

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2022
Keuka College

A booklet was mailed to all 2022 KLA members containing the following:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. New Board Member Nominees and their Bios
3. 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. KLA Financial Review Recap
6. Committee Reports:
 - A. Communications
 - B. Lake level
 - C. Water Quality
 - D. Scholarship
 - E. Shoreline Monitoring & Boat Steward Program
 - F. Nominating
 - G. Membership
7. Seneca-Keuka 9E Plan Update
8. KLA Navigation & Recreation Report
9. Proxy Vote—to be completed and mailed back to the KLA

Agenda for this Meeting will be as follows:

- I. Welcome—Ray Dell
- II. Quorum Certification – Ira Goldman
- III. Introduction of Current Officers and Directors – Ray Dell
- IV. Approval of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes – Ray Dell
- V. Opening Remarks – Ray Dell
- VI. Introduction of Scholarship Winners– Meg Cole
- VII. Treasurer's Report – Diane Edwards
- VIII. Financial Review Report – Catherine Gueli
- IX. Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Ray Dell
- X. Nominating Committee Report & Election– Maria Hudson & Nancy Feinstein
- XI. *Kaleidoscope of Keuka* – Calendar Photo Contest – Candy Dietrich
- XII. Special Reports
 - A. Lake Patrol Report – Steve Hicks, Steuben Co. & Yates Co. Sheriffs
 - DEC Fisheries Report – Dieter Busch, DEC Officer
 - B. AIS/Boat Steward Program/Shoreline Monitoring/Stream Sampling/9E Plan
 - Lexie Davis, Maria Hudson, Mark Morris
 - C. State of the Lake – Maria Hudson & Lisa Cleckner
- IX. Question & Answer Time
- X. Adjournment

I. Welcome & Introduction of Current Officers and Directors – Ray Dell

Ray Dell introduced himself and stated that as the Keuka Lake Association's President and at this time, as mandated by our By-Laws, he called the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Keuka Lake Association to order at 9AM. Ray stated that since we last convened, the Association has been very active on many fronts and that he wanted to personally thank all of our members for their support.

He stressed that this organization is very fortunate to have a committed, engaged and active working Board of Directors, whose efforts allow the KLA to carry out its wide range of activities that you as members count on. Being a Board of Directors Member is something that indicates a passion for Keuka Lake and a desire to diligently work to protect and preserve it.

He asked Secretary, Ira Goldman, to state for the record that we have the quorum to conduct the KLA's business.

II. Introduction of Current Officers and Directors - Ray Dell

Your Board of Directors:

Barrington – Steve Hicks & Scott Drake
Jerusalem – Tim Cutler & Susan Oliver
Milo – Nonie Flynn & Bill Laffin
Pulteney – Doug DeFranco & Catherine Gueli
Urbana – Sam Pennise & Ellen Shaw Maceko
Wayne – Nancy Feinstein & Wayne Hand

At Large

Patrick Foster
John Hagreen
Dieter Bush
Mike Gow
Michael Thomas
Steve Brigham

Ray recognized the very dedicated technical advisors to the Board of Directors:

Arlene Wilson – Area Director – Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension
Lexie Davis – Natural Resource Educator – Cornell Cooperative Extension
Colby Peterson – Technical Advisor – Yates County Soil & Water
Mark Morris – Ex Officio Board Member – 9 Element Plan Development
Scott Demmin – DSD Webworks

Ray stated that no activity of the Keuka Lake Association would be possible without the total dedication of our Office Administrator – Margo McTaggart.

Ray thanked them all for their tremendous support and efforts.

III. Approval of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were distributed in the booklet sent out in June and on the KLA website. Ray asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. There was a motion from Tim Cutler, seconded by Scott Drake to accept the minutes. As there was no discussion, Ray asked for a vote. The motion was passed.

IV. Opening Remarks – Ray Dell

Ray proceeded to highlight recent KLA activities and concerns:

In our continual communications, the KLA Board strives to keep you informed of its activities via the KLA printed quarterly newsletter, monthly e-newsletter, web site and our Facebook Page.

One continued message that you hear is about membership and knowing that each of you that are here today are members, we thank you. The overall health of the association (as you have read and will hear more later), is strong with the main source of revenue coming from memberships. With only about 50% of the lake property owners represented in our 1700 membership base and the demands growing for areas of our involvement, membership renewals and new members are important. So, again we thank you for keeping your membership up to date and through your day to day contacts neighbors helping us grow our membership base.

With it being very easy to become distracted, I am very pleased that the KLA has maintained its direction and commitment to its overall mission to Preserve and Protect Keuka Lake and the Watershed for Future Generations. I would also like to state that the financial health of the organization is strong which gives us a sound foundation to work from.

