

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunters inc.

Directors:

Dick Bednarczyk, Marty Carr, Ron Cole, Ron Davis, Chris Meeker, Mike Miele, Aaron Montross,
Mike Murnin, Jay Roberts, Jerry Ross, Mercy Ross, Shawn Spence, Chip Sorber, Walter Vosefski

Officers:

Cas Bonczewski, 353 Center St., Covington Twp., PA 18444

President

Jack Sorber, 436 Cemetery Road, Little Meadows, PA. 18830

Vice President

Betsey Ross, 379 Mills Road, Wyalusing, PA., 18853

Secretary

Pat Carr, 4860 McDermott Rd, Bangor, PA 18013

Treasurer

Spring Newsletter – March 2026



Youth Member Mark Nebzydoski is pictured with his 36.3 lb. coyote taken with hounds in Wayne County, during the District Nine, PTA hunt. Mark is entered in the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Association's Season Wide "Members Only" Tournament and will be awarded a Youth Division Trophy at the Annual Meeting on April 18th.

. Excellent job, Mark!

From the President's Pen:

As I typed this section, we are all well into our running season. The focus is on the weather, tracking conditions, the hounds and hopefully a lot of good races! I have been trying to get out a few times a week with our local gang as well as with an excellent group of guys from the Honesdale area. When you hear that first bark, the cold trail, then the jump and the hounds driving the track, it makes the knee-deep snow and single digit temperatures seem unimportant! The thrill of the chase never gets old and bagging a coyote is just icing on the cake.

There is a word that I have been hearing a lot lately in the hound world and that is "cooperation". When hunting, you see it when a group runs like a well-oiled machine and everyone knows their role and responsibility whether it be walking in or cutting in dogs, covering known crossing areas, or covering roads to protect the dogs. There is also cooperation between the hunters and the landowners by gaining their permission and trust to access hunting areas. As an association, we have been working to maintain a cooperative relationship with the PGC and most recently with the PA Farm Bureau.

Protecting our sport and hunting traditions is an on-going effort 24-7, 365! Whether it be trying to end coyote hunts in PA or NY, or the challenges the houndsmen in Virginia are facing, there are those out there that are always working to end the sports we love. We all need to take that cooperation we have in our hunting groups and extend and nurture it wherever we can. Talk with your landowners, other types of hunters, trappers, callers, and even non-hunters and try to bring about a sense of Cooperation. Many of you have seen a lot posted about the "Army of Orange" and their current fight. They are stressing the concept of "Cooperation - It's not a radical idea." Talk courteously with people face to face, build relationships, shake a man's hand, and let us all build on the cooperation that will help keep our tradition of hunting with hounds alive for generations to come.

Final word - anybody recall my previous message about the challenge to recruit new members? How is that going?? Our total membership is still below what it was before COVID. We need to bring more people in and the best people to do that are you, the members of this organization.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, April 18th, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. has been scheduled for 4:00 pm, Saturday, April 18th at the American Legion, Route 6, Wyalusing, PA. In addition to election of officers for 2026, the agenda will include a review of the accomplishments of the organization during 2025, plans for 2026, gun raffle drawing and review of significant legislative issues and other important business.

To ensure proper dinner arrangements, please RSVP to Cas Bonczewski via e-mail (cbonczewski@msn.com) or by phone or text to (570) 977-4539, if you plan to attend.

Please mark your calendar and look for further correspondence regarding this meeting.

Gun Raffle Drawing to be held at Annual Meeting

As previously indicated, our inaugural gun raffle drawing will be held at the Annual Meeting and winners will be immediately notified. Arrangements for possession can be made with Bryant's Firearms Repair, Honesdale. "Last minute" ticket purchases will be available. If you have not made your ticket returns, we ask that you do so promptly.

Remember to nominate your youngsters for "First Harvest" Awards

Each year, we present First Deer, Bear or Turkey Awards, courtesy of the Pa Game Commission to eligible hunters. We also recognize hunters with a First Coyote or Bobcat Award produced by the Association. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity by submitting a digital photo to Dick Bednarczyk at dick.bednarczyk@gmail.com

PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Coyote Tournament

This is a reminder that our season-long coyote tournament will end on March 31st. Successful participating hunters should return their weight cards to Dick Bednarczyk by Monday, April 6th. Trophies will be awarded at the Annual Meeting to those present.

Welcome New Members!

YTD, ten hunters have joined the Association. Since our last newsletter, Caden and Rory Moher, Sarah Smith, Walter, Jessica, Otto, Margo, Mavis, and Mack Pawelzik have come on board. Welcome hunters!

Remember To Support Our Sponsors

Down Home Rice Pudding, Sportmix Dog Food, Thunder Valley Pet Pantry, Gundog Supply, PA Outdoor News, Double U Hunting Supply, Sacandaga Dog Supply, 877 Design – Scott Twp., L.H.Reed & Sons, Mechanical Contractors-Honesdale and Hunter's Horn magazine. All companies listed provided gift certificates, subscriptions, merchandise or cover expenses for our various events.

Mary Hosmer – PA Outdoor News Article

Our congratulations to Member Mary Hosmer for her article "Age of 12 has nothing to do with maturity to hunt", which is featured in the Commentary section (page 3) of the January 30th issue of PA Outdoor News. We appreciate Mary's retort to previous writers who are continually critical of the Game Commissions programs to increase youth hunting opportunities. We find it ironic and discouraging that "so-called" outdoor writers frequently advance positions designed to grow dissent among various segments of the outdoor community or deny our youngsters opportunities for introduction to the outdoor lifestyle. An excellent job by Mary - a faithful member and tireless advocate for everything outdoors.

