

Board Member Candidates - 2026

Russell Baldwin - Lot 159

I am a (mostly) retired Attorney, currently living full-time at Sunset Lake. I am married to my high school sweetheart, Kathryn (Auburn, IL Class of '75), and we have two grown boys, Jon & Ben. Kathryn and I purchased our lake home at Sunset in 2010 and traveled from the Western Suburbs of Chicago down to the lake nearly every other weekend from 2010 to 2021. In 2019, we tore the existing house structure and rebuilt our retirement home on the lake, where we currently live with Kathryn's mother, Betty Ludek. I wound down my private law of nearly 40 years in 2021 (with Kathryn as my assistant) and after a brief stint with a bank as a Wealth Management/Trust Officer, we moved into our retirement home on the Lake full-time in 2021.

Kathryn's family had a small house on Sunset Lake from approximately 1984 to 1999, and we have a real history with Sunset Lake, that will almost certainly continue on for the foreseeable future. Our boys grew up with the influence of Sunset Lake fishing and boating and we all very much enjoy fishing, boating and related lake activities. We have sponsored two Christmas walks and two poker runs in the past where you may have had the opportunity to meet my wife and our sons.

It has always been a goal of mine to continue to be involved with the lake association. In 2022 I was elected to the Sunset Lake Association Board of Directors for a three-year term, where I served as Vice President in 2024 and as President in 2025. Presently I am still involved with Board of Directors as an advisor from time to time as a member of the SSL Rules Committee and the Long Term Planning Committee, which I formed when I was President in 2025.

I look forward to continuing participation in Sunset Lake Association matters, whether through board membership or otherwise.

Jenny Buhl – Lot 8

My husband Shane and I moved to Sunset Lake in October 2020 and have greatly enjoyed living here for the last 6 years. I have served on the board the last 3-years in the capacity of Secretary and currently the Treasurer. I have decided to run for another term to stay involved in decision making to help ensure our lake continues to be a place everyone wants to live.

My professional experience has been in payroll and accounting and have served on many volunteer committees while raising our kids in Girard.

Please consider voting for me in 1 of the 3 open board positions

Jeff Burns - Lot 63

My name is Jeff Burns, and I have been a Sunset Lake resident for approximately five years. During that time, I have developed many friendships and have been an active participant in lake activities. I have worked for State Farm Insurance for 35 years, gaining extensive experience in technology, governance, risk management, and business operations. Throughout my career, I have built strong relationships, addressed concerns, and worked collaboratively to develop practical solutions. I believe my professional experience, communication skills, commitment to teamwork, and involvement in our community would allow me to make a positive contribution to Sunset Lake.

Carol Hank - 59

My name is Carol Hank, and I am interested in serving on the Sunset Lake Association's Board of Directors. I purchased my home on beautiful Sunset Lake in October of 2023. I reside at 30369 Cypress Lane, Lot 59.

I am retired and would enjoy the opportunity to share the knowledge and experience I gained in my 30-year career with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as Assistant Director of Housing Dining Equipment and Facilities. One aspect of my job was to maintain equipment life cycles, budget for replacements, project development, and execution of plans. I also have experience in renovation and new construction projects.

An additional responsibility I had was the department's collaborator with the Housing Department's graphic and marketing departments. It is important that communications, no matter the format, be clear and thorough with the goal of answering questions, rather than creating them.

I'm currently on the Sunset Lake Association's long term planning committee. I see tremendous value in implementing a living document that is capable of steering the board, and the many committees of the Sunset Lake Association. This plan will provide direction to insure a fun and safe lake community for all of its residents, while being fiscally responsible for its upkeep. I also would very much enjoy seeing the association have an updated website, mass text capabilities, easy to navigate policies and rules, and an improved social media presence.