

# VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

Wendy Hyde, Editor

## Letter from the President

By Tony Carambia, President

I hope everyone had a great hunting season with family and friends. We sure did get some cold weather, along with snow. It surely made for some different hunting.

We have been working on the upcoming clay fun shoot for the association. Since we have gotten something to go on from the last one, it will be with the improvements that we learned from the first one. I know we will learn more each and every time we put it on. For the people that volunteered, thanks, we will be seeing you there.

The Skills Weekend is on September 14-16, which is the weekend before Advanced Training weekend. We have been working on this also and have a list of classes being offered. The flyer is out and I hope you will get the word out. We have been working with VDGIF and have some new ideas for this Skills Weekend. Our list of instructors has been made that we will be using to fill the classes. This list has been kept to a minimum, so not everyone is on it. BUT stand-by - this all depends on how many people sign up for the weekend. The more we get to come, the more instructors we will be needing. So get the word out! We will only have one Skills Weekend this year because of a lack of participants in previous years. I would like to see us doing two each year, so give us hand and let the people know about it. We need to keep this going for our association, for the good of upcoming hunters, campers, and outdoor enthusiasts so PLEASE do the best you can.

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We have over 500 instructors but only a little more than 70 are in the association. We need more instructors to join, not only for the needed funds but for more ideas, places to hold Skills Weekends, and people to help us teach about our passion for the outdoor activities. We need you to reach out and keep out tradition going.

See you all at Advanced Training in March and have the instructors you know join us.

Very respectfully,

*Anthony P. Carambia (Tony), your  
president  
God Bless*

## A Message from the VP

By Mike Norkus, Vice President

### Need for Hunter Education Instructors

It's no secret that our sport has been a slight decline for the last few years. There are many reasons for this, i.e. changes in culture, expense, loss of habit and loss of available land to hunt, decline of the family, school functions and several others. Not only do we need to increase our efforts to recruit new hunters into our sport but Hunter Education Instructors as well.

Since Hunter Education became mandatory for 12-15 year old and first-time hunters in 1988, there has been a 25% reduction in the rate of hunting-related shooting incidents. We still continue to have incidents and fatalities. While hunting is safe in comparison to other common sports, each injury or fatality can cause extreme physical and emotional pain for the victim, the shooter, and their families. Hunter Education courses are designed to teach hunting safety, principles of conservation, and sportsmanship. We are a dedicated cadre of over 600 trained volunteer instructors who work with 170 Conservation Police Officers to train over 14,000 students each year. When I first started teaching Hunter Education course in the late 90's (yeah I'm old!) we had well over 900 instructors/volunteers across the state.

Hunter Education volunteers are committed to training the next generation to be safe, knowledgeable and ethical participants in an enduring Virginia tradition. Many have had enjoyable hunting experiences and now say that they want to "give something back." If this describes someone in one of your Hunter Education classes, please have them get in touch with us. It can be a very rewarding experience. There is a need for instructors, class organizers, and help with transporting materials. Since working with children and firearms is part of the program, all applicants must submit to a criminal background check and attend a mandatory Basic Instructors Course at Holiday Lake 4-H Center. If you have anyone in your classes who wishes to become involved have them fill out an application to become a Virginia Hunter Education Instructor via email at: [HunterEd@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:HunterEd@dgif.virginia.gov).

Hunt hard and hunt safe! >>>----->

Mike

## IHEA-USA News

Congratulations goes to Leonard Hart, Master Instructor from Region 4, for being chosen by IHEA-USA as one of six winning instructors from across the United States to be chosen as a Champion of Hunter Education. Leonard was nominated for the Gallery of Guns honor by fellow instructor Jim. Leonard is featured in the Winter 2017 issue of the IHEA-USA Journal, pages 28-29. He will receive a 270-caliber Ruger American Rifle.



### IHEA-USA VIP Program Opportunities

IHEA-USA and Experticity have partnered to provide VIP discounts of up to 70% on over 200 hunt, fish and tactical brands to hunter education instructors – plus the opportunity to receive free products, provide feedback and share our passion.

Experticity is an online network and mobile app that provides experts like you with exclusive brand and product access that isn't available to the public. As a hunter education instructor and recognized expert in your industry, you've earned this invitation.

