

Spring, 2019

Dear TLA Members and Friends -

It seems as though I say every year, "It's been a cold and snowy winter and early spring in Northern Minnesota somewhat reminiscent of the 'winters of old'. The snowmobiling, ice fishing and cross-country skiing have been very enjoyable, but let's hope things will return to near normal as we look forward to the 'Open Water Season' on Thunder Lake."

Like it or not, one important difference this spring is that we now have a Minnesota House of Representatives controlled by the Democrats. That along with a new Democratic Governor may make it less likely that anti-lake ownership legislation will be passed in the next few years. Henry Erdman, the MLR lobbyist and Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MLR, are working hard for us at the legislature.

Again, I'm pleased to report to you that your Board of Directors has been working hard during the past year with each board member contributing to the success of the Association.

Some of the highlights of 2018 are:

The paid memberships of both the TLA and the Sportsmen's Club are at an all-time high and we hope to exceed last year's numbers in 2019. Kay Johnson, Membership Committee Chairperson, reported at the last Board of Directors meeting of 2018 the total TLA Membership was at 286 individuals representing 207 units. The Sportsman's Club membership was at 151 individuals representing 116 units (8 new) and during 2018, 74 individuals made contributions to the AIS Fund.

The AIS Prevention Committee updated the AIS Plan and paid boat inspectors worked at the DNR public landing on some of the weekends as part of the Cass County Boat Inspection Program funded by the State of Minnesota. The Board was pleased that allocation of paid inspectors to Thunder Lake by the county in 2018 improved over 2017 and is hoping the allocation will continue to increase in 2019.

The water sampling program will continue this summer to monitor the quality of our lake's water. There will be samples taken at two locations on the lake once per month for the 5 months of May through September. TLA Board member, Bob Muir, reports that water quality takes a short term beating any time we get straight line winds or heavy rain storms passing through our area.

The Fisheries Committee reports that fishing was excellent during last season and they're looking for another good fishing year in 2019.

The Sportsmen's Club continues to refine their procedures and services at the range and is planning on opening the pistol range soon. Major improvements were made in the parking area in 2018.

The new TLA website was unveiled during 2018. It is more user friendly than the old one. TLA Board member, Mark Hageness, has spent countless hours during the past 18 months spearheading the design and implementation process.

The TLA Communications Committee plans to continue to provide information to TLA members via the TLA Email program and the distribution of more detailed minutes of the TLA Board and Membership meetings.

The 4th of July Lake Picnic and Boat Parade was a huge success again (in spite of getting postponed a day due to bad weather) and the 5rd Annual Lake Picnic and Boat Parade is planned for this July 4th which is on Thursday this year.

The TLA Board announced the formation of a new TLA committee in 2018 called the Member Relations Committee – This committee will assist the Website Committee in populating the new website with pictures and text and will provide input about member news and events relating to 'life around Thunder Lake' on an on-going basis.

Finally, we're all looking forward to our Annual Meeting and Picnic, both of which are scheduled to be held on Saturday, August 3.

If you have any concerns or suggestions you'd like to share please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Craig Holmer, TLA President -