

December 2024



Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus
December 14, 2024
2:00pm - 4:00pm

- The children meeting Santa will receive candy canes
- Cookies will be provided

Members and Guest
Bring your Grandchildren, Nieces & Nephews, Neighbors!

FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

NEWS

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA





the Fort Wayne Chapter



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Membership

In the past year, our news publication has featured numerous articles about our Rodenbeck land holdings, which have been designated as an



IDNR Forest Preserve. **Initially, our acreage only consisted of the developed area of our chapter house Trap & Skeet Range, and Rifle and Pistol Range. (Yellow Area)**

However, we have since acquired additional land through generous donations from the Rodenbeck and (insert name) families. The area on the east side of Griffin Road, which includes Walton Pond, Wooded Trails, and the Meadowlands, was generously donated by the

(insert name) family with the condition that it be preserved. However, it was never formally included in the IDNR Preserve Program. The Chapter has invested in significant improvements to this area and has installed signage along Griffin Road to discourage non-members trespassing. To address this issue, the entrance gate is now locked, but trespassers have resorted to parking at the Girl Scout Camp and walking into the Preserve. We've experienced trail damage from ATVs, and while the parents of one individual involved covered the costs, we haven't always been able to identify those responsible.

As a result, your Board urges members to help monitor the area by requesting to see the membership cards of the folks you run into at our Pond area. Be polite, show your membership card and ask to see theirs and if they cannot provide evidence of membership, they should be politely asked to leave, and if possible, members should take a photo of their license plate. Your membership dues and donations are crucial for the enhancement of our facilities, and we all share the responsibility of protecting our amenities.

The Rodenbeck philanthropic donations came in several parcels with a stipulation that they be designated formally as an IDNR Forest Preserve, with all of the protections and restrictions accompanying that designation. The Chapter retains title to the land, but very formal restrictions demand that these parcels be retained in a precisely defined unimproved condition. Rodenbeck #1 is the land bordered by Cedar Canyon Drive on the west and Griffin Road as you turn left after crossing the Auburn Road Bridge with this parcel on both sides of Griffin Road. Over the years, the County has made attempts to straighten this section of Griffin and Cedar Canyon Roads through condemnation proceedings. Still, the IDNR provisions have prevented this and explain the rustic nature of Griffin Road as you drive toward the Chapter. This parcel also continues on the south side of the Auburn Road Bridge.



The Girl Scout Camp and Acres Land Trust parcels adjoining our land are not only designated as IDNR Forest Preserves but together they encompass the majority of the Cedar Creek stream segment recognized as an Indiana Senic Stream.




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2:00pm - 4:30pm

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Members and Guest
Bring your Grandchildren,
Nieces & Nephews
Neighbors!

Photos with Santa \$5



Fort Wayne Chapter
17100 Griffin Road, Hometown, IN




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An Important Note From Karla Wyss, Range Manager Rifle & Pistol

