

**Star Island Corporation**  
**Chief Executive Officer's Report**  
**February 14, 2014**

**Our Mission:** *To own and maintain Star Island and such other property as the Corporation may hold or acquire, as a center for religious, educational, and kindred purposes consistent with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.*

**Our Vision:** *To create on Star Island an environment that frees all who come to renew spiritually, explore matters of consequence, and gain knowledge about the world as it might ideally be.*

**COMMUNITY**

- Conference chairs and registrars gathered with staff on February 1 to plan for the season ahead. Sharon Kennedy offered her greetings and appreciations “live from New York” via Skype. Star Island Corporation updates were provided and discussed, and conference chairs and registrars received practical information to help them plan for their 2014 conferences. We emphasized how chairs and registrars are an integral part of the Star Island leadership team, and there was a true sense of collaboration in the air.
- We are working with CrossCurrent Communications on further developing our 2014 communications plan. We are looking forward to providing an overview of our 2014 marketing efforts, as well as our long-range conference planning efforts, at the February 22 Board Retreat.
- We received 193 applications for 103 Pelican positions. We are fortunate to have a very strong applicant pool and we are grateful so many people want to work for Star. The hiring team has been working carefully on assembling a stellar roster for the 2014 season with a plan to send out employment agreements in mid-March.
- Our 2014 staffing plan is reflected in the attached organizational chart. The plan works within the approved budget, builds on the progress we made last year in a number of exciting ways, and supports the goals, objectives and tactics of our current strategic map.
- We are excited to have a booth at the 2014 General Assembly (GA) of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which takes place June 25-29 in Providence, RI. We plan to build on our momentum from last year's GA experience, and expect our efforts to reap even greater rewards given that this year's GA is much closer to Star Island. Anyone interested in volunteering for one or more booth shifts should email me directly ([jwatts@starisland.org](mailto:jwatts@starisland.org)).
- At 7:00 p.m. on February 21, NH Chronicle will feature Alex de Steiguer, our winter caretaker. The show will be available to stream after it airs ([www.wmur.com/new-hampshire-chronicle/friday-february-21st-star-island-through-the-snow/24467670](http://www.wmur.com/new-hampshire-chronicle/friday-february-21st-star-island-through-the-snow/24467670)).

**ECONOMIC**

- To date, we have received 585 registrations representing 3,870 bed nights. We cannot compare these figures to previous years in a meaningful way, as we have not previously processed registrations this early in the year. Online registration has made early registration possible, which is important in

many ways. We are encouraged that we have reached 20% of our bed night goal prior to people receiving our 2014 program catalog in the mail.

- Our 2013 year-end financials indicate an operating gain of \$310,614, well ahead of our budget goals. We are pleased to have had another successful year financially, and we look forward to building on our success this year. Please see the attached financials and accompanying memo for more details.
- Please see attached our most up-to-date versions of our five year budget (spring 2013) and our five year capital improvement plan (fall 2013). These budgets are updated annually and are valuable tools as we move towards a five year integrated budget for facilities, finance and development.
- Kristi Vazifdar and I attended a two part workshop on fiscal strategies, offered through the New Hampshire Center for Nonprofits. This was a worthwhile professional development experience.
- We are working to secure a match to LOAS' \$5,000 challenge grant for noise abatement in our main dining hall.

## ENVIRONMENT

- We continue to make substantial progress with our comprehensive alternative energy project. We are working diligently towards a goal of signing a contract by the middle of March. We have a meeting of the ad hoc contract review committee on February 14, and we expect to have a few more meetings in the coming weeks. We are excited to present our progress at the February 22 Board Retreat. Please see attached memo to the ad hoc committee for more information.
- We have signed our annual agreement with SFC Engineering Partnership, Inc., our professional fire safety consultant. We are finalizing our 2014 fire safety plan, and expect to present this plan to the Rye Fire Department next month. We are pleased with the status of our fire safety program and the relationship we have with SFC, RFD and the State Fire Marshal's office.
- We continue to work on planning for the upcoming open-up period, during which we are planning significant upgrades to our amenities and infrastructure. One such project, made possible by a sizeable anonymous donation, is expanding wireless internet access and reliability, including bringing selected meeting spaces into our coverage area.
- We are looking forward to meeting with Jennifer Seavey, Shoals Marine Lab's new executive director. Seavey, a wildlife ecologist, will be joining the University of New Hampshire faculty after her tenure at the Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory, a field station of the University of Florida.

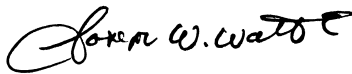
## STEWARDSHIP

- Please find attached several of our committee annual reports, which will be published in our 2014 Annual Meeting Packet. These reports summarize a tremendous volume of excellent volunteer work on behalf of Star Island.
- We are in the process of finalizing our new "Star Island Legacy Society" brochure, which we will be unveiling in conjunction with our planned giving enhancements to our web site in the spring.
- We have finalized our concept for the stewardship installation (see December 17 Board meeting materials) which we hope will grace the hallway outside of Lawrence and Elliott Hall in time for the 2014 conference season. Our plan has been reviewed by many, including our ad hoc recognition task force, the Fund Development Committee and the Property Standards Committee, and we look forward to discussing it with the Board at its February 22 Board Retreat.

- Our spring volunteer registration is open, and things are shaping up nicely for another productive season of island volunteerism. We will begin processing applications for spring positions after February 22. For more information about our spring volunteer program, as well as our many other island volunteer opportunities, visit our web site at [www.starisland.org/volunteering](http://www.starisland.org/volunteering).
- Our 2014 medical volunteer roster is complete, thanks to Pat Ford, our Island Nurse, who has assumed this important responsibility this year. We are excited to have our roster lined up this early in the year.
- The Outreach and Engagement Committee met on February 6 to discuss several topics, including corporate sponsorship beyond fundraising events. The Fund Development Committee has also discussed this topic, and both committees have prepared position statements (see attached) in support of expanding corporate sponsorship opportunities in a manner consistent with our mission, vision and values.
- The Star Island block party at South Church is coming soon (February 22), and we are looking forward to coming together to have fun in the name of Star Island. We are expecting a decent turnout for this, our second annual Star Island block party.

Valentine's Day reminds us just how much there is to love about Star Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe W. Watts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Watts  
Chief Executive Officer