

December 2025 | Official Newsletter of St. Joe River Valley Fly Fishers

THE

LOOP



Dustin New, Editor

**Wednesday,
December 17
Finnies Next Door
223 S. Main St.
South Bend, IN.**



The December meeting is a time to celebrate the past year. We will do that by giving out several awards to some very deserving members. Some are deserving for their good deeds and some for their less fortunate experiences. Join us for some good stories and some good laughs with great fishing buddies and friends. If you've never been to a December meeting, you've missed a fun and entertaining evening of fishing stories. Please join us.

2026 SJRVFF PROPOSED BUDGET

The SJRVFF Treasurer puts together a budget for the upcoming year and presents it to the Board for review. After their review and approval, the Treasurer presents the budget to the membership for review and approval. Below is the proposed budget approved by the Board that will be presented to the membership at the December meeting. We will open the floor to questions at the December meeting before the voting.

Income

	April Auction	\$9,450.00
	Dues	\$2,700.00
	Raffle (Gross)	\$3,800.00
	Misc Income	\$0.00
Total Income		\$15,950.00

Expenses

	Auction Expense	\$800.00
	Raffle Expenses	\$2,200.00
	Outings	\$850.00
	Dues & Subscriptions	\$500.00
	Fly Tying Seminars	\$300.00
	Grants Given	\$3,000.00
	Youth Sponsorship	\$0.00
	Misc Business	\$700.00
	Newsletter	\$0.00
	Recognition/Awards	\$800.00
	Monthly Meeting Meals	\$1,900.00
	Speakers	\$2,400.00
	Education - Tying Classes	\$350.00
	Conservation	\$0.00
	Insurance	\$2,000.00
	Board Meetings	\$150.00
Total Expenses		\$15,950.00



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The December monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday at Finnie's in downtown South Bend. Doors open at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:30, a brief meeting to approve the 2026 budget and annual awards at 7:00 pm!

Todd Ezzell





MEMBERSHIP MEAL INCREASE

Every November Finnies and the SJRVFF Club negotiate a new contract for the upcoming year and as suspected we are facing another increase in food and venue cost for 2026. Please don't misunderstand me, I am in no way blaming Finnies for the increase. If you've been to Ruth's Chris or McDonalds it's all the same, the cost you are paying for a good steak or a burger and fries is substantially more than several years ago. Last year, we chose to absorb the increase and take a loss to the tune of about \$2,100.00. We knew this was not sustainable, but we were hoping we might see a leveling out of prices. **Unfortunately, that did not happen, and the Board of Directors decided we need to increase the cost to our members so beginning with the January meeting, the meal cost will increase to \$25.00.** We hated to do this but obviously a club our size could not continue to take those losses. *We plan to revisit this again next year, but we will need your help in controlling this cost by doing the following:*

- **Please make your dinner reservation by the cut-off date** as outlined in the Loop and the reservation reminders. Our contract requires us to pay for a minimum of 25 meals, so it is important I report an accurate number to Finnies
- If you reserved and found out you can't make it AND didn't let the club know, we would like to ask that you voluntarily send in the \$25.00 meal/ venue cost.
- If you reserve and later find out you cannot make the meeting, please let me know ASAP. There have been several occasions when I was not able to accommodate a member's reservation request after the reservation cutoff date or on the day of the meeting, only to find out the person who reserved knew some time ago they could not make it. If you notify me before the cutoff date and/or I'm able to give your reservation to another member it relieves you of the obligation to pay.
- If you don't reserve and pay for dinner, please be respectful of the process, don't eat what you did not pay for.

Thank you in advance for understanding and although I will be discussing this in more detail at the December meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Don Reber 574-286-0157 / donreber@gmail.com



2026 PROPOSED SLATE FOR ELECTIONS

President-Don Reber

Vice President- Eric Graham

Treasurer-Roger McFall

Assistant Treasurer- Jim Oresko

Secretary- David Vanantwerp

1 Yr Director- TBD

1 Yr Director- John Mertes

2 Yr Director- TBD

2 Yr Director- Greg Sautter

3 Yr Director- Keith Franier

3 Yr Director- Ron Weaver

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING STUFF

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Membership renewal dues can be paid at the club meetings or by mail to:

SJRVFF
P.O. Box 933
South Bend, IN 46624

- You can pay your dues by credit card through the web site. Click on the "Join SJRVFF" tab and down toward the bottom you will see where you can pay via PayPal.
- The dues are still just \$30.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for a family membership.

Just click the
link to quickly
send an email to
Don

We need you to RSVP for dinner or we cannot provide a meal for you. Get your name in or you will go hungry!

RSVP by emailing at donreber@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 574-286-0157.

MUST RSVP by 9:00pm on Friday.



MEETING DETAILS:

Doors open at 6:30
Meal at 7:00
Meeting about 7:30

Location:
Finnies Next Door
223 S. Main St.
South Bend, IN.

Parking is free.

Meal cost \$20.00/
person

MENU
TBD

DIRECTORS

President- Todd Ezzell
Vice President- Eric Graham
Treasurer- Don Reber
Assistant Treasurer- Jim Oresko
Secretary- David VanAntwerp
1 Yr Director- Tim Minier
1 Yr Director- Tim Scott
2 Yr Director- Mark Bardusk
2 Yr Director- Brandon Rassler
3 Yr Director- Roger McFall
3 Yr Director- John Mertes

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: John Law
Activities Coor: Todd Ezzell
Raffle Director: Roger McFall
Newsletter: Dustin New
Webmaster: Michael Kendzicky

The Loop is published the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May. If you have story, article ideas, photo, artwork, or need to get something off your chest, contact me at: 574-286-6508 or dustinnew@sbcglobal.net



SJRVEF

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UPCOMING EVENTS	DEC 25	JAN 1	JAN 21	FEB 18
	Christmas Day	New Year's Day! Start the year out right by getting out and fishing. Even for a few minutes.	Club Meeting Finnies Next Door 223 S. Main St. South Bend, IN.	Club Meeting Finnies Next Door 223 S. Main St. South Bend, IN.

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NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 14, 2026