



COUNCIL FINANCES ALWAYS A CHALLENGE

By Chuck Parker

Where does the Council's money come from? It comes from people like us and the groups we are associated with. It starts with the Active (county federation) members and is followed up with Associate and Affiliate groups, then Guardian and Defender (mostly individual) members. There are some sustaining contributors and donors who give to our cause as well, comprised of individuals, businesses and groups sympathetic to the Council's goals. Then there is the Buck A Member (BAM) donation program. While voluntary, it is an essential financial resource for the Council.

Like all nonprofit groups, we have been hit hard as the economy makes it necessary for people and businesses to tighten their purse strings. Since we receive no state or federal funding, we rely on memberships and donations to provide our operating capital. Due to inflation and loss of annual revenue resources, it is past time that we get together and increase the financial resources for the Council. We can't let someone else or another group do the work ... we all have to do our part.

The Council has not revised its dues structure in decades, and we simply cannot live today on the dollars of twenty years ago. Effective January 2015, therefore, dues are increasing across the board.

Expansion of and strong participation in our BAM program is crucial. Revenue from BAM covers close to 20 or 25% of our budget. In the past, fundraisers such as raffles have contributed up to 10% of our annual budget.

We need to increase the number of Guardian and Defender members by encouraging individuals who may not be actively involved with Council activities to support our mission. In an effort to build Council membership and donations we now have PayPal on our website, www.nyscc.com. To kick off the use of PayPal, a Board member has offered the following challenge: For every ten new Guardian or Defender memberships, general donation of \$25 or more or combination thereof made through PayPal, he will make a donation of \$50 to the Council. But the offer is only out there for the month of January. I say let's make him pay and get some new members on board.

Organizations such as DU, TU or NWTf are just a few that do such good work on the national level; they work hard for their money and are deserving of the support they get. The New York State Conservation Council, however, has a limited source of donors. The scope and mission of the NYSCC exists on the state level but is no less deserving of public and sportsmen support. (See Bill Conners' article in this issue of GRN.) Being a state centric organization, the pool of possible members and donors is smaller, which makes it important that those within the pool participate and donate. Let's help bring them on board. Let's all get out there and be recruiters for membership within the NYSCC.

SAVE THESE DATES:

- January 10- Board of Directors Meeting**
NYSCC Office, Ilion
- February 1- Resolutions Deadline**
- March 1- Dues Deadline**
- March 7- Legislative Meeting**
Herkimer College, Herkimer
- April 11- Spring Meeting**
Herkimer College, Herkimer



THOUGHTS ON THE NEW YEAR

By Bob Brown

It's cold outside the window this morning as I write down my thoughts on what the New Year will bring. The chickadees and nuthatches are flying in and out of the birdfeeder, enjoying their sunflower seed breakfast. And down in the snow covered Adirondack pines I can see a whitetail doe and two yearlings bedded down with their heads alert for any change or movement.

Here are some of the topics I see that may be important to sportsmen this coming year:

1. Gordon Batcheller will retire. No one has done more for wildlife management while listening to the thoughts and feelings of NYS sportsmen like he does. When I asked him about winding down to enjoy his retirement he said he is working as hard as he can every single day to enhance our wildlife programs for the future. It will be difficult to fill Gordon's shoes. We can't thank him enough! (Wishes for long beards and big trout!)

One of our problems today is finding qualified staff to replace the ones who leave. We need people who understand managing wildlife. It goes back to education ... an environmentalist goes to college, gets advanced degrees, and looks to write a thesis on a topic but finds that everything has been studied about the whitetailed deer. So he does his research on some rare bird or butterfly; but when it comes to finding a replacement for someone to manage the state's deer herd, fewer candidates have the necessary skills.

2. Invasive species will continue to affect the world of sportsmen. For example, aquatic invasive species are entering our lakes and streams at alarming rates. We need to control them or fishing as we know it will be impossible. Both invasive plants and animals are overtaking us. Boat washing stations may be coming to your favorite fishing lake sooner than you think. Who pays for this safeguard? You do ... perhaps at the washing station each time you launch a boat or by a yearly fee for fishing on that lake that includes the washing station. It could get expensive. By the way, what time in the morning do you like to launch your boat? If the fish like to bite at 6 a.m. and the launch washing station opens at 9 a.m., what do you do?

