



Oneida Lake Association
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Greetings!



Greetings OLA members. This issue of the E-news contains two important items--A report of a charitable grant that the OLA received, as well as an urgent **Call to Action! Please read the entire newsletter to learn how you can help.**

Thank you, Meyer's RV of Syracuse

Meyer's RV of Syracuse and the Bill and Kristin Fenech Foundation have announced a major donation to the Oneida Lake Association.

The Fenech Foundation was established to provide charitable funding on behalf of Barletta Pontoon Boats. This Foundation has made generous donations throughout the country, supporting causes such as animal shelters and donating tens of thousands of masks to prevent the spread of covid. Recently, the Foundation channeled \$16,111 through Meyer's RV of Syracuse who generously chose the Oneida Lake Association as its beneficiary. Furthermore, the leadership at Meyer's chose to match that donation, adding another \$16,111 to the grant!

Bill Fenech is the President and Founder of Barletta Pontoon Boats. His foundation has partnered with charitable groups all across the country to support the communities they do business in. Meyer's RV is the local Barletta Pontoon Boat dealer, located at 8575 Brewerton Road in Cicero NY. Bill and Kristin state, "We're thrilled to participate in the many wonderful charities that are important to you and your community to make a positive impact in the lives of others."

Mike Fleming, General Manager of Meyer's RV of Syracuse, a frequent boater and fisherman on Oneida Lake, stated " We're honored to be able to make this donation to the Oneida Lake Association. We hope this donation will enhance their environmental conservation efforts to help further protect Oneida Lake."

On Thursday, December 2, Meyer's made a formal check presentation to Board members from the OLA.

OLA President, John Harmon, assured the Meyer's sales team that the Association will carefully manage the grant, with all financial decision made by the entire Board.

The OLA thanks Meyer's RV and the Fenech Foundation for this very generous award!

From left to right:

Mike Fleming, from Meyer's RV
John Harmon, OLA President
George Reck, OLA Director
Kurt Snyder, OLA Director



Legislative Alert!

OLA members, please take action today!

The Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors has just learned of newly proposed state legislation that poses a threat to Oneida Lake's fish and game. This bill provides loopholes that allow members of tribal nations to hunt and fish without complying with certain New York State laws intended to protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations, **whether they are on or off nation lands.**

We urge every OLA member to contact the Governor today to stop this bill from being signed.

Specifically, Senate Bill S5266 **weakens longstanding environmental conservation laws against the over-limit harvest, out-of-season harvest, and commercial sale of fish and game**, regardless of where the harvest happens. You can read the full text of S5266 [at this link](#).

We urge our OLA members to contact Governor Hochul as soon as possible! You can [click here](#) to leave a message or you can call [1-518-474-8390](tel:1-518-474-8390).

When you make contact, we encourage you to respectfully tell Governor Hochul the following three things:

1. I am a member of the Oneida Lake Association;
2. I oppose S5266 because I am against weakening the laws that protect our local fish and game populations, especially laws against commercial sale of fish; and
3. I want S5266 to be vetoed.

If you have an extra moment, contact your Senator and Member of Assembly too. You can contact them through <https://www.nysenate.gov/registration/nojs/form/start/find-my-senator> and <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>.

Time is of the essence. Your OLA Board didn't learn of S5266 until after it had passed both the Senate and Assembly. The sponsors of the bill did not reach out to any conservation-minded organizations to get their input. Last Friday, the bill was delivered to Governor Hochul's desk for her signature. Your OLA Directors immediately wrote Governor Hochul in opposition. We still have a window of time for members to respectfully contact the Governor and other elected officials to oppose this bill.

Please keep in mind that **the OLA explicitly respects and values the rights of the tribal nation members with whom we all share Oneida Lake.** We believe that the State and tribal nations are partners in conservation, but this law is not written in a way that supports that partnership. S5266 undermines 125 years of conservation law and fisheries science that have done a great job of protecting Oneida Lake. So please, take a moment to contact Governor Hochul today to politely ask her to veto S5266!

We'll keep you updated as we learn more about this evolving situation.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Board of Directors wishes
you a safe and pleasant Holiday
Season!



Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

\$8 annually

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!



Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.



[Website](#) [Who We Are](#) [What We Do](#) [How to Help](#)

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation

Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

Report environmental violations.

1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)

Edited by John Harmon and Matt Snyder

Send us your notes and articles for use in future ENews!