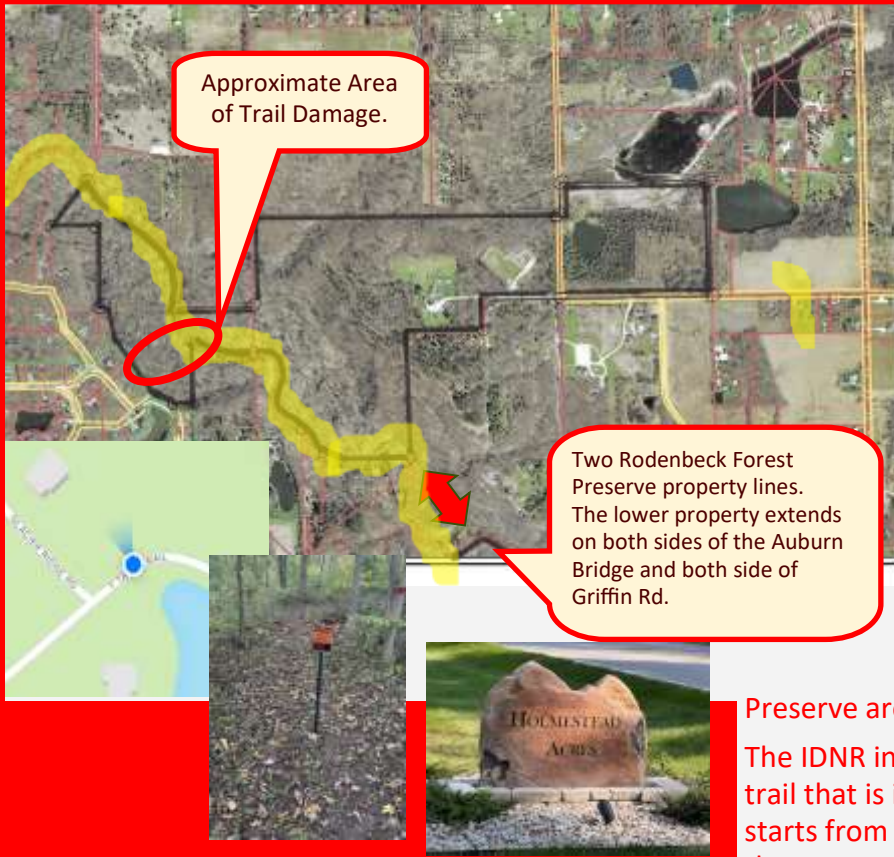
The board has approved my request to adjust the Rifle & Pistol range hours on weekdays (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday) for January and February. During this time, the new hours will be from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. However, the hours for Saturday and Sunday will remain unchanged, operating from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

I also want to remind everyone who utilize the Rifle and Pistol Ranges that following Chapter Policy, members, no cash or change is available at the Range Safety Officer (RSO) Shed. Consequently, all members and guests are required to be prepared to pay the incremental fee for range access of guests or for miscellaneous purchases such as targets.

Additionally, our RSOs will be implementing an energetic practice of verifying range cards to ensure they are valid for the current year and include all requisite stamps indicating that the annual range fee has been paid, as well as confirmation that the current Range Rules have been acknowledged and signed.

In alignment with our established procedures, renewing members who have not yet received their 2025 Membership Card will have their 2024 Membership Card honored during January and February of 2025. If you are a new member and have not yet received your 2025 Membership Card, you will be granted range privileges for the same period upon presentation of your confirmation email evidencing payment of your 2025 dues and range fee.

Karla Wyss



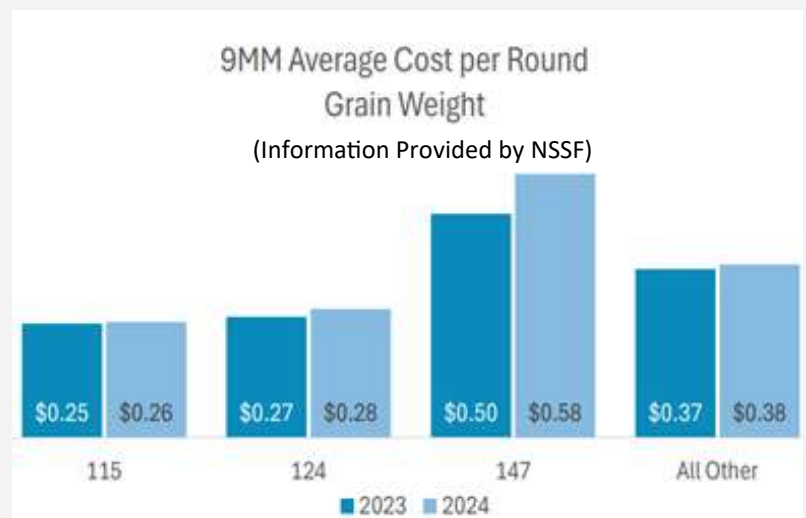
regular walk-
ing inspections
of these properties to identify any infestations of invasive plant species or any construction that violates IDNR regulations. Recently Vice President Gabe Bowser and Woody Woodling, Chapter President accompanied an IDNR inspector on a tour of the Rodenbeck properties to familiarize themselves with the Chapter boundaries. During the inspection, They were shown a few small infestations of invasive plants, and the chapter plans to organize volunteer member work parties in the spring to address eradication. Additionally, work has already commenced to address invasive species plants in the Preserve around Walton Pond.

