



April 13, 2022

To our members: New Look, New Membership Campaign, New Platform

Greetings from the Les Cheneaux Islands Association:

One hundred years ago our ancestors founded the Les Cheneaux Islands Association. Since then, LCIA has made traveling our waters safer, our cottages more protected and our community stronger. Now, in honor of our Centennial year, we are excited to share with you some changes the LCIA board of directors has implemented to make the association more inclusive of all residents, to make membership easier, to improve communications and to provide even more support to our community.

New Look

You may have already noticed we have a new look. Under the leadership of the Communications Committee, we took a look at all of our materials and realized we could better communicate a more cohesive message to reflect the spirit of the Islands, who we are as an organization and what we do. We contracted with long-time resident and professional designer, Rachael Bentley, to redesign our logo and give us a brand identity better reflecting our values and more conducive to our tech-savvy world. Our plan is to use our new logo in the community and on merchandise you will be proud to display, helping to raise awareness of our association and all we do for the Les Cheneaux Island area. Be sure to look for our new logo on our booth and banners at all of the events this summer.

New Member Platform

Next, many thanks to Al McCord and Esther Engle who have been instrumental in the selection, analysis and a customization process of the online member management system we will be launching in May. The new system will allow members to maintain their information, renew memberships, make donations and purchase property inspections online. In addition, the online directory will make it easier for all of us to connect with each other. This technology is a game-changer in helping us grow our membership, plan events and become a more inclusive community organization. You will shortly receive an email with more information about this new system and how to get started. The good news is your membership information has already been uploaded, so you will just need to confirm your information. When your membership is up for renewal in July, you will be able to easily pay directly through the member management system via credit card, debit card, or electronic bank transfer.

LESCHENEAUXISLANDSASSOCIATION

1158 S. Park Ave. Cedarville, MI 49719 USA

Website: www.islandsassoc.org

E-Mail: lescheneauxislandsassociation@gmail.com

Phone: 906-484-2258



New Membership Categories

LCIA has just under 500 members and this number has remained steady for more than a decade. To ensure LCIA is a community association for everyone who enjoys the Les Cheneaux islands, we are ‘unbundling’ membership dues from cottage inspection fees. For summer and island residents, nine months (Sept thru May) of cottage inspections is a wonderful and valued service. However, since our current membership fees are inclusive of inspection fees, it’s been a challenge to attract new members who do not need inspections. This includes local residents, businesses, young adults and summer residents who share cottages. By separating membership from inspections, we hope to grow LCIA and do even more for the betterment of our community.

Here is what this means for you. Your membership fee will be \$50. Once you choose your inspection needs, that cost will be added to the cost of your membership. Additionally, to attract more young adults to join LCIA, we are adding a new “under 40” membership category priced at \$25 per year. We are also planning some special events to engage new members and help all our members connect with each other while they are in the area.

How You Can Help

Our wish is to increase our membership so we can better serve our community. Please consider helping us by encouraging others to join by reminding them of all the good things our organization does. These great efforts are reflected in the Association’s Community Pillars:

P R O T E C T I N G

- Annual placement and removal of over 120 navigational buoys throughout the islands to protect boaters from underwater hazards.
- Free boating safety classes for boaters 12 years and older providing boaters safety certification and a free personal floatation device (PFD).
More than 75 certifications were awarded in 2021.
- Financial and volunteer contributions to local projects including the Cedarville Harbor project, ADA kayak launch, fire and rescue boat, Cedar Post Pantry, Les Cheneaux Community Library, Clark Township recycling, Frog Fest and more.
Community contributions have totaled \$25,000 over the past ten years.



I N S P E C T I N G

- Seasonal property inspections (Sept thru May) for more than 350 summer residents.
- Monitoring and reporting new waterway hazards due to environmental changes.
- Monitoring of water quality, wildlife, fish and invasive species.

C O N N E C T I N G

- Liaison between members and local township government.
- Sponsorship and participation in local community events.
- Coordination with other non-profit community organizations.
- Informative newsletters and notifications for our members

An important goal of our association is keeping us connected to each other. While this has been a challenge the past two years, we are looking to re-connect in person this year. We hope to see you at the annual 4th of July parade, as we march in honor of our 100th year. And be sure to stop by our newly designed booth at the parade, Hessel Boat Show and other events. We will also look forward to you joining us in July at our New Members Reception. As a pre-note, this year's annual business meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3. The meeting will be followed by a special 100 Year Anniversary Celebration event where we will gather together under a tent on the lawn of the Hessel School House. More details in our Spring Newsletter.

We encourage you to make good use of our new online membership directory. It's a great tool you can use for planning informal meet-ups. There is already an active book club and guided nature walk group. Consider knitting groups, boat docking demonstrations and other fun activities to connect with each other and build community.

We look forward to seeing you all this summer and thank you for your continued membership in LCIA. Here's to another one hundred years of working together for the betterment of our Les Cheneaux Island community.

Thank you,

Mike Patrick
LCIA President