

## **You can check out, but you can never leave**

by Charlie Tarbell, LEA Treasurer

This is the third in a series of articles that I have written for the LEA newsletter. This series focuses on the importance of bequest funding for LEA. Last year, I introduced the LEA Lakes Legacy League (LLLL), an LEA honor society which spotlights those individuals who have recognized LEA in their estate planning. Since then, we have had an influx of new interest in the LLLL because as many of you are aware, advancing age makes you think about your legacy.

Legacy is newly important to me. In early March, I suffered a spontaneous splenic arterial bleed. After initial diagnosis in the Norway ER, I was transported by ambulance to Maine Medical Center in Portland for emergency surgery. The trip, aside from being delightful because for once I was not driving, gave me time to think. After consideration for my wife and kids, I began to consider whether my IRA arrangements for LEA were, indeed, “ironclad.” If this was indeed “the end,” had I made the correct provisions? Unbeknownst to me at the time, I faced a 40% chance of fatality.

Needless to say, I survived. But the “incident” prompted me to revisit my planning and to make sure that my arrangements for my wife and kids (as well as LEA) were indeed solid and irrefutable. Happily, that concern is behind me now and I can ‘rest in peace,’ knowing that LEA will be a beneficiary of my largesse.

If you, too, are interested in recognizing LEA in your estate planning, part of your legacy would be ensuring the organization’s continued future success in protecting our lakes. Among the benefits is perpetual recognition of your designation at LEA’s annual meeting— even after you are gone. It is truly a unique and lasting way to give; with apologies to Eagles’ “Hotel California,” “You can check out, but you can never leave.”