See the Winter 2017 issue of IHEA-USA magazine or go to [www.experticity.com/ihea](http://www.experticity.com/ihea) to sign up for free and unlock your access.

One of the benefits to signing up – Experticity will make a donation to IHEA-USA on behalf of each instructor who takes advantage of the program.

(Excerpted from the IHEA-USA Winter 2017 magazine, page 38)

## Secretary's Notes

By Aaron Grimsley, Secretary

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great fall hunting season and holiday season. Spring is upon us. It is time for our membership renewals. Only members in good standing as of July 1, 2018 will be allowed to vote at the next election. Please try to recruit new members for our association. If anyone is planning on a spring or summer event and needs the help of VHEA or VDGIF, please let me know so I can send the proper request forms. Please try to recruit participants for the fall Hunter Skills Weekend. Please keep in mind we have our second annual fundraiser at Shady Grove in Remington, VA on April 7. I hope to see as many of our members at Advanced Training as possible.

Best,

Aaron Grimsley,  
Secretary

## Membership Information

*All Annual and Associate memberships expire on  
March 31, 2018.*

Annual Membership	\$ 25.00
Life Membership	\$ 150.00
Associate Membership	\$ 15.00

*Join or renew online!*

Go to <http://vahea.org/membership/> and look for these options:



Click on this box to see membership options and pay using a Visa, MasterCard or American Express card.



Click on this box to download and print a Membership and Renewal Form and mail it, along with a check, to the address printed at the bottom of the form.

## 2018 Elections

Nominations for President and Secretary will be accepted beginning with the March 23, 2018 General Membership Meeting.

Article III, Section 2, VHEA By-laws:

(A) Each Officer shall hold office for a period of two years and until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall be and remain qualified for their term of office. Exception to this is the Director of Public Affairs and Marketing (See Director of Public Affairs and Marketing description in Section 4).  
(B) The Term of Office shall begin January 1 following the election. The offices of President and Secretary shall be elected in even years. The offices of Vice-President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd years.  
(C) The process of election of officers will proceed according to the following schedule:

- i. The Board will appoint a Nomination/Election Committee of one (1) Regional Board member and one (1) elected officer (not running for office that year) by the first scheduled Board meeting of the year normally in conjunction with an Advanced Training Weekend (normally in March). Notice to all members of the offices to be filled, Nomination/Election Committee members and due date for nominations to be received, will be communicated to all members at the spring informational meeting held in conjunction with an Advanced Training weekend, by email, and posted to the website by May 1.
- ii. The Nomination/Election Committee will qualify (member is good standing) all nominees and report to the Board a list of candidates for each open office by July 1.
- iii. The Nomination/Election Committee will announce the slate of candidates and voting process to the entire membership in good standing (dues paid and life members) by email, written letter (if so indicated by the member) and posted to the website by August 1.
- iv. The election will be held from August 1 to August 31 by mail-in ballot or by email. The election is open to all currently active members and life members as of July 1 of the same calendar year. Any ballot post marked after August 31, or any email submitted date stamped after August 31 will not be counted.
- v. The Nomination/Election committee will count the ballots and announce the results of the election at the annual meeting of the Association.

## Board Bulletins

### VHEA Officers:

President	Anthony Carambia cartony9@cox.net
Vice President	Mike Norkus bowhantinmike@comcast.net
Treasurer	John Maher jmaher56@verizon.net
Secretary	Aaron Grimsley huntedr@yahoo.com
Regional Directors:	
Region 1	JC Gaitley, III survivalguy@cox.net
Region 2	Talley Cook talleycook43@gmail.com
Region 3	John Gullion trapperjohn@live.com
Region 4	Lynn Hyde lhyde429@yahoo.com
At Large	Jesse Ebron jebtron@sms.com
Director of Public Affairs and Marketing	Wendy Hyde vheadlines@gmail.com

The next meetings are scheduled for March 23, 2018 (during Advanced Training weekend) at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center, Appomattox, VA.

