

Meeting of the Board of Directors, 4/16/2018 – Pre-meeting Statement

This meeting was called to discuss a recent article printed in the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel on March 22nd, 2018 and updated on March 26th, 2018, by Craig Gilbert. The article was headlined **“Some Wisconsin gun owners believe it is time to put more limits on guns.”**

Because I have received 2 written comments from members in good standing, and have overheard verbal discussion regarding the use of the Pine River Sports Association (hereinafter referred to as PRSA) name and facility in that article....without the express permission of the membership; I feel it necessary to bring this before the Board and develop a response to the article which defines the PRSA position to the membership. I also recommend the PRSA develop a policy, to be part of our bylaws, which defines the clubs position regarding the use of the PRSA facility and name. I have searched our current bylaws and do not find anything related to such a policy.

The PRSA and its facility is first and foremost, a private club....not a public venue. As such, personal comments and opinions made by members should not be referenced to the club. The PRSA facility should not be used to conduct interviews which may be contrary to its policies, without the express permission of the membership.

In this instance the PRSA facility apparently was used to conduct an interview about gun control. Personal comments by members, by inference, appear as being associated with the PRSA. While the statements, made in the article, are the personal opinions of those members, those opinions should not have been associated with the PRSA. The way the article was presented and printed, it can be inferred by a reader as being the policy and position of the PRSA.

Because we are affiliated with the NRA and many of our members are also NRA members, the PRSA should distance itself from statements which appear counter to NRA policies.

We take no position regarding our member's personal beliefs or comments. Such comments are their opinion to which they are fully entitled. Where we do take exception is the use of the PRSA facility and name and the comments being worded in such a way which can make it appear that the opinion or comment is supported by the PRSA.

Such articles, comments and opinions can have direct impact on our membership in the area of member recruitment and retention, potential club finances, reputation and well-being.

Thank You.

Gil J Hoerth / President – Board of Directors
Pine River Sports Association, Ltd.