

CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Annual Letter & Membership/Dues Notice (2026)

President's Message

Greetings Clark Lake Advancement Association Members,

2026 has delivered a real winter. January has already come and gone, and hopefully the below zero temperatures have departed with it. Those temperatures have left us with a great base to enjoy the remainder of winter with solid ice and good layer snow to build upon. I hope you can experience some of the unique beauty and fun this quiet season has to offer including our own Fire and Ice event, March 7.

This annual letter traditionally accompanies the annual dues form. For the first time in recent memory our dues will be increasing this year. I'll use my space in this letter to explain the reasons behind this change and invite greater member involvement as we move ahead.

During the 2025 Annual Meeting held last July, the membership voted to increase annual dues from \$25 to \$35. The vote was 37 for, 0 against.

This decision to put this change up for a vote was not made lightly. Costs associated with operating the Association and maintaining the lake have increased significantly. I expect all of you have felt the impact of inflation over the past few years. Since 2023, cost for things like our website, insurance, social events, and storage have increased \$3,200 annually. Spread across approximately 220 members, that equates to nearly \$15 per member just to cover these increases.

Addressing recent fiscal surplus.

Some members may recall that CLAA finished both 2024 and 2025 with a surplus. That is accurate.

However, it's important to understand *why* that occurred. The Association generally aims to operate with a modest surplus to remain financially healthy. In 2024 and 2025 we significantly underspent in several planned areas — not because the work wasn't needed, but because we lacked sufficient volunteers to carry out projects.

Underspending included:

- Fish & Wildlife activities
- Lake Safety initiatives
- Water Quality efforts
- Wisconsin Lakes programming and conferences

In total, these deferred or uncompleted activities accounted for approximately \$3,540 in unspent funds. In other words, the surplus reflects work that *did not happen*, not excess funding. It's vital that we align our annual dues with current costs, so we maintain the fiscal ability to invest in the projects that keep our lake healthy and safe.

What Your Membership Supports

Members sometimes ask, "What do I get for my membership?" A better question may be: *What do you want from your membership?*

Are you interested in opportunities to socialize? Your dues support:

- Community events such as the Kickoff to Summer, Boat Parade, Kayak/Poker Run, Annual Meeting, Fall Dinner and Fire and Ice.

Are you interested in Lake Safety / Maintenance? Your dues support:

- Lake safety efforts including buoy installation and maintenance, ramp monitoring, informational signage, and coordination with local officials on ordinances such as No-Wake zones.
- Lake maintenance projects such as dam oversight, ramp improvements, dock and bench installations, and cleanliness of shared areas

Are you interested in Fish / Wildlife? Your dues support:

- We secure permitting for enhancements such as Fish Sticks shore habitat, spawning reefs and cribs. We also provide the labor to such projects and coordinate with contractors as needed.
- We work with the DNR on fish studies and stocking programs.

Are you interested in Water Quality? Your dues support:

- We coordinate with many partners and agencies to monitor water quality and to map and treat invasive species.
- We work with local officials and lake agencies to influence ordinances such as no-motor zones and wake enhanced activity.
- We support well water testing and offer education materials for things like shoreline protection, phosphorus and runoff control practices.

These efforts don't happen automatically — they require funding *and* people.

The Role of Volunteerism

While \$35 is a modest investment for the value provided, the real strength of CLAA has always been the collective effort of its members.

Last year made it clear that without enough volunteers, important work simply doesn't get done — regardless of funding. We need more member engagement to continue protecting water quality, maintaining safety, supporting wildlife, and fostering the sense of community that makes Clark Lake special.

Volunteer involvement does not require a large time commitment. Even small contributions of time and skills make a meaningful difference.

Looking Ahead

If you want more value from your membership, the best way to achieve that is through participation. Whether your interests lie in events, lake safety, maintenance, water quality, or fish and wildlife, there is a place for you to contribute.

Find an area that motivates you. Engage with us in that area. I promise you'll be amazed in the true value of this organization.

