

# SacheenSCOPE



Celebrating 52 Years of Stewardship and Friendship at Sacheen!

Autumn 2009

SacheenSCOPE . . . since 1988  
(edited by Carol Hood and Karen Averitt)

## Outdoor Fire Safety

By Chief Mark Havener

The Volunteers at South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue are as excited about fall activities as you are. We all enjoy a nice outdoor fire from time to time. Marshmallows, hotdogs, s'mores and fun with our family and friends all add to our outdoor enjoyment in the fall. With the recent change in weather the fire districts have been busy responding to calls for open burning. The office at South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue receives multiple calls about outdoor/open burning. With this in mind, we need to keep in mind some safety tips with outdoor fires.

Most people are careful with fire. They build fires in the right places at the right time. They keep them the proper size and put them out before leaving them. Here are some tips to have safe outdoor fires.

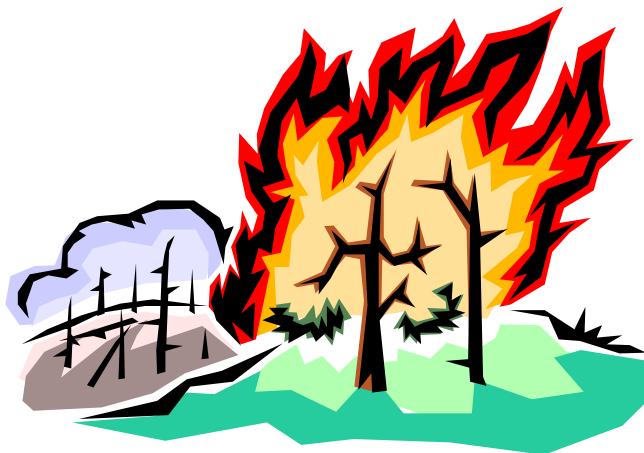
Check local regulations on opening burning. Right now with the well-deserved cooler temperatures and some moisture we are not under any open burning limitations. If you have any question if you are allowed to have an outdoor fire, call first.

Don't burn trash! Not only are the smoke and gases harmful to you and the environment, these fires are blown around much more easily and can lead to fire extension beyond control. Never burn aerosol cans. Heated cans can explode. Recycling is free in Pend Oreille County. Our trash disposal is a reasonable expense in place of the alternative of burning.

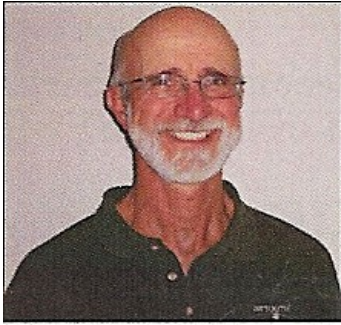
Burning agricultural residue and forest litter is sometimes a necessity. Be sure you are fully prepared before starting your fire. The fire is not allowed to be

any larger than 4 feet in diameter. Burn only natural materials. You will need a source of water, a bucket and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire. A fire containment line should be scratched in the dirt before lighting the fire. With large fires contact the DNR for a permit before burning.

Campfires should be built away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, logs, and dry grass. Pile extra wood away from the fire. Start the fire small and add to it. Keep plenty of water available and have a shovel available to toss dirt on the fire to control it. Keep your fire small. A good bed of coals surrounded by rocks gives plenty of heat. Scrape away a 10 foot circle around your fire to keep the fire from spreading. Never leave a campfire unattended! When you are done with the fire, put it out with water and stir with a shovel; add some more water. The fire area should be cool to your bare hand. Do not bury your coals. They can smolder and break out.



# The President's Message



## Stewardship –

Every day I am filled with wonder at the beauty of this place where we live or come to spend our “off” time. The lake and the forest and our watershed are truly a beautiful and special place. When I grew up here it was a primitive and wild place, by most standards, and what a great experience it was to work with my parents and siblings to build our home here.

The lake has changed dramatically in the years since then, and I am reminded almost daily of the cumulative detrimental impact of our population. What I find perhaps the most disturbing is to find there are those who would deny that the lake is in any sort of trouble, and insist that no action is needed to protect our lake and offset at least some of the degradation that Sacheen has endured over the last 50 years. To put it bluntly, I find that to be incredibly naïve. Action most certainly IS needed. The challenges are numerous:

- Out-of-date or nonexistent septic systems are causing nutrient loading and contamination of the lake.
- Beaver dams and choking vegetation are restricting water flow in the outlet, causing high water and demanding exhaustive maintenance efforts to prevent flooding and shoreline erosion.
- Invasive weeds, both land and water varieties, are spreading like wild-fire.
- Increasing boat traffic, especially high-wake types, are resulting in damage to the shoreline.
- Further development, if not man-

Photo by Carol Hood

aged, threatens our woodland habitat.

