

Izaak Walton League of America



**Melissa
Doepke
Receives
Judge Tobin
Award As
Fort Wayne
Chapter
Member of
Year**

October 2025

Fort Wayne Chapter

News





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Wayne Chapter of The Izaak
Walton League of America
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KEY FALL EVENTS



**Ladies
Firearm Class**
Pistol Training & Safety

Ready to feel confident and capable with a pistol? Join us for a hands-on class designed just for women!

- Learn essential firearm safety
- Train with experienced instructors
- Gain real shooting experience
- Bring your pistol or try one of ours

Whether you're brand new or looking to sharpen your skills, this is a welcoming, supportive environment to learn and grow.

September 27, 2023
9 am - 42pm
Cost: Members: \$15
Non-Members: \$25

Fort Wayne Chapter
17100 Griffin Road
Huntertown, IN 46748
More information:
iwlw-fw.org/calendar



iwlw-fw.org

**Rimfire
CHAMPIONSHIP**

- Sign-in starts at 9:30am
- \$10 per person
- 50/50 Split for winner
- Rifle must be under \$1250 MSRP with original barrel and action
- 50yrd and 100yrd
- Members Only

SATURDAY OCT 4 2023 10:00am to 12:00pm

Follow Link to Register for Event

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO: fortwayne@hotmail.com



KYL Championship

- Sign-in starts at 9:30am
- \$10 per person
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- 50yrd and 100yrd
- Members Only

SATURDAY OCT 11 2023 10:00am to 12:00pm

Follow Link to Register for Event

MEMBERS ONLY

EMAIL QUESTIONS TO: fortwayne@hotmail.com

RSP Range
17100 Griffin Rd
Huntertown, IN



The Izaak Walton League
Fort Wayne Chapter

OCTOBER FEST

Bouncy House - Games - Hay Rides - Fishing - Hiking
Kid Crafts - Mums - Pumpkins - Much More!

This family-friendly fall celebration features:
• Local food, crafts, and outdoor fun

18 October 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
17100 Griffin Rd
Huntertown, IN

Public and Members Are Invited!



the Fort Wayne Chapter

Page 2



Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA

CHAPTER ON THE MOVE!



September 2025

Dear Members,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the early days of fall here in Northeast Indiana. Our recent members' meeting on September 12, 2025, was a special occasion filled with fellowship, reflection, and well-deserved recognition of those who go above and beyond for our Chapter.

Celebrating Service and Dedication: It was my honor to present awards to several individuals whose contributions have left a lasting mark on the Fort Wayne Chapter.

- Dick Atkinson was recognized for his many years of dedicated service as both a member of the Board of Directors and our Range Maintenance Manager. His inventive solutions and numerous improvements to our facilities will remain a legacy for generations of members to come.
- Dave Vaughn received recognition for his hard work in building new Leupold benches, trail signs, and campsite signage. His craftsmanship adds both function and beauty to our chapter grounds.
- Darrell Fish was honored for constructing an impressive variety of birdhouses, bat houses, and wood duck boxes across our property, enhancing our conservation mission and supporting local wildlife.
- Steve Regnier was thanked for generously donating both his time and materials to build the beautiful new pavilion at Tree Walk Camp. This pavilion will serve as a gathering place for events and youth programs for years to come.
- Todd Chiddister was recognized for his skill and sportsmanship in winning the chapter's Spring Rimfire Championship. Congratulations, Todd!
- Melissa Doepke was awarded the National IWLA Tobin Award, one of the League's most prestigious honors, for her tireless efforts and ongoing dedication to the success of our chapter. Her leadership and commitment embody the very best of what the Izaak Walton League stands for.

Looking Ahead" As we celebrate these outstanding contributions, let us all be inspired to find new ways—large or small—to contribute to the vitality of our Chapter. Whether it's volunteering on the range, assisting with youth programs, maintaining trails, or simply lending a hand at events, every effort makes a difference. Thank you again to all who attended the September meeting and to every member who continues to support our mission of conservation, outdoor recreation, and community service. Together, we are leaving a legacy for the next generation.

