

WCLA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August 17, 2022

Hello Friends and Neighbors,



It is hard for me to believe my first year as President is almost over...much like summer! Time flies when you're having fun as they say! Mother Nature gave us much to enjoy this summer so no wonder it has gone FAST! So, let me take a bit of this edition of the Waterline and President's Corner to share with you what it has been like for me in this role over the past 11 months. After this little reflection, I will give you the latest updates and events for the last month and some of what you have to look forward to this fall and winter. Cathy has of course knocked it out of the park with lots of great information in this edition of the Waterline as well!!! So....get cozy...read on... and enjoy!

First of all, let me say it has been a pleasure and an honor being a part of a Lake Association Board with such an amazing and hard-working group of individuals. And I truly, truly mean that. There is so much work that goes on that most people don't realize (I didn't). From cleaning out beaver dams, arranging social dinners, lake activities, parties, typing up minutes and Blasts and Waterline issues, Facebook and information sharing; to attending water quality conferences, fixing fences and posts, talking to township officials, working with PLM and answering multiple letters/emails about problems or concerns on the lakes. The list goes on and on. Our Board including the amazing Nan and Gloria, have done all of it quietly, professionally and freely. But mostly, they did it together, as a team. I am extremely proud of all of you and you should be proud of yourselves and each other.

When I contemplated running for this position, I knew I was stepping out of my comfort zone, and I really didn't know what all it would entail. I had never been a Lake Association President or even a Board member for that matter. Although I sit on many committees, have chaired several committees and assume a leadership role in my professional career as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, I didn't know if I was qualified enough, smart enough or strong enough to take on this role. I only knew I wanted to do it, that I had ideas to share, that I wanted to be sure all voices were heard and that I would humbly accept the challenges it would bring. I knew I would learn and grow as I developed my skill set.

So...I ask for input from multiple people who live on the lakes...Do you think I should do this....YES, YES and YES they all said. Except for one....my husband. He didn't understand why I would want to put one more thing on my busy plate, why I would want to subject myself to the time commitment and issues that he knew people would bring forth to me. He saw me as his wife, his best friend and soulmate; as an NNP and crazy fun girl when I was not working. BUT...not as President of the Lake Association. Even so, I went for it! After watching me over the last 11 months, he gets it, he's proud of me and he supports my decision. That's what strength and love is all about.

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I can say it has been one of the most exciting, challenging, rewarding, humbling and fun 11-month adventures I have ever been on. It has been such a great experience and I have appreciated all the good friends I have made, the laughs we have shared... and the hugs you all give (in spite of Covid!). No one can take any of that away from us. We are a strong lake community!

However, it has also been one of the most difficult, self-esteem stripping and tear shedding experiences of my life. I have been accused of having a personal agenda, snubbed by previous friends, sent rude emails with inaccurate information, and most recently flipped off while on the boat with my 8, 5, and 2 year old grandchildren. Fortunately, this behavior and people involved have been few in number. I have received a tremendous amount of support and encouragement from most of you and I sincerely thank you for that. I pulled up my big girl pants and moved on from these issues, and as a Board, we focused on what was important for the greater good of the community. Anything else would have been a waste of our time.

I am a strong and resilient woman and although some of those things privately pained me, I will reiterate what I have said all along, **I have no personal hidden agenda. My only agenda was and still is to help keep the lakes clean and people safe with a whole bunch of fun stuff tossed in!** Working as a team, we have done all of that and more. We have organized numerous events and social get togethers, and tackled tough issues over the last 11 months. What a great and humbling feeling it is to know I got to be a part of all that we accomplished.

So, to that end, I want you to know that I absolutely loved working with the Board and the association members. I have learned so much from all of you and have appreciated your patience and understanding when I have made mistakes... and your positive attitudes when addressing new ideas. I love that you can debate respectfully and come to a consensus professionally, even when we disagree. I appreciate that you are passionate about your community and that you are willing to dig in and get involved. That is integrity and maturity at its best in my book.

You have worked with me on ideas, concepts, changes and pretty difficult issues...all with grace and kindness in your hearts. Many of you have reached out to guide me, support me, volunteer time for me, educate, mentor and yes...even just hug me. You have shown me grace and understanding in ways I never expected. I needed all of that and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I truly hope I have given you something in return that has left a tiny positive feeling in your hearts. If so, then mission accomplished!

I will end this by saying, I still have a lot of ideas to throw out there and I would love to keep writing a monthly President's Corner for you.... but if this is it, well thank you all for who you are and the gifts you have given me over the last year. It has truly been an unforgettable year!

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UPDATES, PAST EVENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS and OTHER STUFF

UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS to THREE MORE young adults who completed their Boaters Safety Course and have received a \$15.00 Amazon Gift Card courtesy of the WCLA Board. These young people continue to set a wonderful example for all young people using the lakes and should be very proud of themselves. They are: Abrina Tembo, Aaron Enbody and Luke Ficeli. **All young people have until the end of August to get in on this!** Keep them coming parents and grandparents!!! Contact Wendi Davidson at davidsonwendi@gmail.com or (616) 799-0412 if you need more information.