3. How will our license dollars and the federal matching funds be spent this year? Will CFAB be able to get its budget wishes out to DEC in time for them to be considered in the DEC's budget request when it's sent to the Governor; or will it be late again this year? Will there be a meeting between members of the Bureau of Budget and CFAB to discuss at least general issues?

4. Will NYSCC make a special effort to meet and offer assistance to new legislators in our state government through our legislative committee and county federations working together? Will the membership of our organization get behind us to help solve our budget problems? Will we be permitted to be an equal partner at the table on issues of land use and planning? Can we increase our county, associate and affiliate memberships in the NYSCC?

5. Will we continue to support all efforts to stand up and support our Second Amendment rights?

A RED SQUIRREL JUST SHOWED UP AT THE FEEDER!!



NYSCC: THE ONE CONSTANT IN THE BATTLE TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

By Bill Conners

Since 1933 the New York State Conservation Council, Inc. has been regarded as the voice of New York's sporting community. Other organizations representing sportsmen and women across the state routinely have a particular interest they may be trying to protect or to articulate. Many of those groups have an ebb and flow to their participation. Oftentimes until something is happening that they feel threatens their interests we may not hear much from them or about them.

Inarguably it is the "State Council" that has been steady at the helm and on the front line in the battle to preserve and protect our hunting and fishing rights and to see that our outdoor heritage is passed down to the next generation. Our interests are as broad and diverse as our membership.

In the more than eighty years since the Council arrived on the scene, the one question that invariably gets thrown aloft during the heat of battle is, "What does the Council do for the sporting community?" It is probably posed as a means of assuring ourselves that the Council brings value to the sporting community. The easiest way to answer the question is to look at what the Council brings to the table.

Most of the issues the Council membership is concerned with – whether it be fish and wildlife management, access to public lands, firearms, other hunting implements and license fees - are all addressed by Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) and by regulations promulgated by the Department of Environmental Conservation. ECL is a product of the legislative process; and the Department's prerogative to regulate fish and wildlife and other natural resources is the result of the authority extended to the agency by the State Legislature. It is largely the State Council that protects our interests during the legislative and regulatory processes.



So the logical question to ask is, "What would life be like for the sportsmen and women here in New York if the Council was not there, working on their behalf?" It would likely not be very pretty.

Because of the influence that New York's urban populations have on state government it can be, and usually is, very difficult to get our message heard in Albany and other places. That we would have a problem getting our message out should not be at all surprising. The state's population is currently estimated to be 19,651,127. With nearly 10.5 million of the state's population living in the state's 62 cities, we have to present a unified force when attempting to articulate the issues, especially when dealing with both houses of the State Legislature.

Can you imagine that anyone would feel so threatened by our presence in the woods that they would amass their forces to block the construction of a four car parking lot several miles off the highway – alongside an existing road – to accommodate reasonable access to a chain of backwoods ponds for people who are not disabled, but don't have the strength or stamina to carry a canoe a third of a mile through the woods to be able to fish or hunt for a day?

That's what we are up against, and it is the Council's presence that is our best hope for reasonable access.

While the NYSCC is not on the forefront of the battle for gun rights, the Council has mustered its forces to support S.C.O.P.E. Inc., in the battle to get the constitutionality of the SAFE Act into court. That highlights the value of various membership organizations and the diversity that they represent. Each of our members, whether a County Federation like the Franklin County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, an Associate member like the New York Houndsmen, or an affiliate like Mid Hudson Valley Fur Harvesters, brings their varied interests and viewpoints to the table. The Council even provides our individual members with a place to be heard.

While it isn't possible for all of the state's sporting organizations and interests to be in Albany dealing with the issues, the Council carries their concerns to Albany for them. In effect, their voices ARE being heard. Keeping the Council strong and active offers the best hope for our voices not just to be heard, but also heeded.

That is why it is so important to deal with the issues as an organized force, with a single and unified voice. When we allow our internal differences to spill out into the street we provide the forces working against us with the opportunity to drive a wedge between us and to use it as a means of demonstrating that we are too divided to know what it is we want.

