

**MAY 2024 TRAPLINE
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MICHIGAN TRAPPERS AND PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MARK SPENCER

First, I want to clarify a rumor that is still going around. I voted at the furbearer work group meeting in September of 2023 to maintain the coyote season year-round. The NRC has chosen to reduce the season due to social pressure. We the MTPCA are appealing that decision in court. This will cost money we have set up ways to donate to this action on our website or Facebook page. MUCC is also appealing the decision, but they are doing it in Ingham County we are doing it in Mackinac County. Elections are coming up this August, the offices of President, Recording Secretary, Predator Caller Outreach, Zone 2 Vice President, Regional directors for Zones 1 & 2. If anyone would like to run for these offices contact Carl Roeller as he is the committee chairman.

Vice President Report Carl Roeller

Editors Note: Carl has been very busy with running the Legal Defense Fund 1st Annual Auction. This auctions proceeds go directly into our defense fund for our ongoing and upcoming legal battles. This will be an annual event so please if you have any hunts, taxidermy, trapline adventures or anything outdoor related to donate please reach out to Carl for the next auction.

NTA Report Kenneth (Bernie) Burzynski.

NTA Directors Report

Hi everyone hope everybody's doing well. I will just touch base with a little bit that's going around the country. Colorado people are trying to put a term in there called trophy hunting to stop the harvest of Bobcats and Mountain Lion

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and not look at the foundation of Science-Based wildlife management.

Look at New Mexico lost there trapping rights. Senate Bill 32 was just passed banning trapping on all public lands and private lands leased by any state agency for any purpose.

You might say well that does not pertain to me but, it does that's some what the start . Vermont's trying to revise a bill in favor of anti

hunting. Heck we even

have it here in The Great State of Michigan antis are trying to reform a hunting season with out scientific data.

Their not going away their just going to keep picking away.

So please join the NTA right now they have the best lobbyist in the fight to support

trapping please keep up your membership.

Michigan right now has the most members in the NTA support MTPCA put some volunteer time in folks.

In saying a lot of people have bin working there butts off with what's going on in

Michigan right now show a little support and volunteer some time to help.

NTA Director for MTPCA

Ken(Bernie) Burzunski

FTA Report/Secretary Report Craig Schafer

Secretary---FTA Affiliate--10-B-Rep

Craig Schafer

MTPCA has the following.

Zone 1 has 2 Director Vacancies

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Zone 3 has 1 Director Vacancy

The MTPCA Raffle will be finished by May 1st. By May 1 st tickets will be on sale, contact Lee & Heather Iverson, the new raffle coordinators. Or any board member to make a purchase.

The MTPCA will have a booth at the Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival, at Bay City. August 2-3-4, 2024. Tickets will be available there.

FTA 56 Annual Rendezvous

June 13-15 , 2024

Rockingham County Fairgrounds

4808 South Valley Pike

Harrisonburg, VA. 22801

<https://www.furtakersofamerica.com/index.html>

For up to date on any FTA news, happenings and doings. Visit the FTA Web Page or FB.

FTA is for the Trappers and Predator Callers.

If you are not a member, join.

MUCC Director Report-Mark Earl

MUCC Annual Convention

It was another important year for us at the MUCC Annual Convention. The MTPCA was well represented and it didn't go unnoticed.

The convention is where MUCC's policy resolutions are voted on and shape the focus for the upcoming year.

There is a lot of time to network with the other user groups and sportsmans clubs from around the state.

We have developed many allies in the outdoor world and this has proven year after year to be mutually beneficial.

This year Proposal G was a big focus and as an association we were able to drum up a ton of support at the convention. The all year coyote season was being threatened and we were able to get an MUCC resolution passed the support the full year season.

We all know that the NRC took that away from us but the key here is that MUCC is now right there with us keeping the fight alive.

If you want to to keep our voice at the forefront, keep your membership active and consider becoming an individual member of MUCC as well.

Mark Earl
MUCC Director

Region 1 Vice President Ed Kramer

Greeting Trappers and Predators Callers i see and hear it's been a mild winter in the U.P mi. Since i been sending the winters here in Florida. Beaver trappers in U.P. are having easy access to beaver with this mild winter and beaver harvest should be up. On the other note NGLFH May meeting is May 16 2024 at 7pm Mark Spencer fur shed, 4552 Spencer lane Moran mi 49760. Thanks Ed Kramer

Region 3 Vice President Joe Velchansky Sr.

