

National Congress of Old West Shootists

Minutes of the 47th Congress, Davenport IA

March 21, 2025

6:30 PM

Senate and Representative Caucus

Representative Caucus: Six Representatives were present and six Representatives by proxy (see Roll Call). Representative Tom Spanton was elected to the position of Chair of the Territorial Representatives.

Senate Caucus: Fourteen Senators were present and one Senator by proxy (see Roll Call). Senator Alex Ray was elected as Chair of the Territorial Senate.

7:00 PM

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Marshal John Hoker called the Congress meeting to order at 6:58 PM

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll Call

Senators present: Dan Borer, Bryan Buck, Caroline Buck, John Covert, John Hoker, John Irons, Glen Kreilein, Dart Liebrandt, Patrick Postell, Alex Ray, Joe Ray, Dave Scott, Theresa Scott, Mike Tatham

Present by Proxy: Paul Weller (proxy is Rhonda Tomlinson)

Territorial Representatives present: Gary Davison, Anastasia Hope, Henry Schlein, Mike Scott, Thomas Spanton, Reed Van Ness

Present by Proxy: Ted Beechler (proxy is Patrick Postell), Duane Butt (proxy is John Liford), Kevin Daniels (proxy is Len Abels), Robert Duff (proxy is Patrick Postell), Cliff Fendley (proxy is Joe Cacciatore), Larry Quattlebaum (proxy is Patrick Postell)

Installation of New Senators and Representatives

Bryan Buck presided over the swearing in of new Territorial Representative Ted Beechler and new Territorial Senators Caroline Buck, John Hoker, Glen Kreilein, Dart Liebrandt, Patrick Postell.

Election of Officers

John Hoker was nominated for Marshal. Bryan Buck moved to close nominations for Marshal. Henry Schlein seconded. Marshal John Hoker confirmed there were no additional nominations and then a vote was held for John Hoker to be Marshal.

Motion passed unanimously.

Dart Liebrandt was nominated for Judge. Rhonda Tomlinson moved to close nominations for Judge. John Irons seconded. Marshal John Hoker confirmed there were no additional nominations and then a vote was held for Dart Liebrandt to be Judge.

Motion passed unanimously.

Bryan Buck was nominated for Deputy Marshal. John Covert moved to close nominations for Deputy Marshal. Glen Kreilein seconded. Marshal John Hoker confirmed there were no additional nominations and then a vote was held for Bryan Buck to be Deputy Marshal.

Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Postell was nominated for Secretary. Dart Liebrandt moved to close nominations for Secretary. Alex Ray seconded. Marshal John Hoker confirmed there were no additional nominations and then a vote was held for Patrick Postell to be Secretary.

Motion passed unanimously.

Joe Ray was nominated for Banker. Bryan Buck moved to close nominations for Banker. Henry Schlein seconded. Marshal John Hoker confirmed there were no additional nominations and then a vote was held for Joe Ray to be Banker.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elected Officers are John Hoker for Marshal, Bryan Buck for Deputy Marshal, Patrick Postell for Secretary, Joe Ray for Banker, and Dart Liebrandt for Judge.

Alex Ray was elected to be Chair of the Territorial Senate by the Territorial Senate during the Senate Caucus.

Tom Spanton was elected to be Chair of the Territorial Representatives by the Territorial Representatives during the Representatives Caucus.

John Irons agreed to serve as Editor for another year.

Presentation of Minutes of the 46th Congress

A call to read the minutes from the 46th Congress was made.

Dave Scott moved to have Congress accept the minutes as posted and published in the magazine.

Seconded by Glen Kreilein.

Motion carried unanimously.

Marshal Report

Marshal John Hoker talked about finances. He said recent numbers look worse than they are, but they still need improvement. An extra quarterly payment for the "Shootist" magazine made the expenses larger than normal. Additional savings are being implemented to reduce expenses. These include changing the phone provider to save about \$800 per year, a fee for Ladies' Tea and a sponsor to pay for the remaining expenses, and better advertisement for the raffle to sell more tickets. John also volunteered to lead the effort to host the convention next year.

Deputy Marshal Report

Outgoing Deputy Marshal Dart Liebrandt said he has enjoyed NCOWS along with the rest of the SMVS posse. He believes one of the challenges NCOWS is facing is getting new shooters. The cost of getting started in NCOWS can be a lot. He recommends helping new shooters get clothing and other items they could use by members identifying old or unused items to they no longer use that the new shooters could have at minimal cost. Also working with new members to help them make smart decisions on purchases that are NCOWS approved.