The IDNR inspector pointed out a well-established trail that is in violation of IDNR regulations. The trail starts from a residence off of Cedar Canyon Drive in the Homestead Acres Home Addition and stretches from a backyard down to Cedar Creek. He

emphasized that corrective measures must be taken to address this violation of IDNR rules. The Chapter Executive Board has already placed a sign at the entrance of the trail and will contact the owner and HOA of Homestead Acres.

Bullet Weight: Price Vs Use

Did you know that 9mm ammo is the most popular caliber sold in the United States? According to the National Sports Shooting Federation (NSSF), 9mm cartridges accounts for nearly two of every three pistol rounds shipped. Maintaining awareness of grain weight popularity is important, and if you haven't been watching this, you should start because the pricing varies considerably with the Grain Weight per Cartridge. Grain weight is important because it affects the bullet's performance in several ways, including: **Accuracy:** Heavier bullets are less likely to be blown off course by wind and have a better ballistic coefficient, making them more accurate at longer ranges. **Recoil:** Heavier bullets have a lower velocity, which means less felt recoil. This is important in competition shooting, where minimal recoil allows the shooter to reacquire their target faster. On our range, the most popular pistol distance is 7 yds., so the effect of the wind is less important and you are shooting for sport and not competition.





the Fort Wayne Chapter

PRESIDENTS LETTER

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Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA

17100 Griffin Rd. Huntertown IN

We are now entering the holiday season, and I want to wish all of you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. We all have a lot to be thankful for. In part that includes your IWLA FW membership. With all our resources available to individuals and families.

Colder weather certainly curtails some activities, but there are still some nice days ahead to enjoy the outdoors and our R&P, T&S, and Archery ranges. R&P has changed to winter hours and T&S now is only open to the public on Sunday mornings. The manual clay thrower is available to members during daylight hours. Just collect the many unbroken clays from the field that can be used. Always reference the Chapter calendar to be sure there is not a rental or event scheduled.

Although things slow down a bit in the winter the Chapter is still planning several events and activities. On November 16 we had 8 volunteers show up to clean up a section of the Preserve. It was an enjoyable social event as well as a work event. Currently there is a 50/50 Raffle available, plans are in the works for a 1st Aid class for members, and a "Cookies with Santa" day planned for members and their guests. See information in the December News Magazine.

The Chapter Board of Directors is fortunate to have at least four candidates for positions that are available. At our next BOD meeting we should be able to vote the new BOD members into positions, giving us a Board with more members than we have experienced in a long while. What that means is that topics that come through the BOD will be getting greater input. It also means we have the opportunity to develop the necessary leadership for future years and sustain the hard work that has allowed our Chapter to be the largest in Indiana and recognized for a quality program.

At the November meeting Mark Ceccarelli became the Secretary and part of the Executive Board. He is a great addition to our leadership group.

Other initiatives taking place include the revamping of our website. In time our website will be able to provide more information, process membership payments, and be more user-friendly. At the end of the year, we usually review our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Currently such a review is taking place with the R&P SOP and an SOP being developed for the T&S Range. These tasks take a lot of thought and involvement from the appropriate committee members as well as the BOD.

Once again let me wish all of you a safe and joyful holiday season. May you be blessed and find joy in your activities with family and friends.

Woody Woodling

OUR CHAPTER YOUTH AT WORK!