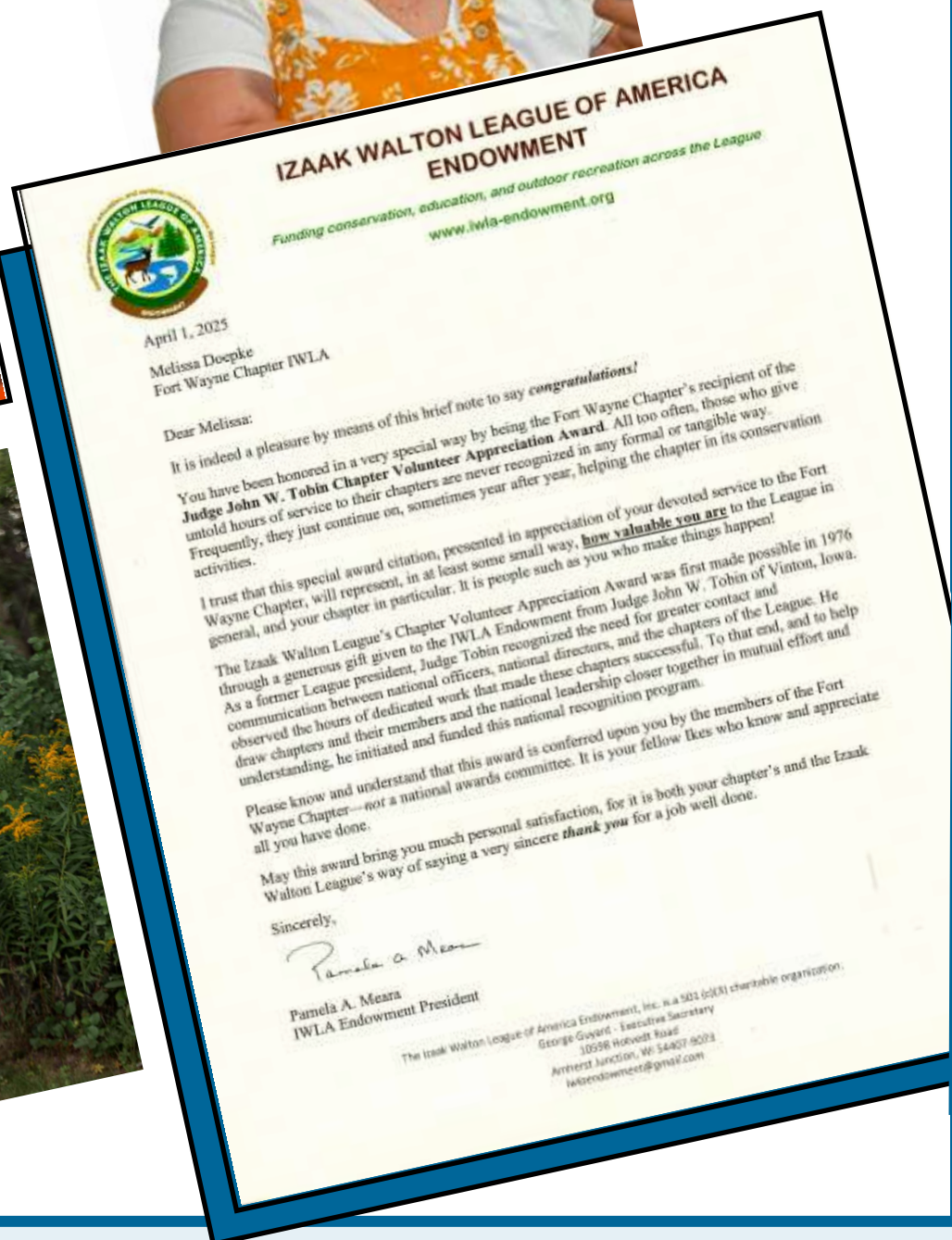
See you at the Chapter.

Respectfully,

President
IWLA-FW]

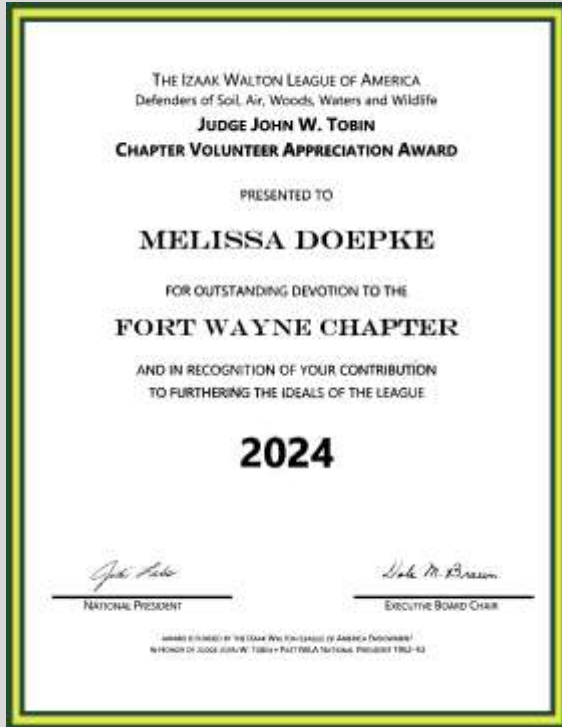


Melissa Doepke Honored With A Tobin





Chapter Members Recognized



VISIT Our FINE ADVERTISERS





Service Awards (Continued)

