

Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative

A not-for-profit bi-state organization and land trust

Working across state boundaries to enhance the Wolf Lake Watershed



Board of Directors

February 2, 2021

Jim Buitter
president

Buitter re-elected

Ken Czulno
vice-president
treasurer

To lead AWLI

Dr. Joan Crist
secretary

Contact: Michael Boos, 219 933-7149, 312 220-0120

Dr. Ahmed Lakhani
special projects

Immediate Release

Ex officio

Michael Boos
executive director

Susan Sadlowski Garza

City of Chicago

Rebecca Moss

Cook County FPD

Keith Carey

Hammond Port Authority

Lake County, IN

Individuals

Richard Chambers

David Dolak

Colleen McVeigh

Lara Gonzalez Bates

Dr. Richard Morrisroe

Dr. James P. Sullivan

Linda Trinkle

Dr. Phil Willink

Honorary Board

Bruce Caruso

David Dabertin

Jeff Langbehn

Dr. Dennis Nyberg

past president

Patrick Owens

past president

Bob Robertson

William J. Smith

past president

Dr. Zaki L. Zaki

The board of directors of the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) added two new directors and re-elected Jim Buitter of Crete, Illinois as president of the not-for-profit organization and land trust at its January 29 organizational meeting.

Buitter is a financial adviser and CPA, having earned his M.B.A. from DePaul University in Chicago. Also, he is an executive board member and national director of the Izaak Walton League.

New members elected to three-year terms on the board are Colleen McVeigh, environmental educator at the Field Museum, and Richard Chambers, development associate for Calumet City. The two were elected at AWLI's annual membership meeting on January 14.

A resident of Chicago, McVeigh has worked with the Youth Conservation Action (YCA) team at the Field Museum for almost four years. As senior urban conservation educator, she leads YCA's environmental education capacity building for educators through the implementation of professional development workshops and instructional coaching.

McVeigh is a member of AWLI's Calumet Nature Exchange which seeks to help teachers incorporate nature into the curriculum in a virtual learning environment..

She worked in the Chicago Public Schools for 20 years in various classroom settings. McVeigh holds a B.A. degree in history from Lawrence University and an M.A. in curriculum and instruction with a focus on literacy acquisition from DePaul University.

Chambers is economic development associate and grants facilitator at Calumet City's Department of Community and Economic Development. He started as a Ford Motor Company Graduate Internship with AWLI in March 2017 while studying for an M.B.A. degree at Purdue University Northwest.

He also earned a B.A. degree there in communication, with a concentration in journalism He worked for more than two and a half years as a reporter in Michigan City.

In addition to his M.B.A, he also has a Graduate Certificate in Emerging Media and Digital Reporting from Ball State University.

Chambers was also elected an officer in charge of special projects. Other officers elected are as follows:

Dr. Ahmed Lakhani, treasurer, is a resident of Glenview, IL and head of the science department at Calumet College.. He received his Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ken Czulno, vice-president, is retired from the Cook County Sheriff's Office. Previously he was

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accounting supervisor at US Steel Corp. He earned degrees in accounting and psychology from Calumet College.
Dr. Phil Willink, secretary, is a fish biologist and former researcher with the Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum.
AWLI is a bi-state organization and land trust that seeks to protect and enhance the Wolf Lake watershed.

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