

North Long Lake Association

2024 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Our annual meeting was held on Saturday July 20, 2024 at Legionville Camp.

We had 84 attendees representing 49 properties. Jim Anderson, NLLA Board President, introduced Sargent Brad Theising from the Crow Wing County Water Patrol who spoke to the group at 10:00 AM.

Sargent Brad Theising shared his background and the law enforcement positions he has held prior to his current role which includes water activities, snowmobiling and ATV activities. Brad and his team monitor over 400 bodies of water. He currently has a staff of 8 people. They work in teams of 2 people and target their water-time to the busiest lake time including weekends, holidays and evenings. He informed the group about practice diving exercises we may observe on the lake which gives their dive team practice at finding targets submerged in the lake.

Brad shared a change in the application process to get a permit for a separate raft stating that it is now necessary to get permission from any property owners where the raft would be anchored in front of their property. Brad reported that records show 25 traffic stops on North Long Lake so far this year which include boat registration issues, jet ski hours of operation, etc. The number to contact the Sheriff's Office for any issues on the lake is 218-829-4749. If a watercraft is involved it is very helpful to get the registration number off the boat which allows them to contact the owner of the boat to address any issues. Sargent Thiesing then answered a number of questions from the attendees at the meeting.

Jim Anderson formally opened the annual meeting a 10:30 AM and introduced the 2024 Board Members. There were 4 open positions on the Board. After calling for floor nominations, there were none, and all 4 positions were filled with the incumbents being re-elected: Chuck Knopik, Sandy Loney, Martha Weaver-West and Becky Shawgo.

Jim reviewed our Lake Association balance sheet which continues to be solid. Our current membership as of December 31 was 402 paid members with 262 also contributing to the AIS fund. Records show there are 583 properties on our lake.

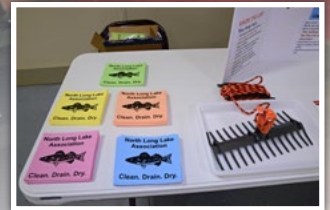
The meeting agenda continued with Jim sharing updates on our Lake Water Quality. We continue to use AW Labs for water testing. We currently test 8 sites for clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll. All bays are stable or improving except 371 bay is trending up for phosphorus since 2019. We continue to support these recommendations for all property owners on the lake to assure we maintain good water quality in our lake:

- Stop or reduce the use of fertilizer on lawns
- Grow a plant buffer zone at or near your shoreline
- Get your septic tank pumped and inspected regularly

Jim shared information about the lake water level. He has contacted Jacob Frie from the DNR who is our DNR Water Hydrologist to review the weir-dam on Sugar-bush creek. Jacob visited the weir on July 3rd of this year and concluded that the weir is functioning and operating just as it was designed when it was installed in 1961. The DNR does not support any changes to the weir at this time. Jacob also stated "Please note the that the structure itself may not be tampered or modified in any way without a public waters permit from the DNR". Jim then spoke to our AIS focus. We currently have zebra mussels and Curly Leaf Pondweed. We contract for an annual survey of lake vegetation which is turned over to the DNR for treatment approval. If approved we contract with a company to treat the Curly Leaf. We are now enrolled in a Starry Search program with Crow Wing County. We will routinely be testing at the landings and some campgrounds boat launch areas to identify Starry Stone Wart early enough to be able to get it physically removed before it spreads.

Membership has shown an interest in increasing wall-eye population in our lake and some members have donated money towards this goal. We are in contact with the DNR to see how we fit into their stocking plans for our lake. The DNR has informed us that we can only work within the parameters of their master plan for the amount of lake stocking that can be done. The DNR is currently in the process of updating their lake plans.

We continue to encourage all members to get involved in our Community Events including Litter Pickup along



Highway 371 in the spring and in the fall. Other events include the annual youth boater safety class we sponsor along with the Sheriff's Water Patrol, and our support of the annual Boat Parade on the 4th of July. Also a reminder that the NLLA logo clothing and merchandise are available through GLS supply at: <https://northlong.itemorder.com/>

There were a couple of booths set up for members to get the latest information on AIS activities including the relatively new threat of spiny water fleas which have been spreading in Minnesota lakes and well as the always present threat of starry stonewort. NLLA is testing near the boat landing twice per month this summer to identify any new AIS threats to our lake as soon as possible. The Master Gardeners also had an informational booth setup to share their knowledge and activities in the area.

