



From the Board Room

August 2025



Here are highlights from the Colony Board's August meeting. The Board meets regularly in the Demby Annex on the second Monday of each month at **7:30 PM**. Members in good standing are welcome.

Lake Lowering Policy to be Clarified

We reported the following in last month's (July) Edition of From the Boardroom.

With a concern for adverse impact on lake ecology, the Board accepted the Lake committee's recommendation for a change in lake-lowering policy. Committee study concluded that the current policy of frequent or annual lowering was harmful. We will no longer lower lakes for routine bulkhead installation and maintenance at member request. Lakes will only be lowered for "...the repair and maintenance of dams and spillways, and where the integrity of a lake is at risk."

In discussions about implementing the policy [at the July meeting], the Board acknowledged that the Aetna and Miskemokwa system chains have distinct water supplies and re-filling characteristics. Accordingly, there could be some differential interpretation as circumstances arise. But in all cases, application will be in favor of the overall health of our complex lake system.

At the August meeting, Colonists served by the Aetna system asked for a clarification on how the Lakes Committee and Board would apply such a "differential interpretation." The Board agreed to ask the Committee for additional information with the target of providing a clarifying statement in September.

Nokomis Playground Update

Equipment for the Nokomis School Playground Project has been delivered and arrangements are being made for its installation. A realistic goal is to have the improved playground ready for student use by school opening in September. This \$100K upgrade is jointly funded by the Medford Lakes School District and your dues-funded Capital Improvement Fund.

Wilson Playground Update

The Board has also undertaken a project that would add equipment to the Wilson Field playground, an endeavor funded by a combination of Colony and private-donor sources. This project is about \$10K short of its \$50K goal. The Board is actively seeking to secure the final funding piece, which would allow for completion in 2025, two years ahead of schedule!

Mardis Gras/Carnival Feedback

The Board and Canoe Carnival Committee extends its sincere appreciation to all who attended this year's events and helped to make it safe and enjoyable for all. As you know, the Board, the Committee, and the Borough worked hard this year to address past issues. These efforts included an awareness campaign and additional security services. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the changes made will be a starting point for making next year's festival even better. This could not have happened without member cooperation and support. Thank you!

Lake Projects

The Lakes Restoration Committee provided an update on two projects:

- A short-term fix to the Wagush Trail spillway leak has been completed. Final repairs will be undertaken next year, which will result in a temporary road closure.
- The Algonquin Pond Spillway repair design is complete and the project is out for bid.

Funding for this work comes from the Lakes Restoration Fund. Also, the Committee – in cooperation with Medford Lakes Borough – is moving forward with a phosphate testing program in the lake systems.

Volunteer Spotlight – Kevin Koch

How does one **simultaneously** serve as President of two of the Colony's most vital and active organizations – Lions Club and MLAA – stay involved in the lives of three active children, and work full-time? For Colonist Kevin Koch (pronounced *Cook*), the answer is *Time Management* and a strong desire to make a difference.

Kevin is a native Pennsylvanian with roots in Mayfair, Philadelphia and Langhorne, Bucks County. He spent his summers playing in the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) and eventually became a USTA national tennis Champion. He played Division 1 college tennis for Rider University where he graduated with a B.S. in Accounting and Computer Science.

After attending Neshaminy High School, he managed information systems on the weekends at St. Mary's Medical Center while attending college. In his accounting class, he learned of an internship opportunity with Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) headquarters in Princeton which he pursued. After graduation, he accepted a full-time position with BMS for 14 years. Kevin also earned Master certifications from Villanova University in both Government and Commercial Contract Management. Kevin currently manages the Government Pricing for GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in Philadelphia for 12+ years.

Like many Lakers, he learned about our unique community through friends as a great place to live and raise his young children, twin girls Maeve and Annalise (10), and son Keiran (11). In 2016, Kevin and wife Kelly found their new home on Neeta Trail.

Both Kevin and Kelly (a teacher in the Mount Holly School District) immediately became involved in the Laker way of life. Kelly became a Lion, a Girl Scout Leader, an MLAA softball commissioner, and both are charter members of the Topsy Canoers Float group.

Kevin initially got involved with MLAA volleyball and stepped into the ABV Commissioner role for 3 years, helping the league to grow to three divisions with over 300 participants. That program is currently the MLAA's most popular adult sport.

Concurrently, he also worked to create the MLAA Pickleball league in 2019, bringing the nation's fastest growing sport to the Lakes. Under Kevin's leadership,

we enjoyed multiple leagues, tournaments, Youth Pickleball instructional clinics, and special events like *"Glow Crazy" Black Light Pickleball*.

Kevin was eventually named the Vice President of Sports – a five-year tenure – where he concentrated on building and strengthening all programs. He cites working with the MLAA board recruiting all-star commissioners and coaches, improving website content and sports logos, establishing a strong Facebook presence, and creating the TeamReach group communications as sources of pride. Most recently, he served a two-year term as the organization's President.

One of his disappointments, however, was the necessary decision to put the pickleball league "on hold until further notice" due to the deteriorating court conditions at the Brooks Field Sports Complex. Still, Kevin was in the forefront of a group that led to a Colony project spearheading its eventual restoration. He coordinated the construction of the Brooks Field

sign which raised over \$70K towards the project. The project is currently working its way through the excruciatingly difficult approval plan process. But he is optimistic about eventual success, including developing a viable funding plan.

But while all this was going on, he became active in the Medford Lakes Lions Club, moving quickly through the organization's "chairs" to become its President in five years, completing that term in 2025.

"I joined the Lions Club to assist with delivering meals to families during Covid," he recalls. Considering the organization's many service projects (e.g., tree lighting, Memorial Day parade, Murphy's Day, Meatball Throwdown, Witches' Paddle, Cabulance, eyeglass collection, medical equipment loans, food pantry, and Lions Club Charities), his favorite is the Holiday food and toy distribution that he ranks #1 in his heart.

All of that! In less than 10 years as a Laker! So, *what's next?* "I need to step back and see," he says. "I need some time to enjoy my children's activities as they grow." Understood Kevin, and a job well done. But as sure as we are of the gratitude, we owe you, we also know that you see much more to accomplish. We haven't seen the last of Kevin Koch.

