



THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of the Overfalls Foundation

Volume 9 - Fall 2020

From The Crows Nest

Michael Safina, President

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- Ray Glick, Vice President
- Bob Garry, Treasurer
- Maggie Bauer, Secretary
- Dave Beck, Director
- Bob Gibson, Director
- Al Klineburger, Director
- Tracy Mulveny, Director
- Tom Rew, Director
- Craig Schaefer, Director
- Steve Tolbert, Director
- Sue Tolbert, Director

On October 10, I was elected by the Board of Directors to serve as the new Overfalls Foundation President and I am proud to do so. I follow in the footsteps of our recent past President, Bill Battista who did an excellent job of leading the Foundation these past 2 years. Under his leadership we moved forward with establishing an office presence for the Foundation at Nassau Commons, held our first Memorial Ceremony this past summer, created a new Strategic Plan, moved forward with planning for repairs to the canal-side bulkhead and obtained over \$9,000.00 in grant money to offset our losses due to the Pandemic. President Battista led us through a most challenging year and guided the Board of Directors as we had to make some difficult decisions. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish Bill fair winds and following seas.



I come from a maritime background having graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and worked for the U.S. Navy in shipbuilding, ship repair and combat systems development for over 30 years. I continue to consult for the Navy today. I grew up on the south shore of Long Island, NY and spent most of my summers swimming, boating and fishing in bays and off the shores of Jones Beach and Fire Island. I've always had a love of the sea and ships and it seemed a natural fit for me to join the Overfalls Foundation when I moved to the Rehoboth-Lewes area.

I plan to build upon President Battista's legacy and will seek to fulfill our dream of an expanded and improved organization as outlined in our new Strategic Plan.

My first priority for the Foundation is to re-evaluate our response to the ongoing Pandemic. In order to thrive, we need to reinvent ourselves and consider new opportunities to reach out to you, our members, and to our community. In order to remain relevant, we will continue to expand our "digital footprint" by making greater use of our web site and Facebook presence.

(SAFINA continued on page # 8)

Thoughts From Retirement

Bill Battista

I would like to take this time to thank all the members that have worked with me during my time in office. It has been a learning experience and I'm proud to have been able to accomplish this task. I want to thank the entire board for coming together and working with me the last couple of years especially with the COVID pandemic.



We were handed some difficult challenges and as a team we managed to pull through. It was difficult to not be able to open for business this year, instead deciding to close the ship for the season. It also caused us to have to cancel the opening event and not receive the appropriate revenue. We voted not to open to protect our visitors, but mainly for our members who volunteer as guides and store workers. We applied for some special grants and were awarded a couple that helped close the gap on lost funds.

This is just the tip of the iceberg as it seems every time I answered the phone or an E-mail it was something else. I have to thank the entire Board for pulling together as a team and working around any and all problems and getting the job done. Well done team and thank you.

Some special accomplishments for the last two years: we could not come together as a group due to the virus so we started using Zoom meetings. They worked okay but not meeting face to face has its own problems. We decided that it would be a good business plan to have an office for the Foundation. We rented a temporary office at Nassau Commons. This has turned out to be a forward step of our organization. We started a Strategic Planning Course with DANA and it has been successful. We rewrote our mission statement and have a workable strategic plan for the next 5 plus years. We had our first annual ceremony for all members that have passed away this year. It went very well and we will now make it a yearly program for our deceased members. The dirty hands gang had a crew rebuild some places in the store and on the Stephanie Anne.

The next thing was to make some future plans for our organization's plan to move into the future. We would like to encourage all members to check and see where they can help. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep our Foundation active and moving forward.

Thanks to all of you for supporting me and helping the Overfalls stay alive and well. There are many others items but these are the ones that came to my mind today.

Sincerely

William E. Battista

Editors Note: We salute Bill for his courage and fortitude during rough seas. It can be difficult to stay true to course in calm waters, much harder in stormy waters. Thank you for being at the helm.

