



LSIA Board Elections—April, 2006

LSIA is always looking for members who are interested in serving on the Lake Association Board as a director or officer.

The **2006 LSIA Nominating Committee** was formed at the October, 2005 meeting and consists of **Steve Moe, Cindy Keating, and Fred Bills.**

Any member interested in being considered for an open board position should contact a Nominating Committee member.

Officer and Board positions up for vote at the April, 2006 meeting are:

- **President**
- **Secretary**
- **Director Water Level/Pollution Control**
- **Director of Membership**
- **Vice-President**

Each is a two year term, except the Vice President position which is a one year term.

2006 LSIA Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming 2006 LSIA events!

Saturday, March 4	Ice cleanup day
Thursday, April 27	Spring membership meeting and elections
Tuesday, July 4	Boat parade / decorating contest
Sunday, July 23	Membership picnic and Summer membership meeting
Thursday, October 26	Fall membership meeting

Lake Levels

Mike Peterson, LSIA Director, Water Level, Safety & Navigation

DNR Question of the Week:

Question: Lake levels rise and fall naturally. However, lately a number of lakes have dropped dramatically. What is the cause of this?

Answer: For lakes without rivers feeding into them, precipitation is almost everything. As groundwater levels decline, land locked lakes experience a drop water level. Below normal rainfall during the summers of 2004 and 2005, and the effects of above normal evaporation, resulted in declining water levels.

In July 2005, rainfall totals ranked among the lowest on record for many locations in central and northern Minnesota. Duluth finished as the fourth driest July on record, which dates back 135 years.

While stream flows in west central and northwestern Minnesota remain high, stream flows in east-central and northeastern Minnesota are low. This follows the pattern of precipitation, and therefore, even reservoir lakes (river inlets) are experiencing water level declines. It can take a series of years for some land locked lake levels to rebound from moderate drought conditions. Groundwater levels must rebound before lake levels will respond.

Given the cyclical nature of lake water levels in Minnesota, rest assured that lakes will return to levels more within the normal range of ups and downs.

Current and historic lake level information is available from the DNR at www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind.

Lake Sarah TDML Project To Begin In Early 2006

www.lakesarah.com

In a letter dated September 13, 2005, Three Rivers Park District expressed their interest in assisting the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission with the development of the Lake Sarah TMDL (Total Daily Maximum Load) Project. However, due to previous staffing commitments, the Lake Sarah TMDL project will be deferred until early 2006 when it is anticipated that the Lake Independence TMDL will be completed.

In an article on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) website, it states that for each pollutant that

causes a water body to fail to meet state water quality standards, the Federal Clean Water Act requires the MPCA to conduct a TMDL study. A TMDL study identifies both point and non-point sources of each pollutant that fails to meet water quality standards. Water quality sampling and computer modeling determine how much each pollutant source must reduce its contribution to assure the water quality standard is met. Rivers and streams may have several TMDL studies, each one determining the limit for a different pollutant.

Lake Sarah Stakeholders Committee Formed

www.lakesarah.com

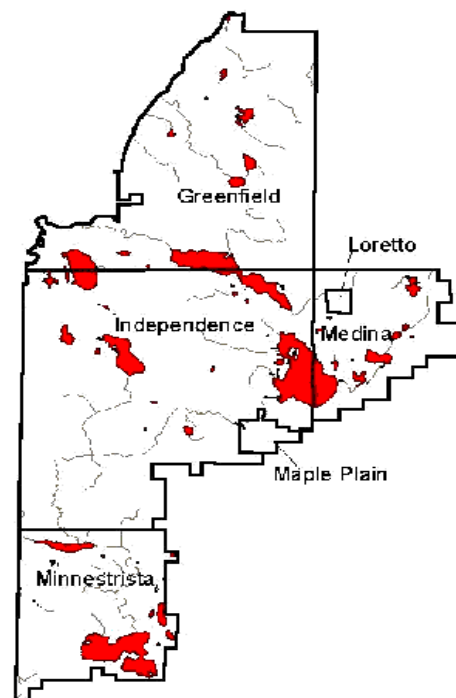
At the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) meeting in June, the Commission approved the formation of a **Lake Sarah TDML Stakeholders Committee** consisting of John & Terri Wise, Fred Bills, Mike Peterson, Jerry & Cheryl Wise, Dave Allen, and Jerry Horazuk (LSIA); Tom Swanson, Greenfield; Willie Vetsch, Loretto; Marvin Johnson, Mario Crespo, Harold Burrows, Independence; and Jane Maland & Dan Cady. Additionally, Sylvia Walsh, Greenfield, was added to the committee by vote at the July meeting.

