

Board
of Directors

Bob Victor
interim president
Dinah Ramirez
vice-president
Ken Czulno
treasurer

Wolf Lake Advocate

Working across state boundaries to enhance Wolf Lake

2405 Calumet Ave., Hammond, IN 46327 ◆ PO Box 17080, Chicago, IL 60617
219 933-7149 ◆ 312 220-0120 ◆ FAX: 219 853-2424
AWLI@sbcglobal.net http://www.wolflakeinitiative.org



Vol. 7 No. 1

January-February, 2008

Ex officio
Michael Boos
executive director
John Pope
City of Chicago
Rebecca Moss
Cook County FPD
Keith Carey
Hammond Port
Authority
Laura Perna
Illinois DNR
Bob Robertson
Indiana DNR
George Van Til
Lake County, IN

Individuals
Angela Cary
Dave Dabertin
Kristin Frank
Thomas Frank
John Hobgood
Patrick Owens
Dorothy Spencer
James Taylor
Zaki L. Zaki

Honorary Board
Lois Bell
Bruce Caruso
Jeff Langbehn
Dr. Karin Nelson
William J. Smith
past president

Mission and Purpose: *The Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) is a bi-state, not-for-profit organization and land trust. It seeks to improve and enhance Wolf Lake and surrounding natural areas in three ways.*

- *As custodian of the Wolf Lake Vision as developed by the Bi-State Gatherings on Wolf Lake of 2000-2001, AWLI pursues its primary goal by implementing the vision.*
- *AWLI promotes Wolf Lake by sponsoring annual festivals, conducting tours and sponsoring other activities.*
- *It advocates for improved policies and practices through its Vision Implementation Task Force. AWLI also convenes Community Meetings on Wolf Lake.*

Governed by a Board of Directors, AWLI is served by a 27-member Advisory Group. The Legacy Foundation manages a bi-state endowment fund for Wolf Lake established by AWLI.

Victor elected AWLI Interim President:

Bob Victor, research manager for the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Highland resident, was elected February 7 to head the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI).

Victor, who has served longer than any other AWLI director, succeeds Linda Cook of Griffith, IN. He will serve as interim president.

Dinah Ramirez, a newly elected AWLI director and executive director of Healthy Southeast Chicago, was elected vice-president. Ken Czulno, of the Cook County Sheriff's Office and a Chicago resident, was re-elected treasurer.

A registered nurse for more than 30 years, Ramirez is a graduate of South Chicago Hospital School of Nursing. She was the Operations Director at Chicago Family Health Center for more than 12 years.

Ramirez has worked in Indiana as a school nurse and state nurse for farm workers. She is the past president of the Illinois Hispanic Nurses Association and has participated as a member of more than 25 community organizations, boards, and committees.

Czulno is finance director of the Cook County Sheriff's Office and former accounting supervisor at U.S. Steel Corp.

Another new director is attorney Dave Dabertin of Hammond. He is a past regional director of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and remains active in the preservation and

Keeping In The Loop
by Michael Boos, Executive Director

Fr. James Keating
Father James Keating, who completed his first term last month as an AWLI director, died February 10 at St. James Hospital, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

At the annual membership meeting in January, AWLI learned that he had moved to a nursing home in the south suburbs. He had been hospitalized on several occasions during the past years.

Pastor Emeritus of St. Francis de Sales Church in Chicago, Father Keating had been an active resident during the past year at St. Michael Church, 84th and South Shore Drive. His funeral was held there February 15. He was ordained in 1951.

Father "just call me Jim" Keating was one of the more active directors on our board. He became involved in festival planning and last year attended mem-

bership meetings that planned the Autumn Reception and Art Show.

When he missed board meetings it was because he was attending gatherings on maritime matters in Cleveland or Detroit.

He served as a Port Chaplain of Chicago from 1968 to present and served as national director of the Apostles-

(Continued Page 5)

Extended Auction

At AWLI's annual meeting we auctioned an item left over from the Autumn Reception and a hand chair donated by Lake County Solid Waste Management District..

The auction was extended so we could involve the entire membership. Rebecca Moss bid highest for the chair and George Van was top bidder for a night at the Raddison in Schererville., IN

The Advocate
The Advocate is the official newsletter of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative. It is distributed at no cost to AWLI members and to libraries. Please send comments to the editor, Patrick Owens, at AWLI@sbcglobal.net.

restoration of George and Wolf lakes.

A member of the Illiana Yacht Club, Dabertin has made presentations at past winter festivals sponsored by AWLI.

At AWLI's annual membership meeting, Dabertin and Ramirez were elected directors and Dr. Zaki L.Zaki and Bob Victor were re-elected directors.

