



### The importance of membership- A note from the Director

Recently I took some time to reflect on my participation in community/civic groups, church groups, and organizations. I analyzed why I belonged, participated, and maintained or left a group. Some of the reasons were simple like geographic, as I no longer live within or near the community. Others were more complex and gave me a sense of unease within. They ranged from disinterest, disorganized leadership, a lack of belonging, or in some cases, a true conflict with others in the group. Whatever the reason, being a part of a cause or organization that does good work can give us a sense of purpose. As we begin a

year-long celebration of **35 years** and over **10,000 arrests** associated with TIP, it can do only one thing but energize and focus on the good of our organization.

From a geographic standpoint, TIP is Minnesota and therefore all citizens are eligible to be members. It crosses boundaries from prairies of the southwest to the pines, lakes, and rocky bluffs in the northeast. It covers the waters of Lake of the Woods and the Mississippi River in the southeast. As an organization "*Dedicated to curbing the illegal taking of Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources*" it frustrates me to know that the poaching problem still exists as much as it does. In a recent addition of the weekly "Outdoor News" cuffs and collars, COs talked of 7 fisherman on Lake of the Woods with 27 sauger over their legal limit. Violators must know we still exist and are diligent to the cause.

The TIP organization needs and is searching for memberships. With the reason well established, the State of MN as our boundaries, and a sense of purpose that fits the absolute majority, we need to work to keep the organization strong. The TIP is well known in the MN outdoor world, but it still needs your help and support. Most of all, having materials, information, and the knowledge that the program exists can be a deterrent to those that choose to violate. Being a member, we provide you with consistent information and opportunities to be involved and support the organization. Most of all, our resources need each of us to be diligent in reporting those suspicious and obvious activities that take from us all. Take the time to become a member today, go Online at [turninpoachers.org](http://turninpoachers.org) and look for the membership

### TIP Membership as Viewed by a Former President

Membership - what comes to mind when you hear that word? Webster's Dictionary defines it as: *the state of belonging to or being a part of a group or an organization*. To me it means belonging with a group to collectively further a cause through numbers [members].

Studies have shown our younger generations are not joining volunteer organizations the way their parents did. It isn't that they don't want to volunteer or become involved in causes they believe in. Rather, they want to be able to help in their own way, using their own schedules, not collectively with many others as has been done in the past. So we need, as older members of the TIP organization, to make sure that we are getting the TIP message out to all ages and members of our society. To continue the recruitment of new and younger members for this great organization. We need to help them recognize the connection between our actions and their passions; then their fresh ideas and creativity will help with new ways of looking at fundraising, leadership, and being of benefit to TIP.

As a Lifetime Member in Turn In Poachers, it means that I am committed to the conservation of wildlife in the State of Minnesota. Not only do I want to see the wildlife in our great state continue to thrive, but I also want to know that my sons, daughters, grandchildren and beyond will be able to relish the same type of hunting and fishing experiences that I have enjoyed. I believe that TIP's Mission Statement, "**Turn In Poachers (TIP), Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to curbing the illegal taking of Minnesota's wildlife and natural resources**" says it best. Whether it is through tips that are turned in on the Hotline resulting in an arrest, a Conservation Officer and TIP members with one of the Walls of Shame at a county fair, or a conversation in a coffee shop, these educational moments discussing TIP benefit all of us.

I want to see growth in our organization continue. It means something to be a part of an organization that will not only help us, but future generations as well. Give a TIP membership as a gift, talk to your neighbors and friends about TIP; you may be surprised at who wants to become one of us!

By Patsy Bernhjelm, previous TIP President

### The TIP Annual Meeting in review

#### By Peter Lodermeier, TIP President

On December 15<sup>th</sup> TIP held its annual meeting at the Headquarters in Brainerd. The annual meeting is required as annual elections are held for board positions and officers. Other items discussed were a bylaw change, budget approval, and activity reports. We want to welcome a new board member, Pete Kvale of the Brainerd area. Pete has been working as an EMT in Thief River Falls and will be attending school to study natural resources. One other individual was up for re-election this year and Robert Goble Sr. will continue to serve. Thank you to both for your dedication to the organization. Requiring annual election is the Executive Board. Through the election process, here are this year's results: Peter Lodermeier, President; Brandon Nadeau, Vice-president; Terry Peterson, secretary/treasurer. Thank you to all board members for your trust in us.

Through review of our 2015 prior year revenue and spending we were able to create a balanced budget and feel it to be representative of our goals here at TIP. As with any organization, the financial aspects are key to our survival and looking into the future we will be working to increase revenue. This will allow us to provide more services to membership and the organization mission. We did work on clarifying and cleaning up our membership definitions. It was approved to change our primary and most common membership from *associate* to *supportive* as it better defines this level as truly "supporting" the organization. Providing the \$25.00 membership is key to our growth and we feel it is affordable and at a level that the majority can obtain.

### Recap of 2015

The year 2015 brought many new and exciting programs, ideas, and events to the organization. Over the course of several months and meetings, the Board of Directors made a decision to hire a paid part-time Executive Director. A position that was vacated since 2009 and the duties filled by a volunteer E.D., part time Administrative Assistant, or the board President.

