

# Caucus Committee Old/New Meeting



Lake Forest  
Caucus  
*Dedicated to volunteerism  
for excellence in government*

**June 6, 2024**  
**Grotto Room, Gorton Center**

**Meeting of the 2023-2024 Committee called to order:** Chris Benes, President of the Lake Forest Caucus, called the meeting of the Lake Forest Caucus Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was in attendance.

**New officers:** Mr. Benes began the meeting with congratulations for the new Caucus officers elected by the Caucus members for the 2024-2025 Caucus year.

**Commendations for departing officers and Ward chairs:** Dale Tauke, Secretary of the Caucus, was then recognized by Mr. Benes to address the Committee. Mr. Tauke noted to the Committee that commendations were in order for the departing officers and ward chairs of the Caucus, Mr. Benes--President, S. Aneeqa Aqeel—External Communications, Steve Ratay—Internal Communications, Mary Byne Gallea—Chair of Ward 1 and Michael O'Neill—Chair of Ward 3. Mr. Tauke said that each of these officers and ward chairs has provided exemplary service to the Caucus throughout his or her tenure with the Caucus Committee. To recognize their service, Mr. Tauke that the Committee approve resolutions of appreciation for each of them. Mr. Tauke then read the proposed resolutions for them and moved that the Committee approve these resolution. After Scott Nehls seconded the motion, the resolutions were approved by the Committee by voice vote without opposition. A copy of each resolution as approved is attached to these minutes.

**Approval of the Committee meeting minutes of May 9, 2024:** Mr. Benes next raised the matter of approval of the Committee meeting minutes of May 9, 2024. There being no discussion, on motion by Marian Percy and seconded by Bruce Barger, the May 9, 2024 minutes were approved by voice vote without opposition as presented.

**Final remarks:** Mr. Benes then spoke of the excellent service provided to the Caucus by the Committee members who were finishing their Caucus Committee terms: Steve Ratay, S. Aneeqa Aqeel, Michael O'Neill, Tim O'Donnell, Chris Casey, Kent Novit, Scott Anderson, Garth Pearson and Mary Byrne Gallea. Mr. Benes thanked them and wished them the best for all their future endeavors.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mr. Benes called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Benes and approved by the Members by acclamation. The meeting was concluded at 7:36 p.m. After a short interval, Mr. Benes and the Committee members whose terms were expiring left the meeting, and Joe Oriti, the new President, commenced a new meeting.

**Meeting of the 2024-2025 Committee called to order:** Joe Oriti, President of the 2024-2025 Lake Forest Caucus, called the meeting of the Lake Forest Caucus Committee to order at 8:00 p.m. A quorum was in attendance.

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**President's Address:** Mr. Oriti welcomed both new and continuing members of the Caucus Committee.

**Caucus Overview:** Mr. Oriti then addressed the Committee with his thoughts on the Committee work for the upcoming year, including the positions for which the Committee would be interviewing candidates and the expected timing of Committee work, particularly in respect of municipal and school board elective position. Mr. Oriti and several other officers also addressed a number of questions from Committee members.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mr. Oriti called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mark Pickett, seconded by Jason Akemann and approved by voice vote without opposition. The meeting was concluded at 7:48 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale Tauke, Secretary

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## RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE

**Chris Benes**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Forest Caucus is an outstanding civic organization that for 90 years has contributed greatly to the well-being, soundness, vitality and livability of the City of Lake Forest.

**WHEREAS**, the mission and work of the Lake Forest Caucus demand of its senior leaders the highest order of sound judgement, insightful intelligence, keen foresight, creative problem-solving, tireless energy, unfailing cheerfulness, relentless enthusiasm, significant self-sacrifice, sincere respect for all members of the Caucus and all others with whom the Caucus deals and the ability to learn from, but never be deterred by, mistakes or adverse developments.

**WHEREAS**, Lake Forest Caucus President Christopher Benes has, throughout his term as Caucus President and his prior years of service to the Caucus and the Lake Forest community, demonstrated all of these qualities and more.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Benes has during his tenure as President faced, and faithfully and successfully led the Lake Forest Caucus through, often-turbulent times and events without ever losing sight of the importance of the Caucus to the City of Lake Forest.

**WHEREAS**, throughout his years of service to the Lake Forest Caucus Mr. Benes has acted in the strongest possible manner to ensure that the mission of the Lake Forest Caucus of recruiting, reviewing and endorsing the most capable and deserving individuals to serve in government office without intrusion of personal agendas or partisan political interests continues for the benefit of all residents of the City of Lake Forest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lake Forest Caucus Committee hereby in the strongest possible manner commends, and expresses its heartfelt admiration and gratitude to, Christopher Benes for his tremendous and critical services to the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest and wishes him the very best success in all of his future endeavors.