Zone 3 Vice Presidents Report

As you read this, trapping season is all but over. I hope you all were able to get out and set at least a few traps this past season. We all don't need to run a long line. Weather you are running 150 traps in a wide loop, or just a few traps out back it can bring the same enjoyment. Being out in nature, looking for animal sign and maybe bringing something back to the skinning shed is all forms of success. The same goes for predator calling. I hope you were able to get out this season and test out your old trusty equipment or maybe a new thermal or new call Santa brought you.

Hopefully there are other members updating you on the NRC fiasco in this issue. I wont even go there in my report.

As vice president of Zone 3 one thing I would like to do is hold a get together. Nothing formal, nothing fancy just a get together to discuss what is happening inside the MTPCA and where we would like to go in the future. You, as a member have a voice. Is there something you would like to see the MTPCA do? Do you have ideas for the association? If so come on out and we can discuss all of this. Then, I will take your concerns, ideas and suggestions to the next board meeting. As a board member we represent predator callers and trappers of the state. We act on your behalf. If you are not happy on the decisions we make, come out and let us know. We as board members try to make good and structured decisions that benefit all of us. This is not my association, or the boards association, it belongs to the members.

The date of this zone 3 get together will be Saturday May 4th. At the Central Michigan Sportsman's Club in Stanton Michigan. 4391E. Stanton rd. Stanton Mi. 48888 Time will be 12:00noon to 4:00pm. This will also be a pot luck luncheon, please bring a dish to pass.

I hope you all can make it. This will be indoors so rain or shine we will be there. Come talk trapping and predator calling with like minded people. Bring your spouse, bring your kids, bring your mother-in-law!

Put your traps away, put your rifle in the gun cabinet, give the Turkeys a rest and come on out to the get together. I look forward to seeing you all there!
Happy Trapping,

Joe Velchansky sr.

Public Relations Director Merle Jones

EDITORS NOTE: Merle has been our point man on the ongoing legal battle for Proposal G and the following is the press release we sent out via Constant Contact. Feel Free to reach out to Merle for any updates.

Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers

Stand To Defend Proposal G

On March 27, 2024, The Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association (MTPCA) filed an appeal in Mackinac County Circuit Court, challenging the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) adoption of Wildlife Conservation Order (WCO) Amendment No. 1 of 2024. MTPCA is represented by Stephen J. van Stempvoort, Miller Johnson, Grand Rapids MI. As part of WCO Amendment No. 1, the NRC voted 4-2 (with one commissioner absent) at its March 14, 2024 meeting to close the Michigan coyote hunting season from April 15 th to July

15 th as a response to complaints about social perceptions and the associated political fears of repercussions from animal rights and anti-hunting groups.

This vote, based upon social perceptions as opposed to “principles of sound scientific management” is a direct assault on the heart and soul of Proposal G. Proposal G was enacted in 1996, by a vote of the people (68.7% for), to ensure via state statute that Michigan’s Natural Resources are managed based upon sound science instead of political pressure.

If the NRC’s decision, based upon social perception, to reduce the citizens ability to effectively manage Michigan’s continually problematic coyote population is not challenged, and reversed, the damage to Proposal G may be irreversible.

MTPCA stands in defense of Proposal G, Michigan’s natural resources and wildlife, and the liberty of each and every citizen of the great state of Michigan.

<https://www.mtpca.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557570893719>

<https://mucc.org/>

Fur Sale Director Report Calvin Miller

The following is from the April fur sale in Gaylord MI

SPECIES SUMMARY

Species	Amount	High	Low	Average
BADGER	1	\$22.50	\$22.50	\$22.50
BEAVER	673	\$55.00	\$2.25	\$30.50
BEAVER CASTOR	14	\$240.00	\$10.00	\$94.64

