

ELDA General Membership Meeting – August 8th, 2026, 10AM

Officers:

Mike Connolly President
Jon Walko, Vice President
Pat Walker, Treasurer,
Millie McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Emanuelson, Recording Secretary
*Denotes absent

Board Members:

Mark Murray ('26)	Paul Szwayka ('27)
Joe Palonis ('26)	Dennis Gregory ('28)
Tom Serafin ('26)	Chris Mann ('28)
Brian Devaney ('27)	Holly Stanton ('28)
*Mike Henshaw ('27)	*George Firmstone, Past Pres

- **Call to Order & Introductions**

President Mike Connolly called the meeting to order at 10:02am. He welcomed everyone and asked those present to introduce themselves and sign in. Sign-in sheet is attached. (Please see addendum 1)

- **Recording Secretary's Report – Kathy Emanuelson reminded members that the minutes of the July 11th, 2026, General Membership Meeting were shared electronically with ELDA general membership for their review prior to the meeting.**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Joe Palonis, seconded by Jon Walko. The motion passed with no one opposed.

For board members present, minutes of our March 29th, 2026 annual board meeting were shared electronically for your review. Gentlemen and Holly, a word processing mistake was brought to my attention by Holly, and I noticed an abbreviation error, EPA for Emergency Action Plan was corrected to EAP. A motion was made by John Parker, seconded by Pat Walker. The motion passed with no one opposed.

- **Corresponding Secretary's Report – Millie McCarthy reported that only one lake right is unpaid. Millie noted that this invoice has only one contact listed. She requests that all members add a second point of contact in case something changes with one of the numbers. Millie also shared that this year's stickers aren't adhering as well as previous years. She suggests applying them to clean boat surfaces, rather than putting them on top of last year's stickers.**

- **Treasurer's Report – Pat Walker shared his treasurer report documents electronically with ELDA members for their review before the meeting. (please see Addendum 2)**

Pat summarized ELDA's financial health: our cash balance is a healthy \$262,872. The 'Income and Expense Report' shows \$1,000 to the good. The 'Detail Report' shares with members where our money was spent last year. Joe Palonis noted that there was a significant reduction in liability insurance expenses this year. Pat noted that our previous carrier discontinued our policy, and in the extensive search for coverage he was pleased to find coverage that costs less. ELDA was fortunate as we had no insurance issues for more than 5 years, and in fact, in memory. Mike complemented and thanked Pat for the extensive amount of time it took to find insurance coverage.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports was made by Jack Mulka, seconded by Millie McCarthy and was approved with no one opposed.