Each property on North Long Lake which is a current member of our Lake Association received a beach towel with our logo. Additional towels are available for sale for \$20 each and they come in blue or yellow. Also note that the 2024 slideshows are on our NLLA YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@nllacommunications.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 in time for a picnic lunch. Brats, hot dogs, potato salad, beans and chips were served with cookies and root beer floats for dessert. During this time, we presented our annual slide show for our Life-On-The-Lake.



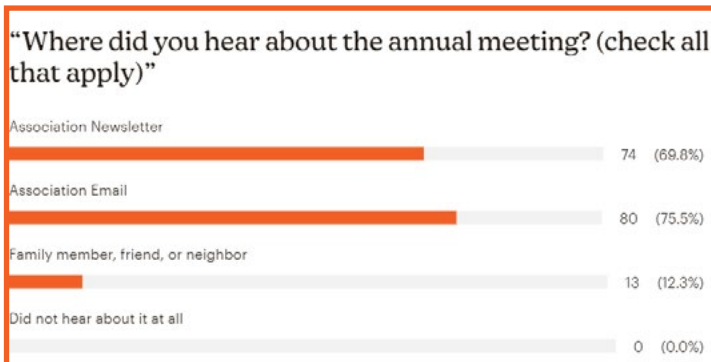
Gave the Date
Saturday, June 7 at Legionville



Annual Meeting Survey

Our annual meeting this year was similar to past meetings and went smoothly. But attendance was lower than normal. In an effort to improve attendance and make the meeting more meaningful to our members, we sent a survey to all 640 individuals on our email list. 106 responded. Because we invited respondents to the survey via email, we recognize that there is a bit of bias in that members who don't have (about 25) or monitor their email may not have seen the invitation to the survey.

We first wanted to know how members were learning about when and where the meeting was being held. Most learned about the meeting from our printed newsletter and our monthly emails.



We realize that for many, it's difficult to devote half of a day, in the height of "lake season" to a meeting. Our by-laws do require an annual meeting to be held sometime in June, July, or August. We are looking at the feasibility of moving our meeting to mid-June when perhaps there is less competition for attention.

And we know that there was disappointment in the lack of a raffle and silent auction. However, the amount of time it took to acquire those raffle and silent auction items was increasing and both the quantity and quality of those items were decreasing.

We also asked for suggestions. Some of the most specific were:

- ✓ *Have the meeting earlier in the season*
- ✓ *Make the meeting shorter and start earlier*
- ✓ *Concerns about accessibility to the venue*
- ✓ *Make the meeting more family friendly*

As mentioned, we hope to move the meeting date to mid-June. We will be exploring other changes as well in the coming months. We always welcome your suggestions; feel free to send us your thoughts at north.long.lake.news@gmail.com.

Every respondent was aware of the meeting, which is obviously good. But again, those who do not use email may not have seen the survey.

We then wanted to understand why members choose not to attend the annual meeting. The most common answer (56%) was "Had competing commitments", followed by "Not at the lake that day" (29%).



2024-2025 Officers

The North Long Lake Association has elected a new slate of officers for 2024-2025. All have lived on our lake and have been active on the board for years. The officers are:



President
Chuck Knopik



Vice President
Harris Goldstein



Treasurer
Patrick Schiller-Michels



Secretary
Martha Weaver-West

New Board Member



Board Member
Rod Windjue

In August, the NLLA Board of Directors accepted a new board member: Rod Windjue. Rod and his wife Heather have been full time residents of North Long Lake since October of 2012 residing on 371 Bay. He has been a realtor in the Brainerd Lakes area for the past six years, specializing in lakeshore sales.

Heather and Rod have six children and two grandchildren, all of whom love spending time with them on the lake. In their free time, they enjoy boating on our wonderful lake and are long time members of Maddens Golf Resort.

Rod has been actively involved in community service, including participating in the 371 road clean up over the past few years. Rod has told us that he is eager to contribute more by serving on the lake association board. And his primary goal is to help preserve and enhance the natural beauty of our lake, ensuring it remains one of the finest in the area.