Association Members – Regional Tournament Results

District Nine PA Trappers Assn. – Hop Bottom, PA

The PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. was well represented in this hunt, with members accounting for almost 50% of the entries. Successful members were Wade Gray, Connor Knott, John Klinkiewicz, Bill Zdziarski, Jeff Miszler, Corey Luther, Jeremy Smith, Bill Holena, Bob Brown, Charlie Michlowski, Mark Nebzydoski, Jack Johnson, Dillon Pallman, and Garret Hitchcock. Congratulations to all!

Increase in 2027 dues to \$30.00 to be proposed at Annual Meeting

Association Bylaws stipulate that the amount set for dues be approved by membership vote at the Annual Meeting. The cost of Youth Membership (\$5.00) would not be affected by this proposal.

Currently dues for adult members are \$25.00. This fee was adopted in 2006, at which time 1st Class postage was thirty-nine cents. It has now doubled to seventy-eight cents. Although the cost of mailing is only one facet of our operating expenses, it typifies the overall effect of inflation on our budget. The table below provides an overview of income from dues (\$25.00) vs normal expenses per member (\$25.90).

2026 Membership Dues Analysis -Assumptions: 250 adult members

Expense	Per Year	Per Member
● Liability insurance	\$1000.00	\$ 4.00
● Quarterly newsletter	\$2.25 each	\$ 9.00
● Sportsmens Alliance	\$1000.00	\$ 4.00
● PA Federation	\$850.00	\$ 3.40
● Membership billings and returns of	\$1.00 each	\$ 2.00
● Annual Meeting exp	\$375.00	\$ 1.50
● Unfunded scholarship	<u>\$500.00</u>	<u>\$ 2.00</u>
		<u>\$ 25.90 vs. dues \$25.00</u>

Other sources of income:

- Raffle Drawing (Garmin) \$ 2,500.00
- Donations \$500.00 -\$750.00
- Logo mdse. \$300.00 -\$500.00

Other expenses:

- Stationery \$1,000.00
- PGC Meeting \$250.00
- Misc: NYH, Bank Fees, Mailings \$1000.00

The "Member's Only" Coyote Tournament and three Legacy Scholarships are self-funded and are not reflected in the above analysis.

2026 Memberships Now Due

At this point, everyone should have received their 2026 membership billing. We are requesting prompt payment of dues so that we may continue to fund our various activities and maintain our advocacy of hound owners' rights with the various governing bodies which affect our sport. If you have misplaced your billing, you may remit your dues to Association Secretary Pat Carr, using the address which appears on the letterhead.

Legislative Monitoring – Pennsylvania

The following two bills, while not related to hound hunting, could have widespread impact on the hunting community statewide:

HB 1075 – would lift the current \$400.00 per acre restriction on the Game Commission for the purchase of game lands. Referred to Game & Fisheries on 3/31/2025.

HB 1937 –SB 11155 – These companion bills would provide for easy voter registration at time of purchase of a hunting or fishing license. It is estimated that 30% of sportsmen are not registered. – Referred to State Govt. on 1/30/2026.

Are You a Member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau?

There is a growing realization that it might be helpful for the PA State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. to develop a better understanding of the issues and objectives of the Farm Bureau as they pertain to coyote hunters, especially houndsmen. We assume that we may have a core of members who belong to both organizations. We would appreciate knowing such information and if you may hold a regional office or committee membership. If so, please advise Cas Bonczewski via phone or text at (570) 977-4539.

Pennsylvania State Fox & Coyote Hunter's Assn. Renews Scholarship Program

The Executive Committee voted to continue our scholarship program for four students. Each will receive a \$500.00 award.

The scholarships to be awarded will be designated the Dick Ross Memorial Scholarship, two (2) Roy Rosenbaum Memorial Scholarships, and the George Hobbs Memorial Scholarship, which are funded by memorial contributions made in their honor.

Please see the details and scholarship application below. Any questions may be directed to Cas Bonczewski (570) 977-4539, or Patt Carr (610) 841-6271. Our 2025 winners were: Hallie Brown, Anthony Cegelis, Grace Cowan, Ava DeMichele, and Colton Fritz.

Eligible students may use the application below to participate in the drawing.

2026 Scholarship Award Program!

Details:

- 1. Student must complete the application below and submit by June 1st, 2026. One application per student. Families with multiple students may copy the application below. Mail application to Cas Bonczewski, President.**
- 2. Student must be a PA State Fox & Coyote Hunters Association member or the child or grandchild of a current, paid member.**
- 3. The Scholarship opportunity is open to:**
 - a. All graduates from the class 2026 who meet the above qualifications, regardless of state or province of residence.**
 - b. Previously graduated students currently enrolled in further education programs, who meet the above qualifications, regardless of state or province of residence. Currently enrolled college students must not have entered the 4th year of their chosen program.**
- 4. A qualifying further education program refers to a 2- or 4-year college, trade or specialty school or any other higher education program for which the student is paying for.**
- 5. To be fair and objective to all qualified and deserving applicants, the name of each applicant will be placed in a hat for a random drawing to determine the winners.**
- 6. The winning students will be required to submit proof of current enrollment or planned continuation of education beyond high school. (i.e., acceptance letter)**
- 7. Student need not be present at drawing location to win.**
- 8. Previous winners are ineligible.**

Students Name (please print):		Date:
Address:		
Town:	State or Province:	Zip Code:
Phone Number:	e-mail Address:	
Member's Name (student, parent, or grandparent):		
College or Trade School you are/will be attending:		
Students' Signature:		

Mail to: Cas Bonczewski, 353 Center Street, Covington Twp., PA 18444.