

## Vertical response Feb 24 2021

I think everyone is happy to see the cold start to February turn into a warm ending. Was a great winter until three weeks ago and that should translate into a good year for the critters.

It's that time of year again to renew your membership (unless you are a Life Member or have a multi-year one). With just a click or two of your mouse, you can join directly off our website (<https://albertabowhunters.ca>) so make sure you do that so you don't miss out on game award and 3D program eligibility, the insurance coverage, notices on ABA News and to help bolster our numbers when we attend these very important meetings with senior government staff and stakeholders on hunting/bowhunting regulations, developing and adjusting policy for game management in Alberta. There are NO increases in membership dues.

If you have questions on your membership, contact [Mike@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Mike@albertabowhunters.com).

Make sure you get your **Game Award** entries into Ryk ([ryk@ryk.ca](mailto:ryk@ryk.ca)) by the FIRM deadline of March 1, 2021. One way is to email them to Ryk but make sure you follow up with a call to make sure he did indeed get them. Don't send high resolution pictures in bunches – do them one at a time so your email actually gets through. Sometimes things end up in Junk Mail so follow up with a quick call or email to make sure Ryk got your entry(s). You can also submit your game award entries through the website!! It works really well – just make sure if you enter something with a “score” attached, upload a completed ABA Entry form OR a completed Pope & Young/Boone & Crockett official score sheet. We need proof that it was officially measured through a signature of the official PY/BC measurer. No sheet – no entry!

Even though we had to cancel the banquet/convention, we are still doing the Game Awards. Ryk has been busy entering lots of entries. Looks like more to come. Lots of great critters. We have two Grandmaster portraits to give out and five Master Bowhunter buckles! We are looking at doing something special “virtually” and will let everyone know once we get it all figured out.

This is Ryk's last year as the ABA Game Awards Chair. He is retiring after 38 years of doing the awards. A very long run and everyone should make sure they thank him for all the years of service, not only in doing the Game Awards but also as an advocate for bowhunting in Alberta. Ryk and Dave Coupland were instrumental in getting bowhunting to where it is today.

Kyle Sinclair-Smith has been working with Ryk the last year or so and will take over as the ABA Game Awards Chair. He is very keen and will do an awesome job. Thanks Kyle!

We had a great start to our latest raffle – the “Wishing For A Better 2021” Raffle. We have 10 awesome prizes with the top prize being a Jack Kempf Kwyk Styk and accessories. We added nine other great prizes to round things out. As of right now we are close to 50% sold. Tickets are \$20 each and the draw is April 7<sup>th</sup>. If you need tickets go to our website and place your order or contact Brent ([Brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Brent@albertabowhunters.com)) or call 780-978-1195. The proceeds of these raffles help offset the costs of our Game awards Program, the insurance, the “new” printed annual Yearbook, youth initiatives, keeps membership costs low, etc.

Speaking of the “**Yearbook**” – this will be an annual printed publication. Full of stories, pictures, interviews, the Game Awards winners and total rankings, a recap of the year for the ABA. It will be mailed out to anyone that was a member in 2020 (and going forward to anyone who was a member in the previous year). It will be an awesome keep sake! We need stories, your pictures. Send them to [Gord@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Gord@albertabowhunters.com).

The latest electronic newsletter is up on the website and we are getting lots of hits so that is great.

We have been busy with **stakeholder/FW meetings** (Bighorn sheep and mule deer management plan reviews). We had some great input from the membership on their ideas and thoughts on both and those have been brought to these meetings.

Committee meetings involving **regulation change ideas** (if you have anything you'd like to see changed in the regulations let our Chairman Cam Foss know ([Cam@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Cam@albertabowhunters.com))). As things move along we will have a more comprehensive report for everyone.

Because we cannot have our AGM and thus, there will no voting on Bylaw changes, no formal elections, the Society's Branch has advised that for those **positions up for election**, we can poll those folks who currently hold those positions to see if they want to stay on for another year. Then conduct formal elections in 2022 (hopefully). If any of those positions become vacant, the Executive can appoint someone to temporarily fill them. We are in the process of doing that now. If you have any thoughts on serving on the ABA executive, let Brent know ([Brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Brent@albertabowhunters.com) 780-978-1195) and he can give you some background info on the various positions, what might become available etc.

Let's welcome "Spring" and start planning for bears. Buy a few raffle tickets. Send a story to Gord. Hope things start to open up more and more!!!