**Mary Byrne Galea**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Forest Caucus is an outstanding civic organization that for 90 years has contributed greatly to the well-being, soundness, vitality and livability of the City of Lake Forest.

**WHEREAS**, the mission and work of the Lake Forest Caucus demands of its leaders the highest order of sound judgement, insightful intelligence, keen foresight, creative problem-solving, tireless energy, unfailing cheerfulness, relentless enthusiasm, significant self-sacrifice, sincere respect for all members of the Caucus and all others with whom the Caucus deals and the ability to learn from, but never be deterred by, mistakes or adverse developments.

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**WHEREAS**, Mary Byrne Galea has, throughout her term as Ward 1 Chair and her prior years of service to the Caucus and the Lake Forest community, demonstrated all of these qualities and more.

**WHEREAS**, throughout her years of service to the Lake Forest Caucus Mary Byrne Galea has acted in the strongest possible manner to ensure that the mission of the Lake Forest Caucus of recruiting, reviewing and endorsing the most capable and deserving individuals to serve in government office without personal agenda or intrusion of partisan political interests continues for the benefit of all residents of the City of Lake Forest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lake Forest Caucus Committee hereby in the strongest possible manner commends, and expresses its heartfelt admiration and gratitude to, Mary Byrne Galea for her tremendous services to the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest and wishes her the very best success in all her future endeavors.

**Steve Ratay**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Forest Caucus is an outstanding civic organization that for 90 years has contributed greatly to the well-being, soundness, vitality and livability of the City of Lake Forest.

**WHEREAS**, the mission and work of the Lake Forest Caucus demands of its leaders the highest order of sound judgement, insightful intelligence, keen foresight, creative problem-solving, tireless energy, unfailing cheerfulness, relentless enthusiasm, significant self-sacrifice, sincere respect for all members of the Caucus and all others with whom the Caucus deals and the ability to learn from, but never be deterred by, mistakes or adverse developments.

**WHEREAS**, Steve Ratay has, throughout his term as Internal Communications Officer and his prior years of service to the Caucus and the Lake Forest community, demonstrated all of these qualities and more.

**WHEREAS**, throughout his years of service to the Lake Forest Caucus Steve Ratay has acted in the strongest possible manner to ensure that the mission of the Lake Forest Caucus of recruiting, reviewing and endorsing the most capable and deserving individuals to serve in government office without personal agenda or intrusion of partisan political interests continues for the benefit of all residents of the City of Lake Forest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lake Forest Caucus Committee hereby in the strongest possible manner commends, and expresses its heartfelt admiration and gratitude to, Steve Ratay for his tremendous services to the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest and wishes him the very best success in all his future endeavors.

**S. Aneeqa Aqeel**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Forest Caucus is an outstanding civic organization that for 90 years has contributed greatly to the well-being, soundness, vitality and livability of the City of Lake Forest.

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**WHEREAS**, S. Aneeqa Aqeel has, throughout her term as External Communications Officer and her prior years of service to the Caucus and the Lake Forest community, demonstrated all of these qualities and more.

**WHEREAS**, throughout her years of service to the Lake Forest Caucus S. Aneeqa Aqeel has acted in the strongest possible manner to ensure that the mission of the Lake Forest Caucus of recruiting, reviewing and endorsing the most capable and deserving individuals to serve in government office without personal agendas or intrusion of partisan political interests continues for the benefit of all residents of the City of Lake Forest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lake Forest Caucus Committee hereby in the strongest possible manner commends, and expresses its heartfelt admiration and gratitude to, S. Aneeqa Aqeel for her tremendous services to the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest and wishes her the very best success in all her future endeavors.

**Michael O'Neill**

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Forest Caucus is an outstanding civic organization that for 90 years has contributed greatly to the well-being, soundness, vitality and livability of the City of Lake Forest.

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**WHEREAS**, Michael O'Neill has, throughout his term as Ward 3 Chairman and his prior years of service to the Caucus and the Lake Forest community, demonstrated all of these qualities and more.

**WHEREAS**, throughout his years of service to the Lake Forest Caucus Michael O'Neill has acted in the strongest possible manner to ensure that the mission of the Lake Forest Caucus of recruiting, reviewing and endorsing the most capable and deserving individuals to serve in government office without personal agenda or intrusion of partisan political interests continues for the benefit of all residents of the City of Lake Forest.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lake Forest Caucus Committee hereby in the strongest possible manner commends, and expresses its heartfelt admiration and gratitude to, Michael O'Neill for his tremendous services to the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest and wishes him the very best success in all his future endeavors.