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BEAVER OIL SACKS 1	\$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00
BOBCAT 9	\$125.00 \$70.00 \$85.00
COYOTE 61	\$44.00 \$1.00 \$11.04
FOX - GRAY 1	\$20.00 \$20.00 \$20.00
FOX - RED 9	\$25.00 \$7.00 \$16.89
MINK - FEMALE 12	\$6.00 \$3.00 \$4.33
MINK - MALE 21	\$13.50 \$3.00 \$8.12
MUSKRAT 972	\$5.25 \$0.25 \$3.39
OPOSSUM 8	\$3.00 \$1.00 \$2.00
OTTER 25	\$57.50 \$22.50 \$41.32
RACCOON 246	\$11.50 \$0.25 \$3.83
SKUNK 7	\$17.50 \$9.00 \$16.00
SQUIRREL 3	\$0.50 \$0.50 \$0.50
BEAVER-TAILS 3	\$6.00 \$1.00 \$2.67
SKULLS 9	\$20.00 \$2.00 \$8.61
SQUIRREL-TAILS 3	\$22.50 \$0.50 \$7.83

Membership Secretary Report Steve Campbell

April Trapline

Membership Secretary Report

I hope this find every one well and having had a good season. As season winds down and we look forward to summer and convention season it is good to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished and what we want to accomplish. We are setting at about 532 members so please make sure to renew your membership if you haven't done so. We are always looking for ways to grow our membership and we recently started out with Constant Contact to be able to reach out to our members quickly and efficiently. Please be looking in your email inboxes for emails from the association. As always if there are any questions about memberships or magazine subscriptions feel free to reach out to me.

TIGHT CHAINS AND STRAIGHT SHOOTING,

STEVE CAMPBELL

MTPCA MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Hello,

As we all know with fur prices down and gas prices soaring memberships are down and we are looking for any opportunity to help grow the membership during this time. In order to do so we are looking forward to doing a membership drive for new members with the guarantee to win free MTPCA gear and a chance at some great prizes for both trappers and predator callers alike. This drive will start at our yearly convention on August 18th, 2023 and go through to our yearly convention in August 2024. The drawing winners will be picked at the yearly convention in Evert. I look forward to seeing how hard the trapping and predator hunting community can work in order to help raise memberships to help secure our future in trapping and predator hunting here in Michigan.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE Drawing

SIGN UP 1 NEW MEMBER = 1 Entry for Drawing

Sign up 5 New Members = 5 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a free Coffee Mug or Sticker

Sign up 10 new Members = 10 Entries for Drawing Plus Get A Free license plate or patch and above

Sign up 15 New Members = 15 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a Free T-shirt and above

Sign up 20 New Members = 20 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a Free Hat and above

Sign up 30 New Members = 30 Entries for Drawing Plus Get a Free Hoodie and above

Sign up 34 New Members = Free lifetime membership (this is available to all members except board members) as well as above

Please send size information as well as choice of prize with new member information

New Members will have to be signed up by July 24TH. They also must include your name as reference in order for you to get credit for new members. Drawing will be drawn at yearly convention, you need not be present to win. There will be a total of ten winners with five being trapping prizes and five being predator caller prizes. You must select one group of prizes when sending in new member information.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY STEVE CAMPBELL @ scampbell@mtpca.com

Prizes for Membership Drive

Trapping Prizes

Grand Prize- Sponsored BY PCS OUTDOORS. AUSABLE BRAND SKINNING KNIFE PACKAGE

1ST PRIZE- Sponsored by Ralph from J&K Fur Exchange Trap Package 4 DUKE 550s, 4 110s 4 Duke DPs

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2nd Prize Sponsored by Ernest Winter from Winter Wildlife Control Bait and Lure- Package of both Land and Water Baits and Lures

3rd Prize Sponsored by Jim Tate from Wolfen Bait and Lures- Package of both Land and Water Baits and Lures

4th Prize Sponsored by Hagz Trapline Product Package

Predator Caller Prizes

Grand Prize- Sponsored by FNT POST ICOTec Helion Programmable Electronic Game Caller

1st Prize- Sponsored by Paul Cianciolo from Predator Hunter Outdoors NightSnipe NS750 IR Illuminator Hunting Light Kit

2nd Prize Bog Tripod Sponsored by Williams Gun Sight INC

3rd Prize Hand/Mouth Call Package Sponsored by D&R Sports

4th Shoulder Drag Sponsored by and from KT CORDS

THE MTPCA WANTS TO THANK THE SPONSORS FOR THE GRACIOUS DONATIONS TO HELP OUT THE ASSOCIATION AND GIVE OUR MEMBERS THE CHANCES AT SOME WONDERFUL PRIZES

