

**ATA DELEGATE REPORT**  
**DECEMBER 2017**  
**Mark Stevens, Minnesota**

Hello Minnesota shooters! I have to apologize for not writing this article for a couple of months. Life is definitely in high gear for myself and our family.

Minnesota was blessed with tremendous weather, for the most part, this year for our shooters. Our State Shoot had all but one day with sunshine, and shooter turnout was up or down by a handful of shooters each day from years prior. Where the summer went I don't know.

Sally and I have been planning the winter coach training season and have picked the dates. We are looking at four larger schools this year, but have seven locations begging for schools. We will have to see how strong our willpower is to have some life of our own. As many of you know our candle has been burning from both ends for a while now. It is taking a bit of a toll and we have to think smarter. The NRA Level 1 coach training will begin in January and go through April for our Minnesota schedule. We will post the locations shortly on the [www.minnesotashotgun.org](http://www.minnesotashotgun.org) site for sign up. The cost this year will be \$145.00 per coach. We make nothing on this; the fees are to cover the NRA coaching materials, the binder, range and shell fees, and lunch for our trainees. The course is an intensive 16 hour course. (12 hours classroom and 4 hours range time). Once you pass the test and field program you are an NRA Level I Shotgun Coach. We hope you don't stop there, but this is the beginning to a long and rewarding experience--there is nothing like the feeling when the person you are coaching finally "gets it". Many say it was the best time they have had in a long time. Come out and see!

We are pleased to announce that the Shooters Sporting Clays (Marshall, MN) has joined the ATA in throwing registered targets. We certified the fields last summer and they are good to go. Watch their web site for dates and times. Shooters also throws sporting clays targets throughout the winter. Please support their efforts.

Congratulations on the following Minnesota shooters who made it into the 2018 All American Teams (based on 2017 targets). This is no small commitment. It takes time, travel, and some substantial cost and energy to make a team and we appreciate all the hard work by our Minnesota shooters. The following shooters made these teams: Eric Munson (Men's Second), Scott Gens (Men's Second), Dean Neumann (Captain, Sub-Vet), Troy Haverly (Sub-Vet First), Randy Cook (Veteran First, William Van Nieuwenhuyzen (Veteran Second), Curtis Peterson (Veteran Second), Dean Walker (Senior Veteran Second), Ben Dietz (Jr Gold First), Colton Langer (Jr Gold First), and Jack Knaus (Sub-Jr Second). Wow!

Alternate Delegates Dean and Peter Walker, along with myself, have been pouring over the data to select Minnesota All State Teams. Not a really easy task. Watching for four MN clubs, the MN required target minimums, and declaration of category at the Zone or State shoot, makes it a little harder. Some of the data was a head scratcher and will make for good fodder and discussion at the State meeting in December. Although we relaxed target minimums to make the chance easier to make the State Team, and also to allow persons that may not be able to shoot large amounts of targets to have a chance, it didn't work out that way. Seems the ones that were shooting 2000 targets just quit shooting when they reached the new 1500 target level. Others did not really try to achieve a couple hundred more targets for a chance. Oh, don't get me wrong, there are plenty that shoot 5,000 or more targets each year. What, too, is amazing is how many only shoot a few hundred, and still more amazing how many shoot 100 to 200. Out of 1500 active Minnesota Shooters last year, about 70% shoot fewer than 300 targets.

After much checking and double checking, we have come up with the All-State Teams for 2017, and we will vote on approval at the December meeting. Congratulations to those shooters.

We have also went through nominations on the Hall of Fame inductees and will vote on that at the December meeting. All Nominations had to be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>; online forms are on the Minnesotatrap.org site.

Please remember to submit shoot data to Trap & Field magazine for posting. Minnesota could do more of this--a few clubs like Buffalo, Del-Tone/Luth, Bemidji and Minneapolis do, but others should too.

ATA rules again changed on September 1<sup>st</sup>, with your new target year. Please make sure to check on the new rules on [www.shootata.com](http://www.shootata.com) for the most current copy and pay your 2018 dues if you have not already. If you have downloaded your shoot records in the past, you may not get another paper card in the mail. You must either print your card online or request your card from the ATA. You need a copy of an up-to-date ATA paper card to classify at shoots so be sure to print or request yours.

As I sit in the duck or goose blinds, deer stands, with my wife and watch all those beautiful sunrises and sunsets and wonder of the sights and sounds surrounding us, I cannot imagine what it would be like without that. I have my father to thank for all the hours of commitment he gave me, freezing and covered with mud, as I was growing up. Showing me the world with nature at the center stage. I get misty-eyed thinking of all those kids that don't have what I had. Please, take a kid shooting, whether trap shooting or hunting. Show them the incredible world we live in. They sure don't learn it in the city. Grab a few guns, your family members, and a few of your kid's friends and come out and shoot! Jackpots are going on in Del-Tone/Luth, Buffalo and Minneapolis gun clubs all winter. My dad had a saying, one I never forgot and one that I teach with every breath: "Teach your kids to hunt, and you will never have to hunt your kids." It worked for my family!

Our family has been reminded again last evening how fragile life is. Also, the Minnesota Trapshooting Community offers our sincere condolences to the family of Milton Brumwell of Erskine, MN. Milton was the founder and manager of the Erskine Trap Club for many years. Milt passed away on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Remember to hug your family members, tell them every day how you feel about them, let them know they are loved. I do. We are not promised tomorrow, no matter your age, and things happen way beyond our control. Don't leave a doubt.

I thank you for the opportunity to be your delegate for Minnesota. I am humbled at your confidence and will work hard for the shooters of our state. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Have a safe and wonderful fall and winter, enjoy the holidays with friends and family and we look forward to when we next meet on the shoot off line somewhere. A man can wish, can't he?

From our family to yours, "Happy Holidays."

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