AWLI's board comprises 19 members.

Achievements of 2007

During 2007, the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) made great strides in many areas, but also experienced a significant disappointment.

Achievements

AWLI initiated its first fund-raising campaign by the newly created Corporate Advisory Team (CAT). This once-a-year endeavor attracted \$5,500 in donations and another \$2,000 in the form of a grant. The campaign will be launched again in February 2008.

The creation of Wolf Lake CAT allowed AWLI to redirect its solicitations of support for its festivals and

fair from industry and other corporations to business. More than 400 banks, retail outlets and professionals were asked for support.

Through the \$2,000 grant from the Unilever Foundation, AWLI began to develop its Youth Corps. This is an effort to introduce youth to the concept of stewardship through a series of lectures and field trips during a 12-month period. The Youth Corps is a supplement to AWLI's continuing efforts to build membership among the young. Further progress awaits additional funding. In 2007, AWLI developed a Donor's Guide and awaits funding to print and disseminate the brochure to estate planners, banks, law offices and funeral homes.

In 2007, AWLI updated its 17-page Self-Guided Tour of Wolf Lake with a photograph by Rod Sellers featured on its title page. The document was referred to in an article published in the *Chicago Tribune* by reporter Barbara Brotman; she was treated to a guided tour of Wolf Lake and surrounds. Further printing and dissemination of the self-guided tour awaits funding.

WTTW-TV visited Wolf Lake in November to report on Perch America's fish stocking and toured the lake with AWLI. A 10-minute report was aired on *Chicago Tonight*.

In 2007, AWLI developed a volunteer page on its own Web site with Eveline Heesaker serving as volunteer coordinator. AWLI added pages to the newly created United Way Web site for volunteers in Northwest Indiana.

In 2007, AWLI created a second Web address at www.wolflakeinitiative.org.

In 2007, Wolf Lake was featured in the summer edition of *Chicago Wilderness Magazine* with a reference to AWLI's Web site.

The first full year of the *Wolf Lake Advocate* appeared in 2007. It was edited by Pat Owens with contributions by members and other environmentalists.

AWLI leased a Pitney-Bowes mailer and scale in 2007. This allowed AWLI to send solicitations by bulk mail, thus significantly decreasing postage fees. AWLI awaits funding to pay for it.

For the first time, AWLI participated in Indiana DNR's Coast Week in 2007. A tour of the Wolf Lake shoreline restoration along Hammond's Forsythe Park was led by Cpt. Kelsey Lavicka of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Lavicka is the project manager for the Wolf Lake ecosystem restoration.

In June 2007, funding from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through State Rep. Marlow Colvin ended in June. During the 18-month funding period, AWLI-sponsored festivals attracted more than 1,400 participants.

Events held for the mostly urban, low-income families were canoeing, fishing, kite flying, birding,

Introduce friends to Wolf Lake and surrounds through an attractive gift set of personal stationery.



C. D. Swan
12200 Calumet Avenue
Hammond, IN 46327

Dear Dwight Egret:

Purchase of this personalized stationery helps protect the wildlife habitat of Wolf Lake and surrounds. Printed on recycled gray or gray tint off-white stock or solid ivory stock, the stationery, 5.5 inches by 8.5, comes in sets of 10. Each illustration depicts wildlife that is found within the habitat that comprises the Wolf Lake area. Proceeds support the efforts of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative.

Order from AWLI at **219 933-7149** or **312 220-0120**. A set of 10 copies sells for \$15. Two sets are \$25. Five sets are \$50. Make checks payable to AWLI, PO Box 17080, Chicago, IL 60617.

Yours truly,

C. D. Swan

C. D. Swan

The mute swan is among the treasured inhabitants of Wolf Lake and surrounds.



President Linda Cook introduces poster winner at 7th Annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake

Photo by Bob Victor

nature walks, bike tours and hikes. Participants received wind-surfing, sailing, ice safety, ice-boat sailing, tree identification, and tai chi instructions.

They attended presentations on diet and nutrition, childhood obesity, native plants for landscaping, native flowers, industrial housing, history of steel workers, and Wolf Lake history, including the introduction of slag to Wolf Lake. Local businesses, banks and retail outlets financially supported the festivals, which are free to the public.

Volunteers donated more than \$17,300 as in-kind work. Programs were printed for all events, with advertisers recruited from communities around Wolf Lake.

During the past two years, some \$8 million was spent to improve and enhance Wolf Lake. Most of this was spent on two projects that AWLI has advanced since its early days—U.S. EPA's cleanup of the Calumet Container site and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/city of Hammond's shoreline res-

toration.