Virtual "Silent Auction"

Al Klineburger & Tom Wrubel

In the spirit of lightships serving as beacons in areas of danger, The Overfalls Foundation is looking to boost our spirits and raise some money by having a virtual "Silent Auction" to be held from November 16, 2020 to December 6, 2020. As you know, the Pandemic situation forced us to cancel the 2020 fundraising Gala along with all tours. We also had to keep the Museum Store closed.

This is how our Silent Auction works. First, you must register via our website ([click here](#)) and receive a bid (paddle) number. Once registered you will be able to bid on any, or all, items as frequently as you like. Bidding opens at 6AM November 16 and the gavel sounds at 6PM on December 6. Once bidding commences our website will be updated daily to show the highest bids received by paddle number. Winning bidders will be contacted once the Silent Auction is closed.

All items are crafted by local artisans or services provided by Foundation volunteers and local establishments. As of this newsletter some of the items are:

(AUCTION continued in page # 7)

2020 A Year to Remember

Bob Garry

The coronavirus has had an effect on every family in the United States and across the entire world. Your Overfalls Foundation family, an extension of your personal family, has been affected as well. Due to the social distancing guidelines that were put in place we were unable to greet visitors and guests to take a tour of the Ship. We were not allowed to invite guests to our home (Ship Store) and engaged them in conversation. It was a very lonely season without greeting folks and educating them regarding the mission of and the importance of Lightships in U S nautical History.



During 2020 we have all encountered emotional highs and lows. Perhaps the loss of a family loved one or the birth of a child. How we remember these events in our lives can prove to be very important to us in the future.

Being the current financial person in the Overfalls Family, might I suggest that you visit the Overfalls website and look at the many naming opportunities that are available to you and family. Your continued financial support is extremely important to sustaining the Overfalls Family and carrying our mission into the future.

Keep in mind that many of our items make wonderful Christmas gifts for that family member that is hard to shop for.

The Dirty Hands Gang

Don Gansauer

The pandemic has kept activities of the Dirty hands Gang to a minimum and we have gotten behind in the paint schedule.

We are keeping good thoughts on an active Springtime. There are two new members looking forward to being active members of the gang. We are always seeking new members. If you are good at cleaning and painting consider joining us on Tuesday mornings.

The *Beacon* Shines Again

Dave Bernheisel, President Emeritus

After a hiatus of ten years, the *Beacon* is back. When the newsletter was originally started in 2003, it was the main means of communication with the Foundation's members. While large numbers of people played key roles on individual tasks in saving the ship and other Foundation business, the *Beacon* showed them how those roles fit together as work progressed.



We started with a rust bucket in a muddy hole and a bank account that hovered near zero, balanced by a group of people with a dream and an abundance of heart. To make it a little more complicated, fulfillment of our dream came with a capital budget price tag of \$1.2 million. As it evolved, the ship started looking better and better, while fund raising results went from modest to significant and finally to very substantial. Along the way support came from local citizens, businesses, and government at all levels (City, County, State & Federal).

When the last issue of the *Beacon* was published in 2011, the restored ship floated proudly in a setting worthy of her history and the crews who served aboard. Not only that, she was designated a National Historical Landmark (NHL) by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, the only NHL in Sussex County.

At that time early in 2011, it was hoped that the new and improved web site would serve the Foundation's information dissemination purpose. It soon became apparent that, while the web site was a marvelous addition, having a newsletter updating the membership on a regular basis was also important. Still, there was a long gap between then and when the first issue of the new initiative made its popular debut a couple of months ago.

(Bernheisel continued on page # 4)

(Bernheisel continued from page #3)

Among the other voices welcoming the new Beacon, City Councilman Rob Morgan mentioned it in his own periodic newsletter that covers significant happenings in and around Lewes.

In closing, I salute Al Klineburger and Tom Wrubel for agreeing to serve as the Beacon's new editors. Given I was pretty close to the previous editor, I understand what a heavy task it is. To make that task a little easier for them, and to make the product more valuable to our members, it is critical that you, the members and readers, keep feeding both information and ideas for new stories.

