

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

FEB 2026



FORT WAYNE CHAPTER

NEWS

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BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

February has traditionally been a quieter month for our Chapter, and this year proved to be the quietest in recent years as the inclement weather significantly impacted our amenities, resulting in our Chapter being closed more frequently than usual. However, we anticipate a pickup in activities come March, and we will provide updates and coverage in our upcoming Chapter NEWS.

Jay Butler—Managing Editor



Fort Wayne Chapter, IWLA

Fellow Members,

As we settle into the heart of winter, the cold weather has a way of reminding us to slow down, bundle up, and adjust our daily routines. Shorter days, frozen ground, and icy mornings may keep us indoors more than we'd like, but this season also gives us a chance to reflect, plan, and prepare for the busy months ahead at our Chapter.



Even while winter has a firm grip on us, there's a lot happening behind the scenes at Fort Wayne Izaak Walton—and your continued involvement makes all the difference.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: A friendly reminder that membership renewals are now due. Please keep an eye out for reminder renewal notices arriving by mail, or feel free to renew online through our website at your convenience. Your membership directly supports our conservation efforts, property improvements, shooting sports, youth programming, and the many activities that make our Chapter such a special place. Renewing on time helps us plan effectively for the year ahead and keeps everything running smoothly.

SPREAD THE WORD: If you enjoy what the Chapter has to offer, consider sharing that experience with a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member. Many people don't realize the wide range of benefits our membership provides—from shooting sports and fishing to hiking, camping, conservation projects, and a strong sense of community. A personal invitation or a simple conversation can go a long way in growing our membership and ensuring the long-term strength of our Chapter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: As an all-volunteer organization, we rely heavily on members stepping up to help fill volunteer positions and assist with events, maintenance, and programs throughout the year. Winter is an excellent time to reach out and get involved, whether you have a few hours to give or are interested in taking on a larger role. Volunteers are the backbone of our success, and every contribution—big or small—helps move us forward.

Cold weather won't last forever, and before we know it, spring will be here with full calendars, busy ranges, and packed events. Now is the perfect time to renew, invite others to join, and raise your hand to help shape another great year at Fort Wayne Izaak Walton.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, dedication, and pride in our Chapter. I look forward to seeing you around the grounds—whether bundled up this winter or enjoying the warmer days ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark", written over a light blue background.

President
IWLA-FW

CHAPTER ADDS GUN SHOW PARTICIPATION TO OUR COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



In January, our Chapter revitalized a past Chapter Community Outreach project of manning a table at local Gun Shows, an initiative to raise awareness of our shooting range and the diverse outdoor activities our Chapter offers. A dedicated team of Chapter volunteers—Brian Doepke, Gabe Bowser, Pat White, John Legg, Tom Hale, Tom Reni, and Mark Ceccarelli—worked tirelessly to manage our informational table throughout the event.

During this busy event, they successfully collected twenty-four new member applications and distributed 312 tri-fold brochures. Each brochure was paired with a complimentary target generously provided by our friends at Auburn Arms, adding an interactive element that attendees appreciated.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Auburn Arms and our Chapter volunteers for their unwavering commitment and support in making this event a success.



CHAPTER SHOWS NET GAIN OF 24
NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS
FROM THIS FIRST GUN SHOW!

Shown in the photos are four of our volunteers, Brian Doepke, Gabe Bowser, Pat White and Mark Ceccarelli.



all

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