The Lake Independence TDML Stakeholders Committee and Three Rivers Parks are a few years ahead of Lake Sarah in the TMDL/Impaired Waters process. Much can be learned from their project.

In 1990, to better understand the factors that have been affecting Lake Independence's water quality, Three Rivers Park District initiated a comprehensive monitoring plan. The District's *Lake Independence Diagnostic Feasibility Report* was released in 2004. It identified potential nutrient sources that have contributed to poor in-lake water quality and serves as the basis of the TMDL. The report also provided a list of potential management actions to address each identified source of pollutants and estimate their associated costs, effectiveness, expected longevity, and technical feasibility.

The Commission sponsored a stakeholders meeting in March 2004 to begin discussion of these options. In the months following, the Lake Independence Stakeholders Committee was formed, a work plan developed, and water quality goals for the lake determined. The draft

Work Plan was published in July 2005 which describes nine load reduction strategies. A reduction of 23 percent in the current nutrient load to the lake is necessary to achieve the quality goal adopted by the Stakeholder Committee.



The draft Work Plan was presented at the September 15, 2005 meeting to provide citizens an opportunity to discuss the management options. Final phosphorus loads and allocations must be agreed upon by the individuals who will eventually implement the practices in the plan. The *Lake Independence Diagnostic Feasibility Report* and the draft Work Plan are available at www.pioneersarahcreek.org (Click on Water Quality).

At the August 2005 meeting, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission voted to adopt Resolution #2005-02. The resolution resolves that the PSCWMC formally requests financial assistance in the amount of \$6500 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Lake Sarah TMDL analysis.

LSIA Continues To Make Progress

Annual projects

1998

- Cleaned up debris on the ice following the removal of ice houses
- Surveyed the lake for milfoil; LSIA treated several areas and encouraged lake owners to treat their own shorelines
- Monitored water clarity and lake level, and provided data to Hennepin Conservation District
- Conducted 3 LSIA meetings and published minutes/newsletters to keep area residents informed and educated
- Provided a Lake Sarah Area Directory for area residents
- Represented LSIA at meetings of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Commission and Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Developed a Best Practices placemat to educate residents, used by several local restaurants
- Sponsored the LSIA picnic & July 4th boat parade

1999

- Completed installation of vegetative buffer strips along the lake for demonstration purposes, using an \$8000 DNR Conservation Partners matching grant
- Maintained the culvert under the railroad bridge, which is the only outlet from the lake
- Conducted the Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop
- Obtained approvals and funding for a Loretto Creek detention basin to trap phosphorus
- Conducted the Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop in spring and fall to encourage best practices

2000

- Completed the first Loretto Creek detention basin to trap phosphorus
- Conducted the Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop to encourage best practices around the lake

2001

- Constructed the second detention basin on Loretto Creek to trap incoming phosphorus
- Coordinated passage of No Wake Zone legislation with Independence and Greenfield
- Worked with Water Patrol to enforce speeds in channel and on the entire lake during very high water
- Formed a Water Level Control Project to analyze problems with lake outflow and to develop solutions; in progress
- Conducted the Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop to encourage best practices around the lake
- Reprinted our popular Best Practices flyer and sent it to the LSIA mailing list

2002

- Completed the land survey on the Lake Sarah Outlet Project to determine where to dredge the outflow
- Pursued steps toward a permanent resolution to the constrained outflow from Lake Sarah
- Conducted the final Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop program
- Launched the Lake Sarah web site at www.lakesarah.com to keep area residents informed on lake information