And I know there are many more issues; contact me at our website, [www.SacheenLake.com](http://www.SacheenLake.com) to let me know your main concern. I'll do what I can to raise awareness and work to find answers.

I feel privileged to represent the members of the Association in working with our Board of Directors to address these concerns. Through education and specific actions, we are working to protect our lake, for all of us. A few of the initiatives we took on this last year include:

- Our “Sewer Sacheen” subcommittee worked to get the word out that the lake would benefit greatly from a sewer system.
- Our volunteer teams have worked hard to keep the beaver deceiver tubes cleared and startup beaver dams torn down to keep the lake level under control.
- Training on boating safety and “rules” were included in the General Meeting.
- The Association funded, and members assisted with the fabrication of ‘bottom barriers’ placed by Sewer & Water District divers to control milfoil.
- Plans were prepared and accepted for an information kiosk to be constructed at the Myers-Harter Sanctuary. Construction is planned for this

Winter.

The upcoming election is an opportunity for each of us to do something tangible to help the lake. The Sewer and Water District (S&WD) needs operating funds. Your vote **for** the Maintenance and Operations Levy will support beaver mitigation projects the Association is pushing for, continued milfoil control, water quality monitoring, and continuing the effort to develop a viable approach to sewerage the lake.

Your vote **for** the special bond issue will provide for purchase of land for the sewer system, whatever treatment approach is selected. Securing the land now makes sense; it may not be available in the future and almost certainly wouldn't cost less.

I urge you to study the information from the candidates for S&WD Commissioner positions, and vote carefully. We all have a stake in stewardship of Sacheen Lake, whether we live here full time or not.

Enjoy autumn at the lake – it's a beautiful time of year. As we brace for another winter, it's good to take a few moments to savor the clean air & changing tree colors, and the calm lake surface. What a gift, this place we have stewardship over.



## You Can Shop Year Round!

No need to wait for the annual picnic or Christmas. Call **Virginia Hill at 509/447-0960** and schedule a time to come to her house and shop for high quality Sacheen Lake merchandise.

### News from the Ladies of the Lake

**Stratton Elementary School Craft Fair.** Dec 5th we will be selling Cookbooks and Calendars

**Ladies of the Lake, Community Christmas Party at the Sacheen Fire Station.** Dec 6th, Time to be announced. Vendors are welcomed. Donations from Sacheen Lake Assoc and Save Our Sacheen are funding the festivities. Santa will be there for the kids! We will have Cookbooks and Calendars for sale. Come enjoy good company and great food.

**Ladies of the Lake Cookbooks** This has been in the works for a very long time. Thanks to Dorothy, Louise, Linda, Jeri, Sug & Denise, we have now accomplished the goal. They will make great Christmas Gifts. They should be available early December.

**Ladies of the Lake 2010 Calendars,** we still have a few for sale. If you haven't picked yours up contact Jill at 447-4499. If you are new to the Lake and would like to join our group, go to our web site [www.sacheenlol.org](http://www.sacheenlol.org) or call me.

Jill Short, President, Ladies of the Lake

### 2009 ANNUAL PICNIC

Another successful annual SBA/SLA picnic drew 75 residents to our Myers-Harter Sanctuary August 15<sup>TH</sup>. Plan on coming next year when the Board will arrange games-a-plenty for an action-packed gathering among those wishing to be more active.



Diane Wear Don Hill Kent Dyekman Brad Hood

**Wanted:** Historical photos of Sacheen Lake's early days. We have heard tales of a giant water ski achievement by the teenagers in the 50s, wherein they had 13 up at one time! Anyone have a picture of this feat? Call Don Hill - 447-0960

### Quarterly Lake Level Update

The summer water level in the lake has remained relatively stable. Higher water levels, such as on August 14, were the result of a big rain storm. Drops in water level are thanks to your beaver tube maintenance crew, this summer headed by Don Hill.

