



From the Board Room

March 2026 Meeting Highlights



Welcome New Upper Camp Director – Shannon Patterson!



The Colony Board is pleased to announce that Shannon Patterson has been appointed to the position of Upper Camp Director. She fills the large shoes left by her retired predecessor Darrin Doyle, who successfully filled that role for nearly a decade. (Thanks Darrin!)

Shannon grew up in Medford Lakes, where she attended Day Camp and enjoyed its physical and athletic challenges, and the strong friendships she made there. She played field hockey and lacrosse at Shawnee High School. After graduation, she earned a Bachelor's Degree at Rutgers and a Masters at Villanova.

Shannon and husband Darryl lived in Pennsylvania where she worked as a teacher in Philadelphia for 18 years. She says, "My children were the reason we moved back to Medford Lakes in 2018. We wanted them to have the

experience of small-town life with a supportive community and a variety of activities. They love playing sports, attending camp, fishing, ice skating, and spending days at the lake with friends."

Her oldest son (Declan) was a BSR in 2025 and her other children (Liam and Saoirse) will be attending Upper Camp this year. Shannon worked at Lower Camp last year as a Senior Counselor. She is on the M.L.A.A. Board of Directors, serves as a Girl Scout leader, and is a teacher/coach at Shawnee. To all Lakers she says, "I look forward to continuing the traditions of Medford Lakes Camp and working with Colony board members, camp staff and parents to make sure every camper has a safe, memorable, and fun summer!"

100 Years Old and Still Going Strong! 1927 - 2027

Plans are underway to celebrate our Colony's 100th birthday next year. The Centennial Committee held its inaugural meeting under the leadership of Chair Greg Lackey. The Committee discussed concepts for a year-long commemoration of the Colony's founding, as well as the designation of a "Centennial Day." Also discussed were a permanent memorial, celebration materials, fundraising, and centennial merchandise. The group is off to a great start, and Greg promises many more exciting updates as planning progresses.

Hydro-raking Update

Warmer temperatures and resultant ice-melt allowed for the lowering of the Aetna Lake chain to go forward as scheduled (Lower Aetna: March 6 to 16, Upper Aetna: March 16 to 25). New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection rules require lakes in our region to be refilled by March 31. Ice conditions led the Lakes Restoration Committee to postpone Aetna hydro-raking until later in the Spring, however, when the weather and

ground saturation conditions are more favorable. Hydro-raking does **not** require lowered lakes. As a result of the postponement, hydro-raking in the other lakes scheduled for 2026 (Natchez Canal, Wagush, MisheMokwa, Wauwaukashe, and Ballinger) will also be postponed. Hydro-raking will be suspended in advance of Memorial Day weekend to allow sediment to settle.

Reminder to Lower and Upper Aetna lakefront homeowners: hydro-raking is contingent upon unconditional approval by at least 75% of lakefront owners. To date, only about half the owners have endorsed the project. Final agreement dates are being revised. Property owners will be advised directly.

Colony Dues Payments Update

The Membership Committee reports dues collection rate is at 63% through the end of February, slightly behind payment rates of prior years. Members are reminded that dues must be fully paid by May 31 to be a "member in good standing," a requirement for use of Colony facilities including participation in Camp and M.L.A.A. Summer, Fall, and Winter programs.

Volunteer Spotlight – Julia Moore

Julia Moore is a second-generation Laker, having grown up on Onondago Trail with sister Sally (still a Laker and living in the old family homestead) and brother Dave (currently living in Amsterdam). It was from there that her father Tom, a well-respected – make that beloved – Neeta history teacher, and mother Bettyann made sure that their children took advantage of everything that the Lakes had to offer.

For Julia, that included Girl Scouts, youth sports, and the Log Cabin Players theatre group among many other activities. Of course, she attended Day Camp, where she is the proud recipient of a Bronze Shield. She attended the local school system, K thru 12. At Shawnee she was active in student theater, chorus, and was named to the National Honor Society.

After Shawnee, Julia earned a B.A. in Political Science from American University in Washington D.C. (Cum Laude), and then a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. After that, she completed a clerkship at the Federal Electrical Regulatory Commission, passed the bar exam, and went to work for a prominent DC law firm specializing in regulatory law.

It was around 2007, when son Max was getting ready to enter kindergarten, that she saw herself at a crossroad. “I didn’t believe that I could excel in two roles at the same time – a mother of young children and a lawyer. I had to make a choice for my family, Should I continue with the demands of life in the law, or return to the life I remembered in Medford Lakes?”

Given those terms, there was really no choice. “I thought about the life I had here, and I wanted my children to have the same thing,” she recalls. Fortunately, her husband – Steve Koch – was facing the same personal crisis. Steve grew up in Willow Grove, PA, but he knew Medford Lakes well having been here on many family visits with Julia. Steve had also graduated from American University, but the two did not meet until after graduation. Steve attended NYU School of Law and was a government attorney also disenchanted with life in the Nation’s capital. The couple moved to the Lakes, where Steve remade himself as a middle school history teacher in Bordentown.



Julia then threw herself into her newly chosen career as a stay-at-home-mom raising Max, Nora, and Claudia. She was (and remains) one of those people that you tend to see everywhere where volunteers are in play. Not in the forefront, but working hard behind the scenes to make things happen.

She became a Girl Scout Leader working through the entire sequence twice with her girls from Daisies thru Ambassadors. From 2009, she was a continuous active leader in the local program for 14 years. She still likes to keep her hand in scouting with the Summer Book Club for rising third-grade girls.

She also became active in the Junior Women’s Auxiliary where she served for five years as its Treasurer. Julia stayed with the Club when the junior and senior chapters merged into the Medford Lakes Women’s Club, and she is frequently seen as an event volunteer. She is also a member of the Club’s scholarship committee.

Julia was elected to the Medford Lakes School Board in 2022 and was re-elected in 2025. In addition to her regular director duties, she is a member of the district’s policy committee.

During the school year, she keeps busy as a substitute teacher in various districts in the area. And in summers, she is a senior counselor in the Colony’s Preschool Camp Program. Her class is known as “Space Camp.”

Most recently, Julia (probably figuring that she had some time to fill!) joined the Lions Club, where she is also an active event volunteer.

When the Colony’s theater program restarted as *Medford Lakes Stage*, Julia was among the first in line to join the troupe and has been featured as its female lead in several roles including Mary Bailey in *It’s a Wonderful Life* and Doris Walker in *Miracle on 34th Street*. She is active in the group’s Traveling Players and Reader’s Theater programs. Husband Steve recently joined *M.L. Stage* (probably so that he can catch up with her from time to time.)

Thanks to Julia Moore for everything you do. We’re glad you came back to where you belong.