This included the dredging of the gap under the Indiana Toll Road span. With these improvements, AWLI sought to begin development of a bi-state management plan for Wolf Lake this year.

The plan would promote the best management practices for the lake's watershed while improving the prospects for additional funding. Perhaps a way to look at the plan is to view it as a valued addition to a

progression of studies.

The 90-page Diagnostic Feasibility Study of Wolf Lake/George Lake of the mid-1990s made it possible for the Army Corps of Engineers to develop the \$6.7 million shoreline restoration project being completed in 2007. The vision document of 2000-01 provided the impetus for the 2001 bio-blitz at Wolf Lake and the cleanup of the Calumet Container site in 2005-06.

The development of a bi-state plan requires both the diagnostic and the vision studies. The management plan, in turn, makes it more likely that a Section 319 and other funding opportunities would be granted.

We are seeking matching funding from other sources, including Illinois DNR C-2000 program and from Chicago Wilderness and the city of Hammond.

Disappointment:

For the first time AWLI reached its goal of a

\$100,000 budget in 2007. That achievement, however, was short-lived.

In January, AWLI applied to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the grant. In June we were advised that InDNR was awarding us \$67,500. In July we were advised the InDNR was retracting the grant over an objection raised by the city of Hammond.

In the following months, AWLI received support for bi-state planning from organization in Hammond and other communities in Indiana and Illinois. It reapplied in January, since no other stakeholder had done so.

Poster winners named:

Entries from Hammond's Jefferson Elementary, Chicago's Gallistel Branch, and Chicago's St. Francis de Sales High School placed first in their respective age groups in the poster contest at the 7th annual Winter Wonderland at Wolf Lake festival which was held on Sat., Jan. 19.

Ronny Bonnell, a fourth-grader at Jefferson, Cesar Lopez, a sixth-grader at Gallistel Branch and Israel Leon, a high school junior at St. Francis were among those invited to receive a-

8th Annual Wolf Lake Bi-State Wetlands, Wind & Water

Festival

Sat.-Sun.

May 24-25, 2008



Paddle canoes, compete in fishing derby, fly kites, view wind surfing demo, learn about critters who hang out at Wolf Lake, learn about Wolf Lake history...and much more.

For info, call **219 933-7149/312 220-0120**

Sponsored by AWLI

wards at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. The festival is sponsored by the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative, a not-for-profit organization and land trust.

Others to receive prizes were second-place winners Jocelyne

Quintero, a fifth-grader from Gallistel Branch, Brianna Beristain, a sixth-grader at Hammond's Scott Middle School, and Taylor H. Claiborne, a senior at St. Francis de Sales High School.

Placing third were fifth-grade student Renata Veljaac from Gallistel Branch, Ashlie Rossi, a sixth-grader

at Scott Middle School, and Alejandro Vasquez of St. Francis.

Winners received awards of \$25, \$15 and \$10, respectively. A total of 192 posters were entered and judged.

Winning posters are on display at the Wolf Lake Park information kiosk.

Eleven entrants received honorable mention. They are Anthony Ramirez of Hammond's Joseph Hess (formerly Orchard Drive) Elementary School, Remy Escato, Ruben Martin, Marisela Briseno, Joanna Muñoz, and Samuel Castaneda of Gallistel Branch; Sam Couch, Dominique Gonzalez, Magaly Mendoza, and Megan Davis, of Scot Middle School; and sophomore James Brandon of St. Francis de Sales.

The 11 posters are on exhibit at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond. Visitors can find the in the Reuz Station

Participating teachers were Mary Kay Ramirez of St. Francis De Sales, Georgette Depew at Joseph Hess, Lorie Sosa of Gallistel Branch, and Kristan Sievers-Banks, Jeanette Melcic, Marilyn Trimmel, and John Pimentel at Scott Middle School.

Judges were Sylvia Corpus, Chris Akey and Linda Cook. Corpus and Akey work for the Lake County Solid Waste Management District.

Mayor uses new podium:

In delivering his welcoming address, Mayor Tom McDermott Jr of Hammond made use of a podium donated to AWLI.

The podium was constructed by student Travis Unruh of Morton High School. It was purchased by Mary Kuzniar, choir director at the school, and donated to AWLI.

Others may know Kuzniar as director of AWLI's Sunrise Singers and as frequent volunteer at AWLI events.

A Word from the Interim President

Robert A. Victor

President's Perspective **by Robert A. Victor**

The search continues for a replacement for Linda Cook, who fulfilled her term as President of AWLI.

I would like to thank Linda Cook for her endless hours of work as the past President of AWLI and personally thank her for her efforts.