Date	Lake Level	Date	Lake Level
7/3/09	8.5	8/21/09	8.56
7/10/09	8.4	8/28/09	8.46
7/17/09	8.46	9/4/09	8.45
7/24/09	8.41	9/11/09	8.45
7/31/09	8.45	9/18/09	8.48
8/7/09	8.47	9/25/09	8.58
8/14/09	8.57		

Footnote: The lake level is measured each Friday at the outflow bridge on Fertile Valley Road.

An inch of water in Sacheen is almost 9 million gallons of water! There are three beaver dams on the West Branch of the Little Spokane River that slow down the release of water from our lake. As you know, the Sewer and Water District has a permit from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain two 24" culverts in the dams to improve the flow of water. The beavers make it their business to plug up these tubes. The tubes must be cleared about every other week to keep the water flowing to keep the lake level at a reasonable level. On behalf of the Sewer and Water District, the Sacheen Lake Association has been keeping the beaver tubes clear. Don Hill has been leading this effort this year. He needs your help. Please call or email him (see back page) if you are willing to assist in cleaning out the tubes. Thanks!

Here's a list of intrepid "Beaver Buster" volunteers who have helped Don this season:

Perry & Joe Pearman	Rich Prange
Garth Christensen	Mike Harrison
John Pargman	Brian Hood
Joanie Suttle	Jim Morris
Dan White	Al Pool
Chris Hill	Brad Wear

## August Letter from Biologist, Dave Lamb, to Sewer & Water Commissioners

*In response to a question from a property owner clarifying a previous statement about Sacheen Lake, Biologist Dave Lamb, SLS&WD Lake Management Consultant, replied to the S&WD Commissioners in August:*

“Well, I will reiterate that I do support, strongly support, the Sacheen residents’ efforts to construct a sewer system for all of Sacheen Lake. I feel that this is one of the most important efforts that could be undertaken to protect the long term health of the lake. But because the “health” of the lake is a function of many factors, I can see that my statement may be taken too broadly from the context in which it was offered. As I remember, we were discussing the 303D listing of Sacheen Lake for coliform bacteria and total phosphorus. From that limited perspective, I indicated that the data available (which is extensive for phosphorus but limited for bacteria) would lead me to state that I felt the lake quality is good for swimming and other forms of “primary contact recreation”. That is the current state of affairs, as I see it.

As I tried to point out in the 2002 - 2007 summary report for the milfoil controls grants, nutrient levels are not seen as excessive in spite of a few higher results for total phosphorus in these recent years. These “few higher results” do not make the lake bad for swimming or any other use currently but they may be an indication that water quality is being impacted by activities in the lake or watershed that are causing these higher levels of nutrients (i.e., phosphorus from on-site sewer systems, shoreline erosion, livestock grazing, shoreline fertilizer use, boats stirring up bottom sediments, even kids peeing in the water). However, of all these activities, the on-site sewer systems (septic tanks) likely have the greatest potential for introducing nutrients, and bacteria, viruses and other pathogens into the lake, given age of systems, proximity to the

lake etc. The nutrients themselves will not directly make the lake quality deteriorate but will cause increased productivity of algae which will cause reduced clarity, blooms and other symptoms of poor quality.

So, do I support the sewerage of Sacheen Lake for sound scientific reasons? Yes, I believe so. Do I think that we should be swimming, skiing, wading, even diving in the lake, absolutely!! But, do you see the distinction?

I am aware that Don Hill looked at some of the available lake data and presented a graphic showing an increasing phosphorus trend in the lake. I have not gone through his data set or the data analysis process to verify or deny this finding. But I can say that this would not be the first lake which has lakeshore development and a high level of recreational uses to show such a trend -- in fact, this is specifically what is referred to as “Cultural eutrophication”.

So, does it make sense to invest in the future of clean water in Sacheen through the construction of a sewer system? It sure does to me!

I hope that this helps to clarify what I said before. I have really enjoyed my many years of work on, in and around Sacheen Lake and I hope to maintain involvement in the milfoil control and water quality protection efforts. I wish you all the best of luck in developing a consensus regarding the need for a whole-lake sewer system and I am willing to come to the lake to answer these types of questions in a public forum if that would be constructive.”

Regards,  
Dave Lamb

### Sewer & Water Commissioners

Please vote for your three choices as our Sacheen Lake Sewer & Water District Commissioners when you receive your ballots:

Position #1 Perry Pearman (Write-in)

Jill Short

Position #2 Maria Bullock

Gary Garrett

Position #3 Peggy Johnsen

Richard Prange

See candidates’ statements on page 6. 