Fish Plant: 500 smallmouth Bass were planted on July 22nd. Walleye will go in this fall. (See article in the Waterline for more details)

The Kent County Drain Commission, as mandated by the state, is working on the plan for the embankment located along Stacey Street that has significant seepage of water. It is unknown at this time what the costs will be.

I have tried to find out information on the drones that were flying over several of your houses on Woodbeck lake around July 31st. I spoke with Greg Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor to see if he had any information. After a few phone calls, it did not seem to be the Kent County drain commission, the township or the Economic Council. He will do a bit more checking around and let me know if he finds out anything. Otherwise, it may have been from the private sector. If anyone has more information, please feel free to share it with us.

PAST EVENTS

The Poker Kayak Event was a HUGE success!! The weather was gorgeous, the band was fantastic and I think everybody that participated was a winner!! Thank you, Kevin and Carol Bird, Nan Holmes, Art & Jamie Skinner and Ed and Bobbie Armbruster for pulling it all together! And a Big Thank You to all the volunteers as well! (Sorry if I left anyone out!)

WCLA Annual Golf Outing...also a BIG HIT!! Thank you to the Golf Committee for stepping up and making it happen! All of you ROCK! Thank you to Links of Bowen Lake for helping the event run smoothly and to Mike and Katherine Wolthuis who helped sponsor the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WCLA Annual Dinner Meeting at Camp Concordia and FREE Taco Dinner: Open to all paid members:
Saturday, August 27th

4:30 Social Gathering

5:00 Regular Meeting: At the end of the meeting, Lake Representatives will be chosen. (Officers will be elected at the September Board Meeting)

6:00 Taco Dinner

You must RSVP Nan at holmes.nanette@gmail.com or text her at (616) 213-8247

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AND FUN MEETING SO PLEASE TRY TO COME!!!!

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We will be hosting a “ **WCLA Share Your Plants” Plant Sale on September 24th** at Camp Greenwood. Watch for details coming soon. But in the meantime, save your plant containers and Walmart or Meijer plastic bags. We will “thin” our plants, place them in individual containers with some details about the plant and bring them to Camp Greenwood on Friday, September 23rd or the morning of the 24th to be sold to our friends and neighbors. All plants will cost \$2.00. Monies go to support social events for the WCLA. Specific details to follow soon!

WCLA HALLOWEEN PARTY, HALLOWEEN PARTY, HALLOWEEN PARTY!!! THIS IS GOING TO BE CRAZY FUN!!! At Brookside Golf Course Banquet Room on Saturday, October 29th. Doors will open at 6pm for social time followed by TACO BAR. **Awesome DJ playing until 10pmish**. Prizes for best costumes BUT.... if you don't want to dress up, come anyway AND DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!! It's going to be one of the best events of the year!! Cover cost is \$10.00 per person. **You must RSVP Nan at holmes.nanette@gmail.com or text her at (616) 213-8247**

WCLA Cornhole/Chili Cookoff is set for Saturday, November 5th. Get your chili recipes perfected, test them on your friends and family and...you just might be the **BIG CHILI WINNER** this year! While your chili is simmering, get your cornhole throwing arm in shape! Remember, practice makes perfect and there are some very skilled throwers out there!! BUT...it's all just for fun so no matter how good or bad your throwing arm is, come out to enjoy a great fall event. More details to follow!

HO, HO, HO! The WCLA Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 3rd at Winter Inn. More details to follow but be sure to put it in your calendar now 😊

Christmas Cookie Exchange set for Sunday, December 11th. More details to follow.

OTHER STUFF

We are looking for volunteers to take over for Nan and Teri as the **Welcome Committee Greeters!** Nan and Teri have been meeting and greeting our new lake residents for many years and would like to pass this super fun baton on to some other smiling faces. Please contact Nan if you are interested at holmes.nanette@gmail.com or text her at 616 213-8247.

The Meal Train is always available to help you in the event of illness or injury. Your friends and neighbors are here to help! Please contact Mara Iteen at Iteenmm@yahoo.com or text 616 255-6081. **Even if you only need a few days of meals, the Meal Train is here for you!**

Lions and Tigers and Bears, OH MY! A bear was spotted in the Woodbeck lake area. Keep your eyes open and be careful!

Please be careful in the channels, shallow areas are hard to see!

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Remember the channels are NO WAKE areas so SLOW DOWN PLEASE! Also, follow boaters' safety rules when operating your personal water craft. Please click on the following link for detailed information:
https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/boating_law/

Please remember, if you have anything you would like to share such as ideas for social events or lake concerns, or you simply want to listen to what the board is up to in person; you are encouraged and more than welcome to contact me, your lake representatives, or come to the board meetings. We are always happy to see some new (and old!) faces at the Board meetings!

Board Meeting Minutes are uploaded to the WCLA website for your late-night reading pleasure! Click on <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/meeting-minutes>

Don't forget to pay your dues please! Our 2023 FY begins Sept 1st. It's a small price to pay to keep our lakes safe and support the fun events we want everyone to enjoy! If you haven't paid 2022 dues – click here: <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/pay-dues>. Click here for the 2022 paid membership list... <https://woodbeckchainoflakes.com/paid-membership-list>

Your healthy recipe of the month will be in the September issue of the President's Corner!

That's all for now!

Respectfully,

Wendi Davidson
WCLA President