Judge Report

Outgoing Judge Bryan Buck said it has been an honor serving as an officer and has met a lot of great people. That it is important to help shooters get and have appropriate clothes and gear.

Banker Report

Banker Joe Ray prepared reports on NCOWS finances.

Marshal John Hoker had Dave Scott, John Covert, and Dan Borer review the reports and they found nothing suspicious or inappropriate in the reports.

Reports that were presented were disseminated by Joe Ray and included:

1. 2024 Banker's Annual Report
2. 2024 National Convention Report
3. 2004 National Shoot Report

Copies of the report are appended to these minutes as Appendix A.

Motion to accept the bankers report was made by Mike Tatham, Seconded by Rhonda Tomlinson.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair of the Territorial Senator Report

Outgoing Territorial Senator Mike Tatham stated that it has been an honor to serve the organization.

Chair of the Territorial Representative Report

Territorial Representative Thomas Spanton had nothing to present

National Shoot

The Wisconsin Old West Shootist (WOWS) posse has agreed to host the National Shoot this year on July 18-20, 2025. The registration form is available now on the WOWS website, Additional information will be available soon on the NCOWS National Shoot website.

The Scarlet Mask Vigilance Society (SMVS) posse will host the National Shoot in 2026.

Old Business

1. **Presentation and discussion of the report from the committee that was assigned to review and refine items 11, 13 – 20 from the 46th Congress meeting.**

Marshal John Hoker created a committee to review and refine items 11,13-20 from the 46th Congress meeting. The committee consisted of Dave Scott, Bryan Buck, and Mike Tatham. Dave Scott presented the results so far from the committee. The committee created a document named "Circuit Rider's Handbook". This document is a Quick Reference Guide to NCOWS Safety Rules, Regulations and Recommendations for Judges and Members. It consists of three parts from the Tally Book which are: "Range Rules and Regulations", "Safety and Procedure Rules", and "NCOWS Rules for Air Horns and Flags". The last part of this new document is a "Best Practices" incorporated from items 11 and 13-20 from the 46th Congress meeting. The plan is to finalize the "Best Practices" section from input of the membership over the next year and have a final document for the Congress to vote on to accept at the 2026 Congress meeting. An electronic draft version of the "Circuit Rider's Handbook" will be provided to the membership for review and to provide comments back to the committee.

New Business

The 2026 Convention will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Davenport again. The exact date is to be determined but it will be in the last half of March.

Marshal John Hoker addressed agenda items for the 47th Congress, 2025 in the order of the published agenda.

1. Addition to the Not allowed are the following: Revolvers list, submitted by Patrick Postell

Gun manufacturers are now building Single Action revolvers chambering the 9x19mm Parabellum (9mm Luger) cartridge. This caliber did not exist in the NCOWS "Old West" period from 1865 to 1899.

Revolvers chambered in 9x19mm Parabellum (9mm Luger)

Bold text is new.

Mike Tatham moved to accept the proposal.

John Covert seconded the motion.

After brief discussion the motion passed 26 Aye, 1 Nay.

Nay: Robert Duff (proxy by Patrick Postell)

2. Addition to the Not allowed are the following: Rifles list, submitted by Patrick Postell

Gun manufacturers are now building rifles chambering the 9x19mm Parabellum (9mm Luger) cartridge. This caliber did not exist in the NCOWS "Old West" period from 1865 to 1899.

Rifles chambered in 9x19mm Parabellum (9mm Luger)

Bold text is new.

Dave Scott moved to accept the proposal.

Caroline Buck seconded the motion.

After brief discussion the motion passed 26 Aye, 1 Nay.

Nay: Robert Duff (proxy by Patrick Postell).

3. Amendment to NCOWS Rules for the Originals Class to clarify Peer Review scoring in Originals Class, submitted by Rhonda Tomlinson

In the two shoots where I competed in the Originals class the Peer Review was not done as described in the Originals guidelines on the website. Once it was extremely informal, this worried me because it was my first Originals competition, and I wanted the process to be completed correctly so that I was truly an Originals. The second time the peer review was not done at all.

11. Scoring. Scoring will consist of three parts:

(A) Each participant will receive a base score of 50 points for the successful completion and submission of the required documentation of their impression, clothing, arms, and accessories.