Sponsors Links

J3 Outdoorz

<https://j3o.com>

Wolfen Bait and Lures

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057188991280>

Winter Wildlife Control

<https://www.winterwildlifecontrolbaitandlure.com/>

J&K FUR EXCHANGE

Phone: [\(989\) 756-2473](tel:(989)756-2473) **Address** 2893 M-65, Whittemore, MI 48770

PCS OUTDOORS

<https://www.pcsoutdoors.com/>

KT CORDS

https://www.facebook.com/p/KTs-Cords-Accessories-100057212059477/?paipv=0&eav=AfawwNCZvLDcfWdj2NFQEUI_D87R-Z6HFjCu_rlOd7sowJXgL-9BSUK-dXW4B-dTkks&_rdr

D&R SPORTS

<https://dandrsports.com/>

WILLIAMS GUN SIGHT

<https://williamsgunsight.com/>

Predator Hunter Outdoors

<https://www.predatorhunteroutdoors.com/>

FNT POST

<https://www.fntpost.com/>

THE **MTPCA** AND **PCSOUTDOORS** ARE PROUD TO PARTNER UP TO OFFER NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS A *ONE-TIME DISCOUNT FOR BEING A MEMBER OF THE MICHIGAN TRAPPER AND PREDATOR CALLER ASSOCIATION.* THE FOLLOWING

CODE [MTPCA10](#) WILL BE VALID FOR ALL
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS FOR A
[10%](#) DISCOUNT AT [PCSOUTDOORS](#). YOU
MUST CALL [989-569-3480](tel:989-569-3480) WE THANK
[PCS](#) AND THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT
FOR TRAPPING AND PREDATOR
HUNTING IN THE GREAT STATE OF
MICHIGAN.

MICHIGAN TRAPPERS & PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW RENEWAL W/O CHANGE RENEWAL WITH CHANGE

_____ \$25 YEAR -Regular Membership * Memberships Run from Jan 1st to Dec 31st

_____ \$250- Senior Lifetime Membership

_____ \$850- Lifetime Membership

_____ \$10 – Junior (age 15 and younger)

All adult memberships receive Trap Line (email newsletter quarterly), Online Michigan Out of Doors, Fur Sale and Voting Privileges

OPTIONAL MAGAZINES OFFERED AT DISCOUNT

_____ \$12- Trapper and Predator Caller (10 issues Per Year)

_____ \$18- Trappers World (6 issues per Year)

_____ \$14- Trapper's Post (6 issues per Year)

_____ \$25 Woods-n-Water News (12 issues per Year)

_____ **Total** (Make Checks Payable to **MTPCA**)

****New This Year Please Reference Member That Signed You Up****

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone # _____

Zip _____ County _____

***Email Address* All Email Info Remains Private** We utilize email to communicate with members about pertinent info regarding our heritage, bills that will impact our sport and to email Trap Line via Constant Contact

EMAIL: _____

Residency Zone

Zone 1 (Upper Peninsula) Zone 2 (Northern Lower) Zone 3 (Lower Mich)

Zone 4 (Out of State)

PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL TO STEVE CAMPELL
4322 HURON ST NORTH BRANCH, MI 48461

Convention Coordinator Report Jon Southworth & Jocelyn Southworth

Greetings, Trappers, Friends, and Family,

We have exciting news to share with you! Joe Velchansky has stepped down as Convention Coordinator, and my daughter and I have taken on the responsibility of organizing this year's convention. We want to thank Joe for his ten years of dedication, which have helped make the convention some of the best experiences for members.

Following Joe's successful strategy, we are already planning for this year's event. However, we would appreciate your help improving this year's convention. Do you have any suggestions about who should set up a booth at our convention? You can also set up a tailgating booth or interior booth if you have traps or other items to sell. There is plenty of space for everyone.

We are currently accepting reservations for volunteers in all open positions. We need your help to make this year's convention a great success. Please let us know if you want to volunteer by contacting me at JonSouthworth@sbcglobal.net. If not, you can also send a letter with your information, a business card, or business contact information to MTPCA Convention Coordinator PO BOX 342 Bath, MI 48808. We will be happy to invite them.

I am committed to filling Joe's shoes, and with your help, we can make this year's convention an unforgettable experience for everyone. Let's work together to make it happen!

