

**ANNUAL MEETING
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NOVEMBER 11, 2020**

2020 will certainly be a year we will never forget and in spite of all the challenges, we are serving the Community as best we can given the restrictions in place.

In February we launched The Anchor Society, an annual business membership and we are pleased that 32 companies joined up.

In April, during the shut-down, our Annual Membership Drive was launched and 143 Supporters answered the call.

We are now in the middle of our Annual Appeal and ask those of you who have not had a chance to contribute, please do so by the end of the year.

Although we have not been able to host a seated Community Meal, we have been handing out a takeaway meal, serving 30-35 guests the third Wednesday of each month.

Our Speaker Series had to be cancelled but all of those who agreed to speak said they would honor their commitment for next year. It is a great roster!

The Crow's Nest guest rooms have been busy since we were able to open back up in June. To date we have housed 148 guests and given discounts to 21 mariners. Our revenues are down 60% compared to last year. We currently have an IYRS student staying with us as part of a special discount program we have with the School.

AA continues to meet weeknights in the Anderson Library.

The 12 Metre Café has been running well with takeaway and now has three tables available for indoor dining Wednesday through Sunday.

In July we hosted a Summer Camp run by the Newport Community School in our Discovery Deck and Mariner's Library. Ten students had a great three weeks of fun, education and exploration: we look forward to hosting them again next year.

On November 17th the Newport Community School's Adult Education Program will begin free Homemaker job training in the Mariner's Lounge. We are thrilled to host this innovative program to help Rhode Islander's get back to work.

In October we said goodbye to our Board of Directors President Huw Thomas. Huw has been on the Board for seven years and has helped see us through with intellect, humor and wisdom. We will miss his leadership. Jeff Shaw has agreed to become Interim President until our Officer Elections in January when he will assume Presidency. Jeff has been a Board member since

2016, is a professor at the Naval War College and an ardent supporter of Seamen's. We welcome him and look forward to working together as we navigate these difficult times. I want to especially thank all of our Directors for their time, support and patience as we deal with challenging times. We completed a Strategic Plan for the Institute which has given the staff a road map for the future. I would like to thank the Van Beuren Charitable Foundation for covering the cost of our consultant Chuck Gordon who lead us so ably through the process.

We are on a sound financial footing and have a healthy endowment.

For Thanksgiving this year we will host a takeaway Community Meal. Our Chefs Brian and Lizzie Hickox will prepare the traditional fare for 100 guests and we will also be handing out winter coats from the Memorial Garden. We hope to be able to do the same for our Christmas Day brunch.

We had staff changes this year and welcomed Kim Carlone on board as our Bookkeeper. Kim specializes in working with non-profits. Tara Gnoffo continues in her role as Office Manager and Manager of the Crow's Nest. She is an invaluable member of our wee staff and we literally could not operate without her. We are delighted to welcome back our Custodian Tony Gonsalves who has recovered from a broken leg. Tim Rhodes, our Weekend Ambassador, holds down the fort on Saturdays. My special thanks go out to all who volunteer here and especially to our Community Meal cook Lindsey Kusic who is retiring from the job in December.

I am so grateful for the support of the Board and Staff and most importantly our wonderful community whose commitment to Seamen's mean so much to me personally. The Institute is a bedrock of Newport's waterfront and the life of The City by the Sea. Through your support we will continue to provide services to all who need us.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann C. Souder
Executive Director