### ABOUT BEAVERS

Our Sewer & Water District Commissioner **Jeff Storms** has been working diligently making numerous calls to secure a beaver trapper for Sacheen. It has taken weeks to hear back from them and to try to arrange the permits to allow for the 30 day window allowed to do trapping.

Jeff says it may be too late for this year so the commissioners should ask for a permit next spring which would allow trapping in the fall for a specific period of 45 days. Permission has to be received from all the land owners on the river prior to trapping which slows the

process just with paperwork. He continues working on this to see if it can happen this month.

Thanks to Jeff for spending his time and energy arranging permits and people to help reduce the numbers of dam-makers.

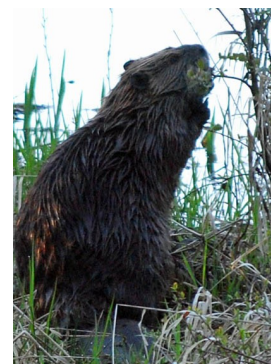


Photo by Carol Hood

## WALPA CONFERENCE REPORT

Since none of the SBA/SLA Board Members were able to attend the WALPA annual meeting last month, we paid the registration fee for a volunteer to bring back a report. Peggy Johnsen was our representative from Sacheen Lake. In fact, the WALPA President asked her to give a presentation about community activity on the lake, which she did, so the other lake reps would know what our status is now. Unfortunately, some of them believed that we still have folks blowing up the beaver dams! This is Peggy's report from the conference:

Attending the Washington State Lake Protection Association (WALPA) conference on September 22-23, 2009 in Spokane was an honor and an outstanding educational experience. The theme for this fall conference was: *Healthy Watersheds and Clean Lakes-Working for a Sustainable Future*. Each day provided choices and opportunities to hear thoughtful and diverse presentations. The presenters ranged from lake community members; Washington and Idaho state departments of ecology, and health directors; university researchers; city and county agency managers; tribal leaders; and professionals in the private technical equipment companies.

### Septic System Nitrogen Leaks:

**Michael Brett**, University of Washington professor and researcher, provided the findings of a three year study to measure the amount of released nitrogen from septic systems along the shoreline of the Hood Canal Estuary. **What was most pertinent for us at Sacheen Lake to learn: that a drain field from a septic system can only absorb, AT BEST, 50% of the nitrogen - 4.5 kg per year. The remaining nitrogen will move through the soil ... with gravity's assistance.** We can anticipate where the nitrogen from our drain fields is going!

### Milfoil Eradication or Maintenance:

The one recommendation that I gleaned from several pres-

entations of lakes (the size of ours) that were successful in **eradicating** their milfoil was to provide water and electricity at public launches to assist boaters to efficiently clean their equipment. Cocolalla Lake in Idaho maintains a full-time "guest" at their public launching site. This site provides hot water and a high-pressure water hose that is used; not only for milfoil, but for the possibility of the dreaded Zebra/Quagga mussels that Idaho is committed to "NEVER cross their borders" ... this statement from Tomas Woolf, director of Idaho's Invasive Species Department. We have the opportunity to be creative with our Sacheen Lake situation and perhaps move from our yearly maintenance of keeping milfoil in check to, perhaps, eradicating some day.

### Aquatic Invasive Species:

**Jennifer Parson**, Washington State Department of Ecology provided thorough and basic understanding of invasive species and explored how lake communities can stop their spread. Jennifer graciously shared slides from her power point presentation with me and I now share them with you.\* This knowledge allows us to be proactive and vigilant in order to take ownership in being stewards of our lake.

### And Finally:

There is no doubt that our Sacheen Lake Association is wise in being a member of the WALPA. I would encourage you to attend the next conference. The North American Lake Management Society's (NALMS) yearly conference will be in Spokane in 2010!! I will attend. In fact, I have personally become a member of this association; for just \$55 I will receive four issues of *LakeLine Magazine* per year, conference registration and Book Store discounts, and access to all portions of the NALMS website. I have lots to learn and this will benefit, not only my own curiosity, but the lakes' future!

\*The slide show referred to in P Johnsen's report—[Minimizing the Spread of Invasive Species](#)—will be also be posted on the SLA website at [http://www.sacheenlake.com/Sewer\\_and\\_Water.htm](http://www.sacheenlake.com/Sewer_and_Water.htm).