As is so often the case, it takes money to fight the good fight. The Council cannot do a good job if it doesn't have the money to pay the freight. Rent, phones, paper, postage, computer services, legislative reports, and staff salaries all translate to dollars. It takes money to compete with the forces working against us.

As 2014 draws to a close and 2015 looms on the horizon, each of us has to make a commitment to see that we can meet our expenses so that we can fulfill our mission. There are any number of things that each of us can do, but the most promising and perhaps the one thing that could bear the most fruit is to launch an all-out campaign to get every organization to sign up under the Council's Buck-A-Member Program.

We have no choice; 2015 is going to be a difficult year and it will take resources to get the job done and to secure the future, not just for us, but for the next generation of hunters, anglers and trappers.

If you need help selling the program, ask for it. Be bold. Maybe your request will be turned away, but you won't know until you ask. Maybe the argument will be that, "We can't afford Buck-A-Member." So the question back at them should be, "Then what can we afford because we can't afford to do nothing."

Schroon Lake Fish & Game Club, Inc.

Presents Their 23 Annual Ice Fishing Derby On Schroon Lake

March 7th & 8th, 2015

**Door Prizes
Drawn
Throughout
Derby**

Fish from Daylight Saturday to 4 PM Sunday
Cash Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd will be awarded based on weight for:

TROUT * SALMON * NORTHERN PIKE

Also for the Heaviest Pickerel & Perch

Amount of Cash Prizes based on Number of Entries

Registration \$15.00 Per Person

All cash prizes will be awarded at the club after the 4 PM close of derby on March 8th

For more information or to sign up, please call 518-532-7953 or mail to: S.L. Fish & Game Club, POB 725, Schroon Lake, NY 12870. Provide each entrants; Name, Address & Phone Number.

You may also register in person at the Fish & Game Club before the derby on Fridays 5—9 Pm, Saturdays 12— 7 PM, and Sundays 12—6 PM; also Friday, March 6 from 12—9 PM.

A PASTA DINNER will be served at the club on Saturday, March 7th from 5 Pm till gone.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, & chili will be served on Sunday, March 8th starting at noon.

AWARD WINNER THANKS NYSCC

By Lisa Harrell

I would like to thank the NYS Conservation Council for presenting their Educational Program of the Year Award to the Women in Nature (WIN) program of the Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs. It is the dedication and hard-work of WIN Board members and scores of volunteers from the Federation’s member clubs, organizations supporting Onondaga County Parks and SUNY’s College of Environmental Science and Forestry which have made this free, annual outdoor skills workshop such a successful event for the over 100 women it serves and such an effective educational program of the Federation. In April 2015, we will hold our ninth annual workshop.



I am a good example of how participation in WIN can transform a woman’s confidence, skills and appreciation for nature. I grew up in suburban Los Angeles and never saw or handled a shotgun until 2009. My “outdoors” was mostly buildings, freeways and cement. The closest I got to hunting was seeing it on the opening trailer of the “Beverly Hillbillies” TV program. After a dear friend took me shooting, I went to my first WIN event where I learned to shoot archery, rifle and shotgun. But beyond these skills I have acquired a new love and appreciation for nature like never before. I spend hours in the woods watching the activities of birds and squirrels, checking for deer sign, braving the cold, coping with the physical challenges that outdoor activities bring. As I mastered these experiences, I became more confident and self-reliant. I have introduced my children to the shooting sports. Participation in outdoor sports, as you all know, develops the sportsman’s and woman’s mind, body and spirit and strengthens our connection to nature. I, as do many of the women participating in our outdoor skills workshop, owe our development as sportswomen to WIN and the outdoors men and women who mentored us.

Women, underserved as sports people, need and deserve to be mentored. For those of you who are not quite sure how comfortable you are with women taking up these sports and entering sportsmen’s clubs, let me talk about the benefits all fishermen, hunters and shooting enthusiasts gain by having women join their ranks. Like you, we become stakeholders and your partners in conservation and legislation, and fellow educators in teaching the pleasures nature gives to sportsmen. We pay dues to clubs. We build NYS revenues by purchasing shotguns, shells and gear. These revenues enrich hunting and fishing clubs through dues and donations, provide resources to NYS for wildlife management, and grants for statewide programs.