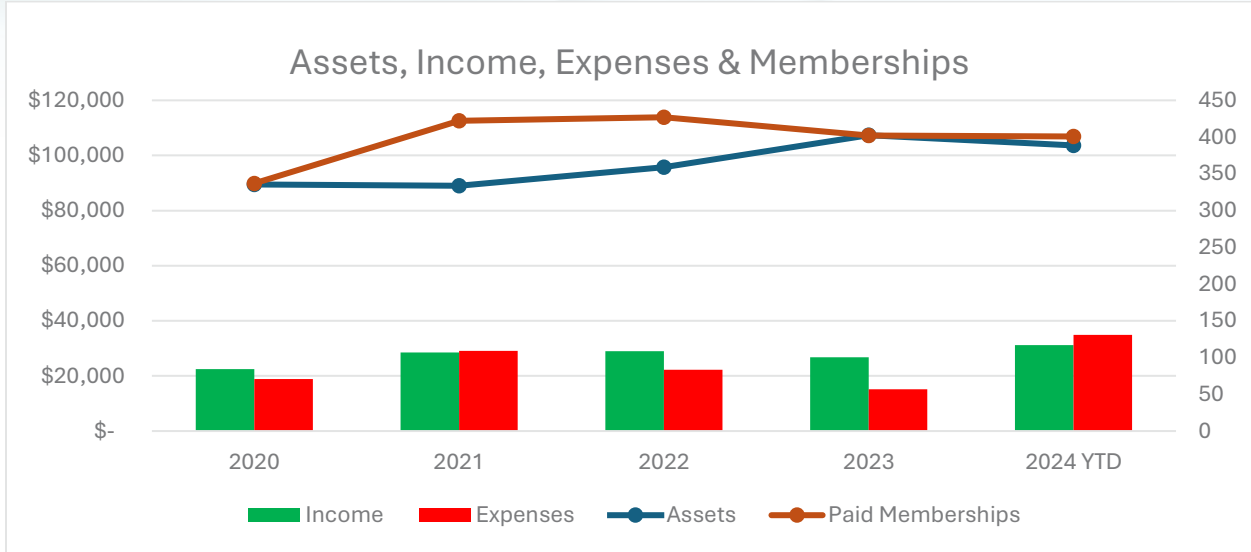
NLLA Board Resignations

It is with regret that we announce the resignations of two long-standing board members: Jim Anderson and Jim Cook. Both have served with the board for many years and made significant contributions to our Association. Their efforts and their counsel will be missed. We wish them well.

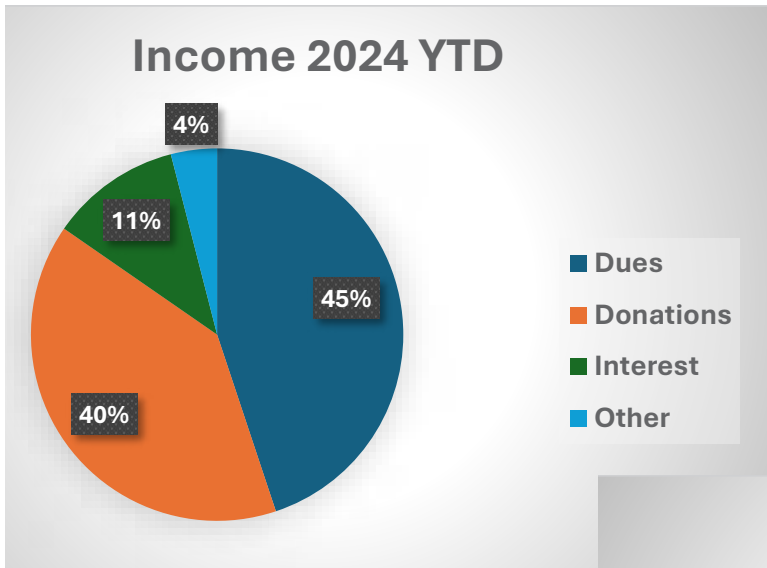
“I grew up with the smell of the lake and the feeling of the woods.”

– Steven Tyler

Treasurer's Report for 2024 Year-To-Date



For the first time in several years, our expenses exceeded income for the year. This was due to the need to treat for Eurasian Water Milfoil, which was recently discovered for the first time in our lake. However, we had sufficient assets to immediately contract with our vendor for the treatment. Curly Leaf Pondweed did not meet the DNR's threshold for treatment, so we did not treat that this Spring.



Our income was almost \$3500 more than previous years, due to putting a large chunk of our assets into Certificates of Deposit. The second largest chunk of our income, after membership dues, comes from member donations to prevent, detect and treat Aquatic Invasive Species.

Over two thirds of our expenses were for AIS, followed by operating expenses and the annual meeting / picnic. Operating expenses include such things as insurance, printing and postage.

I would characterize our financial condition as currently quite healthy, though AIS expenses have the potential to continue to exceed income in coming years.