- Patrol Report and Boating and Safety – Chair Brian Devaney spoke for Joe Farrell, not present and reported a very lively lake this summer. He emphasized that members should reinforce the counterclockwise direction with new boaters. Also, he strongly suggested that anyone swimming across the lake be accompanied by a boat, or at minimum a manual boat, for the safety of the swimmer. If you do see someone swimming, please step up and be their safety boat to shore.
- Fish Committee – Jack Mulka reported many of us have seen reports on the socials of very successful fishing this year! Jack thanked Rob Howell and Kristin Conover for another excellent fishing contest this year. It was helpful to the fish committee to see the variety of fish being caught. Fish that reproduce in the lake are reproducing well. Jack noted that the only fish that wasn't caught in the contest were walleye and trout, fish that are stocked, which reside deep in the cold water this time of year. Joe Palonis inquired about the health of the lake's alewives population. He remembers seeing big schools when on the lake and hasn't seen the same this year. Jack reported that in fact, the state considers them to be an invasive species, and they are related to red herring. We can tell when they reproduce as that's when seagulls come to feed. They have only been stocked once in his memory. Jack observed that since all our fish are thriving, he feels the alewives are still in good supply. Jack shared that the fish committee will meet before Labor Day and anyone interested is welcome to join but also requested any input at this time. "Keep doing what you're doing" was the opinion of those present.
- Water Quality Report –Dave Stanton reported that all water quality levels were good, including E.coli and phosphorus. This summer's testing is ongoing, and extra samples were taken from the area of the lake near the fire with no levels of concern.
- Fracking Committee Report – Dave Stanton reports that the fracking issue has been quiet.
- Dam report – Mike reported for Fred Stanton that minor repairs to our dam are expected to be complete before November. Mike Henshaw is our contact with our engineer, Jeff Weinstein, from Wayco, Inc., our new engineering firm. Pat Walker reminded members that our \$30,000 collateral bond is available to the PA DEP if they ever rule that our dam is unsafe.
- Committee reports:
 - Financial Records Review Committee –Vince Gatti reported for himself and Randy Berini that all the financial records for the fiscal year ending July 2026 were clear, in order and without discrepancies. Mike and Pat both thanked the committee for their time on this project.
 - Nominating Committee – John Parker and committee members Joe Henshaw and Beth Walko presented the slate of candidates for election today. The committee recommends Mark Murray and Tom Serafin for re-election and Jerry Theobald, to be a new board member, filling outgoing Joe Palonis' position. The slate of officers stays the same: Mike Connolly, president, Jon Walko, vice-president, Millie McCarthy, corresponding secretary, Kathy Emanuelson, recording secretary and George Firmstone as past president. A motion was made by John Parker, seconded by Dave Stanton, and passed with no one opposed.

Mike, as well as many members, complemented outgoing board member Joe Palonis for his long dedication and service to the efforts of ELDA in keeping the lake pristine. Jack Mulka suggested a Board Emeritus position for Joe, and others like him. Those with that designation would be invited to annual board meetings, etc., where their experience would be helpful. Mike Connolly suggested that concept will be considered at the spring ELDA board meeting. Joe Palonis thanked people, commenting he's been involved for a very long time, including the establishment of the boat ramp and the walkway across the dam. He agreed that he'd be interested in an Emeritus position and encouraged the next generation to get involved with ELDA.

- Summer Activities – Mike reported on this year's activities, and sincerely thanked all who are responsible for their success from year to year:
 - Annual Field Day, held Saturday, July 25th, 1PM, and hosted by the Dugan family was fantastic!
 - Covered Dish, held the same day, hosted by Joanne Connolly had a very good turnout and delicious food!
 - Fishing Tournament, Sunday August 2nd, run by Rob Howell & Kristin Conover had wonderful participation.
 - George Stanton Annual Golf Tournament – has been postponed to Saturday August 15th, at Memorial Links, tee off 8:30AM – Stanton family and Len Addison.
Len let everyone know that he's coordinating the opportunity to purchase Elk Lake tees and sweatshirts. Deadline is August 16th.
Likewise, Julie Stanton has Elk Lake floating keychains available for \$3 each.
- Old Business
 - Mike reminded all ELDA members to remain vigilant about hydrilla or any invasive weed.
 - Last month, Charlotte Iori shared that she is setting up two free lending locations for kids and adult books, games & puzzles. One will be at the meeting pavilion and one at Jake's. If you have any games, puzzles or books to donate, please contact Charlotte at 570-561-5805. Also, she is starting a Mahjong club teaching new players and enjoying the game with those who know how. Please contact Charlotte for details.
- New Business
 - Mike Ryan asked the board address to the horse power limit on the lake. He reported that a local marina sells the Optimax motor that can be changed from 75 to 90 to 115HP with just a swap of an ECM module. They reportedly also offered to put a 75HP sticker with the 90 HP chip. Mike Ryan strongly suspects there are a few boats on the lake that are already 90HP in this way. With boats being significantly heavier than when the limit was set, Mike Ryan thinks it's time to consider raising the HP limit. Board member Chris Mann reminded the board that serial numbers of all stickered motors are given to Millie in order to get their sticker. It is unclear whether the serial