2003

- Public hearings held at the cities of Greenfield and Independence on the Sarah Creek Channel Restoration project
- Obtained the permit for the Sarah Creek Channel Restoration project
- Formed the Bog Emergency call list
- Supported state legislation on non-phosphorus fertilizer usage, replacing the LSIA Non-Phosphorus Fertilizer Drop program

2004

- Completed the dredge work on the Sarah Creek Channel Restoration project
- Removed the large bog that was causing damage to resident's property
- Greenfield obtained the permit and installed the DNR designed cable-concrete mat system, a permanent structure to help maintain a normal lake level
- Effective in 2004, Minnesota legislation requires the use of 0% phosphate lawn fertilizer in the seven county metro area and 3% phosphate or less lawn fertilizer in Greater Minnesota

2005

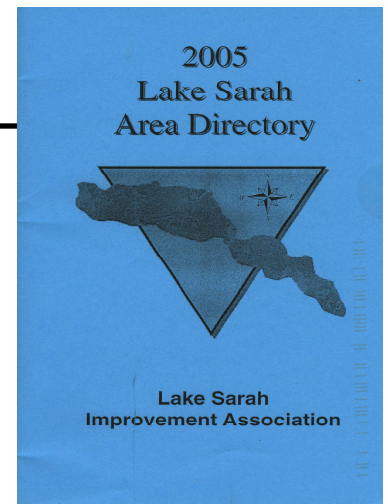
- The LSIA Clean Water committee and the Lake Sarah TDML Stakeholders Committee are established
- Three Rivers Parks expressed their interest in assisting the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission with the development of a Lake Sarah TMDL study.

2005 Lake Sarah Directories Mailed

Brad Spencer

The 2005 Lake Sarah Directories were mailed to all paid member households in September. Any member or new resident who did not receive a directory can contact a board member.

If you have any corrections or information on new neighbors for next years directory, please contact Brad Spencer at (763) 479-3525 or by email at b.spencer@lakesarah.com.



Where Did Lake Sarah Get Its Name??

Perry Buffie

In the history of Breezy Hill resort, Dolores Ullstrom said that she would love to know about the origin of the name Lake Sarah. In my Abstract dating back to 1861, the lake is first listed as Long Lake, and then in 1866 it is called Union Lake. The creek is always referred to in the abstract as 'the outlet of [Long or Union] Lake'

I was at Rockford library and a book caught my eye, Minnesota Geographic Names, by Warren Upham. I was hoping the book mentioned above would tell me something about the name of our lake, and sure enough it did. On page 233, the book reads: "*Lake Sarah, the largest in Greenwood, out flowing to the Crow river by Edgar Creek, was named in 1855 for the wife or sweetheart of a pioneer; and in the same year Lake Rebecca received its name in honor of Ms. Samuel Allen.*"

I was still curious why my abstract would use Long Lake and Union Lake in a legal description, but I suppose that between 1855 and 1861 or 1866 names had yet to be standardized and a descriptive name of a body might be best used. Our lake is long, so Long Lake makes sense, but being so close to Orono's Long Lake I imagine another name was quickly come up with. I first thought that the name Union Lake was in honor of our na-

tion since I found the name first mentioned so soon after the end of the Civil War in 1865. However, the Upham book makes me think it was called Union Lake for another reason. Looking up other Union Lakes in the state, I came across this description of the name of a lake in Polk County, on page 429: "*Union Lake, in Woodside and Knute townships, was named for its comprising three wide parts united by straits.*" Our lake has two parts with a union, so I am guessing that it was more of a descriptive name.

All of this is quite interesting, but what is most surprising to me is that the outlet is named Edgar Creek! Wouldn't it be interesting to see a sign along County Road 92 labeling our creek as Edgar Creek rather than Sarah Creek? This also makes me wonder if any of our pioneers were a couple with the names Edgar and Sarah.

