



Wyoming State Shooting Association Newsletter

100 YEARS
1920-2020



When you deliberately distort and selectively present the truth, you lie. *Charlie Kirk*

President

Open

Vice President

Nick Nickelson

Secretary

Susan Smith

Treasurer

Chris Smith

Competitions

Andy Rayland

Hunting-Conservation

Roger Sebesta

Junior Director

Coach Dobkins

Legislative

Open

ACTING PRESIDENT

Greetings

First, I would like to welcome aboard Chris and Susan Smith. They were elected to the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. I am very grateful they have volunteered to help us out with these very important jobs.

In case you have not heard, our WSSA President Paul Garbin passed away last September. His wife Cynthia who was our legislative director, passed away last February. They were married for more than 50 years. They worked together to support the shooting sports like no other couple I can remember. Their passing has had a huge effect on our club. I feel as though WSSA has lost its right arm.

As you can see we have two openings on the board. Please consider putting your name on the nomination ballot to help us out. Although there are fewer competitors competing in the traditional NRA & CMP bullseye

shooting sports, we still do the best we can to support them.

I would like to take this opportunity to make everyone aware of more changes coming to the ways WSSA has to operate. We are discussing changing the titles and job descriptions of some of the Board Officers/Directors. Of course this means changes to the By-Laws and our current ways of conducting business. For example we need folks that can help us with the Internet, like Facebook and web-sight postings. Also we need to find ways to reduce the cost of printed news letters. This would mean that the newsletter is posted online, and only the raffle tickets and ballots are mailed to our members. It has been suggested that we find ways for folks to purchase memberships and raffle tickets on line with bankcards or even cell-phones. All of these ideas are reasonable considerations that we will have to decide on in the near future. Whatever changes made will have an effect on our volunteers who have to do the work to keep WSSA operating. As you are

Jan-June 2026

aware, WSSA is a business and subject to all laws and regulations of a non-profit corporation under 503c7 federal and state guidelines. This all means that to be effective at supporting the shooting sports, we need your physical, and especially your financial help. Please consider coming to our meetings, and or volunteering to be on the board. If possible maybe you could purchase some extra raffle tickets, or even sell some for us. Also, we always need coaches and match directors. Please consider helping us support the shooting sports.

At our next meeting we will be discussing these operational changes, deciding whose names to put on the election ballot for the open board of directors positions, and drawing the raffle ticket winner. I hope to see you at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Nick Nickelson



From the Treasurer

Same Direction – New Technology?

“The Times They Are a-Changin’” is how one song put it. The times are changing for WSSA too, like it or not. Our role has not changed. The NRA and the CMP have appointed the WSSA as their official “state association club” for the State of Wyoming, and that continues. Our purpose is stated in our Bylaws as:

“The purposes of WSSA shall be to protect and defend the United States Constitution and the inalienable right of the American citizen there under to own, possess and use firearms for legitimate purposes; to promote public safety, law and order, and the national defense; to promote sportsmanship and wise use of natural and renewable wildlife resources; and such other pleasurable, recreational and nonprofit purposes not outside the scope of IRS Code

“To further these purposes, WSSA shall undertake the dissemination of useful and timely information regarding marksmanship and other information as may be necessary to assure the welfare of our membership. Additionally, WSSA shall establish training classes, develop and conduct small arms competition in cooperation with the National Rifle Association and other organizations

of good repute, provide speakers, and general assistance to those desiring to learn and participate in the legitimate shooting sports. Finally, the Association will actively support and encourage participation in local clubs, the State Association and the National Rifle Association.

But how we accomplish this is changing. The Directors must consider the impact of changing technology in order to be good stewards of the resources the Association has raised. To date, the Directors have not made any binding decisions but discussions are ongoing. “... [The] dissemination of useful and timely information regarding marksmanship and other information as may be necessary....” may change from printed and mailed information to online (and emailed) distribution. The cost of printing and mailing is significant – a major part of the Association’s expenses.

Online distribution should be much more cost effective, though not free. With a membership exceeding 500, WSSA cannot just send email to all with just a CC or BCC. It would be blocked as spam. WSSA may possibly look into a legitimate email distribution supplier.

Likewise, printing and distributing raffle tickets is expensive, though it is a major income generator for the Association. However it is unlikely that WSSA will drop that effort in the foreseeable future. It is too ingrained in our many supporters. However, WSSA might consider supplementing the printed ticket based raffle with an electronic one, which would enable online instant participation. Many of the younger part of society no longer use cash for transactions, preferring to pay electronically. Rather than selling printed tickets by processing a card, it is more likely the entire transaction would be electronic.

Again, these ideas are far from decided. These are discussions only, at this time. As members if you have thoughts and recommendations that you wish to have considered; I urge you to contact the other Directors or myself. We would prefer email (so we have your thoughts in writing) at the email addresses listed on our contacts page: <https://wyossa.com/contactpage.htm>. As you can see we are short some directors. If your time and interests permit, please consider if you would like to run for one of the open (or soon to be up for election) positions.

Chris Smith



From The Hunting Conservation Director

Greetings!

The US supreme Court elected not to review the corner crossing case from the 10th Circuit court. That leaves the 10th ruling the law in CO, KS, NM, OK UT & Wy. Thanks to the Missouri hunters for getting the ruling that started in 2021 with the checkerboarded lands.

The \$200.00 tax on suppressors, short barreled rifles & shotguns goes away Jan 1st thanks to President Trump's BBBill. The NRA and other gun rights organizations

are fighting to also have the registration of those weapons removed.