Today, we will update you on recent activities to include reports on the State of the Lake, New Invaders & New Strategies and Aquatic Invasive Species. We will have the opportunity to hear from law enforcement officials whose Patrol Officers do an excellent job on Keuka Lake. We will introduce you to the Alexander F. and Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Watershed Endowment Scholarship Recipient, the winners of the Annual Kaleidoscope Photo Winners as well as carry out mandated KLA business.

Upon check in you received copies of reports from the Treasurer, and the Audit and Financial Review, Lake Level and Communications Committees. There will not be live presentations for these areas in an attempt to reduce the number of times we hand over the baton.

We continue to actively communicate with the 2 Sheriff's Departments, the local DEC officers, the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative and the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact on issues of concerns to our members. We participate in the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance and The Land Use Leadership Alliance. The KLA was a founding sponsor of both groups and we support their efforts to develop informational outreach to municipal leaders in the watershed. There is one point that I believe is important for all of us to understand. While there are many vital and noble causes around Keuka Lake and in the Finger Lakes region, our activities and those that allow us to maintain our status as a 501C3 organization are spelled out in our Certificate of Incorporation. "The KLA is organized to promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat, and general environmental conditions of Keuka Lake and its watershed by sponsoring or undertaking scientific research, by collecting, preserving, publishing and disseminating information concerning Keuka Lake and its watershed and by encouraging and supporting the enforcement of laws and regulations and patterns of development and technology aimed at preserving and enhancing the water quality of the lake."

The past year, as with any year in a volunteer-based organization, has been a busy one with more still on the plate to accomplish. Your Board of Directors and other volunteers do a tremendous job in representing the needs of Keuka Lake. Over the last 63 years, there have been hundreds of committed volunteer Board Members and Officers that have laid a solid foundation for lake preservation and protection and the fore sight of those people.

Ray thanked the members for their continued support.

2022 Updates to Report

- KLA's By-laws - We are taking on new roles and visions and as such we have a need to expand and delegate committees to new functions and roles. This will require changes to the by-laws in the near future. These changes will be for the betterment of the Association and will provide for well-defined areas of representation for the specific needs of the services the Association provides. The revisions may result in additional Committees being named and thus more opportunities for members to volunteer to promote our core values through various committees.
- Operational Agreements with Yates County CCE - reviewed and updated two multi-year operational agreements between the KLA and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County which expired.
- Marketing and Membership completed an in-depth study of our past, existing and future membership base and membership marketing. Our efforts were facilitated by Amy Truxon of MODE Communications in Corning. The study involved dozens of meetings and presentations to "deep dive" into what our organization does and what our organization means to the Keuka Watershed. Additionally, we are exploring an agreement with a private vendor to supply various items such as shirts, hats, mugs that promote the KLA and KEUKA.
- As a lot of us remember, on Friday June 23, 1972, culminated several days of never-ending rain that fell on our area. I for one can remember driving the family boat into the outlet at about 9:00PM the night before on a ride I would not want to take again. We got the boat out and only found out the next morning that our family home was flooded in Corning. We were fortunate that our family cottage was spared, a lot of cottages and homes were not that lucky.
- Our Association's Mission is to preserve and protect Keuka Lake. Currently we collect water quality data that serves as a health indicator of our pristine lake. In the future the collection of data is not sufficient to ensure the lake stays healthy. Data is great but what you do with data is what matters. Doing nothing or better known as "**Analysis Paralysis**" is not happening with this Board. We will actively continue and start water quality monitoring, invasive species control and reducing water pollution projects both in and around the lake. This year, near Branchport, we will be performing our largest SSW

project which has been over a year in the making. Working closely with the DEC and other NYS agencies we have obtained the necessary permits for DASH and an algicide treatment. Hopefully, our programs will aid us in implementing other programs going forward. As the 9E Plan starts to identify areas of concern we will be better positioned in implementing their programs in our lake.

- Ray finished with “401K” K being Keuka as an investment for all. Your 401-Keuka It’s an investment that has far outperformed the traditional etf’s and mutual funds that we commonly read about. **It’s your property here on Keuka.** In the past three years the average values of properties along the shoreline have increased in value well over 20%. Not many mutual funds can give a return like that! And why is that? What makes these properties so valuable? The Lake! If we lose the lake we have nothing but small pieces of land and buildings.....no memories and no future. And who protects the Lake**We Do!** To do so we need your help. Invest in your 401-Keuka through your association ----- not just through your dues but voluntary tax-deductible donations and volunteer. Remember: **If we don’t do it, it won’t get done!**

V. Introduction of 2022 Scholarship Winner – Ray introduced the 2022 Alexander and Esther Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship winner: **Sydney Burns** – a 2022 graduate of Haverling High School in Bath New York. Sydney will be attending the University of Connecticut studying Environmental Engineering.

