American Fisheries Society - Wisconsin Chapter

WI AFS 2026 Annual Business Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 4:20 PM

1. Recognition of Executive Committee, past presidents, and special guests (Schumann)
2. Establishment of a quorum (>50 members) (Schumann / Cutler)
3. Call to order (Schumann)
4. Distribution (prior to meeting) and approval of 2025 meeting minutes
5. Treasurer's Report (Cutler)
    - $4800 in hotel attrition from 2025 meeting held as a deposit for 2026 meeting
    - Typically send $500 annually to Equal Opportunity Section of AFS, but not cashed in 2024 and attempts to contact president and treasurer were unsuccessful
    - Increased Technical Committee Award match to up to $500 annually. Only applicable when NCD Tech Committees select awardees from WI. If requests are >$500, executive committee will decide how to split the match between awardees.
    - Working with financial advisor to reinvest Vanguard funds ($14,172) as they have performed poorly compared to AFS-managed investments.
6. Old Business (Schumann)
    - Long Range plan (2025-2035) – circulated 15 days prior to meeting
        i. Steph Shaw generated a report that summarized the chapter's progress on objectives outlined in the 2014-2024 Plan.
        ii. Membership reviewed and provided feedback, and the final draft was sent to the membership.
        iii. Greg Sass motion to approve; Jordan Weeks second; motion passes.
    - Student Subunit funds – applications are due March 1 (application online)
7. Committee and Other Reports
    - NCD (Isermann)
        i. Greg Sass elected as incoming president
        ii. Student subunits, update your info on the NCD page
        iii. Parent society membership is crucial
        iv. AFS 2026 in Columbus, Ohio
    - Awards (Pechacek): 19 judges, 16 posters, 32 presenters
    - Continuing Education (Sass / Wolter / Smith)
        i. "What Comes Next?" workshop for student and early career professional development. Resume review, grad school questions, mock interviews. Quinn Smith has a helper document available upon request.
        ii. Tribal Relations workshop with Mark Leuhring, Brandon Byrne, and Tom Cichosz. Livestream open to all WI AFS members. Recording is available on Vimeo page.
    - Membership (Rieth / Cutler): 319 members in 2024; 242 in 2025 (54 new, mostly students, similar to previous years). Lower membership typical with lower meeting attendance.
    - Social Media and Communications (Pechacek / Wambach)
        i. **Looking for a student to be involved**; contact Kristina Pechacek

ii. Doubled Instagram followers (201) in the last year, largely thanks to Roni Maddox

- Raffle and Revenue (Gerbyshak)
- Resolutions / Environmental Issues (Seilheimer): **Looking for new chair**
- Student Affairs (Raabe [interim]): **Looking for new chair**
- Website (Eggold)
  i. Parent society moving the site to a new server, updated look, same info, no extra cost to us.
  ii. Always looking for feedback and ideas.
- Scholarship (Paoli / Weeks)
  i. Joan Duffy Travel Award: Celia Schwartz (UWSP)
  ii. Carroll Norden Memorial Scholarship: Evan Sirianni (UWL)
  iii. Tim Kroeff Fisheries: Max Wilkinson (UWSP)
  iv. Richard Frie Memorial: Bryson Kautz (UWSP)
- NCD Committees
  i. Urban and Community Fisheries (Schmidt)
  ii. Walleye (Dassow)
    1. Collin Dassow is WTC president elect.
    2. 2026 meeting location TBD (combined w/ Esocid and Centrarchid)
  iii. Reservoirs (Nye)
  iv. Esocid (Weeks)
    1. **Looking for new chair**
    2. Virtual meeting on Feb 18th. Contact Jordan Weeks for link.
    3. Scholarship funding is difficult, few applicants so discontinuing
      a. 2026 recipient is Kayla Reed-Rabchenia (SDSU)
  v. Centrarchid (Feiner)
    1. 2026 travel award recipient is Kayla Reed-Rabchenia (SDSU)
  vi. Ictalurid (Hennessy)
    1. Establishing Catfish 2030 symposium committee
    2. Annual research award. Application in fall.
  vii. Rivers and Streams (Parks)
    1. 2026 meeting in Moline, IL in March
- Photo Fishing Contest (Sniadajewski)
  i. 172 fish entered, ~70 species, 17 adult competitors, 4 kids
  ii. 2025 winner: Bishop Peterson, (Brandon Wambach runner-up)
  iii. 2025 kids winner: Aldo Sasse, (Calvin Wolter runner-up)
  iv. Entries after 1/20/26 are counted towards 2026 competition.
- Fisheries Bootcamp (Sass / Shaw)
  i. 18 students in 2025, near capacity, split into 2 weekends (May 3-4, May 10-11). Representation from UW-Stevens Point, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison, UW-Green Bay, and Northland College.
  ii. Announcement for 2026 to come next week.
- 2024 Most Active Chapter Award presentation (Schumann)
- President Award (Shaw): presented to David Schumann

8. Officer Installation
   - President Installation (Mitro)

9. New Business (Mitro)
    - Parent society membership is highly encouraged.
        i. $115 regular, $55 early career, $30 student.
    - Nomination of Aaron Schiller (WI DNR) as president-elect. No other nominees.
        i. Motion to approve by Jordan Weeks; Brandon Wambach seconds; motion passes.
    - Soliciting student affairs committee chair. Josh Raabe will continue until others interested.
    - Planning and strategies for future Chapter meetings.
        i. Costs to break even this year would've been ~$200 (professional) and ~$100 (student/retiree)
            1. Comparable to neighboring chapters and WI TWS
            2. Membership sees this at the minimum for future meetings
            3. Keep students at $100 if possible
            4. Possibly add late registration fee
        ii. Explore corporate sponsorships, chambers of commerce, Trout Unlimited/Muskies Inc/Walleyes For Tomorrow (Finance Committee)
        iii. Upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife 2029 in Wisconsin, start planning now (Finance Committee?)
        iv. Explore excluding Tuesday dinner or Thursday lunch to save on costs
        v. More options for venues/locations with smaller meetings
    - Steve Gilbert motion to approve budget; Brandon Wambach second; motion passes.
10. Adjournment (motion to adjourn)
    - Motion to adjourn by Brad Eggold, Jordan Weeks second, motion passes.

Kristina Pechacek will announce the presentation award winners after lunch on Thursday

- Steve Yeo Best Student Paper – Dylan Undlin (UWSP)
- Steve Serns Best Professional Paper – Zach Lawson (WI DNR)
- Best Poster – Taylor Preul-Stimetz (WI DNR)
- John Lyons Best Speed Talk – Ryan Eastman (UWSP)