

LACA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING  
8:00 P.M. JULY 12, 1991  
RAMADA INN, LUDINGTON, MICHIGAN

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Mike Davis at 7:50 P.M. with about 45 persons present. The meeting was held at the conclusion of an outstanding Seafood Buffet Dinner. Pres. Mike Davis outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Secretary Jim Fenner read the minutes of the previous meeting. the Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Diane Chippi reported the current general fund balance at about \$2536. The Borden fund is about \$11,868, and the net pen fund is about \$1000. Some bills are still out and we have not be re-imbursed by Borden yet for Legislative day. The report was accepted as presented.

There was a brief discussion about honorariums and about the net around the project. Pres. Davis reported that some efforts were being made by the various parties to move ahead with alternate solutions to the project problem. We will check out the honorarium legality issue.

Director Ed Jenkins reviewed the Legislative Day program. It was very successful with about 50 persons participating. We should do it again. We may need more volunteers next year. He noted the great job performed by Ray Karboski again this year.

Vice President Mike Gnatkowski reported on the Media Day. It too, was very successful. About 20 members of the media responded. We have already received positive press in the Free Press and other papers and we have been on TV several times with positive images. He expects additional favorable articles in magazines and other media in the future. We will make an effort to rotate the boats next year if there are enough volunteers. Pete Ruboyanes mentioned that it might be possible to arrange something with Fred Trost for TV coverage in the future. He will investigate this for the Association. Jerry Lee commented on the lack of participation on the part of the City of Ludington and the Chamber of Commerce in our efforts to promote Charter Fishing. Some discussion followed. It seems that the perception exists that we are not getting as much help as our contribution to the local economy justifies. No action was taken.

Net Pen committee chairman Bill Lowrie reported on our very successful net pen project. We held the fish for five weeks without any trouble and the fish were much larger and well acclimated to the Sauble river at the time of their release. The people at Consumers were super helpful and cooperative. They contributed much more than money. The newly designed aluminum pens worked well, as did the redesigned current deflector. It should be much easier to get going next year. A video of the placing of the pens was shown several times before the meeting.

Member Doug Strzynski announced that Tru-Trac Industries was offering a direct purchase discount ot LACA members. See him for more information.

Member George Freeman informed us on the \$.50 per fish program that Borden has agreed to fund again this year. This is a major fund-raiser for the Association. Last year we received over \$5,800 for our projects from this activity.

We need a copy of each Captain's DNR log for the months of July and August to submit to Mr. WWaydo. We will copy it for you at the office or the dock, and we will mail your original to the DNR for you, if you wish. Or if you feel the need to keep the information totally to yourself, you may send copies directly to Borden. We will supply you with addressed, stamped envelopes at your request. Members who will help at each dock are: John & Diane Chippi, Tamarac; George Freeman, Karboski's; Hidden Harbor, Don Maloney; Jim Fenner, Abrahamson's and the city marina; Gary Niederhous, Thompson's; and Matt Newhouse at Crosswinds. We can't stress too much how

important each Captain's report is. Even just a few trips per month could mean quite a few dollars for our Association.

Pres. Mike Davis reviewed the Drug Testing program and indicated it is in place and working and quite a few have signed on. He noted that each member must have one hour of education per year and that a qualifying one hour program would follow the meeting, with a sign in sheet.

The user's fee seems to be going to happen. It will probably not be enforced this year, but we will all have to pay next year.

In the area of membership and dues, we are in good shape right now, but we desperately need a strong volunteer to head up this activity for next year.

Secretary Jim Fenner reviewed the fax program to date for this year, stating that many people have found it useful. We still have some problems. Not every dock is well served by a fax machine, and the service could be earlier. Offshore services is aware of our concerns and is working with us to improve service all the time. The Brochure is working out nicely. We are sending it out regularly. Copies of the Captain's list and the business list are available at the office. We hope to have next year's ready in time for the winter show circuit. The four color cover is still in the works. The last newsletter was mailed at the end of June. Anyone who isn't getting a copy, or who's label information is wrong should get in touch so it can be corrected.

Pres. Mike Davis commented at length about the call-in response system in effect this year at our office. He noted that all calls are logged in writing and that the logs are here at the meeting for all to inspect. He also noted that as the three names are given out there is a lot of chance involved in each situation. We are attempting to organize some volunteer wives of captain's to assist in the manning of the Association's phone lines during the busiest times in August. He asked plainly for anyone who had questions to ask or problems to discuss to speak up at the meetings or to address the officers directly so that the problem can be solved or the rumors laid to rest.

Under the heading of New Business:

Member Doug Strzynski is heading up a committee to organize a LACA customer tournament for next year. It is tentatively planned for July 18-19. It would have an entry fee of about \$150. As currently planned there would not be observers and the prizes would not be large. Some discussion followed. Pres. Davis asked for volunteers to assist Doug with the organizing of this possible activity.

At this time Pres. Davis took time out to award Plaques and special recognition to several persons for their efforts during the past year or years. Included were Diane Chippi, Dick Underwood, George Freeman, Jim Fenner, Mike & Kathy Gnatkowski, Bill Lowrie, Ed Jenkins and Ray Karboski. He also commented on the special work and dedication given to the Association since its inception by Retiring Board member and Past President Aaron Christensen. Aaron received a standing ovation.

The election of Officers was held next. The nominees for each office were made and seconded from the floor and all were elected unanimously. The officers for the 91-92 year are as follows:

President: Mike Davis

Vice-Pres.: Mike Gnatkowski

Secretary: Jim Fenner

Treasurer: Diane Chippi

Director: Ed Jenkins

Director: George Freeman

Following the election there was a brief question and answer session about the formation of a national charter boat association and our roll in it. It was noted that the MCBA will be a member and Ken Yee from Grand Haven will be the MCBA representative.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10PM to be followed by a one hour drug education session.

Respectfully Submitted;

Secretary Jim Fenner