

President's Report

January 18th, 2023

Happy New Year!

Depending on your prospective, social status, ideologies and fundamentals along with your stock portfolio or pension plan it might not be so happy. Here in Colorado things continue to be cloudy if not darkening skies on some fronts.

We are changing up the format on delivering this message as we will continue to submit the reports into the magazine but we will now be sending this same report via email to the Board, the Membership that we have email addresses for, and we will continue putting it on the Website at the time that it is written as well. It is for this reason, if we don't have your email address, we need to have it so you can be in the loop immediately about the landscape, issues of concern and so you can keep apprised of what is going on.

The Legislative Session started on January 9th and last night I returned home from 2 days of Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission Meetings. I can not emphasize enough although it often appears to fall on deaf ears, that the lack of Sportsman participation continues to be our demise. For 2 days at the Commission Meeting in Colorado Springs, there was only 3 Sportsman that provided in person comment with another 3 that provided virtual comment. This is in the most populated county in the State of Colorado and within 60 miles of millions of other people and thousands of other Sportsmen and Women. 3 people in person and I was one of them. 3 people on Zoom. Discussions included Mountain Lions, Preference Points, Big Game Season Structures, Bears, Furbearers and 37 other Agenda items that are being decided on with little or **NO** input from groups that the issues will most effect.

Complacency with mediocrity? Lack of awareness? Ignorance? Stupidity? Don't care? I don't have the answer to these questions but it is becoming increasingly obvious that our community maybe just doesn't give a rats ass. Wolves are a major agenda item as well. License Fees. Over the Counter License Restrictions. Resident and Non Resident License Allocations.... you name it.

As I mentioned the State Legislature started on January 9th. There are many, many bills being introduced that will restrict, change, alter and prohibit everything from harvest, to guns, and everything in between. While we are significantly out numbered when it comes to logic and representation, and I am not talking about Republican vs. Democrat, we are in the minority. Agriculture, hunting and fishing, Wildlife Conservation and our Natural Resources and way of life are under attack, as I have continued to say and our side continues to sit on the sidelines as it happens and not even attempting to alter the course. 3 people in person and 3 people on Zoom over 2 days? It's absolute bullshit.

People better wake up or when you finally do, there might be nothing left.

Vice-President Chris Journey has stepped down from the CTPHA and the Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management to pursue changing the course of Wolf Introduction in Colorado with multiple other individuals and groups in an attempt that is absolutely necessary but undeniably difficult.

I have since reached out to Adam Warren of Dove Creek and appointed him as a replacement for Chris Journey to fulfill the remainder of the term which will come up for election at the Convention in

Florence, Colorado on August 11th, 12th and 13th, 2023. I appreciate Adam stepping up to the plate and helping out in the interim as he will be a valuable addition and will consider trying to fill that position for a longer time frame. In the meantime if you have any questions or outreach for Adam you can contact him at 970-739-9404.

Thanks to Chris Journey for his previous participation and his continued willingness to help in other areas of concern.

Because of the change of timing in this message and distribution there is still time to plan on consigning or buying at the upcoming Fur Auction in Hugo, Colorado. Check in dates are February 4th and 5th with the actual Auction being conducted on February 8th and 9th, 2023. For more information contact Greg Ashmore, the Auction Manager at 719 760 0539.

Also, in the next month, information sheets will be sent out on a variety of different levels pertaining to the upcoming Convention in August and we will be looking for Sponsors and Vendors as this is shaping up to be a significant collaborative event with multiple organizations and entities. More information to follow.

In the short-term email or snail mail communications will be sent about the General Membership meeting at the Fur Auction on February 5th with the Proposed Amendment of changing the By-Laws. Please see the attached Secretary/Treasurer Report for additional information.

While we all know it, I can not stress it enough that people need to get engaged, they need to get informed. They need to pay attention. Some of all of the decisions that effect us are long drawn out processes. Some happen rather quickly. The decision is yours. Are you going to sit on the sidelines and wonder what happen when it is gone or are you actually willing to show up, log in, write a letter, make a donation, put up a fight or just watch it disappear?

We have been so successful in times of crisis but we would not always have a crisis if we just fought and participated to some degree some of the time.

I get tons of communication from people complaining about something they have no knowledge about but 99 times out of 100 when I inform or convey to them what they can do, the answer I get is I don't have the time or I have traps to run or it snowed last night or I am going to the Sports Show or I have a Pheasant Hunt scheduled along with 50 other excuses and explanations of why they can't participate in what they are calling me to bitch about. Everyone needs to take a hard look in the mirror. Without the Colorado Trapper and Predator Hunters Association and the Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management all of this stuff will go away a lot sooner. A call to action? A plea? I am not sure but I can tell you that the plans have been created and they are in the process of being enacted and as I have said before "get in the game."

Aim Small, miss small,

Dan Gates, President

