

Virginia Trappers Association

President's Report – January 2016

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The Executive Board and Board of Directors have been busy working to improve our Association and expand trapper rights. We've garnered support from Senator Bryce Reeves to introduce a bill to allow the Game Department to regulate sale of furbearer products to persons/organizations other than registered fur buyers. If the bill passes, we'll work with the VDGIF to draft the regulation regarding sale of products. The 50th Anniversary Convention scheduled for July 2016 has been moved from Expoland in Fishersville to Page County Fairgrounds near Luray. The move will provide better demonstration and camping sites as well as save a substantial amount of money. Since social media has become a way of life for many of us, we need to improve our ability to communicate with members using this media. Our web site has been static and under-utilized for some time now and other media sources need to be introduced to reach members and potential new members. To this end, the Board of Directors has approved a motion to establish the position of Communications Director. The Director's primary function will be to enhance our web site and open new media sources. John Gullion from District 1 is our interim Director. He has already done an exceptional job of improving our web site and has developed an app for smart phone users. The position will be voted on at the July 2016 General Membership meeting for final approval. The Executive Board established a Legislative Committee consisting of Kurt Butler, Carol Carr, and Norm Mullins. They will be working on the furbearer Senate Bill and the upcoming VDGIF regulation review. Send any issues/concerns that you think need to be addressed by Game Department regulation change to me. The Executive Board will review and determine if Legislative Committee action is warranted.

It's hard to believe the season is already over. As mentioned in the last Trapper's Post article, due to fur prices I reduced my steel in the ground time this year. I hope you've had a safe and enjoyable season and the market improves so we can be adequately paid for our hard work. As always, if you have any questions or ideas on how we can improve our Association, please contact me.