(B) The impression or persona will be reviewed by the other participants of the class and the appearance of each participant will be checked against their impression. **Scoring will be done on a standardized ballot and will be considered a secret ballot. Categories reviewed and scored include the following: hat, shirt/blouse, pants/skirt, coat/wrap/vest, tie/jewelry, accouterments, footwear, rifle, pistol, holster & belt, and propellant.** Participants will be given a score of 1-10 based on the average of the peer review scores. Participants will not score themselves. **Only the average of the peer review scores will be shared with the participant being reviewed. The Peer Review for the Originals class will occur within 90 minutes following the last stage of the first day of shooting.**

(C) The balance of the participant's score will be based on the shooting in the match. In this section participants will receive 40 points for first place, 35 points for 2nd place, 30 points for 3rd place, 25 points for 4th place, 20 points for 5th place, and all shooters below 5th place will each receive 15 points.

Total score for each participant will be determined by adding the point total for each of the sections.

Bold text is new.

Patrick Postell moved to accept the proposal.

Bryan Buck seconded the motion.

During discussion, it was decided that an objective peer review was a good idea. Also specifying when the peer review needed to be completed. Alternative times to complete the peer review were discussed, but the specified time in the motion appeared to be best with minimal impact on scoring for all competitors in a match.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Amendment to By-Law 10-1 to allow Gun Carts for Working Cowboy Classes, submitted by John Irons

I want to allow gun carts for working cowboys.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Smokeless Shootist Working Cowboy: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. ~~No Gun Carts are to be used at any time.~~ Shooters may shoot smokeless powder and may fire handguns using a two-handed grip.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Black Powder Shootist Working Cowboy: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. ~~No Gun Carts are to be used at any time.~~ Shooter must shoot black powder or approved black powder substitute powder in all firearms except those chambered for rimfire cartridges, and may fire handguns using a two-handed grip.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Smokeless Duelist Working Cowboy: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. ~~No Gun Carts are to be used at any time.~~ Shooters may shoot smokeless powder and must fire handguns using a one-handed grip.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Black Powder Duelist Working Cowboy: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. ~~No Gun Carts are to be used at any time.~~ Shooter must shoot black powder or approved black powder substitute powder in all firearms except those chambered for rimfire cartridges, and must fire handguns using a one-handed grip.

~~Strikethrough~~ text is deleted.

Dart Liebrandt moved to accept the proposal.

Glen Kreilein seconded the motion.

The motion passed 20 Aye, 6 Nay, 1 abstention.

Nay: Ted Beechler (proxy by Patrick Postell), Patrick Postell, Dave Scott, Mike Tatham, Bryan Buck, Joe Ray.

Abstention: Anastasia Hope

5. Amendment to By-Law 10-1 to remove "Working Cowboy" from name for Two Gun Classes, submitted by John Irons

Doing this to make the name consistent with other classes.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Smokeless Shootist ~~Working Cowboy~~: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. No Gun Carts are to be used at any time. Shooters may shoot smokeless powder and may fire handguns using a two-handed grip.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Black Powder Shootist ~~Working Cowboy~~: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. No Gun Carts are to be used at any time. Shooter must shoot black powder or approved black powder substitute powder in all firearms except those chambered for rimfire cartridges, and may fire handguns using a two-handed grip.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Smokeless Duelist ~~Working Cowboy~~: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. No Gun Carts are to be used at any time. Shooters may shoot smokeless powder and must fire handguns using a one-handed grip.

Men's and Women's Two Gun Black Powder Duelist ~~Working Cowboy~~: Shooter uses one pistol and one pistol caliber rifle. No Gun Carts are to be used at any time. Shooter must shoot black powder or approved black powder substitute powder in all firearms except those chambered for rimfire cartridges, and must fire handguns using a one-handed grip.

~~Strikethrough~~ text is deleted.

Lan Abels moved to accept the proposal.

John Liford seconded the motion.

The motion failed 9 Aye, 17 Nay, 1 abstention.

Aye: Larry Quattlebaum (proxy by Patrick Postell), Gary Davison, Cliff Fendley (proxy by Joe Cacciatore), Robert Duff (proxy by Patrick Postell), Kevin Daniels (proxy Len Abels), Duane Butt (John Liford), Glen Kreilein, John Irons, Paul Weller (proxy Rhonda Tomlinson).

Abstention: Mike Scott.

6. Amendment to By-Law 9 to change posse insurance reimbursement, submitted by John Irons

NCOWS is currently losing around \$5,000-6,000 per year due to a lack of new members and the loss of old members and increases in insurance costs. We are currently paying insurance for nine posses at a cost of \$9,362 per year or an average of \$1,041 each. Nine posses at \$450 each would be \$4050. This proposal would save NCOWS \$5,312 each year.