Keep the faith and you will be amazed at the marvelous results we get.

Mr. Bernheisel is a 2014 inductee to the DMHOF ([click here](#)).

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Overfalls Foundation's website: [click here](#). The Delaware Maritime Hall and manually completed. Mr. Manthorpe is available to answer nomination questions and can be reached at (302) 632-9162. Completed forms can be e-mailed to:

navy-cape@earthlink.net

or mailed to Mr. William Manthorpe, 404 E. Savannah Rd. #303, Lewes, DE 19958.

An independent Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame Selection Committee will choose a select group of 2021 inductees who meet the criteria and spirit of contribution to Delaware's maritime heritage.

Eligibility

Nominees must have made a significant impact upon the lives of others.

- Their contributions to maritime heritage should have lasting significance.
- Distinguished selfless achievements also may be the basis for recognition.
- Nominees must be native-born Delawareans or have a strong connection to the state.
- If the nominee is deceased, the same requirements apply.

Ms. Simmerman is a 2015 inductee to the DMHOF ([click here](#)).

DMHOF
Elaine Simmerman

The Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame is now accepting nominations for induction into its 12th Hall of Fame class. A formal induction banquet will be held at the Lewes Yacht Club on October 9, 2021, 5:30 – 9:00pm. Nominations will be accepted until May 31, 2021.



The Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame honors exceptional individuals who have contributed uniquely and generously with their skill, energy, heart, and time in building Delaware's maritime heritage. Previous inductees include Delaware's watermen, pilots, lifesavers, navigators, tradesmen, environmentalists, businessmen, military personnel, educators, and scientists who depend on their proximity to the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean for their life's work.

Artifacts

Ray Glick, Curator

Besides LV 118 herself, the biggest single artifacts in our collection are the 2 mushroom anchors that held her on station. The anchors were critical to meet the ship's mission of remaining within 600 feet of the designated stations center.



The mushroom shaped anchor was developed specifically for the Lightship service in the early 1800's by R. Stevens and first used by the Pharos anchored near Bell Rock (Scotland). The date was September 9, 1807.

The design allows the anchor to tip to one side due to weight of anchor chain on its stock. This causes the anchor lip to dig into the ocean bed. This digging in motion increases as the ship remains anchored and the anchor can almost submerge itself. The "V" shaped cuts at anchor's

edge are designed to help break the suction on the anchor when it is being retrieved.

Our primary mushroom shaped anchor weighs 7,000 lbs. and was attached to 120 fathoms (720 feet) of



stud link forged steel Di-lock anchor chain weighing 18,720 lbs. and is prominently displayed next to the Overfalls.

Our axillary anchor is still attached to the Overfalls forward starboard davit and weighs 3,000 lbs.

A rule of thumb for chain deployment was for every foot of ocean depth 6 feet of anchor was to be let out.



Annual IRA Distribution

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015, signed into law Friday, December 18, 2015, made the charitable IRA rollover a permanent part of the IRS tax code. IRA account holders age 70 ½ and older can make tax-free gifts from IRAs up to \$100,000 to The Overfalls Foundation directly from their IRA account. These gifts can also count toward your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for each tax year.

Although this doesn't apply to 2020 (COVID-19 special exemption) the IRS previously required you to withdraw a minimum (minimum required distribution, MRD) each year; something you still can do regardless of the special exemption. That distribution is taxed. There is a way to pay directly to charities like The Overfalls Foundation without taxes.

If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity in 2020, time is of the essence.

- Call your IRA administrator today for specific instructions as the transfers can take some time to complete.
- Remind your IRA administrator that the envelope containing the check from your IRA must be postmarked by December 31 for charitable IRA distributions for the 2020 tax year.
- Request an IRA charitable rollover check payable to The Overfalls Foundation. Note that checks cannot be made payable to you or another individual.

