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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Keuka Lake Association Annual Meeting Summary

**August 9, 2024** – The KLA held their Annual Meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> at Keuka College, where members came together to discuss important matters pertaining to Keuka Lake. The meeting covered a range of topics, including a reveal of our 2025 KLAeidascope Calendar, along with updates on water quality, a presentation on agricultural projects for water health, and safety on and around the lake. We also introduced the recipient of the 2024 Alexander and Esther Wahlig Watershed Scholarship Award, *Lexie Wilson*.

Several guest speakers shared their insights. Sheriff Frank Ryan and Sheriff Jim Allard shared insight from their marine patrols, as well as recent changes in water safety regulations, which includes that every boat operator must take the Boater Safety Course beginning in 2025, regardless of age.

ECO Sean Rockefeller from the NYSDEC provided an update on his patrols. He primarily does fishing license checks and boater safety/jacket checks. He also reminded the group of two more free fishing days on September 28th and November 11th!

Vice President and Water Quality Committee Chair, Sue Oliver, gave a presentation on Water Quality Programs at Keuka Lake, which included photographs of "a day in the life on the water-testing boat", she explained the science behind identifying harmful algae blooms and shared the news of only two HABs confirmations at that time. Although there may be more confirmations as summer progresses, Sue was happy to report that the overall health of Keuka Lake is good!

Wayne Hand, Lake Level Committee Chair, gave a Lake Level Report that explained how the water level of Keuka Lake is monitored. The KLA website retrieves data every two hours and automatically posts the level, gate settings and flow information. This enables the KLA to update the web chart which provides valuable information to members as well as the public at large.

Keynote Speaker, Colby Petersen, of Yates County Soil & Water gave an interesting presentation on Agricultural Projects for Water Quality Protection. He explained the purpose of Soil & Water Conservation Districts and highlighted many of the dynamic projects that they are working on, as they partner with farms and property owners across the Keuka Lake Watershed. These initiatives include: manure storage, pesticide storage and use, soil/erosion management, stream management and soil health workshops.



Finally, Bob Karczewski, Membership Committee Chair, reviewed current membership levels and shared plans for KLA to connect with the community in the coming year. He reminded members to share the mission and value of the KLA with neighbors, family and friends so that we can continue to promote the health and vitality of Keuka Lake for generations!

As part of the meeting, new board members were voted in, while recognition was given to those board members whose terms were expiring. A special recognition was given to Diane Edwards, KLA's longtime Treasurer.

The new board members voted in were – Rory Long (Milo), Steve Heller (Jerusalem), Rob Dintruff (Jerusalem), Dr. Bob Lambert (Jerusalem) and Jeanne Estep (Pulteney)

The Keuka Lake Association was founded in 1956 and provides a unified voice for those who love Keuka Lake. The mission is to preserve and protect Keuka Lake and its natural beauty for future generations. Whether you are a lake front property owner, watershed property owner, or simply enjoy and value the beauty of Keuka Lake as a visitor, all are invited to join our cause. Check out their website and membership page to join!

<https://www.keukalakeassociation.org/membership.php>