

The following five candidates have agreed to be nominated at the 2025 Annual Meeting to serve as Trustees from 2025 – 2028:

Megan Royle Carella



I grew up in Saginaw, MI the youngest child and only daughter of Jim and Tammy Royle. I have 2 older brothers, Timothy and Michael Royle. And while life has taken me far afield over the trajectory of my adult life, it is a joy to have the Royle-Carella family all together back in the mitten state. I attended Heritage HS in Saginaw, MI and was involved in several facets of student life, including Choir, Theatre, Tennis, and Student Government. That theme translated to collegiate life as well at Albion College in Albion, MI. I was a Speech Communications Major, English Minor with a concentration in Educational Instruction and received my 7-12 teaching certification upon graduation in 1995. In addition to my extracurricular endeavors, I also enjoyed Greek life on campus and was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

Every summer of my life has been spent in Frankfort. The annual sojourn north was a greatly anticipated journey, back to the fun and friendships cultivated on the west shore of Crystal Lake and at the C.S.A. My affinity for specific extracurriculars was likely predicated on many hours at the beach courts playing tennis, participating in the Children's Operettas, and singing in the Church Choir on Sundays. In addition to working summer jobs in the C.S.A. Office and as a Youth Program Assistant Director, I also held down a job waiting tables at night at the Cabbage Shed in Elberta. Clearly, I've been a multi-tasker from an early age... or an over-achiever with a penchant for chaos and caffeine. Take your pick as both seemingly fit the bill.

My resume is rather long, indicating I've tried a lot of new things in life. Upon reflection, it's remarkable how much "didn't go according to plan". However, guided by the ever-optimistic mindset instilled in me by Jim Royle, I learned very valuable life lessons about navigating those detours and building new plans along the way. The professional jobs I've held include Admissions Representative, Travel Coordinator, Teacher, Executive Assistant, Sales Rep, and Managerial Director positions for several not-for-profit associations in myriad industries across the country. My current full-time role is as Sales Operations Lead for MillerKnoll (formerly Herman Miller) where I've been for the past 18+ years focusing on program management for a dedicated sales group providing data analytics and sales insight.

In 2003, by complete happenstance, I met Ed Carrella. A nice Italian boy from Chicago who loved the Chicago Cubs as much as I did. We married in June 2005 in downtown Chicago and thus began the whirlwind of "life with Ed". We've lived in Chicago, Las Vegas, Houston, New York City, Milwaukee, and numerous moves within the Chicago suburbs. We have two children, Luciano (16) who was born in NYC and Sophia (13) who was born in Milwaukee. We have two rescue dogs as well, Rizzo and Pepper. We're never short on chaos or big laughs at our house, and that is the best part of life with Ed.

Like many others in our community, our decision to move to Frankfort came during the COVID pandemic. With the hospitality industry coming to a standstill in those early months, we came north to ride things out, only to realize our heart's desire was right here all along. So with love and a very large leap of faith, we set about creating Vita Bella Italian Kitchen & Market in downtown Frankfort. This was a dream of Ed's for a long time and I'm grateful for the opportunity to help chart its course and support its success. And as of Summer 2024, we've expanded! We added Dinghy's Restaurant & Bar to the mix and are enjoying the new adventure of multiple locations.

Regardless of hometown, collegiate pursuits, or professional aspirations that guided my path, my true north has always been Northern Michigan. Every summer since my first days on earth, to a permanent resident in this amazing community, Northern Michigan holds a unique and special place in my heart, always.

Nate Dennison



The CSA is Nate's favorite place on earth. His family has been a part of this special community going on four generations, and Nate proudly shares that he has been able to spend time at the CSA every summer since he was born.

Nate engaged as a child in the many facets of the CSA experience from tennis lessons, to afternoon rec activities, to the children's operettas. As he entered his teenage years, he began to work for the CSA as a tennis teacher, recreation assistant, and maintenance worker. In college, Nate continued working for the CSA teaching tennis. He succeeded Ken Cox as the Recreation Director and also became the Youth Director, helping to further develop a robust and thriving program for Middle School and High School students.

Passionate about working with children, Nate pursued education professionally, following in the footsteps of numerous family members. Nate has worn many hats in education throughout his 24-year career working in schools all over the world. From teacher to coach, to principal and most recently Head of School, Nate has specialized in elementary education. Recently, Nate, his wife Amanda, and their two children Finley (14) and Elise (12), relocated from the DC area to Nate's hometown in Granville, Ohio. Nate now serves as an Elementary Curriculum Director in a nearby public school and looks forward to a more conducive summer schedule and closer proximity to Michigan to increase their time at the CSA.

While summers have become busier as a school administrator, he and his family have always prioritized their time at the CSA. You may have seen him singing in the choir, trying to keep up with his children around the grounds, or hitting tennis balls on the courts. He is honored to have the opportunity to serve the CSA community in a new capacity as a member of the Board of Trustees.

John K. Devine



I was born and raised in Ann Arbor and have been life-long visitor to Benzie County with family ties to the area dating back to the 1920's. In high school and college, I worked various jobs in Frankfort including lifeguarding and teaching swimming on the CSA waterfront.

I met my wife Margie at Middlebury College in Vermont; we raised three great kids in Chicago and are now full-time residents of Crystal Lake Township.

Professionally, I have served as in-house counsel for Verizon for more than 20 years, providing counsel to the Verizon Business Group on a variety of subjects.

Like many of us who love the area, my true passion lies in the great outdoors. I am an avid fisherman and supporter of environmental and conservation causes, currently serving on the board of the Benzie County Conservation District and assisting with the efforts of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Joe Hollenbeck



My name is Joe Hollenbeck and I am honored to be recommended as a new trustee for the Congregational Summer Assembly. I am a lifetime member of the CSA and my wife and I are current owners of the Weekes family cottage located on Esplanade, which was built by my grandparents in the 1930's. My parents met long ago at the Standard Gas Station located adjacent to the Crystal View, where my father was working as a teenager from Frankfort and my mother was a CSA teenager.

My wife and I are nearing the end of long careers as educators working mostly for American schools abroad. We are now full-time residents of Frankfort, but still enjoy spending July and August each year at the cottage. Our three adult sons consider summer at the CSA a very important part of their lives.

I look forward to contributing to the excellent work done by the CSA Board of Trustees.

Molly Hood Jones



Molly Hood Jones is a third generation CSA member from the Marshall/Sturges clan. Summers at Crystal Lake have been an annual pilgrimage with missed summers being counted on a single hand. Childhood summers were filled with family and all the CSA activities we hold dear- tennis lessons, Platte River trips, selling crafts at the Arts & Crafts Fair, helping in the nursery and operettas- just to name a few. As an adult, Molly has helped with the Ecology Committee and volunteered at the Arts & Crafts Fair.

Molly and her husband Bill were married in Beulah and have instilled a love of Michigan in their two high school age daughters through yearly visits to what their children affectionately labeled "the creaky house" (aka the Marshall family cottage).

Molly and Bill live on a horse farm just outside of Princeton, NJ. In addition to overseeing farm operations, Molly works as a nonprofit management consultant for organizations focused on protecting the environment.