The Overfalls Foundation sincerely appreciates your consideration of a gift which will be instrumental in the ongoing preservation of the Lightship. To learn more about the advantages of charitable donations speak with your tax advisor or investment counselor. To learn how to execute a donation to The Overfalls Foundation, click [here](#).

Anchor Drop

Al Klineburger

No one wants a redo of 2020 so come join us on New Years Eve and bid farewell to this year at our now regionally famous Anchor Drop. We are making some changes this year to be compliant with Covid 19. To start with we are dropping the anchor on Greenwich Mean Time Midnight (7PM in Lewes). While not traditional the earlier start allows for families of all ages to gather observing Social Distancing and Required Masks! We will not have any "pit-fires" or any activities that would require people in close order grouping. Staff will be on hand to get the message out - Social Distancing! Updates on this event to follow in December.



Yes we look forward to the coming year and hope the worse is behind us. We are now engaged in planning our 2021 Season. While planning, the virus is still here, we will be respectful of all state and federal regulations and tailor our activities to maintain strict compliance.



"Overfalls 2021"

Al Klineburger,
Contributing Editor

Arrivals & Departures

At the Overfalls Foundation Annual Meeting three new Board of Directors (BOD) members were elected: Ray Glick, Craig Schaefer and Steve Tolbert. These individuals bring considerable experience to the Board with Mr. Glick having previously served, and currently appointed, as Vice President. Mr. Schaefer will work with The Dirty Hands Gang and Mr. Tolbert will liaison with the Lightship Sailors Association and our Memorial.

Departing from the BOD are Albert Didden, Don Gansauer and Tom Wrubel. Each will continue to provide support services with Mr. Didden being the Grounds Committee lead, Mr. Gansauer heading up The Dirty Hands Gang and Mr. Wrubel as webmaster.

Upcoming

From The Editors

The Overfalls Beacon is meant to be a communications tool for The Foundation to share the news of upcoming events, results of past events as well as providing a "snap shot" of the challenges we face. Feel free to share our publication with your friends and neighbors.

Occasionally we will publish a "Special Edition" focused on a topic, or subject, that is considered too lengthy to be part of a general newsletter.

We also welcome questions related to the Ship or suggestions for topics you would like to hear about. You can contact us by using our website "Contact Us" page, [click here](#), and you will receive a respond to your query or suggestion.

As is highlighted in this issue volunteers are also welcomed as there's an opportunity for everyone's level of interest.

Public Speaker Program

"Safely to Earth: Apollo to Space X"

Please join the Overfalls Foundation for a virtual Zoom Public Speaking Event on Friday, November 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. This event is open to the public and there is no charge to participate. Our website contains the Zoom details ([click here](#)).



Mr. Jack Clemons, is a professional writer and consultant as well as a speaker and presenter on NASA's space programs. He was formerly a Senior Vice President of Engineering for Lockheed Martin. Earlier in his career he was an engineering team leader for NASA's Apollo Program and senior engineering software manager for the NASA Space Shuttle Program.

Jack appeared in the "Command Module" segment of Moon Machines, the Discovery Science Channel's 2008 documentary about the Apollo Program, and also in the 2019 National Geographic Channel documentary "Apollo: Back To The Moon".

(AUCTION continued from page # 2)

- Private tour of the Ship with refreshments and dinner for four (4).
- Watercolor painting of the Ship.
- Heirloom quality quilt.
- Custom designed birdhouses.
- Baked goods.
- Wood carving.

And more. You can preview available photos, with accompanying descriptions, of the auction selections by [clicking here](#).

Some of the auction items will be on display, from November 2nd to November 13th at Citizens Bank at 131 2nd St., Lewes.

Hard To Believe 2020 Has Come To This

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone. He asked me what I was wearing.
3. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
4. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
5. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house & told my cat. We laughed a lot.
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- 7 Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars & keep men at home!
9. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
10. I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
11. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Backyard. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
12. Appropriate analogy. "The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now" is like saying "The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now."
13. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask & ask for money.
14. The spread of COVID-19 is based on 2 things: How dense the population is and how dense the population is.