With tax season on us, don't forget the many conservation organization that will gladly use your donations. Deer, Elk, Waterfowl, Trout and just about every other critter has an organization needing your support. Or how about the foundations set up for youth shooting or WY hunting access?

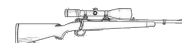
How far are you willing to allow animal rights to dictate our activities? The cry for cruel treatment to animals has again risen its head in mud wrestling pigs. The Jackson fair board has changed their plans to try to keep the

activity by limiting the strength of the wrestlers-ie, only females and youth. Can you see what will be the next No-No? Branding, castrating, bucking stock and roping each can be viewed as cruel.

I hope you had a successful fall stocking up the freezer with healthy organically grown meat.

Best wishes, be safe.

Roger



From The Secretary

Past and Future.

America's 250th

As we approach America's 250th this July 4, 2026, let's have a look at one of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin. He not only was key in winning the American Revolution, but also in drafting the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and supporting the Bill of Rights ensuring our right to keep and bear arms.

Ben Franklin embodied the American dream—poor boy who made good—publisher, inventor, writer, scientist, postmaster, diplomat, statesman. At the time of the Revolutionary War, he was the most famous American overseas whereas no one heard of George Washington. Ben Franklin loved London, had a residence there, the most prominent colonial (non-British) scientist elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of London.

Though the colonists had grievances with the Crown, such as the Stamp Act, "Taxation without Representation", the Boston Massacre, Franklin remained a loyal British subject and had a vision that the Crown could patch up their differences with the colonists and expand the British Empire into North America.

But when London got news of the Boston Tea Party, Ben Franklin was called into the Privy Council of Parliament, a place called the "cockpit" (Henry VIII had cock fights there). There, he endured vicious personal verbal attacks and was stripped from his position of Dep-

uty Postmaster of North America.

Franklin kept quiet during the long tirade of insults against him. It was said that day he went into the "cockpit" as a loyal British subject, but he came out as an American. The Revolution? He was all in!

First, he helped draft and edit the Declaration of Independence. He changed the phrasing to "We hold these truths to be self-evident" then signed it, stating: "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Allies were needed to fight the mighty British Army. As a key American diplomat, Franklin secured an alliance with France, and later Spain and the Dutch Republic, making the Revolutionary War a global war. France recognized the United States as a nation and provided military support.

The climax was in Virginia. The Americans cornered the British Army in the west and the French fleet bottled them up in the harbor to the east. Thus, General Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington and the French at Yorktown in 1781. The Americans were formally recognized their independence by the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

Next was forming a government without a king. That took a few years.

As the oldest delegate at the Constitution-

al Convention, Ben Franklin signed the Constitution in 1787. Franklin supported adding the Bill of Rights, though he did not live to see it happen. In his youth, he was surrounded by people, including his father, who vividly remembered the Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The mass hysteria of those trials, which resulted in executions of innocents, served as a cautionary tale during the debates of the Constitution as well as the Bill of Rights. It demonstrated what can happen with unchecked government power, religious fanaticism, and lack of legal safeguards.

Thus, the Bill of Rights corrected the Salem injustices with rights: trial by jury, no self-incrimination, right to confront accusers and cross examination, right to a speedy and public trial, ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Also, the First Amendment guaranteed freedoms of religion, speech, press, and assembly.

But it was the Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms, that put teeth into the Bill of Rights as the enforcer of the rest of the rights.

The winning of the American Revolution and our Rights as a free people hung on Ben Franklin. Loyal British subject turned American. Signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Supporter of the Bill of Rights. Diplomat to create global alliances that won the war. And the face of our \$100 bill.

Susan Smith

Thank You to Vortex.

The WSSA and the Cheyenne Rifle and Pistol Club would like to recognize and thank Vortex Optics based out of Barneveld, WI. Vortex Optics supported the WSSA State Championship High Power Across the Course and Vintage Sniper Matches by providing merchandise as prizes. Enough merchandise was provided for all competitors to walk away from the matches with a prize.

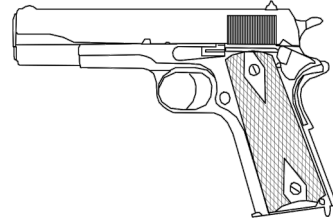
Ryan Fictum
Match Director

To our Members.

Thank you for your past support to WSSA and the shooting sports. Please consider filling out the raffle tickets for a CMP M-1 Rifle, and send them in with your donation to the address on the ticket. Let me know if you want some extra tickets. My Contact info is 307-347-8852 or wssavp45@wyoming.com

"Politics is a lot like walking through a feedlot in springtime: it's slow going and you're constantly surrounded by crap."

Kristi Noem



NOTICE!

Ballot & Membership Application!

With this mailing you should find a single page with one side being a nomination ballot and the other side being a membership application. If you cannot be at the Annual spring meeting, then please fill in the information on the "Nomination Ballot" you wish volunteer for, or nominate a candidate to be on the Board of Directors. If you need to renew your membership then fill out the other side "Membership Application", and mail it in with dues. Here is your opportunity to get involved and make a difference. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact, 307-347-8852 or e-mail, wssa.sectrea-spector@wyoming.com

Please check the envelope!

When you received your WSSA newsletter, your membership renewal date, or status, was printed on the envelope next to your name and address. If your envelope had the words "Past Due" or "Time to Renew" then you should fill out the membership application and mail it in with dues. This may be the only notice you receive.

Next Membership Meeting

May 2, 2026 "10:30 am"

**The Holiday Inn Express
4250 Legion Lane
Casper, WY 82609**

Meeting Room

All Members Welcome