

2016 THANK YOU MDSA VOLUNTEERS LETTER

Dear MDSA Members:

Please don't skip over this letter. The people listed below are the reason we are an affordable swimming club. We've maintained our \$20 a season dues for a decade now. If we had to pay our volunteers, even minimum wage, well, you can do the math if you add up the numbers of people who have given anywhere from two hours to dozen of hours of their time. Read on.

I'm writing this traditional letter of gratitude to the volunteers as we go into the final week of our swimming season. Sometimes the week after Labor Day is cold or rainy or both, but often the weather is perfect and we feel so sad that the Lake is closed to us for swimming. We just haven't had the power to change that date which signals the end of swimming in all the NY State Parks, including ours. Believe me we have tried.

RIGHT FROM THE START...Without the energy and commitment of our volunteers the MDSA would not exist. It was the action of volunteers over several years that won our swimming rights in 2002. Go to our website, www.minnewaskaswimmers.org and click on the History of MDSA.

But now, some of us, fifteen years older, are still carrying out the "administrative" tasks that keep us going. Others who have been in MDSA for years, or who are relatively new, have stepped up to help. Below we honor all of those members.

STEPHANIE BLUDAU TOR: The MDSA Co-Coordinator, Stephanie wears two hats. She took over the data base and website management years ago. We struggled for years with volunteers to manage these tasks, but as we grew and as we went higher-tech, we needed to pay for the skills needed. Stephanie has those technical skills, and does the job expertly. She is our only paid person on our staff. But apart from the hours she puts in, she works at least as many volunteer hours. I am very grateful to have her as our Co-Coordinator as she is one of the founding members of MDSA and is devoted to keeping our swim club sustainable.

ADDIE HAAS is one of those MDSA veterans who began handling our email communications in the years before we even won the right to swim long distance. When you write to our info@minnewaskaswimmers.org it is Addie who gets your letter and either responds or directs it to the right people.

NANCY REEDER continues as our volunteer Treasurer despite a full schedule of work to earn a living. She took on this crucial job three years ago when we were in urgent need of a new Treasurer, and her expertise is greatly appreciated.

DORIS CHORNY is in charge of publicity and is also our Recording Secretary. She makes sure news of our tests gets out to the public.

TERESA GENOVESE, after joining six years ago, has taken on the major responsibility of being the Testing Coordinator. She has made certain that each of our eight test for new

applicants is fully staffed and has recruited test teams every summer for that purpose.

SHEYDA EVERSLEY, after joining in 2012, has been the Test Site Facilitator, aka “The Greeter” at nearly all our tests. Her organizational skills have made a huge improvement in the flow of the test process.

SCOTT SCHIFFER, for the third year, efficiently organized our essential Volunteer Guide program, recruiting people every weekend to explain the situation to people who arrive at our beach without having been tested.

JULIE ROSE continues her multi-year job as the Replacer of Lost Cards. A hint to reduce Julie’s workload: As soon as our season ends find a “safe place” to store your card. Then write that place down on your calendar to check in the spring of 2017.

KRISTINE LOGAN, a long-term member, began last year picking up mail from our MDSA box at the New Paltz post office. This year she expanded to actually dealing with the mail, much of it from the procrastinators among us, saving us many hours of work.

BETTY MACDONALD continues to record our phone message and change it as needed, using her skills as an actor and storyteller.

LARRY KOSOVSKY continues as the back up to Addie Haas covering our email.

And I, Judy Mage, have been called “The glue that holds MDSA together.” I am the Co-Coordinator and I have the knowledge of our past and of our active membership that is very helpful in finding people to do the work. Swimming as often as possible and biking to our beach helps keep that “glue” from getting too sticky. I only wish, as do most of us, that the season could be longer.

In addition to the people named above, many MDSA members donated their time to staff our packet parties and our swim tests, to be Volunteer Guides, and to contribute in various other capacities. **Julie Geisler** bought us a really accurate water thermometer which has been reading a very pleasant 80 degrees for weeks now. (It was 68 degrees on opening day in June.) **Sharon and Kathy Wiacek** provided essential help for setting up our membership meeting/picnic at the Mohonk Preserve. **Tona Wilson** came to my rescue when my computer skills faltered.

Here are the Volunteers who staffed our eight SWIM TESTS

Sheyda Eversley-5 Anne Wandress – 5 JoAnne Gangemi-4
Judy Timke-4 Yvonne Baker-4 Lauree Feldman-3
George Jacobs-3 Sarah Holland-2 Anne Roschelle-2

Shirley Irons-2 Susan Scher-2 Rena Blumenthal
Judy Purcell Dan Purcell Donna Seymour
Ellen James Kathleen Kluber Stephen MacDonald
George Airday Paul Stewart Maude Salinger
Laurie Hedlund Shirley Warren Marie Ulmer
Mara Kearney Loving Judy Reichler Jeff Lintz
Janet Shaw Alicia Serson Alexandra Negoita
Kristine Logan Doug Serson Claudia Commings
Carol Brown Kristine Carr Wendy Faris
Carol Auer Raymon Parker Beverly Whalen
Velma Garey Tracy Clark-Cherry

The following members worked two hour weekend shifts as VOLUNTEER GUIDES

Laura Finestone-13 Shirley Irons-9 Renee Hack-6
Hope Dejpour-4 Judy Linn-4 Nikki Vly-4
Mara Kearney Loving-3 Doris Chorny-2 Hal Chorny-2
Priscila Derven-2 Martha Koenig-2 Martha Morrison-2
Anne Wandres-2 George Airday-1 Vince Aurigemma-1
Penny Damaskos-1 Julie Goldscheid-1 George Jacobs-1
Susan Karl-1 Alan Scheiner-1 Jim Thomas-1
Kathleen Wiacek-1 Sharon Wiacek-1

We had two PACKET PARTIES, one organized by Marion Ryan, the other by Shirley Warren.

These events were how your 2016 sticker got mailed to you.

First packet party: Marion and Rick Ryan, Janet Chapman, Janet Shaw, Doris Chorny, Lucy Morris, Anne Wandress, Renee Hack, June Sanson, Teresa Genovese.

The second packet party included Shirley Warren, Ellen James, Marion Ryan, and Mara Kearney Loving.

That's it folks. Everyone named in this letter made our 15th swimming season possible. If you have never volunteered, think about it for next year. And help out by renewing your membership as soon as you get the word: in April 2017.

THANK YOU EVERYBODY!