Board Meeting starts at 4:00 pm  
Membership Meeting starts at 7:00 pm

**NOTICE: The Board is seeking a Chairman AND one member from each region for the Ways and Means Committee effective immediately. The goal of the committee is to generate fundraising ideas and work as a team with the Board, Regional Directors, and VHEA members to help accomplish them. Send your name, email address and telephone number to the board at [vheadlines@gmail.com](mailto:vheadlines@gmail.com).**

## Spring Fundraiser in April



### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual VHEA Sporting Clays Fun Shoot Fundraiser is Saturday, April 7, 2017 at Shady Grove Sporting Clays 11986 Lucky Hill Road Remington, VA 22734

Aaron Grimsley is heading up the effort and is the primary contact for any questions.

This is a fun competition and participants can shoot as many rounds as they want. Cost for an adult is \$35.00 per round of 50. We are offering a discounted rate this year for youth - kids 16 and under shoot for \$25.00 per round.

Stations sponsorships are a \$100 tax-deductible contribution. Sponsorship includes a sign at a shooting station, the business or individuals' name and website link is posted on the VHEA website, and sponsors have the opportunity to set up an 8' x 8' display booth at the event.

We still have room for more volunteers - as the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work"! We can still use help if your Saturday is free. To volunteer, email Aaron at [huntedr@yahoo.com](mailto:huntedr@yahoo.com) or call him at 703-895-8027. We'll hold the shoot rain or shine!

This is a fun effort that will help VHEA be able to continue offering workshops, special hunts, and scholarships to educate the public, promote hunter education, and meet our goals.



# Treasurer's Report

By John Maher, Treasurer

	Jan - Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Start	14,592.15	14,536.22	14,172.64	15,825.26
	40.00			
Wendy Hyde	-60.93			
	25.00			
One Source	-60.00			
		25.00		
		350.00		
		50.00		
Vernie Kennedy		-334.56		
State Corp Com		-25.00		
Wade White		-31.91		
CIMA		-337.11		
One Source		-60.00		
			4,049.00	
			50.00	
			845.74	
			150.00	
Event Insurance			-175.00	
Event Seed Money			-250.00	
Aaron Grimsley			-99.19	
Wendy Hyde			-793.03	
Bill Bush			-287.40	
Leslie Carter			-1762.50	
Hosp of Piedmont			-100.00	
			25.00	
Jeff Pease				-271.00
Jeff Pease (IN)				301.00
John Maher				-100.00
John Maher				-60.00
One Source				-18.00
Jeff Pease				-30.00
Wendy Hyde				-59.74
Aaron Grimsley				-72.96
Grant				1,500.00
One Source				-60.00
Microsoft				-69.99
End	14,536.22	14,172.64	15,825.26	16,884.57

2017 was the year VAHEA reversed its downward financial spiral. This means that we can now look beyond Hunter Skills Weekends and Hunter Education Challenge as activities we support. The second VAHEA fundraiser (another Sporting Clay Shoot) will be held 07 April. Based on the critique from the first event, it is probable that we will realize twice the profit! VAHEA is already exploring new projects.

VAHEA is a non-profit corporation. Therefore, it is not our purpose to build a large cash reserve. However, we must be prudent as we move forward – that is we cannot obligate funds we have not yet collected. It is not likely that we will have 2 feet of snow on 07 April. It is possible that we would have inches of rain. Either of these would adversely impact the profit.

As VAHEA supports more projects, we need to take care that we do not inadvertently imply continuing (annual) support. Such a commitment could limit the ability to support other projects and any misunderstanding would not reflect well on VAHEA.

## Regional News

### Region 1

If you have an idea or want to participate in any future events in Region One, please let me know so I can pass it on to the board and officers.

Thanks for the support and remember that I am here to help you when and where I can.

JC  
Region 1 Director

### Region 2

No report submitted

### Region 3

As most know I took on Region 3 Director. Some of my goals will be to get a youth skills weekend setup in Region 3. It is in the planning stage right now. I have located a location and will be working with Jeff Pease and others to get it organized and set up. As we move forward I will be asking for volunteers to help out with this event.

Also, I would like to do a membership drive of our Region 3 instructors and get more interested in joining the Association. Region 3 has the lowest number of members of all the regions; we have a lot of good instructors and I would like to see more get involved in our cause.