Editor’s Note: Accepting the NYSCC’s Outdoor Education Program Award for the Women In Nature program of the Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen, Lisa Harrell made these remarks and observations during the Council’s annual awards banquet.

JOSEPH P. DeBERGALIS, JR.
Board of Directors



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ASMFC PRESENTS PATRICK AUGUSTINE PRESTIGIOUS CAPTAIN DAVID H. HART AWARD

Mystic, CT - The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission presented Mr. Patrick Augustine, long-time ASMFC Commissioner from New York and fisheries advocate, the Captain David H. Hart Award, its highest annual award, at the Commission's 73rd Annual Meeting in Mystic, CT. For nearly two decades, Mr. Augustine has passionately committed his time and energy to the betterment of Atlantic coast fisheries at all levels of fisheries management – state, interstate, regional, and federal. Over the past 16 years, he served at the pleasure of four consecutive Governors to represent New York's fishing constituents on the Commission. Over that time, he actively participated on 15 of the Commission's 17 species management boards, and provided leadership as Chair on six of those boards. He also played an important role in elevating the status of ASMFC Legislators and Governor Appointees as equal participants on species management boards, as well as recognizing the outstanding efforts of contributors to our process as a long-standing member of the Awards Committee.



Mr. Augustine served for three consecutive terms as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, participating on over a dozen committees on issues ranging from demersal and coastal migratory species, research set-asides, ecosystem/ocean planning, Magnuson Stevens reauthorization, bycatch and limited access, and highly migratory species. He also represented the Council as an Advisory Committee member to the US Section for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The Council adopted a formal resolution acknowledging his numerous and outstanding accomplishments upon his retirement from the Council in August 2011.

In New York, he has led and been a member of a number of his state's fishing and marine resource organizations, including the New York Sportfishing Federation, Huntington Anglers Club, New York Bight Regional Ocean Science Council, South Shore Estuary Reserve Council, Long Island Sound Estuary Citizens Advisory Committee, Long Island Coastal Advisory Committee, Sea Grant Programs Advisor, and the New York State Boating Advisory Council. And yet, given all these responsibilities he still found time to offer his expertise as a speaker at numerous fishing clubs and special interest groups, and providing valuable input at the Marine Resources Advisory Council.

Throughout it all, Mr. Augustine brought to all his interactions his quick wit and good humor, dedication to fully understanding all the issues brought before him, and commitment to seeking balance among the competing demands of all resource users within fisheries management arena. To the latter point, he was often found talking directly to anglers when forming his position on an issue before the Commission. He is well known for having no reservations about taking those facts up directly at Commission meetings, or going straight to his Governor, Congress, or other elected officials when advocating for a given management action. This approach kept him wholly connected to New York anglers and grounded his positions in real-world facts as few others could. Because of his knowledge and relationships, Mr. Augustine has been at the forefront of resolving countless issues over the years, not only at the Commission, but in his role as a Council member and in countless fishing and conservation organizations.

The Commission instituted the Award in 1991 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding efforts to improve Atlantic coast marine fisheries. The award is named for one of the Commission's longest serving members, who dedicated himself to the advancement and protection of marine fishery resources.

2015 CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

This notice constitutes official call for resolutions for the NYSCC for 2015. All resolutions should be sent to the NYSCC Office by **February 1, 2015**. The Council office address is 8 East Main Street, Ilion, NY 13357-1899. It would be of great help to the Committee if resolutions were submitted early; any resolutions not in the proper form and received by the February 1 deadline will be rejected.

County and Associate members may submit two resolutions, and Affiliate groups may submit one. Each organization submitting a resolution should investigate its facts thoroughly. Be very specific as to what is being requested along with reference to any law, order, policy or regulation. In addition, the resolution should contain reference to who should perform the action requested and by what means (law change, Department order change, request for action, etc.).

Of statewide significance –

To benefit the sportsmen of New York State

By Stephen Wowelko, Chairman, NYSCC Resolution Committee

The resolution process for 2015 is in full swing. As the February 1 deadline approaches, here are some suggestions to help you along in the process.