By-Law 9: Insurance

9-1. All posses shall be required to maintain liability insurance coverage as provided by this by-law and to the level established by NCOWS.

9-2. The Executive Committee shall secure and maintain a general liability policy for the overall organization to protect the corporation in the event of litigation and to cover the location of the National Shoot and the Convention.

~~9-3. In the event that the number of members in the posse exceeds the base policy, then the individual posses shall make up the difference between the payment and the premium. Posse shall be responsible for cost of additional insured riders for landowners or other locations. (Amended March, 2011)~~

9-4. NCOWS Posse insurance benefit will be paid or reimbursed at the following rates.

The term "unique member" is defined as a home posse member who is not being used to count towards the insurance benefit on any other posse. They are paid current members, Individual, Charter, Life, Family, Senior, Junior, or Honorary, that are listed (for insurance purposes) on only one home posse roster. A member who is a listed on more than one posse must declare a single posse as his/her 'Home Posse'.

The term "100% NCOWS membership" is defined as all members of the posse are current paid members of NCOWS, regardless of type of membership, be it Individual, Charter, Life, Family, Senior, Junior, or Honorary.

~~• 20 or more unique members and 100% NCOWS membership = 100% of the basic minimum premium for liability insurance.~~

- ~~• 20 or more unique members and less than 100% NCOWS membership = 50% of the basic minimum premium for liability insurance.~~
- ~~• 10-19 unique members and 100% NCOWS membership = 50% of the basic minimum premium for liability insurance.~~
- ~~• 10-19 unique members and less than 100% NCOWS membership = 25% of the basic minimum premium for liability insurance.~~

A posse with 100% NCOWS membership and 10 or more unique club members shall be reimbursed up to \$450 per year.

Posse must submit membership list and members NCOWS membership numbers at time of policy renewal.
(Amended March, 2011, March 2013)

Bold text is new, ~~Strikethrough~~ text is deleted.

Patrick Postell moved to accept the proposal.
Anastasia Hope seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Joe Ray to amend the motion to change the line “**A posse with 100% NCOWS membership and 10 or more unique club members shall be reimbursed up to \$450 per year.**” to “**A posse with 100% NCOWS membership and 10 or more unique club members shall be reimbursed the full amount of the insurance except for the Lockton Risk Purchasing Group (RPG), NRA dues, and all riders.**”

Dave Scott seconded the motion to amend the motion.

A motion was made by Caroline Buck to change the line “**A posse with 100% NCOWS membership and 10 or more unique club members shall be reimbursed the full amount of the insurance except for the Lockton Risk Purchasing Group (RPG), NRA dues, and all riders.**” to “**A posse with 100% NCOWS membership and 10 or more unique club members shall be paid or reimbursed the full amount of the insurance except for the Lockton Risk Purchasing Group (RPG), NRA dues, and all riders.**” to the motion to amend.

Rhonda Tomlinson seconded the motion to amend the motion.

The motion to amend the proposed amendment passed unanimously.

The motion to amend the main motion passed unanimously.

During discussion the question was asked what is the cost for RPG, NRA dues, and riders that a posse would pay.

The current RPG cost is \$125

The current NRA dues cost is \$40

The current rider cost is \$25 per rider

The payment for a posse with one rider would be \$125+\$40+\$25 for a total of \$190.

After discussion the motion as amended passed 26 Aye, 1 Nay.

Nay: Larry Quattlebaum (proxy by Patrick Postell).

7. Proposal to provide the Shootist magazine in a digital format to save money, submitted by Dart Liebrandt

NCOWS is currently losing money every year. The Shootist magazine is one of the larger expenses each year. To save money, I would like to explore options to have a digital version of The Shootist available that could be emailed to members or downloaded from the NCOWS website.

We would like to know if members would be happy with a digital version of The Shootist. If so, how would they like to be able to receive it. Would we still want the paper version of The Shootist. How much would we save if a digital version of The Shootist was available. If there is demand for a digital version of The Shootist, then a committee

should be created to explore options and make proposals for the next Congress Meeting for any changes to the existing paper version of The Shootist and how to implement delivery of a digital version of The Shootist for the members that would want it.

Agenda item withdrawn.

Without objection, Marshal John Hoker adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.