Photo by Carol Hood



Photo by Carol Hood

# Sewer & Water District Commissioner Candidates' Statements

## Position 1

Jill Short—

Property owner at Sacheen since 1989, full time since 2001.  
Career in mortgage lending for 26 years, part of those years was owner of a mortgage broker firm.  
Be a neutral commissioner to insure all residents are fully informed and to make sure property owners hear the advantages and disadvantages. I'm also willing to evaluate reasons for alternative points of view.  
President of Sacheen Ladies of the Lake since December 2005.  
Current Commissioner #1 of Sacheen Sewer and Water District since Nov 2008.

Perry Pearman—(write-in)

It you believe it's time to install a cost-effective sewer system around Sacheen Lake, write-in Perry Pearman for Position 1.

- Board member from 1991-1997 as secretary and commissioner. We got grants, floated a bond, and knocked down the milfoil.
- I have a BS in Construction Management and a Grad Certificate in Reliability Engineering. I was Chief Field Engineer for construction of Ponderay Newsprint, which included a lagoon system and a large drainfield system.
- Lake activities: Milfoil Control Diver, installed and maintained beaver pipes, collected water quality data, Sacheen Lake Firefighter/EMT.

I am ready to remove our effluent from our watershed.

## Position 2

Maria Bullock—

From North Carolina, moving to Washington in 2003.  
Education includes NCSU and UNC in Business Management.  
Square D Co, HR Manager, retired.  
Community involvement includes former SBA board member, Sacheen Ladies of the Lake, and the Pend Oreille County Commissioner Salary Commission.  
I hope to bring fresh ideas to the Board, while seeking to insure all residents' concerns are addressed, all suggestions are considered, and the most cost effective approach for the sewer is found. I feel of equal importance are issues impacting Sacheen Lake, such as M&O funding, milfoil eradication, beaver mitigation, and reducing water level.

Gary Garrett—

I want to be a member of the Sacheen Water and Sewer Board. As a 35-year banker I approved, processed and negotiated hundreds of loans and business plans. Many of them for millions of dollars. This work experience will help the board and community during engineering studies, land purchases, budget monitoring and expense control. This board membership will continue my long history of community involvement. Highlights are: Board of Directors, Washington Bankers Associations; Chairman of the Board, Spokane County United Way; President, Holy Family Hospital Foundation; Board member Sacheen Betterment Association; Chairman, Eastern Washington University Business School Advisory Board.

## Position 3

Peggy Johnsen—

A thirty-five year career in teaching and administration has honed the skills that I will use in all Sewer and Water Board meetings: facilitate group consensus; invite debates that exhibit respectful civility; provide focused published agendas; and offer consistent protocol that will ensure progress and results. My personal life-long legacy of 62 years at Sacheen also gives credibility to serve as commissioner. I am a caretaker and steward of Sacheen and its' environs, committed for sustainable solutions to maintain, if not improve, this delicate environment which includes shoreline, wetland, watershed, and water viability. I seek and appreciate your vote.

Richard Prange—

I have serious concerns with the process being used to resolve the "lake-wide sewer" issue. After attending multiple regular/public meetings, many questions remain unanswered. The research/cost hasn't been completed on other potential systems. We've been given inaccurate statements regarding our water quality while all scientific data/studies suggest good recreational water quality. We need facts, fairness, and decision-making. Spending a large amount of money over 20-30 years should require a well thought out, researched, and openly discussed process with seasonal residents represented. I will endeavor to see this issue resolved in a fair/honest manner.

# November Election: Propositions 1 & 2

## Proposition 1 – ONE YEAR EXCESS LEVY FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

Shall the following taxes, in excess of regular, non-voted property tax levies, for operation and maintenance purposes be levied for Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District's General Fund upon all taxable property within the District;

A tax of approximately \$0.80 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation (based on true and fair value) to provide \$56,835 said levy to be made in 2009 for collection in 2010.

## Proposition 2 – GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND—\$505,000

The Board of Commissioners of Sacheen Lake Sewer and Water District adopted Resolution No. 09-03 concerning this proposition to continue to make long-term improvements to district facilities. This proposition authorizes the District to acquire land, replace, renovate, construct, equip, and make capital improvements to the District's facilities, and make other capital improvements as part of the District's Comprehensive Plan/Facility Plan, to issue up to \$505,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 10 years, and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 09-03.

## Fire Prevention Week October 4-10

By Alex Arnold, SPOFR Outreach Coordinator

October means Fire Prevention Week. This year's message being delivered is: *Stay fire smart, don't get burned*. All of us South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue are sharing this message throughout our community. We have three challenges for your families this year.