I appreciate your support,
MTPCA Convention Coordinator

Jon & Jocelyn Southworth

Predator Caller Outreach Mitchel McEachern

I'm Mitchell the Predator Caller Outreach Director. I live in Traverse City and own FPS Archery & Firearms in Cadillac. I have been calling coyotes for over 15 years now.

Lately, I have been working closely with Merle on the coyote regulations topic. Merle and myself took Tom Baird coyote hunting at night this past winter. I've attended the past 2 NRC meetings in Lansing and spoke in support of a 12 month coyote season with factual evidence and data. I've spent the past 4 months doing considerable late evening research to present to the commissioners and aided Merle in the efforts to oppose this new coyote hunting season. Merle and myself wrote the written comment submitted to the NRC by our Stephen, our legal counsel.

Merle and myself wrote a lengthy email to Cody Norton, Sara Thompson, and Chief Haines on our interpretation of the nuisance guidelines for the closed coyote season which the DNR was receptive of and swung some interpretations in our favor, and some not. The interpretations that were not swung in our favor, we had our first of many zoom meetings with Cody, Sara, and Jason to discuss getting them opened in our favor.

I recently spoke at the Traverse City SCI banquet in regards to the coyote season to ask for support.

My time in this position has been largely taken by assisting Merle with this topic of the coyote season. As regards to outreach, I am diligently working on voicing the new guidelines to hunters as best as I can while taking a dozen or so phone calls a week to explain the closed season nuisance guidelines to hunters.

SOCIAL MEDIA: FRIEND, FOE OR SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN?

When items are listed in order normally the most important things on the list come first, correct? In my opinion the first thing listed is the piece that everything else either builds off of or lends support too. Such is the case with our Bill of Rights here in America, the freedom of speech is the #1 most important thing in America and it being ensured is what sets us apart from the rest of the world. With that being said, all members of the board, especially myself, feel the same way. That we cannot, nor do we want too, infringe upon any one member's rights to free speech even on social media. With the technological advances and the amount of people interconnected today the world moves at a faster pace with more connections between people (at least at a surface level) with the proliferation of different types of social media. This is why I am writing this article today, even those that are the most secure with their choice of friends and privacy settings still truly don't know the exact motive behind any one person on a computer screen, nor do they know if that person is who they say they truly are. So, we must weigh the benefits of social media to the potential risks of it to see where we really lie in it, and every person should do the same in their own mind as well.

FRIEND

The benefits of social media are tremendous when used properly. It allows users to connect with friends across the world, meet new people and share information. I wouldn't be half the trapper that I am without my constant perusing of Facebook sites like Trapping Talk, MTPCAs own Facebook page, or the countless other pages I follow and participate in. These sites allowed me a plethora of information to chew my teeth on in first starting out in this endeavor called trapping. As I progressed in skill level it also allowed me a chance to showcase my successes, as well as my frustrations and my defeats. All of which came with support, some great advice, some bad advice and all in all a sense of community. That sense of community has then led me to befriend several people on social media and to follow along on their own trapping/hunting adventures as well. With luck I've also got to know several of these people in the real world as well and consider them my friends at FTA and NTA conventions. The good of social media when used properly allows the trapping and hunting community an avenue to help educate the general public on what we do, why we do it and how we do it. It also allows for newbies at the sport to gather large amounts of data and advice when they are first starting out and truly helps shorten the learning curve. And lastly it allows a great sense of community that we all share in our common ground of living the life of a hunter and trapper.

FOE

The argument for social media being a foe does not have to look any farther than what is currently upon us all right now, social media pictures were used as a catalyst to take away some of our year-long coyote hunting season. These pictures showcased the sport in a negative light, especially to that of the general public. However, we aren't the only state that has social media come and cause issues in our fight to keep our tradition alive. Colorado is one of the states that has very strict trapping and hunting regulations, and a Facebook friend of mine who had his own pictures and videos from social media used at a meeting fighting to take away the little rights they had left, which caused him to turn his mind of what and how he posts on social media. I asked him to write a statement about that and this is

what Rich Tunget, of Colorado said, "In the landscape we are currently in where we are the vast minority in way of sportsman the need for personal policing must happen. We are our own worst enemy when it comes to social media, the pictures we post are not only detrimental to ourselves but can be used to fuel the fire of the environmental groups which are way more passionate about taking our ability to manage wildlife than sportsman are in protecting it. Sportsman are a valuable resource when it comes to sound wildlife management and as so by removing or restricting sportsman it is a loss for all, including the wildlife we so desperately try to help manage for a healthy future."

