33rd ANNUAL INDUCTIONS & AWARDS

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WEDNESDAY
OCT. 3RD 2018
TWIN RIVER IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL!

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As Chairman of your Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated group of talented staff and volunteers. Without their work we would not have been able to meet our objectives for making Rhode Island’s Blackstone Valley a strong and vibrant region for visitors and residents.

It has been a tremendous experience to watch the Tourism Council grow over these last three decades from a small tourism organization promoting Northern Rhode Island to one that has received several major international awards and been instrumental in the development of our Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.

This year, we not only look back at our many accomplishments developing Rhode Island’s Blackstone Valley into a world-class tourism destination, but also ahead into the future and the continued advancement of our tourism assets. The established Blackstone Valley Heritage Trust Fund will continue the revitalization of our natural resources, and advance the environmental education taking place on our newly-renovated Blackstone Valley Explorer with interesting high-tech learning tools and efficiencies.

As we keep meeting our challenges we thank all of our friends in the Blackstone Valley community for their ongoing support for the past 33 years. We greatly appreciate the assistance of our national and state leaders in helping to sustain the programs of the Blackstone Valley. We are in a very exciting time as the Blackstone Valley grows through the creation our new National Park.

With deep appreciation,
David W. Balfour, Chairman
RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS

Excellence in Tourism Business
R1 Karting
Lincoln, RI

William Blackstone Society Inductions
Denise Panichas
Executive Director,
The Samaritans of Rhode Island

Morris Nathanson
Noted restaurant designer and artist

Footprints in History
Slatersville Village Green
North Smithfield, Rhode Island

Excellence in the Arts
Stadium Theatre
Woonsocket, RI

Rising Star Millennial in Tourism
James Diossa
Mayor of Central Falls, Rhode Island
Last year was a bitter-sweet year for the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. While we enhanced many of our programs and services making a positive impact on our region, Rhode Island’s Blackstone Valley lost 2 key attractions: The Pawtucket Red Sox (one of the state’s largest attractions) and the Gamm Theatre. When the Tourism Council began, we had to face many challenges, and overcome many doubts in developing the Blackstone Valley into a significant visitor destination. Going forward, we are confident that we, working with others, can overcome these new challenges thrust upon us by the loss of these attractions to build an even stronger region for those living, working and visiting here.

The Explorer

Blackstone Valley Explorer Staff 2018

Port Captain Matthew B. Prendergast
Captain Robert Dombrowski
Captain Howard Labitt
Captain Sheila Paquette
Patricia McAlpine, ticket sales
Ryan Bassett, ticket sales
Timothy Flannery, crew
Chenwei Lu, crew

• Operated out of 4 communities: Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket and East Providence
• Increased ridership over previous years
• Refurbished boats with new technology
• Expanded River Classroom program
• Developed and enriched community partnerships with Mystic Aquarium, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Preservation Society of Pawtucket, The Archaeology Laboratory Inc., Cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket and Woonsocket, Pawtucket YMCA Summer Arts Camp
• Worked with Al’s Waterfront Restaurant for boat trips out of East Providence
• Joined with the Culinaria program to offer an increased number of boat/food combination tours, all of which sold out and required additional dates
• DEM donated a dock for Woonsocket to use in rebuilding the landing
• Celebrated Explorer’s Silver Anniversary at Festival Pier on August 19, 2018
MEMBERSHIP gets you closer

Be the first to experience new exhibits, enjoy great member benefits and join in special events all year. There is no better way to discover and protect your ocean than as a member of Mystic Aquarium.

Mystic Aquarium
MysticAquarium.org

Proud to support the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council

Hunter Insurance
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RI Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival

- One of the highest number of boats entered this year’s race (30)
- Will be receiving 6 new smaller BKU boats to offer an additional race option and expand the festival next year
- Added a new jump rope contest

Mr. Louis Yip and Mr. Sunny Ng with the performers from the Chinese Folk Art Workshop of Boston at the RI Chinese Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival

Thank you Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for your partnership and advocacy in our community.