Perry Buffie

Note: I was curious to see if there were pioneers named Edgar and Sarah, so I checked the 1860 and 1870 census. I found several Sarahs, but I didn't find anyone with the first name Edgar living in the surrounding area. However, I did find John and Jane Edgar and their five children, Jason, George, Eugene, Mary, and Josephine, living in Greenwood, Hennepin

County, MN. So perhaps Edgar Creek was named because it was by their property...

Cheryl Wise

Did you know Lake Sarah had a post office?

LAKE SARAH, post office, 1895-1906; now an area of Greenfield. (source: MN Historical Society)

How about Loretto?

LORETTO, a Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad (Soo Line) village in section 6, Medina, founded in 1886 and incorporated on March 20, 1940, was named from a Catholic mission for refugees of the Huron Indians near Quebec, Canada, called Lorette, founded and named in 1673, and from the village of Loretto, Ky., where a society of Catholic "Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross" was founded in 1812. Many schools are conducted by members of this society in the central and southern United States. The original source of the name is Loreto, a small town in Italy, which has a noted shrine of pilgrimage. The city has had a post office since 1887. (source: *Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol. 9, 1910, pp. 360-61; vol. 13, 1912, pp. 454-56)

Snowmobile Safety

mnsnowmobiler.org

In addition to recommending the safety certification classes, MnUSA offers the following advice for snowmobilers as they head back to the trails this season.

Ride Straight - no alcohol or drugs. Even a small amount of alcohol or drugs can impair judgment and response time significantly.

Know the trail or terrain and ride for the conditions. Many accidents involve hitting a fixed object, fence, tree, rock or other objects. Hidden objects on lakes hit at high speeds can result in serious accidents. Riding on frozen lakes is especially dangerous early or late in the season.

Slow it down, especially at night. Maximum speed allowed on public land, frozen waters, roadside ditches and groomed trails in Minnesota is **50 mph** or what is reasonable and prudent for conditions or as posted. At night, speeds should be slower because of reduced visibility. Note at 50 mph, drivers

need a football field - or 300 feet - to come to a complete stop. Don't ride too closely - maintain space between snowmobiles to avoid collisions.

Stay on marked snowmobile trails. Marked trails offer signs that alert snowmobilers to trail changes, stops, curves, etc. Respect private property and stay on marked snowmobile trails - objects may be hidden under the snow off marked snowmobile trails.

Sign up for a class. It's the law! Anyone born after December 31, 1976 must take a Snowmobile Safety Certification course. MnUSA and certified snowmobile club volunteers and the DNR offer Youth and Young Adult/Adult classes. For information about scheduled classes, contact:

MnUSA (763) 577-0185 or info@mnsnowmobiler.org
DNR 1-888-MINNDNR or www.dnr.state.mn.us



Ice Safety Warning!

www.dnr.state.mn.us

Think in terms of the thermometer rather than the calendar when deciding to go out on the ice. Just because it was okay on December 1st to go out on the ice last year, doesn't mean it's going to be safe on the same date this year!

Have a plan of what to do if you do break through. Carry rope, ice picks and a flotation device to help save your life or that of a companion. A vest-style life jacket can provide extra warmth and flotation in case you fall through.

DRIVING ON ICE? Don't drive on the ice if you can possibly avoid it. If you must, follow these common sense tips:

- **Stay off the ice at night, especially during a snowfall.** If that's unavoidable, be very cautious and drive slowly since holes can open up very quickly. If you drive too fast you might not be able to stop in time.
- **Be prepared to bail out in a hurry!** Some ice safety experts recommend that you have your seat belt unfastened and a window rolled down or door slightly ajar to speed escape. Don't wear a life vest while riding inside a car or truck. The extra bulk could hamper your escape through a window.
- **Don't go back into a partially submerged vehicle** to get equipment.

BE A SURVIVOR! Let's say you have taken all the precautions and you're going to try your luck at ice fishing. As you walk out on the ice, you hear a crack and fall through.

Suddenly you find yourself immersed in water so cold it literally takes your breath away. What should you do?

1. First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance.

2. Don't remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.

3. Turn toward the direction you came. That's probably the strongest ice.

4. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.

5. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.

6. Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.

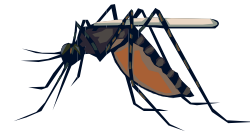
7. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and rewarm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!



