



Portage Lake Association, P.O. Box 493 Onekama, Mi 49675

## **Portage Lake Association President's Letter for April 2011**

Spring is on the way, I have crocus blossoming and birds singing and soon warmer temperatures will be here. The PLA is busy planning our Annual Fundraiser Dinner and Auction which is under the leadership of Al Taylor and is set for June 18, 2011 at Little River Casino and Convention Center. Be sure to mark your calendars for an evening of good food and fun with a chance to support the Portage Lake Association and community.

In this mailing you will find an envelope in which you may support the PLA in the Petunia Parade. Onekama has the most spectacular display of flowers in the county and you can help with a donation of money or your time by contacting Tammy Messner at [tammy.h@charter.net](mailto:tammy.h@charter.net)

### **Portage Lake Association Ballot for CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2011**

#### **NOMINATIONS:**

- 1. Dennis Zupin** – was chosen as Manistee News Advocate Citizen of the Year Award, a third generation resident of Onekama. He has volunteered at the Onekama schools since his oldest child entered kindergarten and continues today after his third child has graduated. His activities include: running the clock at basketball games, assisting with the ski program, officiating at track meets, serving on the School Board, helping run the Onekama Days 5K run, Picnic in the Park fundraisers, providing an experience in hatching chicken eggs for kindergarten class, active at St. Joseph Church, and with the Boy Scouts. He is a perfect role model not only for children in the Onekama community but adults also.
- 2. David Meister** – a local agricultural businessman, a family man with historic roots in the area and Township Supervisor for Onekama Township for 19 years. David has shown deep interest in the area by his vision for the township and leadership in helping the township area in controlled growth. David is a perceptive leader that shows future vision, but respects the present citizens and the historic value of our local culture. David has been especially adept in bringing factions from both the township and Onekama Village together to build the area with consensus. David, probably better than anyone, understands the needs and future of the area. I consider him a real strong foundation and dedicated local leader. He truly has made Onekama and the Portage Lake area a better place to live.
- 3. Chuck May** – a leader in the Harbor Commission of Portage Lake, which is an organization appointed by the Onekama Township Board. Chuck has spent untold hours and travel time in promoting not only Portage Lake boating and harbor but in Harbors all over Michigan and the Great Lakes area. He has spent time and effort in Lansing and Washington D. C. talking to government and elected officials regarding the lakes, harbors, and the sport fishing conditions

of the entire Great Lakes. Chuck has recently been named the **Boat US “Person of the Year”** for his work in this regard. Boat US is a National organization and Magazine devoted to boating and safety throughout the USA. Chuck is a local resident, avid fisherman and active member of the PLA.

**4. Marilyn Acker** – was born and raised in Onekama and graduated from Onekama High School. She attended Ferris State University where she earned a degree in Cosmetology. She married William Acker 53 years ago and then opened her salon in their house, had 4 children and operated Townline Building Supply and Acker Acres Farm. Marilyn has continued to be active in the raising of her children, 9 grandchildren, and now 2 great-grandchildren. Over the years she has also found time to be part of: the rescue team, a support group for those who have lost children, the Church of the Brethren choir, petunia Parade, master plan steering committee, school bond co-chair, the scarecrow project and the snowmen that appear in the village. She loves Onekama and always strives to make it a beautiful, caring small town.

**5. Allen Taylor** – is fairly new to our community but he has made his presence known in a very positive way. His vast experience of working with volunteer groups has been put to use in our community. He is Vice-President of the PLA, Chairman of the Fundraiser Committee which is planning our event for June 18, 2011, on the Board of United Way, Planning Commission of Onekama and he has organized and started a Volunteer/Mentor Program at the Onekama Schools. He has also organized a committee to present two scholarships from the PLA to Onekama School students.

**6. Lee LaFleur** – was originally from Manistee, having moved to the Onekama Community a few years ago. A successful business man, he began to put his skills to work for the Portage Lake Association. Two years ago he was Vice President of the PLA and Chairman of our Fundraiser Dinner and Auction. With his guidance the event was moved to Little River Casino and Resort. His many ideas for promotion and success led to the highest attendance and most profit ever achieved. Although he is not on the PLA Board now he is an active member of the Fundraiser committee and a great promoter of Onekama and the PLA.

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**Please vote for one candidate for PLA Citizen of the Year Award. Return your ballot to Margaret PUNCHES at P.O. Box 493, Onekama, MI 49675 or [mpunches@charter.net](mailto:mpunches@charter.net) by April 30th, 2011.**

**I vote for \_\_\_\_\_ for PLA Citizen of the Year for 2011**

**The winner will be announced at the PLA Fundraiser Dinner and Auction on June 18, 2011**