

# Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania



Established 1983

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*“The largest statewide individual membership  
sporting advocacy organization in the Commonwealth”*

Conservation supported through thousands of voices for  
hunting, fishing, trapping and our second amendment gun rights.

## USP CORRESPONDENCE

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## USP MEMBERSHIP DIVISION

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## Message from USP’s “NEW” President – Phil Wagner

My name is Phil Wagner, from Union County in Central Pennsylvania. I will be 67 years old next month and have hunted and fished since my father taught me at a young age. I have been the North Central Director of USP for the past several years. Prior to my joining USP, I was very active in the Buffalo Valley Sportsmen’s Ass’n in Union County, holding the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Board of Director.

I want to express thanks to outgoing President Wayne Haas for serving the organization well. Wayne worked diligently on HB2083/HB1483, the audit of the PGC and most recently working with LSU and Dr. Frank Bastian on CWD research and completion of a partnership with Unified and Louisiana State University. Wayne is serving as Chairman of the CWD committee.

I must also “Thank” his counterpart for getting the partnership deal with LSU, Mr. John Eveland, who worked hand in hand with Wayne the past few months. John has also been USP’s right arm, spending countless hours writing reports and articles on the flawed PGC/DCNR wildlife management plan. John has spent many hours traveling to and from the State Capitol to talk with State Legislators about why we need to pass HB2083/HB1483 and what it is costing in lost tax dollars to the state of PA and in local tax dollars as well. USP would really be lost without John Eveland to say the least!

In the next year, I hope USP can continue to move forward with our wildlife management plan and secure the funds needed to assist Dr. Frank Bastian in his research with positive results.

## Membership Request – Pete Kingsley

If USP could get a Christmas present from the good old white haired round guy with a beard, (that drives a sleigh pulled by deer), it would be to get lots of new members this New Year. Seriously, to get a good jump on increasing our membership, we would like to ask each USP member to give a present this Christmas of a USP membership. A \$20.00 gift to someone you know will go a long way to helping our hunting and fishing stay strong and would be a gift worth giving. Thanks in advance for helping USP stay large and healthy.

## For the Good of the Order – Wayne Haas

This letter was designed to reach everyone by Thanksgiving and hopefully it does. It is from all the officers and directors of USP that everyone’s Thanksgiving is Happy, that your deer season is bountiful (not everyone can get a deer but everyone should see a deer), that your Christmas be Merry, and that in the New Year our work pays off. Thanks to all.

## **Spiroplasma Bacterium, not Prions, Causes CWD**

### **USP & LSU Scientist Signed an Agreement To Combat CWD**

To the Membership of USP

Prion Research on CWD for the past 40 years has failed hunters because the Prion Theory is invalid. Dr. Frank Bastian (MD) at the Louisiana State University (LSU), Department of Agriculture, School of Animal Sciences, HAS discovered and verified the real cause of CWD, it is the Spiroplasma Bacterium, a tiny wall-less organism. Dr. Bastian's medical team is now able to grow the spiroplasma bacterium from CWD infected deer and they are now working to develop a diagnostic test for the disease and a possible vaccine as well.

When you shoot a deer and bring it home to the dinner table, your trophy may actually be in the early stages of CWD but look healthy. Would you like to make sure your deer does NOT have CWD before you dress it out in the field and serve it for Sunday dinner? Would you like to have a simple test you can carry with you and test your deer for CWD right there in the fields or woods? Such a simple test is now on the horizon and the Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania (USP) is launching a medical research funding drive to directly support it.

USP has entered into a mutually-beneficial agreement with LSU toward ending CWD and protecting human health in Pennsylvania and throughout America. On Oct. 14, 2018, the USP Board of Directors gave approval to enter into the agreement with President Wayne Haas to sign and submit the agreement to LSU.

According to the agreement, USP will provide grant funding for Dr. Bastian to continue and complete his CWD research. LSU will provide Unified with first-stage diagnostic tests for Pennsylvania hunters to test deer in the field at the point of harvest for CWD infection – thus protecting humans from the possible infection of CWD. The diagnostic tests would be a significant research and management tool for understanding and remediating CWD. Unified would also be offered first-stage testing of a vaccine if development is successful. These USP-coordinated Pennsylvania field tests would serve as a national demonstration project for dispersing these preventative CWD strategies throughout America.

In order to gain the funding needed, USP has already reached out by contacting our closest supporters and have a good start on our initial commitment. Now we are asking you, our USP members to help support this noble cause. *Every person, organization, business, or whomever, **will be listed on our register of support that will follow this program thru its entirety.** Please, give what you can. No amount is too small.* This is a long term project that will take tremendous work but will be well worth it in the end when the bacteria that causes CWD is better understood AND there is a field test for hunters to check their deer right in the field.

CWD is now in 22 States and 2 Canadian Provinces in our wild populations. Pennsylvania now has 177 cases of free ranging infected deer. In 2017 there were 78 new CWD cases in our deer herd and there are at least 26 more cases to date. It has reached the edge of our Pa Elk Herd and we may be witnessing the demise of BOTH our deer herd and our elk herd in Pennsylvania.

The good news is that together we will provide support to LSU. The bacterium that are the cause of CWD can now be grown in the lab and studied so that tests can be generated and a vaccine is a real possibility.

USP and Dr. Bastian's CWD research team at LSU's Department of Agriculture are on the verge of a medical cure for CWD. We often hear from our sportsmen, there's not much we can do to keep a healthy deer herd. Wrong, come be part of the research support team. Please give to our CWD Fund by filling out the form provided. Stay tuned for progress reports and be ready to help once those test kits are in your hunting jacket.

CWD Committee