



Oak Harbor Conservation Club

Newsletter

September 2025 975 S. Gordon Rd., Oak Harbor, OH Web: www.ohcc.us Facebook: OHCC and OHCC Members Only

October Annual Meeting

The October Trustees and members meetings will be followed by the Annual Meeting. This year's agenda includes a number of amendments to the constitution and by-laws and the election of officers and trustees. This is the most important meeting of the year as it is when the membership decides the leadership of the club and allocates the funding for the following year. **PRIOR TO THE MEETING THE SECRETARY OR TREASURER WILL BE VERIFYING MEMBERSHIPS TO QUALIFY FOR VOTING. COME EARLY TO AVOID DELAYS AND BEAT THE RUSH.**

By-law and Constitution changes.

A gun show policy is needed for the club for insurance purposes. The issuance of the electronic fobs for club and range access provision has not been used as written for years due to the change from combination locks to electronic fobs. The change is to bring the provision up to date with how the fobs are issued. The 2025 budget provided for block funding of committees to provide for more flexibility in performing committee functions. The procedure seems to be working as intended and the budget committee is proposing to use the same procedure for 2026. The 2026 budget also provides for the creation of reserve accounts to allocate funds for the replacement of equipment and major improvements anticipated by the trustees. Neither the by-laws nor the constitution provides for reserve accounts so the membership will vote on whether block funding and reserve accounts can be used. Several years ago the trustees created a capital improvements line item designed to be used for major capital improvements. A provision has been presented to define what a capital improvement is for purposes of use of the line item. Bookkeeping definitions are very general and would allow the use of the funds for everything from a light fixture on up. The original purpose of the line item was for MAJOR improvement costing several thousand dollars, not as a substitute for maintenance or minor improvements that should come out of regular line items in the budget.

The proposed 2026 budget eliminates the 2025 year policy of allocating all dues paid by Darr members from being allocated to the Darr. The budget is based upon operating needs, annual income, and available funds. The budget provides for block funding of committees which allows the committee chairman to allocate funds up to \$5,000 per item without trustee approval and allows the committee chairman to establish priorities and adjust to changes circumstances during the year.

The proposed budget also establishes reserve funds for specific purposes which the trustees anticipate will be needed in the coming years. The funds can be added to each year to accumulate sufficient funds to purchase new or replacement equipment or major improvements to club facilities. The trustees must approve purchases by a super majority vote as the funds are for restricted use and limited purposes.

These changes and budgeting are something the membership should be familiar with and come out to vote for or against the changes as they can have a profound affect on the club's operation.

Election of Officers and Trustees: The club does not have representative districts, so to speak. All trustees and officers represent the entire membership and must make decisions based on the best interest of the entire club. Candidates should have good planning skills, budgeting skills. A good marksman or hunter will not necessarily be a good person for management of the club. Candidates should have attended trustees meetings and be familiar with the clubs funding, constitution and bylaws, and operations. People who have volunteered to be a director of a program or committee chairman have a leg up on club operation.

Everyone who expressed an interest in running for office as offered the opportunity to submit a bio so the membership will know something about them and their vision for the club. The following candidates submitted information for your consideration.

Trustee: Dennis Finke

My name is Dennis Finke. I have been a club member for a long time and am running for trustee. I have previously served as club President, treasurer, and as a trustee. I have helped to clean and maintain the clubhouse providing monthly cleaning, mowing, weeding, as well as working at the various club activities. For many years Scott Kieffer, Terry Warner, and I conducted the annual fishing derby. I am retired and have the time to devote to managing the club.

Trustee Jason Destatte. Jason Destatte is running for reelection for trustee.

