

General comments:

- Greetings to all of you as you gather for your fall meeting!
- All Star 1 is amazing! You do so much for Star Island, including offering fantastic programming, filling the island every summer (and do I mean fill!), volunteering your time on behalf of your conference and Star Island, and donating generously to our fundraising campaigns.
- My most important message to you is one of deep appreciation. I cannot thank you enough for all that you do!
- One example of many – we are grateful for your grant of \$5,000 for soundproofing in the Dining Hall. You saw some of this in place in July, and since then, we have added quite a bit to the main dining hall. We have a plan for covering the alcove in the fall, with the intention of the project being completed prior to your arrival on Star Island next summer. Your \$5,000, coupled with LOAS' gift of \$5,000, is enabling us to do this project properly, and we are very grateful.

Here are some important accomplishments we have made or are striving toward:

- Many capital projects completed, including the Oceanic North & East walls & windows, installing a new fire pump and sprinklers (enabling us to increase chapel occupancy from 49 to 91!), the Gosport porch and railing, the dining hall – the list goes on.
- We are in the process of protecting the pier's west face with "rip rap" (large rocks – like the breakwater), and we will be resurfacing the pier with concrete and installing a new railing system.
- The solar power project is well underway, and we anticipate substantial project completion before Thanksgiving. We can all be grateful that next year, we expect to generate roughly 60% of our power via renewable sources.
- We had 19,376 "bed nights" in 2014, a 6.7% increase over 2013 (18,160) - 4.7% is a result of IRAS' return to Star Island (and we are very happy that IRAS returned in 2014), and 2% is growth in other areas. We are looking at 19,550 bed nights for 2015...
- We offered financial aid to over 60 individuals and families who would otherwise not have been able to come to Star Island this year, with an average award size over \$300. We intend to expand this program in 2015.
- We launched a successful discount program that brought many new people, as well as former Pels and old Shoalers, out to Star Island. We anticipate having similar discounts again in 2015.
- Also for 2015, we are looking at a 2% increase to adult room & board rates, a further decrease to 6-11 year old rates, and also a decrease to 12-17 year old rates.
- We are on track to have another great year financially, thanks in large part to All Star 1. Of course this assumes we come in at budget for the Annual Fund (\$455K), and we still have a long way to go – please spread the word about the 2014 Annual Fund – the fall appeal just went in the mail.
- We have had excellent marketing and outreach in several venues that we feel are the right venues for Star (e.g. public radio, UUA GA).
- We are making significant progress on the goals and objectives listed in our strategic plan (2014-2016).

- We are embracing our UU and UCC values while at the same time being opening and welcoming to people of different or no faiths.
- In everything we do, we work to preserve and enhance the Star Spirit and magic, which is so apparent in the community-building that occurs during All Star 1.
- Please let me know how Star Island Corporation can further collaborate with All Star 1. As always, please feel free to email me ([jwatts@starisland.org](mailto:jwatts@starisland.org)) or call me on my cell at (603-817-1076).

Joe Watts

Chief Executive Officer

Star Island Corporation