

## President's Updates

January 2016

Dear HLPOA Members,

I am extremely proud of my fellow HLPOA Board members. Each has worked tirelessly on projects on behalf of HLPOA members. Below is a list of just some of our efforts and accomplishments over the last several months.

- The HLSIO organization (led by HLPOA board members) has secured SICON and Oakland University to work on swimmer's itch suppression and research on our lake next year.
- The MSIP (Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership) a coalition of lake associations across northern Michigan (led by HLPOA board members) has been working collaboratively to give us a stronger voice with legislators and regulators in support of programs designed to reduce swimmer's itch.
- Membership trend levels are increasing. We had a great response to our solicitation letter.
- An updated Membership Directory is being worked on with a new format that should be available by the Annual Meeting in July.
- We are retaining an outside firm to review our finances on an annual basis.
- We continue to enhance our website promoting greater transparency.
- We now have 164 people following us on Facebook. It facilitates greater communication.
- Our riparian and environmental committees are close to recommending policies designed to promote the health and quality of our lake.
- Our PAC is in the preparation stage for upcoming elections.

We have been dealing with a few individuals (former HLPOA Board members) who have been unfairly critical of our efforts both publically and privately. It is no secret there was a contentious election for the HLPOA Board of Directors in 2014. Since that time the composition and direction of the board has changed significantly. I can say after returning to the board after a several year absence that I had a different opinion about some of the past board's practices. I have never lost sight of how hard it is to serve on a volunteer board and how much work is involved. I have regularly expressed my appreciation for the work of past board members.

Recently Pat Springstead, former HLPOA President, filed suit against the HLPOA claiming we defamed his character. The claim is based on the HLPOA publishing minutes of the December 8 board meeting when the Board asked Pat to reimburse the HLPOA for a sewer line replacement paid by the HLPOA while Pat was serving simultaneously as landlord and President of the organization. Although we firmly believe the claim is frivolous and baseless, we are making every effort to resolve the issue. We are filing an Answer to the suit stating we deny there has been a false statement made and we have a four page legal opinion from the Kerr, Russell law firm supporting our Resolution. Our answer will state this is a difference of opinion about terms of the lease which is not defamation and that Pat voted with other board members to approve and publish the minutes he is suing about.

Following the filing of the suit, just a few days ago, Marv Bolton (former HLPOA Treasurer) published a negative article on social media about the current Board's handling of HLPOA finances. I, along with other board members, have addressed Marv's comments and questions more times than I can recall, but nothing appears to satisfy him. Attached is the Board's response to his comments and questions.

We are committed to change and moving forward in the best interest of our members and the lake. We remain steadfast to the principals you elected us for and we will respond when appropriate to baseless criticisms. Thank you for you continued support.

Brad Gibson

HLPOA President