

Nebraska Lakes Association

Resolution 2009-1

Support for, and urging of, mandatory boating safety education for all powerboat and personal watercraft operators regardless of age

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Lakes Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the issues private lake associations manage, from boating concerns to environmental issues.

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Lakes Association mission is to provide a forum for information and resources to educate members so their lake experience is safe, healthy and enjoyable.

WHEREAS, several Nebraska Lake Association member lakes presently require, by covenant, boating safety education for all members and their guests.

WHEREAS, four of the most recent eight Nebraska boating fatalities have occurred on residential lakes.

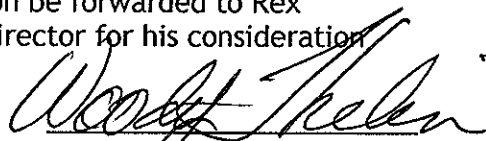
WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska averages five boating fatalities per year since 1965.

WHEREAS, several boating safety organizations including the U.S. Coast Guard and it's Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadron, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, the National Marine Manufacturers Association, the National Transportation Safety Board, and many others have endorsed and encourage mandatory boating safety education for powerboat operators of all ages.

WHEREAS, the latest U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary resolution cites continuing evidence that indicates approximately 80 percent of fatalities occur on boats whose operators have not received any form of boating safety education. Moreover, statistics indicate that the average age of someone involved in a boating fatality is around 38 years old, and thus, those states that require mandatory classes for younger boaters have seen little or no impact on their boating fatality statistics.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Lakes Association, representing 29 residential lakes with thousands of residents, on October 18, 2009, at their annual conference at Mahoney State Park, Ashland, Nebraska, does hereby support and encourage the timely implementation of legislation for mandatory boating safety education for all Nebraska boat operators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Rex Amack, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Director for his consideration and further action.


Woody Thelin, President
October 18, 2009