



Dear Grand Lake St. Marys Supporter,

We hope you are safe and that this note finds you well. It goes without saying that we are living in unprecedented times, and this is certainly not a time that the Lake Improvement Association wants to send a membership renewal. The impact of Covid-19 has changed our lives now and for the foreseeable future. The virus and the state-mandated orders in place to help control it have dealt a blow to our local economies. However, if there is one thing the Grand Lake community knows how to do and do well, it is overcome adversity.

Just think, in 10 years we have been able to turn a body of water once considered an environmental throw-away into a place family and friends can once again enjoy recreationally! This pandemic is just another hardship we must navigate through, but we WILL get through Coronavirus and the LIA's work WILL continue.

After our most successful Winter Icebreaker dance that we've ever had, the LIA was poised for a big year – then, the pandemic took over. As mentioned, our work will continue toward the goals set in our January meeting, but they may look a bit different than originally intended. For example, we hope the Bar Stool Open can happen this year as it makes for a great day for the local bars and restaurants. This year we realize that they may need more help, so we are looking to add another event to help support our lake commerce. Help, safety and support are going to be focal points at least in the short term.

Please stay tuned to your email and our Facebook page for updates regarding meetings and announcements during the shut-down. With all this being said, we think it's time for some **positive news**:

- Grand Lake is open for boating
- The parks and walking paths are open
- The wildlife habitat is thriving
- Pontoons are mostly over 20-feet long, so social distancing is easy on the water
- West Beach WILL open this year for swimming
- The microcystin levels in Grand Lake were some of the lowest recorded this winter
- The treatment trains are on
- More water-filtering wetlands are being added to Grand Lake

Also, the LIA has decided to change its membership dates to the calendar year Jan. 1-Dec 31. There has been a lot of confusion over the years with our membership dates, so we felt that running the annual membership starting Jan. 1 would help. Your membership to this organization is vital; our strength is our numbers! This is how we lobby and make positive change happen for Grand Lake.

We understand that your ability to financially support organizations may not be the same as in prior years, therefore the LIA Board has decided to temporarily suspend membership dues. Here's what that means to you in terms of your membership:

Every 2019 LIA member will receive a complimentary year of dues, either in 2020 or 2021, as follows:

- If you ALREADY PAID your 2020 dues, your membership is in good standing until Dec. 31, 2021
- If you HAVE NOT PAID your 2020 dues, you may choose to not pay this year and remain a member in good standing until Dec. 30, 2020. You will receive a 2021 dues notice later this year

Thank you so much, and we'll see you on the lake!

Nick Rentz
President, Lake Improvement Association