A plastic bottle can be loaded with 50' - 70' of nylon rope, and kept ready on your snowmobile. To use, secure the free end of the line and throw the bottle

CAMP AJAWAH

Ray Hoag



The site of Camp Ajawah on Lake Sarah in 1923-1928, prior to its move to Linwood in 1929, refers to a stretch of northeast shoreline of Lake Sarah then owned by the Theodore and Anna Klaers family and the site of the Klaers Brothers Resort. In 1956 that area became Wally's resort owned by Wally and Louise Georges. Today the site is home to Kim and Becky Jacobsen.
- Brad Spencer

RAY WAS AT CAMP AJAWAH AT THE BEGINNING

*In 1998, we [Camp Ajawah Alums] published an article by Ray Hoag entitled **AJAWAH BEGINNINGS**. From that we can accurately report that Ray Hoag was in camp the first year Troop 33's camp was known as Camp Ajawah. He was also in contact with Troop 33 scout campers on Phelps Island on Lake Minnetonka in 1922, the year before Camp Ajawah was born.*
Bill Braddock – Ray Hoag passed on in 2004

AJAWAH BEGINNINGS

By Ray Hoag

This will concentrate mainly on the first year [1923] at Lake Sarah because Camp Ajawah in the summers of 1924 through 1928 was so well described by Charles B. Reif in his article in the magazine "Hennepin History" for Summer 1996 published by the Hennepin History Museum.

My first contact with Troop 33 campers was in 1922. My mother had rented a cottage on Phelps Island in Lake Minnetonka. A friend from my neighborhood and I spent much time exploring Phelps Island. One day we found a group of boys on the edge of an open field. They were trying to start a small fire. They were members of Troop 33. I later realized that they were trying to pass a Second Class Scout requirement.

Later that year at Emerson School, Carleton Beaudette told me that there was a group of boys called "American Indians Scouts" meeting on Friday afternoons at Westminster Church and that I should try it. So I did. This is where I met Kyle Cudworth who became the most important man in my life. Even at his very young age [16], he was great as a leader of ten year old boys.

The following spring [1923] there was a dinner meeting at Westminster for all the scouts and their parents to explain about the new camp at Lake Sarah. We learned that there would be two three week-periods separated by a short break. The cost would be \$15.00

per period or \$25.00 for both periods. Mother said I could go for both periods although I cannot understand how she could handle it.

The person who was the leader in this program was not known to me, but I have always assumed it was Esmond Avery.

The camp location on Lake Sarah was rented from Mr. Klaer, a farmer who previously had used it to rent out boats or for picnics, etc. It only had a small cottage with a good size front porch. There was a shallow well which provided the water for the Mess. The well was used by many of our campers for brushing their teeth. All other washing was done in the lake. The landlord's boats were used by the campers. They were heavy flat bottom craft made from planks. They were very safe and nearly impossible to turn over.

The nine tents were set up on top of a ridge that ran almost parallel to the shore and which was about twenty feet higher than the flat area at its base and the shore line. It was about 40 yards from the first tent to the shore line and more than twice that distance from the last tent to the shore line. The cottage was on the lower level and nearly in front of the first tent which was called the Headquarters. The balance of the tents were numbered from one to eight. Board tent floors were laid. These were made from lumber salvaged from an old red barn. In a later year, another tent floor was laid from new boards between tents four and five. The original tent five became six and the following tents were also renumbered. Old tent eight became Hindquarters. It housed the camp staff.

Each camper tent was for five boys: an older scout for a tent leader, two other Boy Scouts, and two "American Indian Scouts". In tent five the leader was John Morehead, later CEO of the Northwestern National Bank. The Boy Scouts were

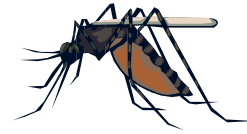
Victor Dodge and Winston Boyce. The "American Indian Scouts" were Francis Gregory and your writer.

