

Subject: NYSCC Presidents Annual Report 2020.

As I thought about this year's report, it came to my mind that this is not an end of year report as there is 3 ½ months left, but rather it is an annual report. We all know of the end of year scrambles we have had to go through in the past. With COVID-19, will this end of year be the same?? Indications are if we as a group continue going, in the present direction as we are the answer could be no.

First may I say to all of you that stood up in the battle to deal with the COVID virus thank you. Be it being called for military duty, working the health care services or so many of the other essential services well done and thank you.

Within the Council I wouldn't say that things slowed down with COVID-19 it was more that the duties and actions changed. I would like to say even in its beginning, that the energy behind the "Rebuild 2020" is showing some benefits. We have our core people, plus more people are stepping up and willing to take action.

We were in the planning stages of our Spring / Legislative Meeting when the effect of COVID were being seen. The spring meetings were cancelled, shortly followed by the canceling of our normal fall convention. We also lost our spring fundraisers. We were lucky when we saw where groups such as ours could apply for PPP Grants from the Federal Government. With some work and research from the office staff our treasurer, and a couple of others we were awarded a grant of around \$10,000. That pretty much covered us to the June – July time frame. (Replaced other normal sources of income.) Dues and BAM contributions dropped off a little, but with Treasurer Mike Elam's organizing and reaching out efforts many are returning with their dues and Bam Contributions being paid. Through the directors and some others, there has been a few members rejoin the Council. Soon you will see on our website a drive to where you can make an end of month donation. With good participation in this initiative we could erase or lesson the end of year revenue appeal. Money concerns will never go away. How we handle those concerns can make a big difference to our success. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the present renewals an unsolicited donations are making a solid impact.

Improvements in methods of communication have been made this year. Constant Contact is now being handled by Legislative VP Pat Mc Brearty. The transfer of this duty from the office to Pat was not smooth. A lot of technical issues came up with servers and service providers. I would estimate it has only been the last couple of months where Constant Contact is operating close the where Pat McBrearty would like it to be. Our new WordPress website is now and further evolving as a source of timely communication and information. Put YouTube and Instagram and our normal emailing in the picture, and we are reaching to more and more people.

Growth and member retention is getting better. The *New York State Chapter of Trout Unlimited* is now an Associate Member. We are in the process of reaching out to Back Country Hunters and Anglers to see if a closer working relation is possible. We have a new Chairman of our Marine Resources Committee in Charles Witek. A man with a lot of experience in coastal lands and salt water fishing. He

has been / is on various federal advisory groups. His approach will be from a sportsmen and environmental perspective.

Working on Council issues, daily this time of year, makes me aware of the issues before us. It also make me confident that with the resources we have, some of which still lie untapped, the Council will thrive in the next year(s) to come. Thanks to all that do so much.

Chuck Parker

President, New York State Conservation Council