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## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

**Hello, Members!** This Year has flown by! I hope all of you are well and blessed in business and in health. We have been posting very regularly to our Facebook page with updates on the upcoming show. We are so excited and have been working tirelessly to make the 2023 FSTA Show the best!

We are in the process of contacting our vendors and we will be posting to our Facebook page as they reply. Remember to follow us on Facebook to your pre-orders in and save money on shipping!

The show will be **February 2-4 ,2023**, held again at the **Wyndham Garden Inn in Gainesville, FL**. If you check in at the front desk, you will turn to the left and go to the end of the long hallway and we will have the registration table set up in the hall. The team at the Wyndham are a great people to work with! The phone number to make reservations is (352) 331-3336. **Remember to mention you are with the FSTA to book your room with our discount.**

We will have the same general layout for the show. We have finalized the schedule of events / judges and have several new and exciting events planned. If you have any items to donate for our auction, please let me know. Many of us have travelled to other shows over the last few years, we have been spreading the word about changes in the FSTA. We're looking forward to seeing some great taxidermists from other Associations joining us for the first time this year as well as our returning out of state friends! Let's make sure we give them a warm FSTA welcome, as always!!

### **\*New things are happening!!\***

Our president, Jeff Whitlock, and his wife Teresa, have transferred our domain name (myfsta.com) and created a new website for the FSTA through GoDaddy. This allows us to make updates and changes as needed and can be passed down to future officers.

Jeff has talked with Larry Blomquist and acquired the scoring sheet from the World Taxidermy Show. We can use these sheets for the next 4 years, after which, they will need to be voted on by the FSTA Membership for the following 3 years.

We have adopted a new schedule of events and have 11 seminars planned for the show. There are several changes coming to the show this year!!

### **\*President's Challenge\***

The Presidents Challenge this year is a Whitetail Deer – Shoulder Mount, Half Mount or Lifesize! The registration fee is \$75 and the winner will receive 50% of the proceeds collected, plus \$250.

There will be **no mounts accepted after 2 pm on Friday**. There will also be **no mounts excepted on Saturday!**

We have several Award-Winning Taxidermists levels joining us this year to judge our show!! By popular demand, we will now have a dedicated a Fish Judge!

- **Jeff Mourning – Fish**
- **Mike Nakielski – Waterfowl and Upland Birds**
- **Jackob Clark – Game Heads and Mammals**
- **Our very own Mike Mizelle – Turkeys**

- **Doug Montgomery is returning as our Whitetail Judge**

**\*Mount Off Competition\***

We will be hosting a **Mount Off Competition** on Thursday evening! You must pre-register and the fee is \$35.00. The winner will be announced and presented an award at the Awards Banquet on Saturday. Spectators are encouraged and invited to come watch, mingle, and have fun!

**Rules:**

- Each competitor will have 3 hours to complete the mount.
- You must bring your own mounting stands, tools, and a tarp to place under your work area.
- You may have the skin and manikin completely prepared. Horns and ears, with ear liners, may be set on the form. No parts can be in the skin, only prep work.
- Adjustments can be made on Friday between 9:00am and 9:30am.
- Mounts will be judged as a commercial mount at 5 ft away. Judges will judge collectively and pick the best mount.

**\*Corn Hole Tournament\***

On Friday night, we will host a **cornhole tournament**, after the auction! Please see Mike Mizelle for details and registration.

**\*Fundraiser\***

We will have a fundraiser with online ticket drawing! The prize is a turkey mount by award winning taxidermist, Mike Mizelle.

**Rules:**

- Each ticket will cost \$25. Once the funds are received by our Treasurer, Michele Blankenship, she will send you a copy of your ticket.
- The winner sends a turkey skin to Mike Mizelle (in advance of show) to prepare the skin and he will mount it at the 2023 show in his seminar. The winner gets to take the turkey home with them! How cool is that!
- The ticket sales start October 1<sup>st</sup> and the drawing will be December 15<sup>th</sup>! Good Luck!!

**\*New Rule\***

Last but not least is new rule for registration! We are now requiring pre-registration no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee registration fee of \$50.00. Pre-registering allows us to get an accurate estimate for the amount of food needed at the banquet and other events.

In Closing, we will be sending reminders, calling, and posting on Facebook. Please feel free to reach out for any questions. We look forward to seeing you in February!

Sincerely

Theresa

**Officers:**

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