

Annual Report to the All Star I Conference community

The practice of sending an end-of-year annual report to the All Star I Conference community was established at the time that the Conference Governance Council created an Executive Committee. At some point the practice fell by the wayside. I admit my part in failing to keep that promise to the conference. I am hoping that this report will help reestablish the original intent going forward.

So here is an accounting of what conference leadership has been doing that might be of interest to our conference at large.

New Leadership

I am excited to announce that Jeff Loewer has taken over as Convener of the All Star I Governance Council's Executive Committee, upon the expiration of my (Ben Soule) term on the Committee. I know we are in good hands with Jeff in this position.

Volunteer Job Descriptions

We have started an effort, still ongoing, to update the conference's Volunteer Job Descriptions. These are the jobs that are assigned to conference members that are the life blood of making the conference work such as running the Fourth of July Games, putting together the banquet ceremonies and doing the marshmallow roast. The descriptions for these jobs have not been updated for many years, so in order to make them useful they have needed to be rewritten. They are being put on the Conference website in order to provide a resource for people who are running those activities.

SORI checks for Children's Staff

As of this summer, the Star Island Corporation has now required people leading children's programs be required to undergo SORI (Sex Offender Registry Information) checks. They are suggesting but not requiring CORI (Criminal Offender Registry Information) checks as of this writing. The conference will be considering how to respond to that request for next summer's conference.

Donations to the Conference Center

All Star I donated \$10,000 to the Star Island conference center in 2016 and \$20,000 in 2017.

2017 Conference – huge success!

The 2017 Conference was a great success in many ways. It set a record for Star Island's post-war conference era by accepting 318 conferees, and housing 305 people at the peak of the week. Dale Stewart and Keith Knox, the conference chairs, brought the "Aloha Spirit" from their home state, even importing Hawai'ian purple potatoes and poi for banquet night. Another special event was a presentation by the Conference Housing Coordinator, Deb Walton, explaining to a

well-attended meeting how she is able to house so many people so comfortably for our week on the Island.

Executive Committee goes Video

With the help of Jeff Loewer, the Executive committee has started doing its monthly meetings using Zoom video conferencing software. It's been a learning experience for many of us, but we're starting to get used to it. We also used Zoom at the annual Governance Council Fall Meeting in Chester CT, and three people were able to attend the meeting remotely with some success. The Zoom software is available to any committee that wishes to use it – ask Jeff to help you get set up!

Leadership Evaluations

We started the practice of evaluating four key elected conference leaders - Registrar, Treasurer, Housing Coordinator, and Children's Program Coordinator(s) – by asking people to fill out evaluations during the last two conferences. We have created a process by which the information gathered can be used to improve our conference and to assess our leaders when they are being considered for re-nomination to a second term.

New Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy

In response to changes in New Hampshire law and Star Island Corporation policy, the All Star I Governance Council drafted and passed a new Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs policy. This grew out of a conversation initiated at the 2016 Conference around use and misuse of alcohol at the conference. We are hoping to be more direct and open about the concerns and issues with youth and alcohol that have arisen over many years. The policy is/will be posted on the conference website ([link here](#)) and we ask especially that parents of underage youth read the policy and bring forward any questions they might have to conference leadership.

Archives Revisited

There has been a renewed interest in the conference archives, started many years ago and now filling three large plastic totes. The Executive Committee will be creating an ad hoc Archives Committee to review the materials to determine how it should be kept for the future. Options include keeping significant items in the new climate-controlled locker in Vaughn, making electronic copies of paper items, removing items that are duplicates of existing Vaughn collections, etc. There are some very interesting items, and we hope to find a way to display some of it during the conference starting next year.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these items, please be in touch with Jeff Loewer (loewer@sover.net).

In the Spirit of Star,

Ben Soule, Convener of the Executive Committee (ret.)