

# Franklin County Sportsmen's Club



## *December Newsletter*

December 6, 2024

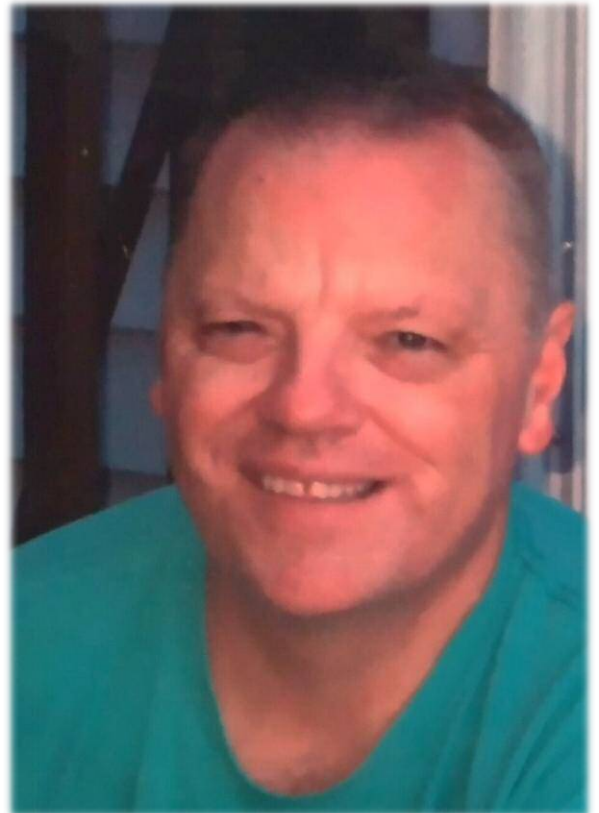
### **President's Notes**

Time sure does pass quickly; we find ourselves coming into December and the end of the year 2024. The club has seen many updates and improvements and I can assure you many more will follow in 2025. There has been a huge increase in club members coming to the monthly rifle shoots, .22 rimfire, .223 at 100 yards, and the 200-yard rifle shoots have also shown great interest. All the rifle shoots will continue in 2025 beginning in April. The Practical Handgun Group also continues to grow and, hopefully, it will also continue in 2025.

As I have always indicated, this is your club, and your continued participation to help maintain it is going to be the key to its continuation as the best club in the area. It is very easy to say "just hire it out". I can assure you the cost of doing this is extremely expensive.

In researching some of the projected future projects on the property, I've discovered that infrastructure was not built to support some of the updates we would like to see. Hopefully we can make the necessary changes in 2025 to facilitate these updates. There will be more on this subject later.

Steve Podlesny



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### Veteran's Day Remembrance

I am honored to have been asked by a veteran to write about Veteran's Day, originally named Armistice Day in November 1919 to honor the Veterans who fought in World War I.

The proclamation states: "To us in America, the commemoration of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...."

Through the years since then we have fought many wars and conflicts and so the name was changed to Veteran's Day.



My family has served honorably, at least as far back as can be traced, since the Civil War. Uncles and cousins, my father and stepfather served honorably in every branch of service. I am proud to have them in my life. Every one of them volunteered their service to our country. That is an amazing gift from every man and woman who chooses to serve our country.

Thank you to all the Veterans, whether you saw combat or served during the times of peace. Many saw the worst of humanity, then returned home and carried on. Our Veterans return and live quiet lives and made this amazing country of ours the amazing experiment in freedom and independence that it is. Others continue to serve in so many other ways from political office to public safety.

So, please take an extra moment to thank every Veteran you know and see on the street on November 11<sup>th</sup>. But also, thank them on the other 364 days as well. Support them and let them know they are not forgotten, that their sacrifice and

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service are appreciated. Say a prayer for the families who have lost loved ones. Support the services that help the homeless veterans and the ones suffering from PTSD.

Tim Houle

### **We are scheduling a GOAL Gun Law Seminar!**

At the request of many club members, and to allow us all to better understand the new Massachusetts gun law, we are going to schedule a seminar with the experts of GOAL. Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 6, 2025 from 6:00 – 8:00PM at the club house. Due to limitation on the capacity of the room, we are having a strict limit of 50 participants. Due to the popularity of this seminar, GOAL has very limited dates available, and all seminars are held Monday – Friday. With this scheduled date now in stone, please confirm or reconfirm if you will be attending so I can hold your seat. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Steve ([steven.podlesny@gmail.com](mailto:steven.podlesny@gmail.com)) to let him know that you will attend. No walk-ins will be permitted as GOAL needs a head count before the event to provide seminar material.

Steve Podlesny

### **Monthly Meeting Review & Schedule Change Reminder**

Please remember that the old monthly general meetings have been changed to a new *quarterly* meeting schedule. The remaining membership meeting for the year will be held on **Wednesday, December 18, 2024**. Please show up and take part in our club.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **Active Shooter Event Seminar**

On Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00PM, FCSC will offer a Seminar on Active Shooter Survival! This seminar will be presented by Sgt. Brian Ravish, Deerfield Police Department. We offered this seminar last February. It drew a lot of interest and was well attended, so we are offering it again.

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Sgt. Ravish has a long career in police work, having been an officer in Sunderland, Hadley, Bernardston and currently in Deerfield. Sgt. Ravish is a certified firearms instructor teaching at the Police Academy and training the Deerfield Police Force. He is also the School Resource Officer for the Town of Deerfield. In his current position Sgt. Ravish is in charge of Active Shooter planning and training for the Deerfield School System.