In the photo, you can see one of our enthusiastic new chapter youth members, Keaton Bowser, expertly maneuvering his dad's crawler as he clears brush from one of our new camping areas. With a focused expression on his face, he demonstrates both skill and determination. Not only is he getting hands-on experience with machinery, but he's also one of our promising new youth trap shooters, showcasing his versatility and eagerness to participate in various activities within the chapter. It's great to see young members like him engaging in both practical tasks and sportsmanship!



the Fort Wayne Chapter



Chapter Youth Continue to Excel in Shooting Sports **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Fort Wayne Girl on NCAA rifle team ranked 2nd in collegiate ranking.

11/01/2024

Fort Wayne, IN. – Breman Butler, a member of the local FW Chapter, IWLA is part of the Georgia State University Rifle Team, currently ranked second nationally by the Collegiate in CRCA, standings.

Fort Wayne Chapter

11100 Griffin Road

Huntertown, IN

Izaak Walton League of America

Charles Woodling

President FW Chapter

woodman.in@gmail.com



Bremen Butler, a member of the Fort Wayne Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America (IWLA), is

shown alongside her rifle teammates from the Georgia Southern University Rifle Squad, proudly showcasing their Southern Conference Championship rings during a recent awards ceremony held at the GSU athletic field. The multi-national team members hold the second position in the CRCA /NCAA standings, having exhibited outstanding performance against competing teams. Bremen, positioned on the left, began her shooting career at the FW IWLA chapter range and has since achieved notable accolades, including two Junior Olympic Silver Medals, multiple National Championships, and has represented the United States in international competition in Lima, Peru. She is on an athletic scholarship with Georgia Southern University.

NCAA TEAM RANKINGS

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Alaska Fairbanks | 6 Air Force & TCU | 12 Memphis | 18 U T Martin |
| 2 Georgia Southern | 8 Ohio State | 13 Akron & Navy | 19 North Georgia |
| 3 West Virginia | 9 Army | 15 Morehead State | 20 Citadel |
| 4 Kentucky | 10 Nebraska | 16 STEP | |
| 5 Murray State | 11 Old Miss | 17 Jacksonville Stater | |



the Fort Wayne Chapter

INDIANA HAS FALLEN BEHIND OUR NEIGHBORING STATES IN PRESERVING WETLANDS

The Hoosier Environmental Council is part of a statewide coalition of organizations called INCA, Indiana Conservation Alliance. It is working hard to create a reliable and permanent way to fund two vital parts of the state's conservation landscape: purchasing and preserving ecologically valuable land and increasing the money available to DNR and IDEM to support agency staff in their work to protect our environmental resources.

Indiana has fallen far behind its neighboring states in preserving and protecting natural areas because we have relied on uncertain funding from the Governor and General Assembly budgeting process. At most, we have \$10-25 million over two years compared to ten times that amount other conservative states have permanently embedded in their state budget for conservation. This legislative session, January-April 2025, watch for an HEC-supported bill to establish a permanent and reliable funding mechanism to support conservation efforts into the future.

Enlightened states have permanently embedded ten times the amount set aside by Indiana in their revenue for conservation.

Editor Note: Much of our Chapters dedicated Rodenbeck Preserve by the Auburn Road Bridge is a seasonal wetland as part of the Cedar Creek overflow basin. The Hoosier Environmental Council is the arguably the most influential conservation lobbying group in Indiana and is supported by many different Conservation organizations in the state. For more information, contact them at:



Donations can be made at <https://www.hecweb.org/donate/>
317-685-8800 www.hecweb.org
Reprinted from the Hoosier Environmental Council

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NEW SALES TOOL

Loyalty programs have long existed as strategic initiatives retailers employ to incentivize consumer spending by offering enticing discounts linked to repeat purchases. These programs strive to foster a sense of loyalty among consumers, encouraging them to return time and again for exceptional savings. In parallel, membership programs are increasingly popular, whereby retailers provide exclusive savings and benefits in exchange for an annual fee, thereby cultivating an atmosphere of privilege and exclusivity among participants.