All resolutions for consideration through NYSCC should be to establish or change a position or policy for the New York State Conservation Council on a matter concerning issues of state-wide significance.

The **title** of the resolution should clearly reflect the intent.

In formulating the resolution, the “**Whereas**” statements should provide the basic facts and reasons for the resolution. The information should be specific, and provide answers to such questions as: Why is the change necessary? What are the facts leading to the final request? It should provide or reference statistics and the effect of the issue. What is the rationale for the “resolved” course of action?

The “**Be It Resolved:**” should clearly spell out what it is you wish to achieve.

The primary purpose of a resolution is to delineate a position for the New York State Conservation Council on a matter not otherwise covered concerning policies, principles, or precedent of state-wide significance. Resolutions are policy declarations and are not meant to solve local problems unless all other avenues of remedy have been exhausted on the local level.

The final submitted resolution should be polished, well thought out and not a draft work in progress.

The resolutions are to be submitted by the organization’s official councilman to the NYSCC.

Resolutions coming from other individuals or directly from Federation clubs will not be accepted. The resolution should contain contact information for the councilman – name, address, phone number and email address. The councilman will be the primary contact for any questions the Resolution Committee may have about the resolution.

Resolutions are due at the NYSCC main office by **February 1, 2015**. It is preferred that they be sent electronically to nyscc@nyscc.com or if the councilman does not have email access it may be sent on paper through the US Post Office to the following address:

NYSCC (Resolutions)
8 East Main Street
Ilion, NY 13357-1899





Buck A Member Contributors:

- Ben Miller Hunting Club, Buffalo
- Fenner Conservation Club, Morrisville
- Mad River Club, Pulaski
- Neighbor's Gun Club, Rhinebeck
- Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club, Corfu

MATCHING BAM!

Livingston County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has generously donated matching funds for all contributions made to NYSCC by its member clubs in 2014. Livingston County challenges other federations to do likewise for 2015.

General Donation Contributors:

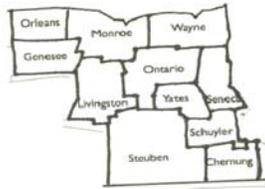
- Federation of Dutchess County Fish & Game Clubs, Hyde Park
- Finger Lakes Conservation Council, Penn Yan
- Schenectady County Conservation Council, Scotia

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Representing County Federations and Affiliate Clubs
of New York State Region 8

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- Genesee Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Livingston Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Monroe Co. Conservation Council
- Ontario Co. Fed. Of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Orleans Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
- Seneca Co. Fed. of Sportsmen's Clubs
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E-mail: jcushman@juno.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE...



January 10: **Erie County Trappers Association** Fur Handling Seminar 9-1pm at Collins Conservation Club, Conger Rd. Learn better techniques to preparing pelts (Pelting, Fleshing, Stretching, Sizing and Drying) . Kid's games and raffle. Trap Supplies, Fur Hats and items for sale from Hoot's Furs. Fur buyer available after demo. Contact Hoot 716/532-2457 or Patti 716/337-2556.

January 23-25: **Greater Niagara Fishing & Outdoor Expo** at the Convention and Event Center, Niagara Falls. Contact info: 716/278-2100 or info@niagarafishingexpo.com. To include hunting and shooting sports marketplace. All proceeds from tables to benefit Youth Shooting Sports and Youth Fishing in WNY. Contact Bill Hilts, Jr. at 716/282-8992 Ext. 303; email: bill@niagara-usa.com.

January 24: **Black Lake Ice Fishing Derby** at Black Lake Fish & Game Assn. Open boundaries; weigh in closes at 4 p.m. Register from 6-8 p.m. Friday at the club, before fishing Saturday or at participating local bait shops and businesses.