Appendix A – Banker's Reports

NCOWS 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024

INCOME

24-Convention	\$ 1,116.98
24-Nationals	\$ 491.67
24-Posse Renewal	\$ 210.00
25-Convention	\$ (390.00)
25-Posse Renewal	\$ 245.89
Interest Income	\$ 2.37
Membership	\$ 15,405.61
Merchandise	\$ 603.64
Shootist Advertising	\$ 1,022.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 18,708.16

EXPENSES

Insurance	\$ (10,680.57)
Merchandise Postage	\$ (51.71)
Office	\$ (2,944.92)
Shootist	\$ (11,428.84)
Shootist Postage	\$ (88.98)
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ (25,195.02)

INCOME	\$ 18,708.16
EXPENSE	\$ (25,195.02)
NET LOSS	\$ (6,486.86)

2024 CONVENTION

Date	Description	Memo	Amount
6/13/2023	Double Tree	Hotel Deposit	\$ (1,000.00)
8/9/2023	Registration	Schlein & Cacciatore	\$ 165.00
8/13/2023	Registration	Newton Sporting Goods	\$ 245.00
9/14/2023	Registration	Hillman & Brown	\$ 240.00
10/2/2023	Registration	Richard Boyd	\$ 65.00
11/3/2023	Registration	Abel & Irons	\$ 195.00
11/14/2023	Registration	2 Vendors, Borer, Butts Outpost	\$ 165.00
12/15/2023	Registration	Liebrandt, Kanealy, Carder	\$ 390.00
1/22/2024	Registration	4 Vendor 8 Conventioneer	\$ 1,305.00
1/31/2024	Hobby Lobby	Material for signs	\$ (18.74)
2/8/2024	Registration	2 Vendor 2 Conventioneer	\$ 400.00
2/9/2024	Registration	2 Vendor 2 Conventioneer	\$ 460.00
2/20/2024	USPS	NCOWS Stickers for Conv Packets	\$ (11.60)
2/22/2024	Registration	1 Vendor 4 Conventioneer	\$ 310.00
2/24/2024	Registration	3 Vendor 7 Conventioneer	\$ 690.00
3/8/2024	Registration	4 Vendor & 10 Conventioneers	\$ 1,045.00
3/12/2024	Registration	1 Vendor & 6 Conventioneers	\$ 455.00
3/24/2024	Band	Rita Shanke	\$ (100.00)
3/24/2024	Double Tree Hotel	Convention	\$ (5,668.68)
3/30/2024	Pistol Shoot	Cash	\$ 50.00
3/30/2024	Silent Auction	Cash	\$ 295.00
3/30/2024	Raffle	Cash	\$ 870.00
3/30/2024	Walk-In	Cash	\$ 510.00
3/30/2024	Ladies Tea Donations	Cash	\$ 330.00
3/30/2024	Registration	Munden & Herod	\$ 195.00
	Net Income		\$ 1,580.98

2024 NATIONALS

INCOME

2/8/2024	Registration	Paul Weller	\$	85.00
2/20/2024	Registration	Carder & Ray	\$	210.00
2/23/2024	Registration	Buck	\$	160.00
3/30/2024	Registration	Liebrandt	\$	190.00
4/17/2024	Registration	Tomlinson	\$	85.00
4/19/2024	Registration	Bozarth	\$	75.00
4/26/2024	Registration	Schwier & Ryan	\$	240.00
4/30/2024	Registration	Kreilein, Olsen	\$	200.00
5/2/2024	Registration	Mount & Birk	\$	265.00
5/3/2024	Registration	5 Registrations	\$	510.00
5/13/2024	Registration	8 Registrations	\$	735.00
5/17/2024	Registration	5 Registrations	\$	495.00
5/20/2024	Registration	Roth, Covert, Irons	\$	255.00
5/23/2024	Registration	Bursovsky	\$	80.00
5/26/2024	Registration	Bozarth	\$	10.00
5/30/2024	Registration	Engleman	\$	100.00
6/8/2024	Registration	Schmier, Torrence, Hope & Tatham	\$	320.00
6/8/2024	Side Matches	Cash	\$	11.00
6/8/2024	Donation	Cash	\$	4.00
11/3/2024	Registration	Schirmer, Carder, Schlien	\$	345.00
			\$	4,375.00

EXPENSES

4/4/2024	St John The Baptist Church	Banquet Hall Rental	\$	(350.00)
6/8/2024	Torrence	Porta Potties	\$	(197.90)
6/8/2024	Torrence	Misc	\$	(8.33)
6/8/2024	Parker Free State Rangers	Range Fee	\$	(1,827.10)
6/8/2024	Elaine Bones	Banquet	\$	(750.00)
6/8/2024	KVC	Posse Fee	\$	(750.00)
			\$	(3,883.33)

TOTAL INCOME	\$	4,375.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	(3,883.33)
NET	\$	491.67