been a lack of interest, so we've asked all the members to get out there and start talking to people, bring them up to speed on the annual meeting, try and get them involved.

## Dan Painter

Dan had a conversation with Kevin Grace and Greg Mills regarding the timing of our annual meeting/fundraiser. There may be a slight conflict and interest due to the number of auctions going on in the fall. Dan asked everyone for ideas to help bring the number of attendees up for the next meeting.

Albert commented that we were fortunate enough to have the Top 30 held in Illinois and if the board would ask Kevin Grace to help the ILDFA any way that he could. Albert also suggested changing the donations from once a year at the annual meeting to twice a year. He said that we could use Kevin Grace's help to tap into resources that we need.

## General Discussion / Annual Meeting Involvement

Laurie Pransnicki suggested holding the annual meeting in April to help with the attendance issue. She said most auctions are held in the Fall and people have less plans and things going on in early Spring.

A question was raised as to why people are not participating in the ILDFA. Some thought people get caught up in their own troubles, own responsibilities, do people not feel welcomed? A suggestion was made to write a letter to all members asking opinions, suggestions, what they would want and expect from the ILDFA as a whole. It was suggested to get a list of all who participate in the CWD program in Illinois to help with the necessary info for the mailing. Dan Harden said his wife spent a whole day at the Department of Agriculture physically going through and recording all those names and addresses of those who were participating in the CWD program in one of the initial requests made to join ILDFA. Dan stated he has requested in previous newsletter for Illinois Deer Farmers to submit questions/concerns/criticisms and received no response.

Some people may feel that NaDefa covers their needs/wants, therefore don't see the need to extend themselves in the ILDFA. However, not only do our members need the national coverage, but they also need to realize that everyone needs local coverage.

There was a suggestion of starting a Co-op so people could have links to vets, feed mills and other services that are willing to help work with deer. Maybe another Co-op among members to create a hunting preserve.

Everyone needs to support the hunting ranches. It was mentioned that Apple Creek webpage is promoting high fence hunting. Some of the benefits that could be mentioned during conversations are: high fence/fair chase, plant food plots, know the animals are there, pay for the class you shoot, in many cases the meat is donated to Hunters Against Hunger, the animals are in 100's of acres and are not confined to a small pen area, managed deer herds to keep from being killed at a young age, the best care is within a fence and the animals want for nothing. It is the same for those who stock ponds, streams and lakes with farm raised fish.

Dr Mark Ernst – State Vet, Illinois Depart of Ag Bureau of Animal Health & Welfare

Dr Barber – USDA

Dr. Ernst reviewed the CWD, Tuberculosis and Brucellosis programs. If you have any questions regarding any of these programs, please contact your local state or federal office for each situation.