

2021 LICA Annual Report – Getting From There, to Here

By Greg Hall, LICA Board President

We had no clue what lay ahead as we finished our last Annual General Meeting in February 2020. What started as two weeks to flatten the curve, persists to some degree 14 months later.

We canceled meetings. The Grange closed to public meetings of all kinds. We bought masks and lots of toilet paper. We distanced from family and friends and locked down our lives. Most everything but necessity was placed on hold. We clung to hope that maybe next month things would get better...month after month.

For LICA, we cancelled first the Spring Roadside Cleanup then the Blood Drives and all other events. The printed [Tome](#) succumbed because of the people needed to fold, tab and mail them. We found new ways to communicate and stay in touch. First by email, then the Board began to meet via teleconference.

We shifted our focus as a [Board](#) not from what we could no longer do but toward what we could do. The Tome went electronic. We focused on building our website [OurLummisland.org](#) page by page sometimes at a fevered pitch.

Without the skills and talent of LICA Vice President Alan Krum, we would not be where we are today. Each member contributed but Alan brought it all together and to life. It is still in its infancy but rapidly growing to serve and meet the needs of Islanders. We chose to focus our energy on what we could do.

Our/Your website is designed not to serve a commercial or tourist market, but specifically to serve our community from individuals to organizations by informing our residents and homeowners of our History, our current events and future issues we face. There is much more to come in future months as Alan tests new and exciting features!

Unfortunately, In January of this year, we lost our Board President, colleague and friend [Lou Green](#) who had been the driving force keeping the Board on task through those hard times between March and January. His contributions, time and energy during those months, forged our direction and path forward and forever changed the way we reach the community we serve.

By not publishing a Tome, our operating costs were significantly reduced from not printing and mailing the Tome. As a result, we had more funds to apply toward [grants](#). However, the Board, in accordance with our By-Laws restricts grants to what the Board can authorize without consent and approval by the members at our Annual General Meeting. We as a Board voted to give as many \$300 grants as we could. But the needs are greater for many. We contributed last year to [Meals-On-Wheels](#) but the need more than doubled as a result of COVID. We are committed to increasing that this year. The [Fire Department](#) needs a new Gurney. The [Congregational Church](#) has asked for help with a chair lift plus other grants above \$300 we could give.

Our By-Laws also prohibit meeting and voting by electronic means. Unbeknown to us, Governor Inslee issued a proclamation (20.51 and 20.51.10) overriding that caveat to all non-profit organizations and the Legislature in January of this year affirmed the proclamation until the emergency ceases to exist.

That gives us the basis to meet now. We will have limited seating (approximately 25 due to COVID restrictions) at the Annual Meeting on May 26th and up to 100 can participate via Zoom presuming we get all the technology figured out and in place. (overhead projector, microphone, sound, WiFi and with Mary Ross and Alan Krum at the helm, I am confident we will do!) Unfortunately, there will be no potluck, food or drink allowed, masks and social distancing is required with attendance recorded for contact tracing to comply with [Grange](#), County and State requirements.

So, as I look back on this past year, I don't focus on what we couldn't do. We accomplished a lot, including a [2021 Spring Roadside Cleanup](#) coordinated through the new website! When faced with difficult challenges, we adjusted, adapted and overcame the obstacles. It is what Islanders do.

I hope to see you participating at our annual meeting! Always remember, we are an Island of volunteers looking to protect, inform, enhance and improve our quality of life. Get involved! Volunteer!