Our organization has traveled through an uncertain economic climate during the past two years and has survived relatively unscathed even though it has been a difficult time. This was possible because of our capable staff and the strong participation of the Association Officers, Executive Committee and National Directors. As an organization, we find ourselves sound financially and ready to proceed into the future.

Louise Terry, my predecessor, could have never told me what I was really in for during these past two years. It has certainly been an enlightening experience which has been both wonderful and frustrating. I really do not know what preparation is necessary to accomplish the tasks required to be president of the NSSA/NSCA. I do know that I learned an awful lot, met some wonderful new people and that I am so thankful for the help given me along the way.

I would like to thank everyone in our wonderful organization for their help and support, especially for the guidance of Past President Louise Terry who will continue to serve as Chair of the Long-Range Planning and Finance Committees. She, along with Jim Davidson and Rick Periani, had the foresight, imagination and dedicated hard work to institute our new “Master Plan” to improve our facility in San Antonio and to institute a recreational division which hopefully will take our Association to the next level. Together with Director of Finance Steve Scales, Membership Chair Debra Perry and many others who have stepped up to the plate, we will begin our capital campaign to move this project forward. Thank you Al Means, World Shoot chairman, John Bratty, chief referee and our great referees, Headquarters staff and the Advisory Committee under the leadership of John Haugh and Michael Ferchaw for making this year’s World Shoot a success.

I cannot express enough gratitude to the NSSA Officers, Executive Committee National Directors and NSCA leadership who together with our staff at Headquarters under the able leadership of Michael Hampton Jr., are responsible for the efficient and competent management of our organization.

INTRODUCTION TO YOUR NEW OFFICERS

Past President Peter Coyne informed me after his term as president, that the best office at NSSA is that of “past president.” Well, I have made it to that office. I would like to introduce you to your new officers who I feel confident will do a great job in taking us to the next level of our future.

President Jim Gast

Jim Gast, age 65, was born in the small farming community of Warsaw, Ind., where he currently resides with his wife, Diane. They enjoy the company of their four children and ten grandchildren, all residing in Indiana.

He is a graduate of Warsaw High School, where he played basketball, football and tennis on the high school teams and was president of the band and a student council member. A graduate of Indiana University in 1967, he was a member and officer in Beta Theta Pi fraternity and received a commission in the US Army through the ROTC program. He served as an advisor in the Military Advisory Command in Vietnam in 1968-1970.

Jim’s family was in the construction industry and his background includes domestic and international sales and engineering of construction equipment applications, and included working travel to Australia, England, Spain, Italy and other overseas locations. He has also been a private contractor in various construction fields, and was international sales manager for a construction equipment manufacturer. During his business career he has resided in Michigan, Oklahoma and Indianapolis, before “retiring” to his hometown of Warsaw where he now operates several small businesses, including a package liquor store, car washes and commercial rental properties.

As a member of an active, outdoor oriented family, Jim was introduced to hunting and fishing at an early age, and fondly remembers trips to the local gun club (Kosko Conservation) and shooting skeet with his father and brothers. His first shotgun was a Remington 870 pump, with a raised rib and the required (at the time) Cutts compensator. Bird dogs,
guns, pheasant and quail comprised the very best part of each year.

An Eagle Scout, instrument rated pilot and still an avid tennis player, Jim enjoys the many lakes and streams in northern Indiana, as well as occasional trips to Lakes Erie and Michigan for salmon or walleye fishing with close friends. He has been the secretary and skeet director of Kosko Conservation for the past 20 years and has been an officer of the Indiana State Skeet Shooting Association since 1990.

“The wonderful aspects of our sport,” says Gast, “include the continuing effort at improvement and perfection, and most of all, spending weekends outdoors with an outstanding and diverse group of interesting people with many common goals and values.”

Vice President
Robert DeFrancesco

“Bobby Dee” has been shooting registered skeet since 1982 (28 years). He became a national director 12 years ago. He also served as an officer in Connecticut Skeet Shooting Association as secretary, vice-president, then president for four years. He was elected to the Executive Committee as the Zone One Committeeman by the NSSA Zone One National Directors in 2004, and elected as secretary-treasurer by the NSSA National Directors in 2009. Bob and his wife Mary Alice are very active skeet shooters both locally and nationally.

Secretary-Treasurer John “Jack” Tans

Jack has been shooting skeet for about 20 years, beginning at the Waukesha Gun Club with mentor Ed Scherer. After learning the game from Ed, he became interested in its administration by serving on the Waukesha Gun Club Board as its president and presently its treasurer. He is president of the Wisconsin Skeet Shooting Association and was the recipient of the 2010 Billy Spear award presented by the WSSA for unselfish service to the Association.

Jack has served as an NSSA director from Wisconsin for eight years, was a co-organizer of the NSSA Audit Committee, and has served two terms on the NSSA Executive Committee from Zone 5. He sits on the NSSA Finance, U.S. Open and Steering committees.

Jack is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is married to wife, Jean, and has three grown children and four grandchildren. He is retired from a career in banking and lives in Waukesha, Wisc.

Please join me in welcoming Jim, Bob and Jack as our new NSSA officers.

As always, comments are welcome: skeet@battylaw.com. Shoot 2 at low 8.