Conclusion

There is no one true answer whether or not social media is a friend or a foe when it comes to trapping and hunting and the public image that we portray through it. The only thing that I can emphasize is that all of us as individual actors must try to our utmost to portray our given passions in a positive light when posting on social media. The administrators of these social media pages want pictures and videos posted of people out there enjoying the sport that they love, but at the same time certain guidelines should be followed. Each site will have its own differing set of standards and its up to all of the groups' admins to make sure to police the pages continuously to ensure that no bad apples spoil the rest of the bushel. My own personal guidelines go as follows; 1) NO ACCIDENTAL/NON-TARGET CATCHES, 2) MINIMAL BLOOD OR GORE, 3) IF I'D BE EMBARRASSED TO HAVE THIS SHOWN TO MY GRANDMOTHER THEN I'M NOT POSTING IT 4) ALWAYS TRY TO BE GRATEFUL TO THE ANIMAL THAT YOU'VE HARVESTED AND SHOW IT RESPECT.

I don't want to set up on a soap box and preach down to our members and tell them not to post the things they want. I fully believe in free speech and adamantly always side of the side of free speech.

However, I hope that this article gets our members thinking about what and how they post pictures and videos of their hunts and trophies knowing that 10% of people will know what hunting truly is (conservation at its finest), 10% of people will hate you for existing (anti's mind will never change) but the 80% of the rest only sees what you post at face value and I hope that your picture or video does not come back around to cause any more loss of hunting and trapping rights!

THANK YOU STEVE CAMPBELL *TRAPLINE EDITOR*

Press Release To Membership About Financial Changes

Hello to our membership and to those interested in joining our association or wanting to donate to the "legal defense fund" to help assist in the financial burden of fighting for our rights as trappers and hunters in the state of Michigan. As many of you are aware the donation link to the legal defense fund has been "down" for a couple of weeks and there is an air of discontent arising in getting something back up and running. I wanted to reach out to all of you to explain the processes at hand that caused the previous link to go down, as well as inform you of the work that is happening behind the scenes in order to get a secure, financial soluble and industry standard manner in which to do so.

The link that was taken "down" was done so by three major things. #1 First and foremost, fraud is an ever-prevalent issue and as soon as the link went active within the first 24 hours we received 2 "bad actor" fraud attempts totaling \$440. These "bad actor" schemes send money over to donation sites and attempt to intimidate and or threaten members of the board to send money to "their" charity or donation. Then they proceed to "charge back" the amount that they donated. Out of the opening weekend of the link going live (\$1300 raised \$500 of which was one individual donor) almost half of the incoming funds were fraudulent. That was a glaring red flag for the financial institution. Secondly, we had several donations that required multiple attempts to run a card through before the members had to reach out to their own bank before the bank would allow that to go through. Second red flag. Lastly, our previous business model for fundraising has mainly been through checks, money orders, or cash spread out throughout the year at events the association attends; or, in one large lump sum after the large conventions (NTA, FTA and our own MTPCA Yearly Convention in Evert). This was the final red flag that caused the financial institution that we were utilizing for this payment processing to completely shut down the account and hold it and all funds in lieu of an investigation to ensure that the funds were appropriately being used for our non-profit and that we weren't partaking or being "used" for money laundering. We are currently in the process of the appeal to get the funds deposited into our account that were not fraudulent and since we used a payment processing that was FDIC Insured those funds will become available to us, which would not have been the case if we had used 3rd party payment processes such as Paypal or Venmo. **SO THE MONEY YOU HAVE ALREADY DONATED IS SECURE AND WILL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE LEGAL DEFENSE FUND!!!!** It will take some time to process the appeal but our treasurer is working closely with our banker to ensure that its is efficiently handled in a timely manner.

