

Virginia Trappers Association (VTA) Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting

18 October 2025

1100-1245

At Bland County Fairgrounds – D1 Rendezvous

ATTENDEES:

Bandy, Travis – President, FTA Rep

Butler, Kurt – Treasurer

Simmons, J. R. – Training Coordinator, Director D3

Kunkel, Craig – NTA Rep

Langway, Derek – Membership Secretary

Stone, David – Recording Secretary, Director D5

Directors:

D1: Jonas, Tony (Cotton)

D2: Acord, Tim

D4: Mertz, Alex

D6: Maitland, Chris

Absent:

Foltz, Art – Former President

Neel, Tim – Vice-President

Dalton, Peter – Communication Director

Meisberger, Michael – WebMaster

Goss, Wendell – D7

Martin, Bernie – D8

Tyree, Tom – D9

Minutes:

- Meeting called to order by Travis Bandy with confirmation of quorum met
- Travis moved to accept the meeting minutes from March 15, 2025 be accepted as written; and all present were in favor, none opposed
- Treasurers Report
 - Approximately \$35,000.00 in checking account.
 - Annual expenses/audit and updated budget to be developed and confirmed:
 - Confirm whether we must legally have an auctioneer to conduct the fur sales. Auctioneer cost is approximately \$400.00/year
 - Per the NTA attorney, we are better off staying a 501c6 instead of changing to a 501c3. There is no benefit to the VTA for changing status.
- Membership Report:
 - Derek provided membership report spreadsheet and update via email
 - Currently 371 members, 116 life members with post and 78 life members with no post
- General Organizer Report:
 - New member Orion Mustard recruited and volunteered to be General Organizer starting January 1, 2026
 - For 2026: proposed amendments to VTA bylaws for future discussion & voting:
 - to remove coordination of the fur sales from General Organizer to President

- to add coordination of state convention to General Organizer annually in June (discussed importance of making conventions the same time of year and locations)
 - to add coordination and management of on-demand website for VTA merchandise to General Organizer
- NTA Report:
 - The convention this year was a success, Craig thanked all for their help. Next year's convention will be held in Richmond, Indiana
- FTA Report:
 - The convention went well though Travis was unable to attend. They will look to hold their future conventions more spread out relative to timing of the NTA convention.
 - Votes held and confirmed by all present for the following:
 - Any DWR furbearer biologists and/or CPO's interested to be sent to Trapper's College in 2026 paid by VTA
 - VTA to pay for sending Trapper Training Coordinator to Trapper's College in 2026
- Training Coordinator Report:
 - Reviewed latest completed classes held and upcoming classes on calendar of events on website and social media
 - Encouraged all involved with training classes to register with DWR as a volunteer. This enables DWR grants and funding validation with Pittman-Robertson Act and other funding sources.
 - New projector and laptop is needed. Craig to donate the projector, and new Coordinator (David) to use his laptop for classes.
 - Vote held and confirmed by all present for the following:
 - The cost for training patches in the Master Trapper award program to be paid by the VTA in lieu of the applicant.
 - Training Grant funding needs to be applied for 2026
 - Training Courses for 2026 need to be scheduled
- Committee Reports:
 - Ways & Means: Budget report and forecast needed
 - Website:
 - Videos from FTA demo's will be used and uploaded on website
 - Biology of furbearers are being uploaded and shared via blog, site and social media
 - Need three VTA banners for use at various events
 - Need button up shirts for VTA position holders to wear at events
- Elections:
 - All positions were open for elections in October, new office taken on January 1, 2026
 - Announcement made in Trappers Post of upcoming elections timeline, and process for nominations
 - Nominations were received by August 1, with elections in October. There were no contested or multiple nominations for any position, therefore, no election required. The nominations and new leadership follows:
 - President: Craig Kunkel
 - Past President: Travis Bandy
 - Vice President: Art Foltz
 - General Organizer: Orien Mustard
 - Recording Secretary: Jacob Meadows

- Membership Secretary: Derek Langway
 - Treasurer: Kurt Butler
- The following are appointments from the new leadership:
 - NTA Rep: Craig Kunkel
 - Training Coordinator: David Stone
 - FTA Rep: Travis Bandy
 - Website Administrator: Michael Meisberger
 - Communication Director: Peter Dalton
 - Awards Committee Chair: Art Foltz
- New Business:
 - New Leadership's goals and priorities for 2026:
 - Drive membership numbers up, goal is to double in a year.
 - Coordinate with and compare who is a NTA or FTA member but not a VTA member. Compare who is a Facebook VTA Page member but not a VTA member.
 - Focus on trapper training
 - Alex volunteered to get traps 3D printed for use in displays with kids, etc. (he needs the printing files)
 - Get VTA merchandise straightforward and user friendly means of purchase: via direct ship website
 - VTA trailer titles and tags need to be transferred and updated to be in VTA's name
 - Lifetime member patches: more are needed
 - VTA She-Side: all are in favor of promoting and supporting a She-side group/display/demo. A woman volunteer is needed to organize.
 - Hall of Fame Nominations:
 - There was a vote held, and all in favor of the following persons being awarded the VTA Hall of Fame award. Additionally, there was a subsequent General Membership vote held with 38 members present and all were in favor of the following persons being presented with VTA Hall of Fame award:
 - Norm Mullins
 - Linvol and Marilyn Webb