As the retail landscape evolves, so does the approach to consumer data collection within these programs. Retailers are increasingly amassing detailed and comprehensive information regarding consumer shopping behaviors, which they analyze and utilize in various ways. One of the more controversial practices is emerging as sophisticated software algorithms enable retailers to leverage consumer data to develop unique pricing strategies. This advancement allows businesses to implement differential pricing. In differential pricing, the cost of the same product can vary significantly among customers based on their unique profiles within the retailer's database. This evolving approach to pricing raises intriguing questions about the possibility of consumers in the same vicinity paying different prices for identical goods, further complicating the retail landscape.

As these software algorithms continue to evolve, online digital sales could be affected by a "Click here for Pricing" toggle, which could lead to your paying a different price than your next-door neighbor based on your profile information including purchasing habits, discrete funds set aside as defined by the type purchases and prices you've made in the past.

Welcome to the potential marketing of the future.

Mystery MARIO Seen in Neighborhood on Halloween Night!



On Halloween night, an enigmatic figure clad in a vibrant red hat and blue overalls, reminiscent of the popular video game character Mario, was spotted joyfully distributing an array of sweets to eager children wandering through the neighborhood. The sight of this cheerful character, with his infectious laughter and warm smile, filled the air with an enchanting spirit of the holiday.

If anyone has even a hint about the identity of this whimsical character spreading joy with his generous treats, we would be delighted to hear your suggestions!



To everyone's surprise, the mysterious candy-giver has been revealed to be none other than our former Chapter President, Patrick White. He is not only a valued part of his community, but he is also well-liked for being friendly and easy to talk to, but he also shows up almost daily on our Rifle & Pistol Range. There, his engaging radio talk show personality and dedication to range safety have made him one of our most popular Range Safety Officers, enjoyed by both guests and members alike.

Speaking of seasoned marksman, he is one of our chapter's best small-bore precision target shooters. His engaging gun chatter is only outdone by his penchant for appearing with a spanking new small bore rifle on a regular basis.



Some say, he changes rifles more often than some folks change their..... Well, never mind! Rumor is that he says it is easier to trade the old ones rather than to clean them. Next time ya see him on the range, you might ask him if there is any truth to the rumor.



U.S. Senators Introduce Bill to Build on Great American Outdoors Act

U.S. Senator Steve Daines, a Republican from Montana, has teamed up with a bipartisan group of senators—including Angus King, an independent from Maine, Kevin Cramer, a Republican from North Dakota, and Mark Warner, a Democrat from Virginia—to introduce a significant piece of legislation aimed at revitalizing the nation's treasured national parks. The proposed bill, named the "America the Beautiful Act," seeks to reauthorize a vital program designated to tackle the staggering billions of dollars in overdue maintenance across the parks.

In addition to addressing maintenance needs, the bill aims to significantly boost federal funding for national park projects while encouraging an increase in public donations to support these vital initiatives. This new legislation builds upon the foundation laid by the Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan measure that was signed into law in 2020 during President Donald Trump's administration. This earlier act authorized an impressive \$6.5 billion in funding over a five-year period for the National Parks and Public Legacy Restoration Fund, set to continue through the fiscal year 2025. To date, over \$4 billion has already been allocated from this fund to various projects nationwide, reflecting a strong commitment to preserving and enhancing America's natural landscapes.

In a statement underscoring the importance of national parks, Daines expressed, "Our country is home to incredible national parks and public lands—that's what makes us America the Beautiful. I'll always fight to protect our parks and work to ensure we're managing our public lands as effectively as possible." His commitment highlights the ongoing effort to maintain the beauty and accessibility of these national treasures for future generations..

BASS FISHING IN NOVEMBER

This photo, taken just a week ago, features our enthusiastic new Chapter Vice President, Gabe Bowser, fully immersed in the blissful experience of winter bass fishing on a crisp mid-November day. He displays a beautiful yearling bass, a true testament to his dedication, skill, and patience as



an angler. To nourish these young bass and help them thrive into keepers for the exciting summer fishing season ahead, we've recently introduced twelve pounds of energetic flathead minnows into Walton Pond as a vital source of nourishment. The air is charged with a sense of anticipation for the warmer days and successful fishing adventures that await Spring weather.