Trustee Mike Gargac:

I'm Mike Gargac and I'm running for a third term as Trustee. I reside in Graytown with my wife Joyce. We have two sons and five grandchildren. I'm retired from two careers. I retired in 2018 as a District Technician with the Ottawa Soil & Water Conservation District after forty-one years of service. I worked with landowners throughout Ottawa County in implementing soil and water conservation projects. Most of my work consisted of agricultural drainage design and erosion control projects. I also worked on numerous public drainage improvement projects to include the surveying, engineering design, public meetings, bid specifications and construction inspection. I was also the Ditch Maintenance Supervisor overseeing the maintenance of 120 miles of completed public projects to include four pumping stations for drainage and flood control.

I retired in 2009 from the United States Army as a Command Sergeant Major after thirty-six years of active and reserve service. I spent most of my career in Special Operations units. I also spent twenty years on the Army Reserve Shooting Team competing in high power rifle and combat rifle to include international competition.

I've been a member of Oak Harbor Conservation Club for forty years. I served as a trustee in the 1980s. I originally joined to shoot on the Senior Rifle Team in the Northwestern Ohio Rifle League. I still compete with the rifle team and currently I am the secretary-treasurer of the league. I also belong to Chapter 45 of the Special Forces Association and the American Legion.

I've seen a lot of new programs and events offered at the club over the years. I see a lot of potential to expand programs and events throughout all areas of the club. We need to maintain existing facilities and property with a comprehensive plan and then look at how we can achieve these goals.

Vice President:

James “Fish” Carr. I am presently finishing my first term as club vice president. In the last two years serving on the budget committee I have become very familiar with the funding of the club and as vice president have studied and become familiar with the clubs constitution and by-laws. I also acted a president during at least two meeting. I’m am 74years old. I graduated from Attica Local High School. I’m married and moved to this area in 1979. I retired from the Ohio Army National Guard as a Staff Sgt., E-6, as a helicopter repairer and crew chief; tank turret repairman on M1 Abrams & Bradley Fighting Vehicles. I retired from law enforcement with 26 years with the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Department as a road patrol deputy and served eight years with the Oak harbor Police Department as a street officer.

I have served as a firearms instructor for the Ohio Peace Officer’s Training Academy. I hold an Associate Degrees in Police Science and Police Administration. I enjoy hunting, trapping, the shooting sports, and have competed in the National Matches several years. I’ve helped at the Gordon Road clubhouse doing wall board repair, painting, electrical work, and lawn mowing.

Vice President:

My name is David Witt, and I am honored to be considered for the position of Vice President of the Oak Harbor Conservation Club. I have been married to my wife, Lu Ann, for 41 years, and we are proud parents of four children and grandparents to nine wonderful grandchildren.

I recently retired after a 37-year career at the Davis Besse Nuclear Power Plant, where I served as a licensed Senior Reactor Operator and, most recently, as the Operations Training Manager. Prior to that, I served our country as an Electronic Warfare Technician in the United States Navy.

In addition to my professional career, I have remained active in our community through leadership roles in youth organizations. I served as President of the Oak Harbor Wrestling Club for four years and as President of the Oak Harbor Youth Baseball Organization for five years. These roles gave me the opportunity to mentor young people and promote values of responsibility, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

I strongly believe that one of the most important missions of our Conservation Club is to introduce our youth to the traditions and responsibilities of shooting sports, hunting, and fishing. As Vice President, I will work to ensure that we continue to provide opportunities for the next generation to learn, respect, and carry forward our outdoor heritage.

I would appreciate your support and the opportunity to serve the Oak Harbor Conservation Club in this important role.

SEPTEMBER MEETING EVENTS: The audit of the clubs books has been completed. The committee is recommending some procedures to tighten up the accounting on club events like the wild game dinner and matches.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Junior Rifle 6 - 8:30 pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Women Only 5 pm to 9 pm			Junior Rifle 6 - 8:30 pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Meetings Trustees 7 p.m. Members 8 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING At the club house			Junior Rifle 6 - 8:30 pm		Rimfire Sporter Relays start at 8 am 10 am and 12 noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Women Only 5 pm to 9 pm			Junior Rifle 6 - 8:30 pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	FOB 7:00 p.m.			Junior Rifle 6 - 8:30 pm		