Mayor James A. Diossa
William Blackstone Society Inductions

Leonard Panaggio*  
Patrick M. Malone, Ph. D.  
Luther H. Blount*  
David Gulvin*  
Albert T. Klyberg*  
David Macaulay  
Robert D. Billington  
Louis Lind*  
Clinton Johnson*  
Thomas J. Shanahan  
Robert E. Metivier  
Carol A. Metivier  
Bernard G. Mondor*  
John Chan  
Michael D. Cassidy  
David W. Balfour  
Dana M. Newbrook  
Elizabeth “Betty” Johnson*  
Wilfrid L. Gates, Jr.  
Rose Lavoie*  
Tom Ward  
John Worsley  
Joseph O’Donnell, Jr.*

Peter Conway  
Robert Conway  
Helen L. Moroney*  
Donna Houle  
Gary Furtado  
Rick Greenwood*  
John Gregory  
Gene Peloquin  
Kathy Hartley  
Louis Yip  
Sunny Ng  
Daryl Sherman  
Michael Hebert  
Marcia Green  
Raymond Bacon  
William Belisle, Jr.  
David Belisle  
John Managahan  
Donald Leighton  
Joyce Hindle Koutsogiane, Ed.D.  
Michael Tamburro

* deceased
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KBVB is a program that assists all nine BV communities to promote ending litter, reducing waste, and beautifying their community through a variety of national KAB supported programs, as well as local events and educational outreach implemented by KBVB.

- Grant recipient so KBVB could host a cigarette litter prevention campaign installing 50 cigarette butt collection containers in bus shelters and municipal locations.
- Supported over 1400 volunteers that assisted in our 2018 Great American Cleanup season removing over 23 tons of litter from the Blackstone Valley.
- Enhanced Blackstone River Bikeway experience so visitors now have a listing of bike friendly stops that offer local history, nature viewing and a variety of special foods to try in our area.
- Added additional biking off the Blackstone River Bikeway, to include a route to explore all nine Blackstone Valley municipalities with an on-road route called Circle Blackstone.
- Developed a state-wide Bike Mobility Plan for all RI communities to work together with one plan to expand and improve our current biking infrastructure.

Blackstone Valley Tourism Council Staff
Robert D. Billington, Ed. D., President
Natalie Carter, Director of Operations
Donna Houle, Manager of Special Projects
Amanda Wood, Office Manager/Translator
James Toomey, Director of Marketing
Geraldine Barclay-King, Director of Development & Programs
Joan Loos, Tour Development
Wendy Jencks, Visitor Center Manager
Ryan Bassett, Program Associate
Silvio DiPippo, The Blackstone Shop
Donna Kaehler, Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful Coordinator
Marina Flannery, Director of Environmental Education
Olon Reeder, Public and Intergovernmental Relations
Broad Street Regeneration Program

- Received the Rhode Island Foundation award for new coordinator
- Assisted with the Pawtucket Downtown Alliance and clean-ups
- Roger Williams partnership
- Received the APA award
- Conducted ongoing work with 18 total partners on RIDOT project

Blackstone Culinaria

- Featured food tours in several communities
- Over 200 diners visited 8 restaurants around the Blackstone Valley to enjoy a special dining experience
- Events were either sold out or close to sell outs
- Joined with the Explorer to offer several boat/food tours, all of which were sold out requiring additional dates
- Honored once again by the Providence Journal Critic’s Choice awards

Sustainable Tourism Lab

- Worked with Robert Leaver to have Megan Epler Wood speak at a lab workshop to discuss the UN’s Green Economy Tourism Report in addition to hosting her to speak before the State Tourism Division
Levitt Amp Music Series
- Sponsored and assisted with a 10-week eclectic music event in Woonsocket every Friday night this summer that brought in both local and national acts

