



From the Board Room

February 2026 Meeting Notes



Here are highlights from the February 9th Board meeting.

Warm Thoughts: Summer Camp!

The lakes will thaw. The glaciers will recede from our beaches. And Colony Camp will open in June!

The Board approved dates for the 2026 season. Camp will run from June 29th to July 24th. Times are as follows:

- **Day Camp (Grades 1-9):** 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
- **Preschool Camp:** 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
- **Five-Year-Old Swim:** Starting at 1:45 pm
- **Extended Hours Camp** – 1:30 to 6:00 pm

Note: This program is pending the hiring of a Camp Director by April 15th. Presently, there are no applicants. If you have an interest or know of anyone who does, please contact the Colony Office as soon as possible. This program might be canceled.

Registration will open in March with substantial savings offered for early registration. Because our camp program is a “break-even” operation and fees have been frozen for three years, there will be an approximate 10% COL increase (about 3% per year). Register early to save! Detailed information about pricing will be included in the *Colony News*.

New Lake Projects Announced

We will undertake a required engineering study at Lake Wauwaukashe.

Also, the Lakes Committee announced several “hydro-raking” projects including: Lower Aetna; Upper Aetna; Ballinger; Natchez Canal; Wagush; Natchez Canal; Wauwaukashe. Work is expected to begin around March 9th in coordination with Aetna Lake(s) dam lowering.

Affected lake owners will be notified directly about program details. Note that project completion is subject to budget availability and owner participation election (with 75% required participation from each affected area). If you own property on the referenced lakes, look for this information. The response deadline is February 28th.

Be a “Member in Good Standing”

The Board discussed dues payment and member privileges to use Colony property. Colony By-Laws state clearly that: *...After the final date of scheduled payment [May 31], members will have none of the privileges of membership...* These privileges include beach access, camp registration, and sports program participation. This is a long-standing By-Law requirement. It is nothing new.

Please be aware that there is dues relief available to members in need. An application is available on the Colony website, or it can be obtained by contacting the office.

Capital Improvement Budget

The Board unanimously approved its 2026 Capital Improvement Budget up to \$159,000. Funds for this program come from a portion of annual membership fees - \$55 per member. Projects were ranked by priority with the potential for expansion based on targeted fund-raising. The list includes:

- Renovating Beach 1 floating docks
- Improving Beach 3 parking lots
- Replacing Beach 4 Pavilion
- Waterproofing Demby Hall basement
- Restoring Beach Area 2
- Replacing the Beach 3 Pavilion roof
- Exterior maintenance to the Craft Pavilion
- Renovating the Hopkins Field Volleyball Court and play area
- Phase II of the Vaughan Hall parking lot improvement
- Re-grading and stoning the Craft Pavilion parking lot
- Colony-wide storage solution
- Fence replacements and repair
- Energy conservation audit for Colony facilities
- Hardscaping access walkway at Nokomis Playground

Incoming Colony President – Dale Keagy

Dale was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, but attended high school at Valley Forge Military Academy on a full music scholarship to play trumpet in the (then renowned) VFMA band, graduating in 1967 with high honors. Dale then enrolled in Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster PA, where he earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree in 1971. Years later, he added a Master's in Business Administration to his academic credentials.

While in college, he worked summers for a Lancaster CPA firm helping with school district audits. "I needed a summer job to pay for school, and I seemed to have a knack for accounting," he explains. The firm offered him a full-time position even before his graduation, and he simultaneously worked and attended F&M in his senior year. He passed the CPA exam in 1973 and began the climb through CPA firm hierarchy, and in only five years was named Audit and Management Services Partner. There was one problem with this career path, however. "I didn't like accounting," he says. "I still don't."

So, in 1982 he left the profession and took a position with a client, Southern York County School District, in charge of all non-instructional operations including facilities, construction, transportation, food service, human resources, information technology, and business affairs (which unfortunately included accounting). He held that position for 30 years.

From the beginning of his career to date, Dale served on boards too many to list including governmental authorities, youth organizations, charities, community theatres, and foundations. His aggregate service time as a board officer is in excess of 150 years.

Dale continued to play trumpet semi-professionally for over 50 years, putting his horn away only after his move to Medford Lakes. Over his playing career, he was a "regular" with several groups. But he could read well and improvise, and did a lot of subbing. His repertoire included dance bands (primarily big bands), concert bands, German bands, brass choirs, and musical pit orchestras. Dale is a lifetime member of the South-Central PA musicians' union, and served several terms as its President.

He spent most of his life in York, Pennsylvania where he and wife Jaci raised their children Beth, Amy, and (Laker) Adam. Jaci was a high school English and Drama teacher, directed school plays and musicals, and Dale was her set designer. Of Jaci's more than 60 shows as a director, he designed and built sets for all of them.

Early in his career in school business, Dale was asked to run a few training programs for the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO). This

activity launched a parallel career as a textbook author (over 30 publications) and instructional designer when PASBO contracted with Dale to create a comprehensive professional development and credentialing program for its entire membership covering all specialties. His initial 12-course program was later complemented by a 6-course advanced series. The 18-course program is currently used as the basis for training and credentialing all Pennsylvania school business officials in both face-to-face and on-line settings.

Dale compiled and edited his PASBO school business curriculum into a graduate level textbook used by around a dozen Pennsylvania universities in their Doctoral and Master's degree programs for superintendents and principals.

He has also worked on the teaching faculty of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association where he created a training program in school finance for elected school directors.

Dale's work at PASBO attracted the attention of Wilkes University, who wanted to offer a 30-credit Master's Degree in School Business Leadership (SBL). Dale helped lead the curriculum development and accreditation process as Wilkes rolled out the SBL program nationally. He was a Wilkes adjunct instructor for several years, teaching courses in Planning, Financial Management, and the program's capstone Organizational Leadership course. The SBL on-line version is currently a part of a credentialing process in about 20 states and has students throughout the country.

He has been honored several times for his work, service, and leadership by multiple organizations, including the designation as Pennsylvania's School Business Official-of-the-Year.

Dale took an early retirement in 2012. "I reached the point where I had to 'retire' to keep up with all the things I was doing outside my day job," he explains. In addition to his instructional design work, Dale then built a consulting practice performing peer reviews, strategic planning, staffing and reorganization studies, staff development and training, and mentoring.

When driving back and forth to Medford Lakes to visit grandchildren Brayden, Emi, and Addy increased in frequency, and the couple tired of maintaining a large property in York (with a lake!), Dale and Jaci began to think seriously about a change. With Adam and Amanda's fourth on the way – Paxon – and Brayden asking, "Hey Pa, why don't you move next door," the deal was done. Four years ago, Dale and Jaci sold their York home and took up residence on Navajo Trail. He became involved on the Colony Board shortly after his arrival. **We welcome Dale to his presidency and wish him well.**