I think the headquarters staff consisted of Kyle Cudworth, William Thompson, Hillard Youngblood and Chief Esmond Avery. During the camp period Es could be addressed only as Chief. He was a wild one, a hard driver with more energy than three ordinary men. He had many wild ideas that would be frowned upon today but caused a lot of excitement and no real harm was done..

"The cost would be \$15.00 per 3 week period or \$25.00 for two 3 week periods. Mother said I could go for both periods although I cannot understand how she could handle it."

CAMP AJAWAH *continued*

Ray Hoag



Continued from page 6...

Near the cottage and about the same distance from the shore line a white circus tent was set upon a board floor. It was about twenty feet wide and 50 feet long. This tent was used for the Mess. The cottage was used by the cooks for sleeping and for all the cooking.

There was a camp uniform that consisted of a sleeveless white undershirt and khaki shorts. Although the uniform did not cover much, we did not suffer a lot from sunburn because the whole area was heavily wooded much like the camp at Linwood.

That first year at Lake Sarah was filled with many troubles. The first was the most uncomfortable. We were not prepared for the mosquitoes. They were not so bad at first, but that changed. Then they got so bad that it was impossible to sleep. As a result a large fire was built down near the beach. All campers carried their blankets down from the tents to sleep on the ground around the fire. There was a watermelon treat with singing that went on well into the night. Everyone slept as long as they wanted to the next morning.

That following morning, an emergency staff trip was made back to town. On their return, it was necessary to spend the rest of the day learning how to set up mosquito bars on the cots. This solved the problem.



Photo from the History of Troop 33 at <http://troop33.net/history/history.html>

Storms were a nuisance. The lack of experience of most of the campers in living in tents made it necessary to teach them how to take care of the tents when the tents were wet during the rain to avoid ripping the canvas. The condition of the old tents was a worry.

[Editor's note: These were probably the same kind of tents that we used during the early years at Linwood: Old, worn out army tents, each marked on the outside by the Army with big, black, hand drawn letters "I C" standing for "Inspected & Condemned".]



The most frightening trial was when during a storm the mess tent blew down and was badly damaged. This knocked over the mess tables which were stacked with all the China dishes and caused lots of breakage. Another emergency trip was needed in the camp's model T Ford to get more China and tent repairs. This was accomplished and no meals were missed. All the china was hauled and dumped in the then existing swamp behind the Headquarters tent. The swamp was drained by a work gang in a later year during the spring break and that area became the parade ground. In the process, the broken dishes were "found" again.

Our cooks were Mrs. Christianson and Mrs. Lindahl who were the regular cooks at Westminster church dinners. They lived in the cottage and did all the cooking there. Before the next camping season, a new mess hall was built with its cooking facility including an old fashion coal/wood burning stove.

The first year was rough, but I think we had more fun than campers do today. The longer three week periods with the majority going for six weeks made for a close knit group.

Advancement was easier when you could do it at camp and there was a longer time to get it done.

The facilities of the camp, the youth of its leadership and some of the things done would not be sanctioned by any authority today. The use of fakes at swimming and boating periods to provide excitement would be frowned upon by mature people. A mutiny to avoid going on a hike by the second highest leader in camp was probably a bad idea.

Despite all the problems Camp Ajawah survived and grew. **Thank God that it did !!!**

This article provided to lakesarah.com by Bill Braddock, Editor - Camp Ajawah Alums, P.O. Box 356, Cedar, MN. 55011

Original story as transcribed here by Brad Spencer on May 4, 2005 with all apologies for any errors that may have escaped my attention.

**Lake Sarah Improvements Association
P.O. Box 25, Loretto, MN 55357-0025**

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LSIA Membership - New Annual Record

**Brad Spencer
LSIA Membership Director**

The total paid memberships to LSIA for 2005 reached 154 as of September 1st establishing a new record for annual memberships. The LSIA Board of Directors thanks everyone for their continued support of our organization!

If you are interested in joining the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, please contact Brad

Spencer at b.spencer@lakesarah.com. Take a moment to check out all the activities LSIA is involved in at www.lakesarah.com.

Onyx Waste Services is currently offering significantly discounted group residential trash service to all LSIA members.