That brings us to where we are now and where we are moving forward. Due to the issue discussed above the board felt that the lack of communication from our financial institution and the delay at getting us the information of what was occurring that it would be best to look out and find a new path forward. We are in the process of switching over all our financial dealings to Chase Bank. They have the associations best interest in mind with the options that come standard with our accounts that our previous institution was dragging their feet in setting up (ACH Payment and Receiving, Online Payment Processing for Non Profits for both Membership and Donations, In person Payment Processing Machines with better rates and fees to allow credit/debit card use at events) and most importantly and vital to our financial plan moving forward Chase is providing us with a single point of contact of a relationship management team to streamline the process of communicating within the financial institution and our varied and diversified needs. This key part has allowed us to move forward quickly in setting up both a payment processing account for our General fund (Membership and Donations) as well as an account for a directed donation to the Legal Defense Fund. Once these accounts become active the association has been gifted a method of utilizing a member's website development company to streamline the process of setting up a "cart" for the general fund that will allow members the opportunity to sign up, renew, magazine subscriptions and offer automatic renewal functionality as well as setting up a site for legal defense fund directed donations. These two things will be directly and **ONLY BE LOCATED ON OUR WEBSITE. This is to limit the amount of possibilities of fraud so we don't end up in the same situation we are currently in.** This will be done in short manner as we are finalizing the accounts with Chase as I write this report, and links to the website and the secured method of payment processing will be released as soon as they become active to our members via constant contact as well as being posted on any association social media page or site.

In conclusion, the board and myself would like to offer our thanks for being patient with us as we are bringing the association into the 21st century and have had a few road bumps along the way. As always if there are any questions feel free to reach out to any of the board members and they can send you to the appropriate one if they do not have the answers themselves. I look forward to continuing to working for and with each and every individual member as we fight for our rights here in Michigan and across the nation.

Also, in other news through the tireless efforts of the board members using our partnerships within both the National Trappers Association and the Fur Takers of America both organizations have stepped up to help fight the good fight here in Michigan. NTA President John Daniels has pledged \$2500 to our cause after their board meeting and FTA President Jason Wisniewski has pledged \$2500 as well after their board meeting

Yours in solidarity of conservation,

Steve Campbell

MTPCA Membership Secretary

MICHIGAN TRAPPER AND PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS-MEMBER OR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF MICHIGAN TRAPPER AND PREDATOR CALLERS ASSOCIATION AND MAJORING IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD.

I. PERSONAL DATA

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

PRESENT ADDRESS _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS _____

II. EDUCATIONAL RECORD

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED _____ GRADUATION DATE _____

COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY YOU ARE ATTENDING/PLANNING TO ATTEND _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY ADDRESS _____

CLASS STATUS NEXT FALL (CIRCLE ONE) FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE JUNIOR SENIOR GRADUATE STUDENT

EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE _____ CURRENT GPA _____

MAJOR _____ MINOR _____

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III. BACKGROUND

ARE YOU A CURRENT MEMBER OF A STATE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION? _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE NTA OR FTA? _____

IS A MEMBER OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY A MEMBER OF NTA OR FTA _____

NAME OF MEMBER _____ RELATIONSHIP _____

IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING ON SEPARATE PAGES;

1. DESCRIBE 3 THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGED IN THE WAY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN
MANAGES WILDLIFE.

2. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MORE RESTRICTIVE GUN CONTROL REGULATIONS?

3. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT?

4. DESCRIBE YOUR SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM GOALS AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU HAVE MADE THESE
DECISIONS.

ATTACH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS, WORK HISTORY AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WISH.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Mark Spencer, N4552 Spencer Lane, Moran, MI 49760

