

United Northern Sportsmen's News



Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste, the natural resources of my country - its' air, soil and minerals, its' forests, waters and wildlife.

Volume 81

February 2026

Volume 1

\$12.00

CALENDAR

March Board Meeting has been cancelled the next UNS meeting will be APRIL 1st at 6 pm at the clubhouse. All members are welcome.

Firearm Safety Class Schedule is in this letter be sure to read and sign up as classes fill quickly. Call Mike Hart his number is noted with the class schedule.

ALSO

YOUTH DAY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 8th mark it in your calendars and call Nancy Cozzi if you would like to volunteer.

Well once again mother nature dictates how things can or can not be done in Minnesota. UNS cancelled the original date of its fishing contest in January due to extreme cold temperatures and rescheduled to February 7th. Low and behold AGAIN we had very cold temperatures. It just seems the last two years if it isn't cold its wind or worse yet both. Thank you to all the brave fishing people who did come out and participated in the contest. The winners will be announced in the letter, but our President Jim Weiss asked me to put a letter he wrote for the fishing contest.

A few weeks ago, some of the members were up at the retreat going through the many donations that were given for our annual fishing contest. As we had them spread out across the tables I couldn't help but notice the quality of the prizes that were donated. We had everything from ice houses, augers, chainsaws, gift cards and everything in between; for sure something for everyone.

I started thinking on where we as an organization would be without the great members that purchase or sell their tickets and the generosity and great support from our local businesses who donate quality prizes for our events. We as an organization could not dream of putting on such a quality event without their support and the many people that donate their personal time at the events.

I'm sure a majority of our members realize that putting on these events help create funds to cover our youth events, conservation projects, retreat maintenance and facility improvements. Without these funds UNS as we know it wouldn't exist, so please support our local businesses because they truly support our organization.

I hope everyone is having a great winter and looking forward to what spring and summer have to offer. Once again, THANKS to everyone.

UNS 2026 FISHING CONTEST RESULTS

ADULT CATEGORY

1 st Place	Mike Aho	\$1,000.00	Northern Pike	2.23 lbs.
2 nd Place	Blyson Cherney	\$500.00	Northern Pike	1.95 lbs.
3 rd Place	Mike Linsten	\$250.00	Walleye	0.77 lbs.
4 th Place	Wendy Vondane	\$125.00	Walleye	0.47 lbs.
5 th Place	Scott Seafolk	\$75.00	Walleye	0.46 lbs.

YOUTH CATEGORY

1st Place	Erin Singer	Trophy and \$50.00	Perch	0.32 lbs.
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ADDITIONAL FISH CAUGHT

Perch 0.42 lbs.

Perch 0.40 lbs.

TOTAL FISH CAUGHT DURING CONTEST THAT REIGISTERED (8)

CATFISH	0	ROCK BASS	0
WALLEYE	3	PERCH	3
CRAPPIE	0	NORTHERN	2

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEBRUARY 4th, 2026

Call to order: President Jim Weiss at 6:00 pm Conservation pledge recited.

Roll Call of Elected officers: Jim Weiss, Tina Sund, Mike Hart, Vickie Jenson, Keith Darsow, Jim King, Tim Wahlburg, Nancy Poppenberg, Sam Haddad, Tom Kulas, Bob Kuettel, Nancy Cozzi, Lucas Nordby

Appointed Officers: Eric Hansen

Excused Officers: Deanna Dodge

Correspondence: Gnesen Township Newsletter, Wildwoods Thank You letter, Deanna Doge Thank You.

Agenda Additions and Minutes Approval: Motion to approve the agenda with no new additions and last month's minutes by Sam Haddad 2nd by Vickie Jensen; carried.

Tina- Ordered a handheld device for credit cards motion to approve by Nancy Poppenberg 2nd by Tim Walberg; carried.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Memberships/Renewals: As of January 31st, 2026, there are 1,330 members.

Individual Memberships 13 (3 new) Family Memberships 6 (1 new)

Renewals coming 19 2nd expired notices 85.

Motion by Keith Darsow to accept Membership report 2nd by Mike Hart; carried.

Other Reports:

Facilities Committee: John Polichuck dropped off a POW flag, and it needs to be raised. All batteries for lawn equipment have been recharged. Boat Launch has been damaged by ice and will need repair in the spring.

Range and Ground Calendar:

Incident Report: Nothing to report.

Volunteer Awards: Vickie Jensen

Old Business: Boat show update and discussion. POS will be available and they do have power for the show. Banner has been ordered. Wildlife print would be donated to the club for a drawing at the sports show for any person that signs up for a membership.

Fundraising ideas are Open house weekend and a loping deer weekend for a \$5.00 fee. Youth day discussion and date set for August 8th. 80 kids maximum, ages 8-17. Volunteers are needed. If interested contact Nancy Cozzi at 218-393-7176.

New Business:

Due to lack of attendance, the March meeting has been cancelled. Next meeting will be April 1st.

Ice Fishing contest results and discussion!

Firearm Safety Classes:

Mike Hart has set the schedule for the 2026 Firearms Safety Classes. Classroom course for 40 kids. March 19th, 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th. The classes are from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. At the Gnesen Community Center on Howard Gnesen Road. Two field days 20 kids on each day. 1st class is April 18th, the second day is April 19th. All classes must be attended to pass the class.

Also, there are going to be Two Hybrid field days. There will be 20 kids allowed for each day. The first day is May 2nd, and the next day is May 3rd. Sign up early for these classes as they get filled up quickly. Contact Mike Hart to sign up; (763)245-7268.

Members Sick or in Distress: In January we lost one of our long-time life members Pat Dodge.

Adjournment and date of next meeting: In person and zoom meeting on Wednesday April 1st, 2026 at 6:00 pm at UNS Clubhouse. Motion Mike Hart 2nd by Tim Walberg at 7:42 pm, Carried.

Submitted by Nancy Cozzi, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Jim Weiss	218-464-3377
Vice President	Mike Hart	763-245-7268
Secretary/Website	Nancy Cozzi	218-393-7176
Treasurer	Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sargent of Arms	Sam Haddad	218-390-3808
Director	Keith Darsow	218-390-4557
Director	Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
Director	Chris Mattila	
Director	Tom Kulas	218-391-2232
Director	Bob Kehttle	218-393-2000
Director/Newsletter	Nancy Poppenberg	218-349-2129
Director	Spike	218-464-7860
Director	Lucas Nordby	218-355-8287
Director	Tim Walburg	218-340-5924
Membership Secretary	Deanna Dodge	218-590-7999

UNS Membership Fees

1 year Single	\$50.00	1-year Family	\$90.00
2 year Single	\$95.00	2-year Family	\$170.00