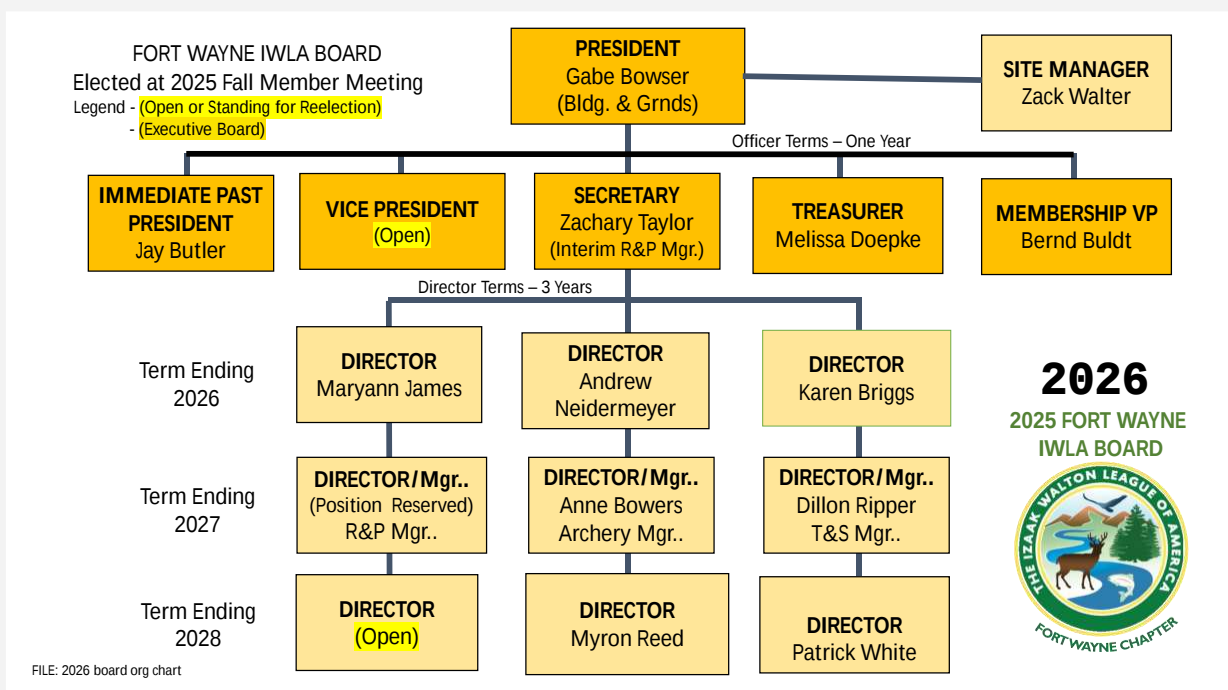




Officers and Directors Elected At October Membership meeting



From left to right: Zac Taylor—Sec'y. & R&P Mgr., Karen Briggs— Director, Bernd Buldt-Membership V.P., Melissa Doepke-Treasure & Marketing Mgr., Pat White-Director & CRSO and Gabe Bowser President & Building & Grounds Mgr. Jay Butler-Immediate Past President— Not shown is Officer by nature of position.





Photos of 2025 Fall Members Meeting

EDITORS NOTE: Sorry Folks. I didn't mean to be in so many photos, I Just Publish what I've been given. 😊



Long Time "Ike" & Latest Board Director, Karen Briggs Speaks to another Long Time "Ike".



Award recipient David Vaughan and wife enjoy the meal prepared by Chapter Hospitality Team.



Anne Bowser, Director/Mgr. of Archery and New Son Garrison, Chats with Immediate Past President.



Secretary/Rifle & Pistol Range Manager , Zac Taylor Readies Serving Table For Start of Meeting



Director/Range Manager of Trap & Skeet Brings In Cooker of Pulled Pork For the Meal



Past Chapter President Jay Butler and President Gabe Bowser Discuss Tobin Award

Attendees listen to Treasurer, Melissa Doepke Give Treasurers Report.



Todd Chiddister, Champion KYL Shooter Chat 'Bout Shootin' With new Board Member Karen Briggs in background.





You Can Now Make Chapter Payments Online

We Now Accept Credit Card Payments!

The Fort Wayne Chapter is now equipped to accept credit card payments for:

- Guest Fees
- Membership Dues
- Membership Renewals
- New Membership Applications



Note: As a non-profit organization, a small processing fee will be added to your annual membership dues.