(SAFINA continued from page #1)

My second priority is to establish a committee to take the lead on our strategic goal of creating a world-class museum experience along the Lewes waterfront. We have outgrown our existing land-based museum and need an improved and expanded facility that can better accommodate our collection of artifacts with room to grow. This will be a BIG JOB that will take several years and we will need your help as volunteers, sponsors and donors to help us realize this goal.

My third priority is to re-energize our Foundation. We have over 300 members and only a fraction of them participate in our events. I hope to see you participate in our future events - as attendees or as volunteers, whether in-person or on-line - we need your involvement. This is Your Foundation and without your participation, well frankly, we won't have a Foundation at all. So please, join us as you are able - we need you! You can start by signing up to participate in our on-line speaker's program, the first of which will take place with our guest speaker, Jack Clemons on November 13. Look for the details later on in this newsletter.

Finally, I am committing to doing everything in my power to make sure that we have an Anchor Drop to celebrate the coming of the New Year. I think I speak for all of us in that I want to wish a good riddance to 2020! Stay tuned for details as the Board of Directors works out the details so we can hold a safe event.

I intend to keep us an active Foundation so we can continue serving as a positive contributor to our community. Lightship Overfalls, the shining jewel of the Lewes waterfront, is a testament to the dedication and support of our members, volunteers and sponsors. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, thank you for all that you have done to make that possible, for all that you do keep this Foundation active, and for allowing me to represent the Foundation as your President.

The Overfalls Foundation 2020 Strategic Plan

In late 2019, the Overfalls Foundation Board of Directors unanimously agreed it was time to revisit the Foundation's Strategic Plan and to con-

sider the future of the organization. After some initial planning sessions, a Strategic Governance committee was established in 2020 and we hired a consultant, Mr. Tony Ferlenda from the Delaware Alliance for Non-Profit Advancement to provide Board Excellence training and to facilitate our strategic planning efforts. Tony worked with the Board over several months with several starts and stops due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. We learned what "Zoom" meant as we shifted our meetings to work on line because we believed this work was important for the Foundation's future and could not be put on hold. While the process took longer due to the Pandemic, we finished the job and a new Strategic Plan was delivered in August. Our new Mission provides clarity of purpose and shows our dedication not only to the preservation of the Lightship Overfalls, but to use Overfalls to teach and honor the United States lightship service and the maritime history of our community. What is more striking is the forward leaning vision we created to move the Foundation into the future. This vision seeks to provide a world-class museum experience that honors, preserves and promotes the valuable contributions of the lightship service. It seeks to obtain national recognition as a leader in promoting the cultural significance of maritime history in our community. And it recognizes those who contribute to the Foundation by underscoring our need to be good stewards of their charity and to put their contributions to work in providing interactive educational experiences that will have a lasting and positive impact. Finally, our core values of Commitment, Integrity, Preservation, Stewardship, Sustainability and Teamwork will be put to the test as we further refine our goals and objectives to develop action plans to achieve the vision. By the time you read this, the new Strategic Plan will be available on the website and you are encouraged to download it, read it, and join us as we work to create a new and exciting future for the Foundation.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Overfalls Foundation

Dave Beck

Have time on your hands? Looking for something to get you out of the house after so many months in COVID-19 purgatory? Well, here are some suggestions for you to leave the doldrums behind, once the virus is eradicated from our daily news updates.

Lewes Mayor Ted Becker repeatedly acknowledges that Lewes runs, not only on tax dollars and parking revenues, but also on local non-profit organizations and their volunteers. Without the volunteer efforts of ordinary citizens of our fair region, Lewes would be a much duller place indeed. The Overfalls Foundation and our lightship are key elements of Lewes' draw as a tourist destination and help keep Lewes on the map nationally and internationally.

