



STATE OF THE VBA 2023

JANUARY 1, 2023



As my second term as VBA President draws to a close. I would like to take this opportunity to go over the accomplishments and challenges facing the VBA.

1. Accomplishments!

We successfully made it through COVID and took the organization from running in the red financially to running in the black. We had to make difficult decisions regarding FLIGHT, Officer reimbursements, in-person meetings etc. It has worked - we finished the year as a strong organization! We are the second largest hunting group in the state behind the Bear hunters. We successfully lobbied the House of Delegates and State Senate on not putting the Air bow/Gun in Archery season! As well as getting Sunday hunting passed on public and private land. We have opened a dialogue with the DWR with our concerns and opposition to the Three Day Bear season the week before Archery Season and the Proposed Expanded Chase/ Training Season in September. We are once again very vocal and advocating for the Bowhunters in the state of VA. Also, we have a seat on the DWR Black Bear council.

2. Challenges facing the VBA!

The challenges we currently have facing us are the Club's unwillingness to work together to better the sport of tournament archery in the state. We have had Clubs holding shoots over State Shoots and not have any regrets in doing so! The Clubs no longer care about the other local clubs and helping everyone succeed! This association was formed with the principle to help every archery club and Bowhunter to be successful and to make sure we weren't disenfranchised in Richmond. Youth involvement: we are not getting youth involved in to bow hunting and target shooting. New Officers: we have had no one express interest in any office! If we do not find a slate of officers, the Association will either fold or run under a new format instead of Roberts Rules of Order. Maybe it's time we go to a Strictly Bowhunting organization like the IBO and others.

3. New Ideas / Solutions

First, getting the kids and new archers into the sport. I am currently working on a youth and apprentice hunt to be sponsored by the VBA.

Second, I would like to see the VBA establish a fund for any VBA member that wants to become a certified archery instructor. The VBA will foot the bill in return the new Coach/Instructor will hold a youth Day locally to their location at least once a year for three years. We have the equipment to loan for such things. We also have some new sponsors: Reedy's Archery Shop in Amherst has given us two additional scholarships for \$500 each! But we need people that are going to college to apply for it. We also need to get new blood

to serve on the board and committees. We have had no takers for the Hunting and Tournament Committees! Also, we need to get the kids involved!

4. Slate of Officers

President-

Executive VP-

Secretary- Joyce Cameron

Hunting VP-

Tournament VP- Jim Little

Parliamentarian- Rob Pecora

Publicity- Larry Readal

Executive State Sectary Treasurer-

With Marie Bell retiring we need to decide if we want to split her two jobs and go to an all-volunteer Organization!

I am undecided if I will run again. I am leaning against it at this point I have a 7-year-old in Second Grade and an almost 4-year-old starting preschool in the Fall. I feel at this point I need to give more of my attention to them. It has been an honor to serve as Hunting VP for three years and President for the last four. I hope we can face and overcome these challenges and give the VBA many more years of continued success. If you would like to run for an office, please contact me by January 10th!

Lastly, I would like to thank the following people for their support and help over the last 7 years: Larry Readal, Terry Ballowe, Marie Bell, Rob Pecora, Jim Little, Danny Korbini, Joyce Cameron, Curt Lytle, Bakari Dale, Robert Garber, and Lowell Hertzler. Your hard work and willingness of helping with solutions have helped me and the VBA greatly!

Many Well Wishes for the New Year!!

Shannon Nesselrodt

Shannon Nesselrodt- VBA President

P.S. Take a Kid or new Archer to the Range and Woods!

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