

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Museum Family and Friends,

I hope this finds you faring well and in good spirits. Here at the Museum, we started this year with full sails; we had just wrapped up a great year and in February we launched our 2020 jam-packed line-up of activities and events. In mid-March all that came to a screeching halt. We shuttered our doors, sheltered in place, and though we have re-emerged and opened the Museum to visitors, we continue to weather the Covid-19 storm and its impacts.

These are unprecedented times for us all and the Covid-19 pandemic keeps us windbound. To safeguard our volunteers and staff, our members and visitors, and to comply with Virginia directives, the Museum has had to cancel, one-by-one, our many cherished community and fundraising events and activities. Despite this, the Museum must continue to meet its fiduciary and legal responsibilities in running and maintaining our facilities and operations while not being able to assemble, as members and volunteers, to do the work of the Museum or to bring in the revenue that was anticipated in our 2020 budget.



Striker Boat

We need to be creative, resourceful and diligent in safeguarding our Museum and fulfilling its Mission. I challenge you to embrace the *opportunity* of “free” (uncommitted) time. I urge you to “redirect” the hours, effort, and spirit you ordinarily dedicate to our whirlwind of regularly scheduled events to, instead, serve and support our Museum in other ways.

Our Board of Directors Advisory Committees could use your help. These are Community Affairs, Festival Halle, Financial Development, Financial Management, and Strategic/Long-Range Planning. Let's use this Covid-19 “downtime” to evaluate, upgrade and strengthen our programming and operations. We need your ideas, skills, talents and experience. Please inquire as to how you might contribute.

Before closing, a quick update on your Board. At the Annual Meeting, in February, Charles Williams completed his most recent service (two consecutive 3-yr terms) on the Board. Many thanks are due Charles for his dedication and support to our Museum over these past 32 years - as one of the GRA/RFM founding members, as a past Board President, multiple terms of Board membership, and for his (and wife Olivia's) support as owners of the Crazy Crab. With regret, too, we bid farewell to past-President, Linda Nessul, and to Board Members Lydia Haynie and Jim Wiley. We thank them all for their dedication and service to the Museum. We welcome Ken Hurst and Lynn Haynie Kellum as our two newest members! Our board resumed monthly meetings in June and is vigilant, at the tiller, working with Lee, our Executive Director, to trim the sails, scrape the barnacles, swab the decks, and to keep us afloat. Together, we are navigating the reefs and shoals and plotting our course to new and exciting destinations.

With your help we can arrive shipshape, squared away, and also keep our home port, Reedville, an historic yet vibrant destination for visitors from near and far.

Respectfully,
Kim

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