

AWLI President 2010

Dr. Dennis W. Nyberg will head the bi-state Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) in 2010 as president of its 16-member board of directors.

A resident of Chicago, Nyberg is Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Illinois, Chicago. He succeeds Robert Victor, who becomes the organization's secretary.

Officers re-elected at AWLI's organization meeting on March 29 were Ken Czulno of Chicago, treasurer; and Mary Lu Gregor of Whiting, member-at-large.

Victor, of Highland, is research manager for the South Shore Convention & Visitors Authority. He served as president of AWLI in 2008-2009 and has served as a director since the organization's incorporation in 2003.

Czulno was first elected treasurer in 2008. He is the finance director of the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

Gregor, who joined the board in 2009, is the executive director of the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce. A former teacher and office manager, she serves as executive administrator of the Whiting Robertsdale Community Improvement Corporation.

Nyberg, who earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, will be speaking on The Flora of Powderhorn Forest Preserve and How It Relates to the Calumet Region at April's Calumet Summit 2010 at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond. Powderhorn Lake lies within the watershed of Wolf Lake.

Nyberg is director of UIC's James Woodworth Prairie and has served on UIC's faculty since 1973. He joins artist Jim Milkowski of Dolton and accountant Ed Michniewicz of Whiting as new board members.

Milkowski is founder of Wolf Lake Creations. Michniewicz is a business analyst and program manager for CNA Insurance. They were elected directors at AWLI's annual membership meeting on January 14.

Serving as ex officio and voting members are John Pope, city of Chicago; Rebecca Moss, Cook County Forest Preserve District; Keith Carey, Hammond Port Authority; Laura Perna, Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Bob Robertson, Indiana Department of Natural Resources; George Van Til, Lake County, IN; and Christina Figueroa, Citizens Financial Bank. Michael Boos, executive director, serves as a non-voting ex officio member. Mike Johnson of Chicago and Roy Ortiz of Hammond are the final members of the 2010 board.

At the March 29 meeting, the board elected David Dabertin of Whiting to AWLI's Honorary Board. He had been serving as director since 2008.

AWLI is a not-for-profit bi-state organization and land trust that seeks to improve Wolf Lake and its surrounding natural areas. Its board membership equally represents Illinois and Indiana.