AWLI has come a long way and grown. I remember reading the Chicago Tribune feature about Wolf Lake. I saw Michael Boos and his descriptions of the lake. I thought how unique it was to highlight Wolf Lake.

I also remembered going to Wolf Lake as a kid with my parents and learning how to fish and learning how to cook Spam and eggs on a grill in the morning after my father would get home from the steel mill.

I realized how important it was to continue to promote Wolf Lake for future generations to enjoy. I accepted the challenge of being the Interim President until a permanent President can be chosen. I welcome Dinah Ramirez as Vice-President of AWLI. I predict her input will take AWLI to new heights.

In addition, I would like to comment on the loss of our Board Member, Fr. James Keating who passed away this week. His guidance, cheerful personality and love of Wolf Lake and the surrounding

areas will be missed at the upcoming AWLI Board Meetings. Wolf Lake has

always been a source of beauty and pride in the community. AWLI has been the voice of Illinois and Indiana to make sure the focus remains on improvements to the lake.

I would like to thank all the government agencies, cities, towns, and businesses that have listened to the voice of AWLI and have made positive strides in improving the lake. We continue to look forward to working with them in the future.

A struggling architect had a dream to unite the needs of humans in a perfect natural setting. He dreamt (even before it was fashionable) that ecology, environment and architecture could exist in harmony and people would benefit. His dream was never realized. It was a vision. His name was Frank Lloyd Wright and the year was 1895. The dream was put on paper in watercolor and ink and called "Wolf Lake Amusement Park."

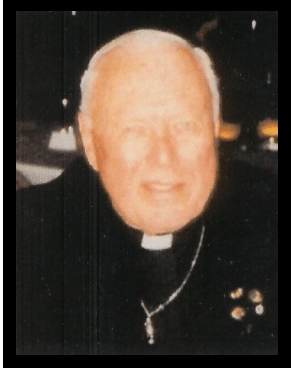
A dream is still there in our collective minds: First, let us all combine our collective good work together to continue the efforts at improving Wolf Lake and the surrounding area. Let me hear your views! Also, contact me for recommendations for president of AWLI and any of your other concerns via email: victor.robert @excite.com

Keeping In The Loop

by Michael Boos, Executive Director

(Continued from Page 1)

ship of the Sea in the United States (1972-80). He also was chaplain of Chicago Council U.S. Navy League, Chicago propeller club, Chicago Council International Shipmasters Association, Grand Lodge International Shipmasters Association, and State Circle Daughters of Isabella.



Rev. James P. Keating
1925-2008

He recently missed a meeting because he was visiting Poland.

AWLI will miss Jim but will remember him for his concern for the environment and his contribution to its improvement at Wolf Lake and, we like to think, at sea.

Work days at Powderhorn:

The next monthly work days at Powderhorn are Saturdays March 15 and April 19.

Restoration and clean up work will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon. For more information, contact AWLI director Rebecca Moss at Sandridge Nature Center.

New AWLI members:

Members who recently joined AWLI are George and Jo Ann Jancocek, Ray Van Witzenburg, Victor Cassidy, Richard and Michelle Rosada, Dennis Nyberg, Whiting Lions Club, Edward Burns, Dinah Ramirez and Romona Hernandez.

Calendar:

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed are at the Environmental Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Ham-

mond.

February 27: 10 a.m., Marketing/PR Committee

February 27: 1 p.m., Development Committee

February 27: 2 p.m., Governance Committee

February 28: 3 p.m., Membership Committee

February 28: 4 p.m. *WWW.COM*mittee

February 28: 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee

March 28: 3 p.m., Membership Committee

March 28: 4 p.m. *WWW.COM*mittee meeting

March 28: 6:30 p.m. Board of Directors

April 23: 10 a.m., Marketing/PR Committee

April 23: 1 p.m., Development Committee

April 23: 2 p.m., Governance Committee

April 24: 3 p.m., Membership Committee

February 24: 4 p.m. *WWW.COM*mittee

February 24: 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee

Renewed AWLI members:

Members who recently renewed memberships for 2008 are Jackie Herod and the Lake County Fish & Game organization.

If members can't remember whether they have updated their membership, call the office and we'll gladly check for you.

Subscription

To subscribe to the bi-monthly *Wolf Lake Advocate*, please complete this form:

Send report: Fax Postal Service

Name: _____

Address: _____

Fax Number: _____

Please send check payable to AWLI for:

- \$12 for a one-year subscription
 \$20 for a two-year subscription

Send payment and completed form to
AWLI

ATTN: *Wolf Lake Advocate*
PO Box 17080, Chicago, IL 60617