

Mount Desert Islander

Sea Coast Mission balance sheet strengthens



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Maine Sea Coast Mission director Rev. Gary DeLong, left, and president Lee Judd, pause at the institution's annual meeting on July 17.—EARL BRECHLIN PHOTO

In his remarks, executive director Rev. Gary DeLong also noted that when measured by all the institutional indicators, the state of the mission is solid. In part, this solid status comes from the staff and its dedication to the mission's vision and goals. The budget is balanced in such a way that it "builds for the future while at the same time being generous to our programs in the present, always in line with our donors' intentions," said Rev. DeLong.

Donors contributed \$4.3 million to the mission last year at a fund-raising cost of only 6 percent. But while the numbers are important, what is more important is the impact of the programs. "If the clothes we distribute aren't really helping families make it financially, and with an increased sense of pride and wellbeing; if the food isn't getting to the truly hungry; if our medical efforts aren't resulting in healthier lives; if afterschool programs are just babysitting for youth who are marking time; if our spiritual programs aren't life-changing; and if our congregations aren't centers of outreach and caring, then we are mispending our donors dollars and we should stop," said Rev. DeLong.

Honorees

Outgoing board members Chester Norris and Alan Baker, along with outgoing president of the board Jill Goldthwait were honored for their service.

Ambassador Norris, who joined the board in 1995, was lauded for bringing the depth and breadth of his international service in combination with his local Maine upbringing to ably serving the Mission. "With his broad knowledge and love for Maine and his deep belief that Maine's children were at risk and therefore so, too, was the state, Ambassador Norris was an early proponent of the mission's involvement in youth development, beginning with proposing an outreach program for girls in Washington County," stated a

Mr. Baker joined the mission's board in 1998 and "served with quiet authority and the wisdom and commonsense born of experience," he said. Mr. Baker, who is the publisher of the Mount Desert Islander and The Ellsworth American, twice unexpectedly assumed the presidency of the board. At the untimely death of Ed Greaves, who initiated the EdGE program, Mr. Baker assumed the presidency and served an additional term. "He led the mission through an unprecedented time of organizational development and programmatic growth, and with his stature and leadership in the wider community and his warm relationships with countless friends and associates," Rev. DeLong said at the meeting. He added that Mr. Baker brought to the mission a new level of service, visibility and respect.

Although Ms. Goldthwait is not leaving the board, she is stepping down as president and was recognized for her service as president. As the incoming board president Lee Judd noted at the beginning of the meeting, Ms. Goldthwait initiated the development of a strategic plan for the mission and strengthened board governance.

"Through her many community and statewide involvements and her reputation as one who is fiercely protective of the working waterfront and all who work in the traditional trades of Maine, her known love for the mission resulted in a much higher profile of knowledge and respect for the mission's work," stated a resolution honoring her.