

I hope everyone had a great Christmas season and 2019 is a healthy and happy year for everyone.

If you have not received your new resident directory, you will soon. The directories are in the mail! This directory is a result of many weeks of hard work by a dedicated group of volunteers, including May Beth Anderson, Adrienne Bray, Carolyn Corwin, Sue Fenton, John Fischer, Ann Hilger, Patti Igel, Jo Kilander, Barb Kimer, Candy Malm, Lisa Moore, Karen Nelson, Sherri Preusse, Liz Quaday, Lisa Reed, Nancy Ryan and Laura Spolum. I deeply appreciate all the work and many hours all these volunteers contributed to producing the resident directory. This resident directory is being distributed to all Big Sand residents as a courtesy by the Big Sand Lake association members. Our current plans are that this will be the last printed directory, BSLA members can always access the directory on line via the BSLA website.

Enclosed with the directory are the forms to join or renew BSLA memberships. Everyone is encouraged to return the membership forms and dues (\$40) in January. You can also download a blank membership application or renewal form from the BSLA website. And we are always willing to accept additional contributions to the BSLA to help us defray some of our costs and stretch our budget even further.

We have changed the fiscal year for our accounting to run from January 1 to December 31. So, it is very helpful for us to receive your membership dues in January, to facilitate our accounting processes and payments throughout the year. The BSLA budget for the coming year is just over \$6000 and supports the costs of various social events, the annual meeting picnic, updating our various social media platforms, websites, newsletters, etc. The budget also funds lake water testing, and helps us pay for other expenses that inevitably arise each year. For example, last year, we replaced two of the lake hazard buoys and we are in the process of replacing the sign at the public access and installing a small sign at Lake Emma.

Please also encourage your neighbors to pay BSLA membership dues, too. In a typical year, we receive membership dues payments from roughly 166 of approximately 240 of the homeowners on the lake. The best way for us to be able

to fund the work and activities of the BSLA is to receive contributions from all residents.

Many members also include some very generous donations when they send in their annual membership payment. These donations are essential to helping us manage the BSLA. We take in around \$6000 a year in membership dues. We usually spend a little more than \$6000 per year on our various social events, the annual meeting picnic, updating our various social media platforms, and lake water testing, websites, newsletters, etc. We also replaced two of the lake hazard buoys and we are in the process of replacing the sign at the public access and installing a small sign at Lake Emma.

The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund (BSLCF) is an entirely separate fund-raising entity from the BSLA. The Charitable fund is managed by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, and members of our Big Sand Lake resident community serve as advisors to the fund. The charitable fund was established to fund programs, projects and activities that protect and enhance the quality of Big Sand Lake and its environs. The primary focus of the BSLCF fund-raising to date has been to establish funds to be used to assist in remediation efforts and costs if AIS is ever detected in Big Sand Lake. In addition, the BSLCF also helps us to prevent any AIS from entering our lake by raising funds to pay for the annual AIS watercraft inspection program at the public access. The BSLCF is vitally essential to preserving the health of our lake ecosystem.

The annual fund-raising drive for the Charitable fund has been moved to May. We hope this helps to eliminate any confusion about the mission of the BSLA and the BSLCF. There is also a tab on the BSLA website if you want to contribute to either the BSLA or the BSLCF.

Remember that a fiscally sound lake association and well-funded charitable fund are a couple of the best ways that together we fully enjoy and protect our beautiful lake and the investments we make in our properties surrounding it.

As always, thanks for your support,

Bob Bray