First, know and practice your emergency evacuation drill. Do you and your family have one? Does everyone know and understand where your "safe" meeting spot is? Does everyone know two ways out? A family evacuation plan is a simple "family time" event that can be talked about or written out. Here at SPOFR we have evacuation maps available for you to download and use courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//FPW09/FPW09EscapeGrid.pdf>. Some simple ideas to make it an educational family time are to give each family member a sheet of paper. Allow them to each draw the house and their room. Then have each family member show what they plan to use for escape route(s) and how they will get to that safe meeting place. It only takes a few minutes to do. Hang up the map on your children's door so that they can see it on a regular basis. This will better prepare them in case of a fire emergency.

Second, check your smoke alarms. This is the perfect time

to hold a fire drill. Your family has just discussed the evacuation plan, now put it to use in a drill. With that check your smoke alarm's batteries and blow it out. A simple can of compressed air, available at your local hardware store, will do the trick. Remember safety when you blow it out, have on that eye protection. Once you have done the maintenance on your alarm(s) then press that *test* button and watch your family practice their escape plan. It has been shown a great number of children will sleep through a smoke alarm. Practice when they're awake, but also practice occasionally when they are asleep. This will help you to address any issues before a real fire emergency.

Third, make sure that any children that spend the night know the plan also. In fact, anyone that spends the night or stays for any length of time should be included or know your family evacuation plan. This will help them in case of a fire emergency. It may also help plant a seed when they go home to influence their family and fire emergency plan.

The volunteers of South Pend Oreille Fire and Rescue want to remind you that fire prevention is not a one week, once-a-year event. Fire emergency planning and prevention should be an on-going event in your home. Look to [www.spo-fr.org](http://www.spo-fr.org) for further information about fire preven-

### **Cheese 'N Sausage Strata** (main dish recipe)

Submitted by Sue Harrison

1/2 lb bulk pork sausage	1/2 lb VELVEETA cheese spread, cubed
3/4 c sliced mushrooms	4 c (3/4") bread cubes
1/4 c sliced green onions	1 c milk
4 eggs, beaten	

Brown sausage; drain. Add vegetables, continue cooking 5 min; drain. Set aside to cool 10 min. Stir together sausage mixture, VELVEETA cheese and bread cubes; place in

greased 8" sq baking dish. Beat milk and eggs together. Pour over sausage mixture. Cover; refrigerate several hours. Preheat oven to 350F. Remove cover. Bake 50-55 min or until golden brown. Let stand 10 min before serving. Garnish as desired. Makes 6 servings.



SacheenSCOPE  
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**STAY INFORMED~**  
 Join the SLA email list.  
 If you aren't on the SLA email list already,  
 please send your request to be added to:  
[lakesend@gmail.com](mailto:lakesend@gmail.com)  
 If you would like to be removed, submit  
 changes or corrections, please let us know!

<b>Sacheen Lake Association Board</b>		
President:	Don Hill 509/447-0960 DVJH@aol.com	Eastshore
Vice Chair:	Brian Hood 509/447-3124 LakesEnd@gmail.com	Sacheen Shores
Secretary:	Beryl Pielli 509/447-3793 lbpielli@povn.com	At-large
Treasurer:	Linda Benzo 509/447-4912 phillin63@hotmail.com	Kohles Beach
•	Lance Barklen, 509/447-0247 barklen@cox.net	Mt. View
•	Mary Maxfield, 509/447-0275 spokanemary@yahoo.com	Eisenbarth's Addition
•	Jack Burns 509/447-9234 jburns@whitworth.edu	Reed's Addition
•	Linda Walters, 509/447-0446 codynlinda@surf1.ws	West End
•	Jerry Johnsen, 509/447-4587 Jj_at_lake@yahoo.com	Schaefer's Beach
Immediate Past President:		Terrace
•	Karen Averitt, 509/447-0934 averkare@povn.com	



- Special dates of interest:**
- **Nov. 1**—Daylight savings time ends. Turn clocks back one hour.
  - **Dec. 6**—That's the date of the Annual Community Christmas party at the fire station hosted by Ladies of the Lake.
  - **Buy beautiful Sacheen calendars and cook-books as gifts! See details on our website. [www.sacheenlol.org](http://www.sacheenlol.org) Sales benefit our fire department and local charities.**
  - **Dec. 9**—LoL Christmas party, 12 noon, at Karen Averitt's home.