It's important to remember, however, to not harm our vegetarian grass carp introduced this season—these remarkable fish play a crucial role in our weed control efforts. Having more than doubled in size, they continue to feast on the weeds, making them a fascinating presence in the pond's ecosystem.

CHAPTER IMPROVEMENTS SINCE OCTOBER

1. Lamp posts in parking lot painted.
2. Dirt placed in new raised garden beds.
3. No Trespassing signs placed on Rodenbeck Preserve.
4. Walton Pond received last weed treatment of the season.
5. Twelve pounds of minnows added to Walton Pond.
6. Tables & Benches placed in all campsites.
7. Firewood holders placed in all campsites.
8. Signs placed at following locations:
 - ◆ Marvin Lahr Trailhead
 - ◆ Manual Trap Machine
 - ◆ Archery Range
 - ◆ Broken concrete pad removed from parking lot.
9. North Hall exterior painted.
10. Hall interior decorated for Christmas.



GRASSLANDS BILL BEFORE HOUSE

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Grasslands are crucial for their capacity to store carbon and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, yet they are the most endangered ecosystem in North America. Over the last decade alone, millions of acres of grasslands in North America have been converted to cropland and development. As grassland losses have increased, we've lost more and more critical wildlife and pollinator species. Grasslands also sequester significant amounts of carbon, but that carbon is released into the atmosphere as these ecosystems are converted to cropland or human development. We need to act quickly and take bold action to conserve and restore North America's native grasslands.

The North American Grasslands Conservation Act has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA). This effort comes at a critical time, as grassland conversion intensifies and as we confront an array of threats like poor drinking water quality, invasive species and degrading fish and wildlife habitat. Serving our area of Indiana is Congressman Jim Banks who can be reached at cutting and pasting or copying this email you're your web browser <https://banks.house.gov/contact/contactform.htm> and you can fill in the blanks and contact him directly via email. If you are just starting your journey in Conservation, it's important to know that the Izaak Walton League operates with a strictly non-partisan stance. Our organization actively advocates for a variety of environmental and conservation initiatives, as outlined in our beautifully crafted pledge displayed prominently in the chapter house.

This pledge serves as a heartfelt commitment to preserving our natural resources and protecting the environment for future generations. ***"To strive for the purity of water, the clarity of air, and the wise stewardship of the land and its resources; to know the beauty and understanding of nature and the value of wildlife, woodlands, and open space; to the preservation of this heritage and to mankind's sharing in it."***

FARM BILL STALLED

In July of this year, IWLA co-signed a letter with over 460 organizations from various sectors, including agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and rural development. The letter acknowledged congressional efforts to advance the 2024 farm bill and encouraged continued support for its passage by the end of the year. It highlighted the millions of Americans who depend on the farm bill for food, fiber, fuel, conservation, clean air and water, job creation, and rural development. The letter noted potential complications for the next Congress if action were delayed and emphasized the importance of developing stronger bipartisan support for the farm bill that could be enacted within the current Congress.

Bipartisan support for the farm bill does exist; however, progress has been impeded for the past four months mainly due to disagreements regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as "Food Stamps." Democrats have expressed concerns regarding the funding calculation associated with the "Thrifty Food Plan," which determines SNAP benefits, and they oppose a provision that would freeze future increases in SNAP coverage. They view this as a potential reduction in assistance for individuals facing food insecurity. On the other hand, Republicans argue that SNAP allowances are overly broad and assert that setting limits is necessary for balancing other expenditures within the comprehensive Farm Bill.

From a conservation perspective, IWLA supports several features within the Farm Bill, including the promotion of scientific farm initiatives focused on erosion control, nutrient runoff management, wildlife conservation, the preservation of grasslands and wetlands, and the establishment of natural growth barriers on farmer-owned land adjacent to waterways.

