

## WE'LL BE BACK IN 2021

Phil Rollins, President

OK, it was not a normal summer at the lake. But that didn't seem to impact how many of us spent time on the water and at our cabins, with the lake as busy as ever. Covid concerns did however cause the postponement of the BLIA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and cancelation of most of our other annual events.

The activity break allowed us to fine tune activities for 2021, including completion of our first original short film, "A Day on Bay Lake", which will premier at the annual meeting next July; thank you Amy Grady. I'm looking forward to the June 19 Flotilla Funanza Pontoon Boat Parade, which will launch the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The lineup of 2021 events is listed elsewhere in this issue.

### Board Changes

In July, long time treasurer Chris Gondeck announced that he would be leaving the Board of Directors. During his 20+ years in the position, Chris enhanced our financial protocols and policies, oversaw the tremendous increase of our reserves, and served as a guide for many issues faced by the Board. We will miss his presence and expertise. Soon after Chris's announcement, we launched a member-wide search for a new treasurer and, after interviewing several interested parties, the Board decided on Mark Feriancek, CPA, a recently retired advertising executive.

Ally Oakes and Brent Sauder also joined the Board, filling open positions. Welcome to all and thanks for your commitment to the lake.

### BLIA Finances

The cancellation of most of our 2020 events has had a significant impact on our budget. The majority of expenses in any year are related to the prevention and treatment of invasive species, particularly Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels. Depending on the growth in any one year, milfoil treatment costs vary from \$50,000 to over \$100,000. Public access DNR trained inspectors typically cost \$20,000 for a season.

July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks are another big expense. And, we provided financial support for the Music on the Lake band. Although not an official BLIA event, the Board recognizes its importance to younger Bay Lakers, many of whom are current or future members.

Without our usual events, which raise significant funds, we expect to realize our first deficit in decades. In October, members were mailed the annual donation solicitation and list of 2019 donors, where you'll see the names of the hundreds of Bay Lakers who make donations to the Environmental Fund, Fireworks, and

memorials. I continue to be touched (and amazed) by the generosity of our membership and we are appreciative of every single donation; thank you.

This morning in late-October, I'm sitting in our cabin looking over the lake, watching snow fall (again) as gusts move across the water, docks and lifts piled on the shoreline, temp about 34, with many fond memories of another great summer.

Be well, be safe, and enjoy the winter, wherever you may be. I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2021.

Questions, concerns, comments to [bliaprez@baylake.com](mailto:bliaprez@baylake.com).