Guest Fees

Simply follow the posted signs and scan the QR codes to pay quickly and securely.

Membership Dues

Online Credit Card Payment:

Visit iwla-fw.org/membership to get get started.

Current Member Renewal

Current Member Renewal

OR

New Membership

New Member Applications

You will be asked to complete a online form to provide information required by the new National database.

Then you will simply select your membership level.

Check Payment:

Remit your annual dues payment with the enclosed envelope!



We're making it easier than ever to support our chapter and enjoy all the benefits of membership. Thank you for helping us grow!



News & Notes From The R&P Range

Welcoming Guests the Right Way

One of the great benefits of our Rifle & Pistol Range is the opportunity to share it with family, friends, and prospective members. Each voting member is permitted to bring up to two guests at a time. Guest fees are \$10 per person and cover access to the entire Chapter property for the day.

Sponsors are responsible for ensuring their guests understand and follow all range rules. Guests must sign the liability waiver before shooting, and they must remain under the direct supervision of their host member while on the firing line. As always, the instructions of the Range Safety Officer (RSO) are to be followed without exception.

Welcoming guests properly does more than maintain safety. It introduces new people to our Chapter and helps strengthen the League for the future. Many of today's members initially visited as guests, including me.

Volunteer as an RSO

Our range is staffed entirely by volunteers. To remain open as much as possible, we need more members to step up as RSOs. When shifts go unfilled, the range must close, and that affects all of us. If you enjoy your time at the range and want to ensure it's available to others, please consider training and serving as an RSO. It's one of the most direct and rewarding ways you can contribute to our Chapter, and shifts are only 4.5 hours long.



**Ladies
Firearm Class**
Pistol Training & Safety

Ready to feel confident and capable with a pistol? Join us for a hands-on class designed just for women!

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Ladies Only Introductory Pistol Course

Join us on Saturday, September 27th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for our Ladies Only Introductory Pistol Course. This class is designed for new shooters or those looking to build confidence and reinforce the fundamentals in a supportive setting.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Ammunition will be provided for our Chapter pistols. Participants are welcome to bring their own firearm, but must provide their own ammo.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/M4UyStPFGuoTNFLC6>

This course is part of our commitment to expanding range

operations and educational opportunities. Watch for more classes and events as we continue to grow.

Zac Taylor
Range Manager—Rifle & Pistol



Chapter Archery Ends Season on Strong Note!



We had a strong finish to our archery season this year. Our second Youth Intro to Archery had a great turn out with some new faces and some from our spring event. Next year is looking up for these kids and they can't wait for next season! The final 3D shoot for the year did not disappoint with beautiful weather and a great turn out with archers both young and old. The final page for our season involved the American Heritage Girls. They were all very eager to earn their badges and each one did an amazing job showing all the things they learned. We have many new and exciting things in the works for next year! Stay tuned and we look forward to seeing everyone next year! As always if you have any questions or would like to help out with our archery program please reach out to our archery manager Anne Bowser at amarieb3810@gmail.com.

Anne Bowser
Archery Manager





CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDAR

Start date	Start	End	Subject
9/27/2025	9:00 AM	12:00 PM	Ladies Firearm Class
10/4/2025	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	Rimfire Championship
10/4/2025	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	Chapter Work Day
10/11/2025	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	KYL Championship
10/18/2025	11:00 AM	4:00 PM	October Fest

3/7/2026 8:00 AM 5:30 PM IWLA - Div BOD Mtg.

Contact Us!

President—Gabe Bowser (gbows09@yahoo.com)
 Rifle & Pistol Mgr.—Zac Taylor (zacharyptaylor91@gmail.com)
 Trap & Skeet Mgr.—Dillon Ripper (dillonripperger@yahoo.com)
 Archery Mgr.—Anne Bowser (amarieb3810@gmail.com)
 Walton Pond Chair—Brian Doepke (briandoepke@gmail.com)
 Buildings & Grounds—Gabe Bowser (gbows09@yahoo.com)

Chapter E-Mail – (iwla-fw.org/contact)
 Chapter Website— (iwla-fw.org)
 Chapter Phone Number - (260) 619-6768

Walton Pond In September

Just as autumn leaves are starting to float upon the water, here is another family, friendly activity that our members could enjoy as they float on the water. A peddle boat. Please wear a life vest. Steering the boat is performed by using a T-handle in the middle console and pushing it forward or pulling it backward, depending on which direction you want to go.



Brian Doepke
Walton Pond
Chair



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R&P Range
17100 Griffin Rd
Munertown, IN

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION VISIT
OUR WEBSITE **iwla-fw.org**