

L.S.L.S.O.A.
SPRING NEWSLETTER
2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Spring has sprung at the lake and I hope this letter finds you all well. What a great place to be in the spring. We started the year off with an Executive Board meeting on May, 24th. The purpose was to get up and running for the new year. Our board is now up to 5 members and we hope we can add two more this year. I'd like to thank the current members for their continuing help. In addition to Penny and Brigitte, who continue to be the heart of the Board, Tom Jorling (Environmental Committee Chair) and Jack Drury (Community Relations Chair) round out the team. There is no question that as the Board grows, it becomes more productive and the general membership is better represented. Unfortunately, Brigitte was not able to attend our meeting due to the death of her mother. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to Brigitte and her family.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY:

1. GENERAL:

The major additions we hope to make this year are a Vice President and a Chairperson for our Membership and Communications Committee. Neither position would be time consuming and neither would take any particular skill, other than a willingness to help make us a better association.. We are very sensitive to the fact that we are here to enjoy ourselves while looking after the resource we are all fortunate enough to live on and use .Therefore, we don't want to create work for work's sake! Both positions would have a seat on our Board. Currently, we have one board meeting each year and our annual meeting in July. The committees all meet when and if they see fit during the year. None of them meet during the winter and, with e-mail, require little face to face meeting time. Therefore, seasonal residents can contribute as well as those who are here year round. So, if you have an interest or have someone you think would make a good addition, let us know. Our objective is to have one or more nominees for VP on who we can vote at our annual meeting.

We also discussed the provisions within our constitution which authorize the Board to conduct the regular business of the Association throughout the year. It authorizes the Board to "carry on the business of the L.S.L.S.O.A. and determine if certain situations should be brought before the membership." It is silent on giving the board authorization to make the basic monetary expenditures necessary to run the everyday business of the association. For example, we have met situations, such as the boater's safety course. That event required a payment to the instructor. Currently, we pay it and "hope" for approval at the annual meeting. Therefore, we are exploring an appropriate amendment to our Constitution that would authorize limited amounts for the Board to spend without prior approval. This would greatly improve the efficiency of our operation and the decision making process.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Penny Curran was kind enough to agree to act as interim chair for this committee until we find one. Louise Hammond has agreed to join as a member of that committee. Hopefully some of you will consider pitching in with them. The more members we can have on this committee, the better.

As you know, Penny has done a wonderful job in organizing the upcoming "boater's safety course" which is scheduled for July 13th and 14th. Details are available on our website at www.lowersaranac.com. Please take advantage of this opportunity. If you don't want to directly participate, please come and observe some or all of it.

Did we mention we have website at www.lowersaranac.com? Barbara Plumadore has been kind enough to act as our interim webmaster and has been the reason we were able to get it started. It has been up and running since last fall on a trial basis. Please look at it and use it as a source of information. Also give the web cam a try. It is a great feature, especially when you are away from the lake. We will need to make a decision at our annual meeting as to whether the membership feels the website is worth continuing. It costs approximately \$13.00 per month to maintain. Look it over and come to the meeting with your feedback.

Finally, we talked about trying to sponsor some additional activities for our members who are interested in getting to know more members and might enjoy more association sponsored activities. We mentioned ideas such as a kayak/canoe outing during the day or at night, a monthly lunch at one of our local spots or even a golf outing for the strong of heart and mind. This committee would act as a clearing house for these ideas as we attempt to expand the social opportunities for those interested members. If you have an idea, let Penny or Louise know. These would be easy things to organize and, if they work, we can continue them. If not, nothing lost. If you want to help with this committee, let them know.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

This group will be meeting prior to our annual meeting to discuss their agenda for 2009. According to Tom, their primary objective will be to outline the steps they feel will best prepare us to deal with the spread of Eurasian Milfoil. We now need a plan of action. This plan would include what we as an association can and should be doing based on our size and limited resources; what we as individual property owners have as options to deal with our own shore lines and what steps we should be taking to partner with appropriate state agencies that can help and how to get them involved.

Included in their work will also be a look at whether we should incorporate and apply for tax exempt status in order to make our organization able to receive tax deductible contributions and grants to support these initiatives.

Stay tuned and call Tom to volunteer your input and help.

4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

As you are aware this committee met with the Harrietstown Board and presented our request for a "Vessel Regulation Zone" to be established in portion of Ampersand Bay for the purpose of controlling watercraft speed.. If you've not seen it before, the outline of the presentation can be found on our website. Did we

mention we have a website? The response we received from the Board was very positive and supportive. Their primary concern was whether or not they had the jurisdiction to establish such a zone or was it a Franklin County issue. The outcome was that they agreed to discuss it with the county for further clarification and, at the same time, Board Supervisor Larry Miller agreed to write a letter to the DEC to determine if there was any way they could simply place several 5mph buoys in the bay to remind people to control their speed or to see if they had any other suggestions. We informed the Board that any action that would result in controlling speed in that area would be acceptable to us. We'll keep you posted.

In addition to the above, we were also contacted by John Mills, the President of Paul Smith's College, with his request that we have a member of our association sit on an advisory board he is establishing which is designed to reach out to various groups in the area for input. Jack Drury has agreed to represent us at those meetings. While this is not directly tied to any specific lake issue, it does fit with the purpose outlined in our constitution of keeping our members aware of issues that might impact their interests. Time will tell. If nothing else, it is another reminder to the outside world that we exist and have a voice. It is only a matter of time until we'll have to use that voice and the stronger and more credible it is, the better.

5. ANNUAL MEETING:

The date for our annual meeting has been set for July 26th. Penny is working out the details and you will have them shortly. You will receive an invitation. Did we mention we have a website? The details will also be there. The focus of this year's meeting will be a report from each of our committees on their activities and recommendations. At this point, we do not plan on any outside speakers. Since we only use one hour for the business portion of the meeting we felt it was important that we hear directly from the committees about the work they have been doing throughout the year. In addition we had some good thoughts come to the floor at the end of our meeting last year. Unfortunately, we were out of time to discuss and develop them. We don't want that to happen this year and hopefully you'll take some time prior to this year's meeting to identify any issues you feel we should consider as we go forward.

That should do it for now. Thanks for taking the time to read about what we are doing to represent our association. As always, we would love to get your feedback, ideas and help. Enjoy the summer and we'll see you on July 26th.