Thank you for your continued support of the Clark Lake Advancement Association. Together, we can ensure Clark Lake remains a place we are proud of — now and for generations to come.

With appreciation, Tim Temby

Committee and Work Group Reports

Social Committee (Open)

FIRE and ICE Event!

Saturday, March 7th, 2026 1:00 - 4:00 PM

5241 South Lake Road John & Julie McCormick's House. People arriving by car can park at the beach parking lot. Dress warm! Bring a snack or beer/wine/cocktail to share. There will be sleigh rides and fire pits to warm us and the shot ski! Hope to see you there!

Other social events for 2026 will be announced as plans are finalized.

Water Quality / Vegetation Control Committee (WQVC) (Mike Brunet)

We again served the Well Water Testing program this past Fall with five volunteers. We processed 65 samples (21% of all county samples) A summary of the testing is below:

Conclusion:

While our local results are in line with county wide results, remember several factors place us at increased risk for well water issues. Continue to have your well water tested at least once a year. Participating in the UW-O program allows you to be informed and be a guardian of this special place.

E.coli were not detected in any of the samples.

Nitrates. Clark Lake area, 91% acceptable. 2 wells had slightly elevated 2.2-5 mg/L results. Both were in the Sevastopol section 4. This area is known to have these level of nitrates.

A full report, including cumulative results since 2022 is available at the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department website.

Website (Chuck Birringer, Carly Vondrack)

If you have not noticed our website went through a platform upgrade this past fall. The upgrade allowed us to modify the format to make navigation easier, highlight key current activities on the home page, reduce unnecessary verbiage throughout the website and provide an online copy of the information that is now only found on the hardcopy directory. The website was developed to meet the needs of all Association Members, so please email Chuck Birringer - birringer63@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions. I will also be available at the Annual Meeting to field questions about the website.

Membership Work Group (Jill Carstens)

Our Clark Lake residents' list, available to paid members, is located on our website. There you will also find a list of paid members. The information on the list is updated in January and July. Please contact us with any life changes; it is important that we have accurate contact information in order to provide timely communication to property owners.

IMPORTANT: To receive email correspondence, residents must visit the CLAA website, scroll down to the bottom, and tap "Subscribe to Updates". One form is required for each email address. You will receive an email confirming your request; click on the link to verify.

Fish and Wildlife (open)

Nothing to report.

Lake Safety and Maintenance (Gwenn Graboyes)

Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report (Mark Knuth)

For 2025, the CLAA reported a fiscal surplus/net income of \$5,594. Revenue was \$18,188 and was up for the year due to donations for restricted activities and donations from the boat launch. Revenue from dues was down slightly from the budgeted figure. Expenses for the year were \$12,594 and were down approximately \$4,391 from budget. Expenditures for Lake Safety and Maintenance was the primary category that was down compared to budget. Social Event expenditures were up for the year due to increased participation by members. Total assets as of 12/31/2025 were \$51,508 in comparison to 12/31/24 assets of \$45,914. For more information, the financial statements can be found on the website.

DECEASED, MOVED, NEW RESIDENTS

PASSED AWAY

Paul Nakamura 5397 Erdmann Dr
Katie Hebal 5558 W Shore Dr
Ruth Horbinski 5426 West Shore Dr
Paul Nakamura 5397 Erdmann Dr
Tony Valosek 5539 N Cave Point Dr

MOVED AWAY

Gary Dillehay 5322 West Shore Dr
Cindy Viste 5561 Clark Lake Dr
Edee Madsen, Sue Meredith 5299 S Lake Rd.

NEW RESIDENTS

Abbie Coley 5564 Clark Lake Dr
Greg & Linda Horbinski 5426 West Shore Dr
Michael Klozotsky 5564 Clark Lake Dr
Burton Metz 5322 West Shore Dr
Farai & Katherine Musuka 5620 Clark Lake Dr
Abbigail Winski 5587 Clark Lake Dr
South Lake Company LLC (Peterson's). 5299 S Lake Dr.