Last but not least, I would like to hear from all the members of Region 3 if you have any ideas or complaints please feel free to contact me.

And thanks to everyone for letting me serve as Regional Director, I will do everything I can to support our heritage and promote hunter safety.

John Gullion  
Region 3 Director

### Region 4

No thing to report

### At Large

No report submitted

## In Tribute



### Chauncey D. Herring, Jr.

Chauncey, age 87, passed away peacefully at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital surrounded by his loving family on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.

Chauncey was a man of many talents, having served in the US Army, was a Hunter Safety Instructor and a Civil War Living Historian for over 30 years. He also was a member of the Piankatank Community League and served as a deacon at Shepherdsville Baptist Church. Chauncey loved his family and will be missed greatly by all he touched.

Chauncey is survived by his wife of 63 years, Phyllis Herring; daughters, Sharon Hicks (Paul), Rosalyn Allen (Glen); son, Chauncey Herring, III; eight grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, one nephew and a host of cousins and friends.

A Celebration of Life service officiated by Reverend Kevin Thompson was held Tuesday, January 16, 2018 in the Chapel of Hogg Funeral Home, Gloucester Point. Memorial contributions in Chauncey's memory may be made to Gloucester Volunteer Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 1417, Gloucester, VA 23061.

In his many years of teaching with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as a hunter education instructor, Chauncey volunteered over 5,000 hours. His dedication was recognized in 2016 through the Director's Award and was presented with a Henry rifle.

## In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

We are “adjusting our sights” for the next several issues and looking outside our organization to people we interact with in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. I am grateful for their cooperation and willingness to let us learn about them, and hopefully foster new relationships or learn something new about an old friend.

<b>Name</b>	Bryan Branch
<b>In what county do you live?</b>	Southampton
<b>What is your job title?</b>	Recreational Safety Coordinator, Region 1
<b>What areas of the state do you support?</b>	Region 1 and beyond as needed.
<b>How long have you had this position?</b>	Just over a year
<b>Do you have law enforcement experience? For who and how long?</b>	No
<b>What prompted you to work for VDGIF?</b>	Becoming rich through public service (kidding!). A desire to lend my skill set toward teaching others to safely enjoy what I do: hunting.



<b>What do you enjoy most about your job?</b>	Working with volunteers; it makes it easy when the people you are working with have the passion to share their knowledge and experiences.
<b>What is the most challenging aspect of your job?</b>	Geography! Working in a Region with so many rivers and so few bridges extends my time on the road to get to volunteers and classes.
<b>How did your interest in hunting begin?</b>	I hunted some as a teen, was in the local 4-H Shooting Education Club but didn't continue once I enrolled in college. In my late 20's I started carving "shelf bird" decoys (they sit on a shelf!); a couple years into that hobby I carved a decoy rig to hunt over. I spend most of my hunting time pursuing waterfowl.
<b>Where did you grow up?</b>	Southampton County, VA
<b>What is your educational background (high school, college, what did you study)?</b>	Radford University, B.S. in Recreation Management; Longwood University, M.S. in Counseling
<b>Do you have any training certifications?</b>	In my previous employment at Holiday Lake 4-H Center, I was certified as a 4-H Shooting Education Instructor in both Archery and Riflery, was an American Canoe Association Canoeing Instructor and was a High Ropes Course Instructor.
<b>What other jobs have you had in the past?</b>	I was the Center Director at Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center for 12 years and the Program Director at the same facility the seven previous years.
<b>Are you a member of any community organizations or churches?</b>	Not currently outside of church, though I occasionally attend a carving club.
<b>What would you like to share about your family (parents, spouse, children, grandchildren)?</b>	I have been married for 19 years to my wife Nicole and we have two children, Caroline, 14, and Randy, 12. We are fortunate enough to live close by our children's grandparents and cousins which is important to all of us.
<b>What do you like to do on your time off?</b>	With teenage kids, we stay busy with their activities, but otherwise I enjoy hunting, fishing, decoy carving, and gardening, both vegetable and ornamental.
<b>Do you have any hobbies?</b>	I can't think of any I didn't list above.