There were 3 banquets held around the state: Brainerd, Grand Rapids, and Rochester. The Ottertail Chapter of TIP held its annual 100 + 12 fundraiser with a celebration and prize drawings in August. Monitor our calendar of events and banquets as we develop new ones and rekindle old ones in 2016. Special note: for those that enjoyed the "Compadre" golf event, we have a committee working on a venue and date for 2016!! In October we had the opportunity to be a part of the Camp Ripley archery hunt. TIP had Indoor Wall 1 present to show and educate attendees about the organization and also provide some entertainment with games and prizes. This was a great fundraiser for TIP and we look forward to 2016!! The "Wall of Shame" schedule saw 60 requests in 2015, 10 more than in 2014. Staff made major changes to the stories in Outdoor Wall 4 this year and have begun work on our mini wall improvements with different mounts to feature. As always, the "MN 8" record buck replicas are on each of the walls. To see the full story, go to our website and check out the story in the left column on the home page. *New mounts- Bear, European mounts of deer*. In 2015 TIP said goodbye to Major Roger Tietz, as our DNR Liaison. He has entered the land of retirement and we look forward to any time he can give as a volunteer here at TIP.

### Proposal by Dayton to Increase Poaching Penalties

On January 15<sup>th</sup> TIP was invited to the MN DNR Roundtable in Brooklyn Center. There was a host of information shared during the day's events, but of interest to TIP was Governor Dayton's announcement on increased fines for poachers. Mr. Dayton cited several cases of violators and their disregard for current laws, stating that "...poaching in Minnesota should offend the sensibilities of all ethical and law-abiding hunters and anglers". Turn In Poachers' board of directors supports the efforts to increase the penalties for serious poaching cases. The new proposal is focused on creating a new felony level for those that commit deliberate and unethical game and fish violations. For details on the proposal, check out our website under "In the News" at: [turninpoachers.org](http://turninpoachers.org). We will continue to monitor the progress of this legislation. As the process moves forward and proposals are made within this year's legislative session, be prepared for a call to action for your support. As sports men and women we need to let our leaders know that these crimes will not be tolerated and this law will help deter the theft of our natural resources.

### "The Buck Stop" prototype

In 2015 the TIP program received a surge of deer due to the Sherburne County case where 6 mounts and 7 sets of antlers were confiscated. Due to the increase in the number of mounts, staff and volunteers have created a prototype called "**The Buck Stop**" to create awareness, seek memberships and collect donations. Our vision is to place these stands in sporting goods stores or events with high traffic to give a "buck" to TIP. If you know of a good location or want to participate as a business to support TIP, please contact the office at 218-326-8477. If you happen to be in a location where they are, thank you for dropping a buck or two in the box!





# TIPSTER

## February 2016

### Turn In Poachers, Inc.

7187 Wise Road, Brainerd, MN 56401

#### Upcoming Banquets:

**Brainerd - February 20, 2016 - Call Diane for details (218) 829-0203**

Duelm - April 16, 2016 - Call or send an email to the TIP office

Bemidji - April 21, 2016 Call or send an email to the TIP office

Grand Rapids - April 23, 2016 Call or send an email to the TIP office

Call the TIP Office for details (218) 326-8477 or send an email to [info@turninpoachers.org](mailto:info@turninpoachers.org)

*A special thanks to Tracy Jones of Emily, for all the mounting work he has done for Turn In Poachers.*

*Emily Meats • Jones Taxidermy & Wild Game Processing • (218) 763-6328 or (218) 851-5866*

*He is open 7 days a week and 24-hours, by appointment. TIP members, please support Tracy and his business.*



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# TIP 2015 Activity Report

Summary of Calls/Arrests	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD TOTAL
Total Calls	72	65	57	145	168	126	135	143	178	212	404	58	1763
Total TIP Calls	66	48	55	110	139	87	74	76	140	158	351	46	1350
Calls referred to CO's	64	45	54	108	137	84	71	71	131	154	344	45	1308
Case Numbers Assigned	6	1	0	13	14	6	6	9	5	21	37	2	120
Number of Arrests Made	10	2	0	20	28	7	6	26	11	42	75	4	231
Number of Cash Rewards Paid	0	8	0	0	0	6	0	4	1	6	12	9	46
Amount of Rewards	\$0	\$800	\$0	\$615	\$0	\$550	\$0	\$350	\$50	\$700	\$1,125	\$1,000	\$5,190
TIP Prints as Rewards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	6



#### 2016 – 35 years and a reason to celebrate

If you were at the table when Turn In Poachers first formed back in September, 1981 would you have envisioned its existence today and that the impact of those decisions would leave a 35 year legacy? TIP is making a difference and it is time to celebrate that success! Early in 2015 there was also a landmark worth noting: 10,000 arrests attributed to the program! It is truly difficult measure the impact, but the 10,000 violators being held accountable speaks volumes. The unseen impact is the countless fish and wildlife that have been saved as the decision to avoid an over limit, not pull the trigger, or make an unethical decision to pursue game.

#### Fishing and Hunting Arrests in 2015

Perhaps one of the most highly publicized fishing cases this year was the Cormorant Lake arrests with a group of people taking 676 fish over their legal limits. Another TIP found a group of anglers from the Ely area with 46 bass over their limit along with too many sunfish. TIP also received several poached animals including deer and a large bear that was featured in November edition. In January, the MN DNR released information regarding a major arrest stemming from a 5 year investigation, 28 sets of antlers were seized. We are awaiting the details of other cases from which details cannot be disclosed until after the courts have completed their work. Cases and activity highlights within this section are located at the TIP website along with other information we are allowed to share regarding arrests. It is important to note that our job as an organization and the job of each law abiding citizen is not done. We must continue our efforts to prevent and deter persons from completing these acts. If they are caught with the evidence, the animal is no longer there as our resource. It is better as an organization to be a deterrent and avoid these senseless acts.