VI. Treasurer’s Report – Diane Edwards –Diane shared slides of KLA Finances:

A. Comparison Calendar Year 2021 vs 2020

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Revenue	\$200,677	\$154,391
Expenses	\$176,163	\$152,395
Year End Assets	\$301,151	\$276,637

B. Comparison June '21 – May '22 vs June '20 – May '21

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Revenue	\$178,790	\$175,999
Expenses	\$169,714	\$162,260
Assets	\$368,312	\$345,553

Wahlig Scholarship Fund – as of May 31, 2022

2021 Year End Balance	\$14,505
Year to Date Interest	\$ 16
Donations	\$ 100
Scholarship	\$ 1,000
May 31, 2022 Balance	\$13,621

VII. Financial Review Recap

The committee met on May 17th to review the months of June through December 2021, and on June 9th to review January through May 2022; Activities include validating individual transactions, ensuring that membership income is accurately and timely deposited into our bank account, and comparing balances on each of monthly bank statements, Quick Book reconciliations, and treasurer’s reports to confirm that all match and balance. All was in good order at both reviews.

VII. Recognition of Retiring Board Members– Ray Dell – Ray stated that one of the duties of the KLA President is the recognition of those members of the Board of Director who have reached the end of their elected term. It is bittersweet to say farewell to any Board members who have been great volunteers and who have given tirelessly to the KLA over the past several years. He asked the following retiring Members of the Board of Directors to stand and be recognized, Scott Drake, Barrington; Nonie Flynn, Milo and Ellen Shaw Maceko. Urbana. The commitment of these individuals to the KLA has been phenomenal and should be a lesson for all current and future Board members. At the end of the meeting they received a pottery wine cooler with the KLA logo on it.

VI. Nominating Committee Report – Maria Hudson

Maria reported that we had several very good candidates. The committee met numerous times in making their decisions. The biographies of the proposed new board members were in the booklet sent out prior to the Annual Meeting. She introduced the following to the KLA Board of Directors:

NEW:	Pat Foster	Milo	
	Karen Griffin	At-Large	
	Sam Castner	At-Large	
	Nolan Smith	At-Large	
	Gerry Gacioch	At-Large	
RE-ELECT	John Hagreen	Urbana	
	Cathy Gueli	Pulteney	
	Sue Oliver	Jerusalem	

The motion to elect the new and renewing Directors was made by Bill Laffin and seconded by Morris Byrnes and approved by the membership. The Nominating Committee thanked the membership for their support. Ray thanked Maria and Nancy and the members of the Nominating Committee for their fine work and congratulated the new and re-elected Board members. Proxy cards have been distributed and received from members who are eligible to vote and will be voted by President Ray Dell and Treasurer, Diane Edwards.

VII. *KLAeidoscope of Keuka – Calendar Photo Contest – Candy Dietrich*

Candy commented on the beautiful entry photos for the 2022 calendar, which have been showing on the screen. She thanked the winners of the monthly selections and prize winners, showing each as she progressed. Candy encouraged people to submit photos for the next calendar.

VIII. Special Reports – Ray introduced the next portion of agenda and asked that questions be limited until the completion of the meeting.

A. Lake Patrol Report - Steve Hicks, Yates and Steuben Sheriffs

- Responsibilities:
 - Increase awareness of NYS boating and fishing laws
 - Work with the Yates and Steuben County Sheriff's Marine Patrol & Department of Environmental Conservation Officers
 - Distribute summaries of navigation and fishing laws
 - Distribute dock plates
 - Track and stay current with NYS Navigation Laws- existing and proposed.
 - Address member concerns on issues of navigation, recreation, fishing and safety.
- Navigation & Recreation Priorities
 - 5 MPH speed limit- within 200 feet of shore, docks, moorings
 - Wake Boat safety/etiquette
 - 5-200 Signage
 - Marinas and Boat Launches Signage, Public service signage Sheriff' Postings
- Wake Boats - Legal in New York - Recognize their impact on shores, safety etc., Include wake boat safety details in the NY Safe Boating course, Education campaign, Videos, Newsletter articles, quizzes, Work with Wake Boat trade group to obtain signs
- Working Closely with The Sheriffs and DEC - Annual Spring luncheon, Communicating by emails & phone, Annual member meeting presence, In person one on one meetings.

1. Yates County Sheriff Ron Spike
 Sheriff Spike highlighted these topics:

The Marine Patrol is focused on Boaters who speed and otherwise practice reckless operation, not wearing PFDs and operating a boat while intoxicated. They also watch for Bass fisherman speeding too close to shore and are out at 4am on the days when fishing tournaments are taking place to monitor the boat speed as they start down the lake. He thanked the KLA for their long-time support of the marine patrol

2. Steuben County Sheriff Jim Allard:

They are doing the best they can to increase patrols at times when boaters are known to be going too fast too close to shore given the budget limitations they have. They are very interested in educating boaters as to the state and local regulations.