Club address: 1 Gilmour Road, Brier Hill. Visit us online: www.BLFGA.org

February 6-8: The **8th Annual Coyote Hunt Contest** sponsored by the Federation Of Sportsmen's Clubs of Sullivan County, NY Inc. **Please Note Change for 2015 - Hunt or Trapped!**

This contest is for coyotes hunted or trapped & taken only in New York State. Early registration fee is \$35.00. Besides the cash prizes, the entry fee includes, a free banquet dinner & a free \$5.00 four gun raffle ticket. Entry fees must be post-marked by January 26, 2015. A late registration fee of \$40.00 will be accepted up to 7 PM on February 3, 2015. For registration and rules of the 3-day Coyote Hunt Contest contact the Federation Coyote Hunt Secy. Kay Danchak, 122 Jaketown Road, Swan Lake 12783 or call Kay or Jack @ 845/482-4987. For further information call Federation Secy. Linda @ 845/482-4985 or Pat Voges @ 631/968-8210. You can download the application from our web site: www.sullivancountysportsmensfederationny.com.

HELP WANTED



The NYSCC is looking for a few good people to "man the booth" at the upcoming New York Sportsman's Show at the Syracuse OnCenter, January 16-18, 2015. Show hours are Friday 5p-9p; Saturday 9a-7p; Sunday 9a-6p, and help is needed during all times. If the show is already on your calendar, donate a few hours to assist the Council while there. If it's not (yet) on your to-do list, help out the NYSCC and see what the show has to offer either before or after your shift. Contact President Chuck Parker to volunteer for an available time: 315/963-8413.



The NYS Conservation Council acknowledges Joe Monaster's donation of custom knives and holsters for its fundraising efforts. Joe's workmanship in steel, leather and bone is exceptional; his creations are works of art.

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New Members

DEFENDER MEMBER:

Oasis Sportsmen, Mahopac

GUARDIAN MEMBER:

Monte Kennedy, Ashville

WORKING TOGETHER...WE WILL PREVAIL!

By Joseph P. DeBergalis, Jr.

As a Life Member of the New York State Conservation Council, Vice President of the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association and Board Member of the National Rifle Association, I wanted to take this opportunity to salute NYSCC President Chuck Parker, the NYSCC Board, the committee members and the membership for their determined commitment to ensure our rights and abilities to experience New York's outdoor shooting sports and hunting heritage.

My family raised me under the adage, "there is no single greater force than the single force of one" when working to solve problems. Therefore, it should surprise no one that I took heed of Chuck's call for a cooperative effort by all of us who share the common goal of protecting our rights and outdoor heritage to work "together as one" to address our pending challenges.

Joining together provided the opportunity for old and tired "concerns" of "this organization" or "that association" to be cast aside in favor of a united pledge to what really drives all of us ... the singular focus on our God-given rights and our ability to go afield in pursuit of our heritage. From here we need to continue sharpening our working relationships to include every county federation and state organization that shares our common cause. It doesn't matter to which group you belong because the reality is that we are all striving to succeed in our common mission, goals and values.

Given the situation that has befallen us all, please accept my personal thanks for everything each of you has done on behalf of the cause of freedom. Your emails, letters, telephone calls and attendance at every rally across the state truly have made a difference.

Working together, we have sent an unequivocal message that we will no longer accept the status quo from either political party when it comes to our constitutional rights. We educated our political leaders in a manner that illustrates to them that not only are we responsible for generating billions of dollars across this nation in pursuit of our passions, but we also lend our fellow man a "helping hand" with programs such as the outstanding Hunters Helping the Hungry. United under the common banner of freedom, with the shield of the Constitution at the ready, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

While we have been successful, let's not forget that we still have many challenges ahead. Those who would limit our ability to exercise our rights are regrouping. They will again mount another attempt to limit our freedoms under the guise of public safety. But unlike previous years, united as we are today and thanks to all of you ... the results will be quite different.

Thanks again, Chuck, for your inspired leadership and for the hard work of everyone involved. There certainly isn't a single greater force ... especially since we are now all working as one!

Editor's Note: Joe DeBergalis is seeking the support of NYSCC members in his bid for re-election to the National Rifle Association Board of Directors. For those eligible to vote, ballots will appear in the February issue of your NRA magazine. In addition to his many activities and memberships, Joe has filed an application to represent Region 9 on the NYSCC's Firearms & Ammunition Committee. To contact Joe directly, please email him at firstfreedom@live.com



IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER, JOIN TODAY!

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 (OR) Club Name _____
 Address _____
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 Email (print clearly) _____

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**NYSCC
 8 East Main Street
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