ANNUAL DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: JULY 1 ST, 2024

MTPCA Contact Info

Governing Board

President: Mark Spencer - Email mspencer@mtpca.com

Executive Vice President: Carl Roeller Email croeller@mtpca.com

Region 1 Vice President: Ed Kramer - Email ekramer@mtpca.com

Region 2 Vice President: Dale Thorne Email dthorne@mtpca.com

Region 3 Vice President: Joe Velchansky Sr - Email jvelchansky@mtpca.com

Treasurer: Alyssa Campbell - Email acampbell@mtpca.com

Membership Secretary: Steve Campbell - Email scampbell@mtpca.com

Recording Secretary: Craig Schafer - Email cschafer@mtpca.com

Convention Coordinator: Jon Southworth – Email jsouthworth@mtpca.com

Public Relations: Merle Jones - Email mjones@mtpca.com

Fur Sale Director: Calvin Miller - Email cmiller@mtpca.com

NTA Director: Ken “Bernie” Burzynski - Email kburzynski@mtpca.com

FTA Director: Craig Schafer Email cschafer@mtpca.com

Director- Predator Calling Outreach: Mitchell McEachern

Trapline Editor: Steve Campbell - Email scampbell@mtpca.com

M.U.C.C. Director: Mark Earl - Email mearl@mtpca.com

Director at Large Inventory: Lisa Bagalay - Email lbagalay@mtpca.com

Director at Large, Raffle Coordinator: Lee and Heather Iverson

Director at Large, Landowner Assistance: Joe Velchansky Sr - Email jvelchansky@mtpca.com

Director at Large, Predator Caller Outreach: Erick Trombly Email etrombly@mtpca.com

Region 1 - Upper Peninsula DNR Zone 1

Regional Vice President: Ed Kramer - Email ekramer@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Vacant

Regional Director: Vacant

Region 2 - DNR Zone 2

Regional Vice President: Dale Thorne – Email dthorne@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Ernest Winters – Email ewinters@mtpca.com

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Regional Director: Matthew Schalk – Email mschalk@mtpca.com

Regional Director – Brad Branda – Email bbranda@mtpca.com

Region 3 - DNR Zone 3

Regional Vice President: Joe Velchansky Sr - Email jvelchansky@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Jack Longstreet - Email jlongstreet@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Jim Tate - Email jtate@mtpca.com

Regional Director: Vacant

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to take a minute to thank each and every trapper and predator caller out there in Michigan, whether they are a member or not of the MTPCA. Why you might ask? It is because here in Michigan, we have the most members in the National Trapping Association of any state. After speaking with Bernie, our wonderful NTA Director, I was able to come up with some numbers of how many of Michigan's residents are part of the NTA. We are averaging right around 900 members. With a total membership that averages between 8,000-9,000 members that means we are between 10-11% of a national organizations base!!! That means we are actively having a positive impact on helping an organization that is at the forefront nationally to protect our rights!

Now, here comes the bad news. With the latest by-law amendment that went through the NTA there was a dismal turnout of actual votes returned to the organization. With almost 9000 members less than 400 total votes were properly returned in time to be counted! That is a mere 4.4%. This isn't just a national organization problem either. Having sat on the election committee last year I can tell you there was a return of less than 40 ballots out of the 650+ that were sent out. That's a whopping 6.2%. This type of apathy is detrimental to the organizations that we are part of for many reasons! First off it doesn't get a true polling of where and what the rank-and-file members truly want. I hear and see more and more people complaining about decisions and programs that organizations are doing but with no true input beforehand there is no way for organizations to make the members they serve proud. Voter apathy throughout all of sportsmen isn't just inherent to the votes regarding their associated memberships. It also correlates to the greater aspect of voting in local, state and federal elections as well. As user groups that provide the largest amount of money for conservation throughout North America, hunters, fishermen, and trappers do a horrendous job of getting out there and voicing their citizenly duty of participating in elections by VOTING! This inactivity has a drastic impact on our rights that we are so staunchly fighting for. Pressure from anti-hunting groups is a never-ending barrage, even when things seem quiet on their front, they are still actively working on destroying the base of the hobbies we all love to participate in, be it at a national, state or local level! We are seeing this currently in the situation with the NRC and the fight over Proposal G, now the anti-hunting fight will be a constant in Michigan for years to come. This is going to require that we, as outdoorsmen and conservationists actively and vigorously participate in elections at all levels! So, we can elect the people to represent us at all levels of government to hopefully stem the tide against the antis! **GET OUT THERE AND VOTE AT ALL LEVELS!**

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WITH THAT BEING SAID ELECTIONS FOR THE MTPCA ARE COMING UP AND A BALLOT ISSUE OF THE TRAPLINE WILL BE GOING OUT SOON! IF YOU WANT TO RUN FOR ONE OF THE POSITIONS PLEASE CONTACT VICE PRESIDENT CARL ROELLER TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT! I WILL BE RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT.

HAVE A WONDERFULL OFF SEASON, GET OUT TO THE CONVENTIONS AND WE WILL SEE YOU ON DOWN THE LINE!

STEVE CAMPBELL

TRAPLINE EDITOR