The policy of the incoming administration is unknown at this time.



Your Renewal Notice Was Mailed

2025 Membership Renewal

The membership renewal notices for 2025 were mailed on October 14th. and should be in your mailbox by now. The exceptions are those members who joined after September 1st of 2024, and missed the first-printing cutoff date at National. They will be picked up in the second printing in December. However, as an alternative, any member can use the renewal form provided as the last page of our monthly newsletter.

Please be prompt in responding before materials are misplaced and the thought passes. You don't want to suffer the loss of membership benefits, and multiple mailings of notices is costly to the Chapter.

Renewal time is when you want to be sure that the type of membership you have is appropriate to your circumstances, ie. "Single" if you are the only one using the Chapter facilities, "Family" if there are others who could benefit, "Senior" if you are aged 65 or older, etc. To change membership type simply note what you want to change on the renewal slip, include the appropriate dues amount and send it in using the peel-off label provided. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Carl at 260-310-9701 or crehinger@gmail.com. He will be happy to assist.

Once again, please return your renewal promptly to ensure your continuous enjoyment of membership benefits.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

CARL CREHINGER
FORT WAYNE CHAPTER, IWLA
370 BEAUFORT COURT
FORT WAYNE, IN 46804

MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/24

FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

MEMBER TYPE: INDIVIDUAL
CD\$H

AMOUNT TO ENCLOSE: \$122.00

THIS COPY TO BE RETAINED BY THE MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/24


FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

MEMBER TYPE: INDIVIDUAL
CD\$H

AMOUNT TO ENCLOSE: \$122.00

2025 Membership Renewal Rates: (DOES NOT INCLUDE ACCESS TO R&P RANGES!!!)

- Youth/Student (Ages up to and including 21 years): \$74.00
- Single (Ages 22 - 64 inclusive): \$122.00
- Family (incl. spouse and dependents up to age 21): \$172.00
- Senior Individual (aged 65 and older): \$ 110.00
- Senior Family (aged 65 plus spouse): \$165.00



THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$50.00 ACCESS FEE REQUIRED OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO CHOOSE TO USE THE RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGES. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF USING THOSE RANGES, PLEASE ADD \$50.00 TO THE AMOUNT SHOWN ON THE ENCLOSED RENEWAL CARD, WHEN YOU SUBMIT PAYMENT.

Remember, you must hold a hold a 2025 membership card by February 28th. Our R&P and T&S Staff has been instructed to not allow participation after that date.

If You Have Misplaced Your Renewal Card, Use The Form on Page 11 of this Issue.



the Fort Wayne Chapter



2025 Membership Renewal Form

Please fill in the requested information and determine the appropriate dues payment, based on the table at the bottom of this page (Total Dues column). Place this completed form and your payment into an envelope and mail to: Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA, c/o Carl Ehinger, 2709 Bearberry Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46818. You may also submit your application and payment to the RSO on duty at the range, or drop it into the countertop drop slot in the Chapterhouse.

Name: _____ Member No. _____

Email address: _____

Type of Membership: _____ Dues: _____

If you wish to purchase range privileges—add \$50.00 R/P: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Thank you for your continued support of our Fort Wayne Chapter.

Current Dues Distribution

Type	National	Ind/Division	FW Chapter	Total Dues	% retained	Range Fee
Youth/Student	\$25.00	\$6.00	\$43.00	\$74.00	58 %	*\$50.00
Individual	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$64.00	\$122.00	52 %	*\$50.00
Family	\$75.00	\$12.00	\$85.00	\$172.00	49 %	*\$50.00
Senior	\$50.00	\$6.00	\$54.00	\$110.00	49 %	*\$50.00
Senior Family	\$75.00	\$10.00	\$80.00	\$165.00	48 %	*\$50.00

* To use the rifle and/or pistol ranges you must pay an additional \$50.00 range fee. If you choose to purchase range privileges, remit the "total dues" amount **plus the range fee.**