Given the proportionately large contingent of retirees in Lewes, the region is blessed with many potential volunteers, but the Overfalls Foundation must compete with a number of other non-profits for a finite number of "available" volunteers. So what does it take to keep this National Historic Landmark (the Overfalls is the only one in Sussex County) open for visitors to tour, photograph, learn about, experience and enjoy? As Elizabeth Barrett Browning would have put it, "let me count the ways." The following is a list of opportunities for volunteers working with the Overfalls Foundation. As you will see, there is something here for everyone, and everyone is encouraged to join in.

Board of Directors: Board members serve 3-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms; term periods are staggered, so there are relatively frequent openings to fill. This year, the Board is welcoming two new members and the return of a third member who served on the Board in the past. This body is the command center for the organization, continuously looking to improve the organization and preserve the ship as its centerpiece.

Dirty Hands Gang: This group has performed restoration, physical maintenance and clean-up of the ship for more than 45 years, ever since the ship first came to Lewes. The gang normally meets one morning a week during the season; no specialized experience is needed—only a desire

and dedication to help keep the ship as a shining example of maritime history in Lewes.

Ship Store Volunteers: This is the first interface between visitors and the ship. Each volunteer normally puts in a single 3-hour shift each week during the summer season, signing in visitors, collecting and accounting for tour fees, selling ship merchandise (including shirts, sweat-shirts, hats, coloring books and puzzles, post-cards, written pamphlets, etc.), and ushering visitors into our museum of lightship artifacts.

Ship Guides: No experience is necessary to join the ranks of guides, who over time learn and impart to visitors the history of lightships, the specifics of the Overfalls and life on board during its active years. Each new guide receives individual training and is issued a comprehensive ship guide manual which is updated as needed. Guiding offers an excellent and fulfilling opportunity to meet visitors who come from all over the region, the United States, and numerous foreign countries. Most ship guides work a single 3-hour shift each week during the season, though some opt to do more.

Membership and Annual Giving Mailings: A significant portion of the Overfalls operating budget is funded through members' dues. This effort entails at least two mailings each year, one in the early months of the year for annual dues, and another in the fall for soliciting tax-deductible annual giving donations.



(VOLUNTEER continued on page # 10)

(VOLUNTEER continued from page # 9)

Other Fundraising:

- **Gala Fundraiser Committee:** This popular annual event draws hundreds of ticket holders, and is the largest single source of operating funds for the ship. It takes a village of volunteers to put it all together, with food and drink offerings, silent and live auctions, live music and much more.
- **Grant Writing and Others:** Apart from the Annual Gala, ship store sales, and ship tours, there are numerous other opportunities for volunteers to raise revenue, including writing grant applications, promoting naming opportunities on the ship, and honorary or memorial bricks in the plaza between the ship and the ship's store.

Artifacts management: The Overfalls Foundation has a warehouse full of historical lightship artifacts and records that require cataloguing, preservation and display on the ship, in the ship's museum or in other public venues in and around Lewes. This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers, with or without experience, to learn the real nuts and bolts of the ship and her history.

Grounds: Do you have a green thumb? There are a couple of small beds for planting shrubbery and flowers on the Overfalls property on Pilot-town Road. Volunteers are needed for regular watering, weeding, trimming and mowing. It's not onerous work and the result can be very rewarding.

The Monomoy Lifeboat: This historic work-horse is 26 feet long, has a 7-foot beam, and weighs about a ton. It is equipped with 10 oars, a tiller and rudder. It was designed for use as a lifeboat for military and civilian ships, and has been lovingly restored and housed in its own shelter on the Overfalls property. Volunteers inspect the boat and its shelter and ensure its maintenance, cleaning and preservation.

Children's Educational and "Hands-On" Programs: Three such programs were held at the ship in 2019 and we plan to do more in 2021. Volunteers plan the events and work with the

kids and their parents/grandparents and give them all an opportunity to tour the ship, as well.

Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame (DMHOF)

Dinner: This dress-up affair is not held every year, but whenever the DMHOF Committee is prepared to honor local and regional individuals whose efforts have contributed to the rich maritime heritage of Delaware. The honors are sometimes posthumous, but living honorees are feted with all the trimmings.

Annual Memorial Ceremony: In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers managed in May 2020 to hold the first of what will become an annual event to pay homage to significant Overfalls volunteers who have passed away in the previous year. Volunteers plan and organize the program and recruit speakers and participants (including musical accompaniment).

Public Outreach: In an effort to spread the word about the Overfalls lightship and its activities and to recruit new members and volunteers, outreach programs have been put together for presentation to various groups to explain the Foundation's mission and vision. Unfortunately, the pandemic put such efforts on hiatus, but we are ready to move forward, with the help of interested volunteers. The presentations have been with PowerPoint so far, but there are other avenues (e.g., on-line videos, virtual tour DVDs, articles in the Cape Gazette and other local publications, etc.) that are being explored. This is a large undertaking, but we think that creative volunteers can really make this program expand.

Website and Facebook Management: This is a key function for the Foundation, allowing us to keep communications current and comprehensive for the membership and public. Certainly, some experience with these functions would go a long way to keeping us all up to date on line.

(VOLUNTEER continued on page #11)

(VOLUNTEER continued from page # 10)

Newsletter: This is not a new activity, but one that has been resurrected in recent months after a long layoff. Indeed, the article you are reading now is just one of many that we expect will appear in each edition of the newsletter as

we move forward. There are many good writers and experts out there that can make great contributions to this on-line medium to inform and entertain our readers with stories related to the Lightship Overfalls.

Regular Member/Volunteer Activities:

- **Anchor Drop:** This New Year's Eve event has become an annual tradition, drawing hundreds of revelers who come to see the lighted anchor descend the mast, accompanied by big-band music and Auld Lang Syne. Volunteers hoist and lower the "anchor", set up the music, and stoke portable warming fires to enrich the experience.
- **Monthly Meetings and Public Lectures:** The Overfalls Foundation holds a handful of public meetings during the off-season, with guest speakers. Volunteers help with set up and break-down of the meeting room, arrange for speakers, and coordinate the supply and serving of snacks and beverages.
- **Volunteer Appreciation Luncheons:** Overfalls volunteers are feted at lunches put on by and for the Dirty Hands Gang, the Ship Guides, the Ship Store personnel, and at the annual holiday gathering in December. Volunteers are needed to plan and organize these events, arrange for venues, provide for food and drinks, and prepare "volunteer-of-the-year" awards. All Overfalls volunteers are "in the same boat" and greatly appreciate the recognition of their peers.
- **Sundowners:** These gatherings 3 or 4 times a year are held in the shadow of the ship with a food buffet and beverages, and live music. Tickets are available for sale to members and the public. Volunteers are needed to set up tables and chairs, procure beverages and food, and help with clean-up at the end of the

evening.

- **Breakfast with the Mayor:** This event normally takes place at the Lewes Yacht club or Irish Eyes and is a catered event. Volunteers help sell the tickets (we usually sell out, so it's not a hard sell) and set out place cards.
- **House Tours:** This event draws large crowds to Lewes every year. The Overfalls Foundation is always asked to provide ticket markers and docents for at least one holiday-decorated home for the Lewes Holiday House Tour each December. This event offers to volunteers a chance to see behind the scenes at some of the most beautiful and/or historic homes in Lewes.

Overfalls members are encouraged to participate in many of the regional annual events put on by other organizations, such as the following:

Boast the Coast Day
Lewes Christmas parade
4th of July boat parade
Sea Witch Festival
National Maritime Day
Zwaanendael Maritime Event
Wooden boat building

We hope you will keep these opportunities in mind for the time when COVID-19 has abated and normal activity returns to Lewes. Meanwhile, whether you are a member or not, we encourage you to check out our website ([click here](#)) or our Facebook page for further information