We expect this event to be very popular, so if you plan to attend we would appreciate it if you would confirm your seat with [Steven.Podlesny@gmail.com](mailto:Steven.Podlesny@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### The Welcome Wagon

In November we welcomed the following new members: Andrei and Galina Agapov. We hope that all our new members will enjoy our facility and our fellowship. Come join us at the general meetings and get involved. Watch our website calendar for upcoming events:

<https://fclsc.org/calendar>. Our new shooting programs have ended for this year; they will

resume next spring. Get your target gun ready and come and compete for the Champion's Cup. Please remember to wear your badge when visiting our club, follow all safety rules, and pick up your brass when you shoot. Welcome!

Larry Kleinschmidt



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### Skeet & Trap Shoot Reminder



We shoot skeet on both Saturday and Sunday mornings this time of year. Please come over and check it out. Shotgun is fun! Please be aware that due to the increasing cost of clay birds, it has become necessary to increase the cost of a round of skeet or trap to five dollars.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### Coming Events

In December we have skeet on both Saturday and Sunday mornings; the mid-week sessions are cancelled due to lack of daylight. The Board of Directors will meet on Thursday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Practical Handgun Group will also meet on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30PM. The rifle competition events will return in the spring. The UMass Police will be on the 50-yard range on December 4<sup>th</sup> and again on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The final membership meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

The pistol and rifle ranges are open every day for your enjoyment. Note that during this time of year we lose daylight at about 4:30PM, so plan your shooting accordingly. Keep up with our events on the website calendar:

<https://fclsc.org/d/0/?thisMonth=6&thisYear=2024&cid=0&tid=0>

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **Call for New Candidates for Office for 2025**

On November 22, the 2025 Election Information was emailed out to the membership. It contained the 2025 Ballot Intentions document. If you are interested in being on the 2025 ballot for an FCSC leadership position, follow the instructions in the document, or simply email Tracey Crowningshield at [navychic84@gmail.com](mailto:navychic84@gmail.com) AND Sandy Magill at [capt.magill2@gmail.com](mailto:capt.magill2@gmail.com).

The new year will find the club needing to fill many leadership positions. We have many members on the Board of Directors and Executive Board who cannot run again due to term limits. Please consider running for office; we need your help.

Our elections will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6PM! We will have a POTLUCK DINNER during the Elections. Join us and bring your favorite dish to share. Come enjoy dinner, and vote!

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **Range Reminder**

Please remember the ranges are for use by everyone. If you bring items to shoot, please clean up after you are done. I'm sure you've seen the signs, "PICK UP YOUR BRASS". Please take the time to police your brass and targets. The people who come after you shouldn't have to pick up your brass and take down your used targets. We have a beautiful facility; please pitch in to help us keep it that way. Thank you.

Steven Podlesny



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### **Clubhouse Security**

When you visit the club, you are welcome to use the clubhouse, but please remember to lock the building and set the alarm system on your way out. We have found that the alarm system has been left unarmed on several occasions recently. Please set the alarm system when you exit the building; if someone else is using the building when you leave, make sure that person understands that they must lock up and set the alarm when they leave.

Larry Kleinschmidt

### **100-Yard .223 Bench Rest Event –November 24, 2024**

We had a cool day at the club with six shooters attending the morning's



event. All the shooters are becoming very good, and the competition is stiff for that perfect 150 score. For this event, the top gun was Paul Choiniere with a score of 144. This competition will resume in the spring. Watch the calendar for the dates!

Larry Kleinschmidt

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### **200-Yard Centerfire Competition – November 24, 2024**

At the conclusion of the 100-yard .223 event, we proceeded with our 200-yard competition. We had six participants. Steve Podlesny was top gun with a score of 184 out of 200, followed closely by Lynn Graham with 182. This competition will resume in the spring. Watch the calendar for the dates!



Larry Kleinschmidt

### **Practical Handgun Group**



The November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting was cancelled. We have one meeting scheduled every month through the winter, then two each month during the summer. The next session is scheduled for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Gary Braff



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### **We Need Your Help**

As you know, the FCSC is operated *completely* by member volunteers. We have no paid help! As we endeavor to maintain our club as one of the top ten clubs in Western Massachusetts, it is necessary for all of us to help out. Please volunteer your time to help us keep our club in top shape. **Also, please consider running for office this January; we have positions to be filled!** Steven Podlesny

### **Email Address Reminder**

Have you been receiving email from the club regularly? No? Have you changed your email address recently? Remember that your FCSC email is being sent to the last address you recorded with the club. If you change your email address, please be sure to notify the club. Send an email from your new email addressed to [<steven.podlesny@gmail.com>](mailto:steven.podlesny@gmail.com) to be sure that the club updates your email address, and you will continue to receive the Newsletter and other FCSC communications. Steve Podlesny

### **Referendum Signing Event Review/ H4895 Comments**

I'm sure you are aware that our wonderful Governor signed into law, H4885 under an emergency order on the very controversial new gun law changes. It was to become effective on October 23, 2024 but she made it effective immediately. It was such an emergency to sign this into law in her eyes, but very little of the law is being implemented because no one in the government knows how to implement many of the provisions of the law.

The changes to the new LTC firearms licensing have been postponed for 18 months because the State Police Commander does not have the proper language to enforce it.

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Very little changes have taken place as to which long guns are legal or not legal because they have not developed a list of firearms that are approved for sale. It is pretty much the same as before the new laws went into effect. Pistols which were legal before the new law are still legal now. So-called assault weapons that were legal to sell before are still legal to sell now.

The only new thing being done now is recording all ammo sales to the person purchasing. So, as you can see, this was truly an emergency.

The story on the new gun laws is just beginning over 90,000 signatures were given to the Secretary of State in Massachusetts to get a repeal question on the 2026 ballot for voters to decide. Hopefully this gets approved and voters will make the decision on this. There will be more to come as GOAL releases the news.  
Steve Podlesny

## **Happy Holidays!**

The staff of the Newsletter wishes you Happy Holidays!