New Hotels
- Look forward to working with the 3 new hotels: Twin River Hotel and Marriott Residence Inn in Lincoln and Home2 Suites by Hilton in Smithfield

Commuter Train Station
- Provided ongoing assistance with developing the new commuter train station in Pawtucket
- Explored an excursion train event to promote development of the train station with The Guild and others

Pawsox
- Fought to keep the Pawsox in Pawtucket
- Worked with Delin Design to create the “Stay Pawsitive” campaign that included “Stay Pawsitive” bumper stickers and pins

General Marketing
- Assisted the state with the fun-sized videos pertaining to Blackstone Valley Attractions including Dragon Boat Racing, Polar Express and bouldering at Lincoln Woods
- Published new, revamped edition of Blackstone Valley Visitor Guide
- The Brochure Distribution Program was reinstated and expanded this year, to include eight new participants with distribution to over 40 sites around the state of Rhode Island
- Enhanced Blackstone Valley online event calendar became the go-to point for all Blackstone Valley events
- Increased both print and social media marketing targeting nearby markets

Fall Train Excursion Trip
- Continued our successful Fall Train Excursion with a sellout
Proud Sponsor of the
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council

Pawtucket, Rhode Island

[Hampton logo]

Please stay with us while visiting the Blackstone Valley and
Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park
Blackstone Valley Polar Express

- Highest number of trips offered and passengers since the event was inaugurated
- Opening weekend extravaganza will be offered in 2018
- Continue to invest in our community with our “Calling All Elves” fundraising program
- A 35-foot Christmas tree is now part of the Polar Express “North Pole”

Blackstone River Bikeway

- Continued support of Green Economy Bonds to support the Blackstone River Bikeway
- Completion of the Woonsocket and North Smithfield Bikeway segment
- Assisted with building a new bridge across the Blackstone River in Woonsocket

Invenergy Plant

- Worked with fellow environmental advocates to campaign against the Clear River Energy Center Invenergy power plant

Amber Valley Compact

- Planning 25th anniversary celebration next year and will be traveling to Amber Valley for anniversary celebration

Slatersville Film

- Working with Christian de Rezendes on the in-depth historical Slatersville video

Proud to support the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and its Annual Awards Celebration.

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**Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center**

Jerry Assis  
Paul Bateson  
Ray Deslauriers  
Herb Johnston  
Steve Menatian  
Claudette Moore  
Peter Nageau  
Howie O’Neill  
Ray Rabidoux  
Lori Shaken  
Jim Tracy  
Andrew Whalen  
Jim Wilbour  

**Mystic Aquarium Staff 2018**

Mary Ellen Mateleska, Director of Education & Conservation  
Amy Gollenberg, Director of School Programs  
Sarah Arpie, Educator • Alyssa Richard, Educator  

**Internship Program**
- New England Tech  
- Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Program  

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**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Source of Funds 2017-2018**

- Hotel Occupancy Tax: $373,982  
- Tickets and Admission: $1,343,804  
- Contracts: $73,534  
- Grants, Donations and Sponsorships: $153,913  
- Store Sales: $102,489  
- Total: $2,047,722  

**Use of Funds 2017-2018**

- Program: $1,034,464  
- Personnel: $702,002  
- Operations: $51,470  
- Marketing: $227,325  
- Total: $2,015,441  

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**Pawtucket**

**Mayor Donald R. Grebiens**

Would like to thank the Tourism Council for all they do to support Pawtucket and the Blackstone Valley.  

Congratulations to the 2018 award recipients.  

Thank you for your contribution to our communities.  
Denise Panichas  
Morris Nathanson  
Mayor James Diossa  
Stadium Theatre  
Slatersville Village Green  
R1 Karting

[Signature]
THANK YOU!

Your support benefits the Blackstone Valley Heritage Environmental Trust Fund to continue the revitalization of our natural resources, protect and conserve our local environment and open spaces, make the Blackstone American Heritage River the centerpiece of our National Historical Park, and advance ongoing river education aboard The Explorer.