B. DEC Fisheries Report:

- Ron Gross – DEC Conservation Officer - He is the only ECO assigned to Keuka Lake but he can be contacted at the Section 8 DEC Office and through the Sheriff's Department. He mentioned that they have had a few reports of walleye being caught in Keuka Lake which is very unusual and they are tracking to see if the population is increasing.
- Ray introduced Dieter Busch, who provided information from Brad Hammers, NYDEC, Region 8 on the Keuka Lake's fish assessments. The 2019 lake trout assessment resulted in 8.4 fish per net. Looking at this bar graph, this number appears low when compared to 2000 which had 19.9 fish per net. However, this is not a valid comparison, since this effort does not try to estimate the strength of the lake trout population. Instead, as seen in the next slide, the 2019 samples showed that 12-year class were represented, which is important. The next slide shows the abundance of forage in various Finger Lakes. The results for Keuka appear very low when compared to the other lakes. Although the results for our lake are low, the 17 species included show good diversity. However, effort continues to strengthen the forage base. In addition to limiting the abundance of prey species, the effort includes restoring the Cisco population. This is being done by stocking fingerlings (total 431,000) and yearlings (total 1,700) through 2021. The stocking is to continue at 100,000 fingerlings per year for 5 years. Dieter concluded by suggesting that the audience may want to acknowledge and thank Web Pearsall for his efforts, during his career, in managing our fisheries resource and wish him a pleasant retirement. This was done by a round of applause.

C. Water Quality Committee and AIS Reports:

1. Lexie Davis:

- Lexie began by introducing herself by sharing her background, mission and job goals. She described the programs in which she is involved:

-KLA Shoreline Monitoring Program: She described our use of the Citizen Science Program that monitors and tracks the presence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) along the shores of the lake. Volunteers take samples once a week from June-September. She thanked the 38 total volunteers. Lexie then described what others should do if they see a suspected bloom. She finished with info on how to contact her to volunteer and with a bloom summary from 2021.

-Master Forest Owners Program

-WAVE Program

General Natural Resources Education: LULA, Lake Friendly Living Awareness month, Invasive Species Walk – Dundee, Earth Day Project - Dresden

2. Maria Hudson - Starry Stonewort Removal Project –

- Marie described the DASH method: a pontoon boat with a suction hose. Divers hand pull the SSW and feed it into the hose. SSW is filtered out and the rest is returned to the lake. DASH stands for "Diver Assisted Suction Hosing".
- Maria shared slides that pictured SSW, a timeline of Detection & Management Efforts for SSW in Keuka Outlet, Sugar Creek and Keuka Lake from 2016-2021.
- She continued with the necessary permit process, removal efforts used & areas targeted, surveys conducted, project costs results & future removal plans.
- She finished by thanks all those involved: partners, collaborators and volunteers.

3. Mark Morris –9E Plan: Mark Morris reminded the members that the 9 element plan for improving runoff and water quality in Keuka and Seneca Lakes has been submitted to NYS and a summary was included in the handouts.

D. State of the Lake – Maria Hudson & Lisa Cleckner

- Lisa thanked Steve Brigham and the KLA Water Quality Committee for creating a database with 30 years of data from 1992 collected by the KLA and previously analyzed by Dr. Tim Sellers from Keuka College. The data shows that the lake continues to be relatively high quality relative to some of the other upstate NY lakes but the phosphorus and nitrate runoff continues to be of concern and is the subject of the 9E plan improvement projects.
- This report is available on our website.

X. Questions/Comments followed.

1. Status of permit for Tree Top Cidery on East Bluff Drive – Tim Cutler responded that it was being considered by the Jerusalem Planning Board but they did not have sufficient information yet to make a decision.
2. Control of the growing weekly flotilla of boats gathering at the sand bar off Crescent Beach – Lt. Nemitz said that the marine patrol is aware of it but as long as no laws are broken there are no limits to the number of boats that can gather.
3. How much of the Water Steward program is covered by grants – Bill Laffin responded that \$23,000 was covered in 2021 and \$9,000 in 2022, the KLA will cover the balance.
4. What is the status of repairing the mud slide on West Bluff Road – Tim Cutler responded that the Town of Jerusalem is planning to include this work in a bond issue in 2023
5. Can we talk to Keuka College about illuminating the dome on Ball Hall as an aid to navigation at night – *not sure who responded that they would contact the college?*
6. Is there any limit of the volume of music coming from boats on the lake – Lt. Nemitz responded that while there are NYS laws regarding engine noise but music would only be covered by local noise ordinances in some of the towns but both are difficult to enforce.

XI. Adjournment – At 11:30, Ray asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Dieter Busch and approved by all.