

2017 Wisconsin FFLA Chapter Report

- Chapter officially recognized in August.

Accomplishments

- Extensive correspondence with WDNR regarding the status of their tower divestment and for information gathering.
- Correspondence with State Legislators, DNR Secretary and DNR Division of Forestry administrator regarding tower divestment and encouraging retainment of select towers for historical purposes.
- Outreached to several landowners with towers and answered inquiries from others regarding tower retainment options, landowner liability, the NHLR, and the FFLA.
- Submitted a formal proposal to Lincoln County for a partnership in the maintenance and interpretation of the Lookout Mountain tower if the County agreed to accept ownership of the tower from the State. This proposal was brought to the County Board's Forestry, Land & Parks committee for vote but defeated due to the counties continuing concern over the liability of owning such a structure. A similar proposal was outlined to Price County for Ogema Tower but was never responded to.
- Worked with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) to create historic property records for 8 towers located on State owned property. The historic property record affords the towers no formal protection but is the first step in listing them on the State Register of Historic Places. The records can be viewed at:
https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records?&facets=HistoricUse%3a%22fire+tower%22&nodes=*Property*,*Record*&more=HistoricUse
- Listed 41 new towers to the National Historic Lookout Register, for a state total of 46.

Plans for 2018

- Increased member engagement and member recruitment.
- Fundraising
- Creation of a Chapter webpage or Facebook page to aid in recruitment and information dissemination.
- Continued engagement with WDNR on their tower divestment and preservation efforts.
- Engagement with landowners who've taken ownership of DNR towers.
- Continued research into Wisconsin's historic lookouts.
- Development of a more comprehensive State lookout listing.
- Continued listing of lookouts on the NHLR.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tyler Bormann
January 9, 2018