

# The Coastal Society

Annual Report for 2014

*May, 2015*

The Coastal Society had a very busy 2014, with many accomplishments, some difficult challenges, and some promising plans. This brief report shares the highlights; details can be found at on the [website](#).

## Major Highlights

### Leadership Changes

The Society began 2014 with a significant shift in officers of your Board of Directors. President Kate Killerlain Morrison and President-elect Gerhard Kuska both resigned from their posts. Fortunately, Past-President Lisa Schiavinato and the rest of our Board stepped into the void to provide leadership during our transition.

### Board Retreat

To sharpen and strengthen the Society's strategic objectives, President Schiavinato organized a Board retreat in June and enlisted the professional services of Third Space Studio, a consulting firm with expertise in non-profits. At the retreat, the Board devised a game plan for the Society's near future. Our overall philosophy is to advance the coastal profession through debate and discussion on key issues.

### Committee Changes

To streamline our operations, the Society revamped its committee structure, compressing six "old" committees (Chapters, Communications, Development, Finance, Education, Membership) into three "new" committees (Program Initiatives, Career Development, Development). Important elements of the "old" committees are reflected in the "new," with opportunities throughout for Society member participation.

# Major Accomplishments

## Partner Events

Your Society joined with the Coastal States Organization to organize “Coastal Management Connection: Promoting and Improving Local Coastal Resiliency,” on June 9, 2014, in the Hall of States, Washington, DC. This seminar and discussion was a huge success, with more than 50 coastal professionals in the audience and more joining the webinar. The Society is indebted to Past-President Paul Ticco for his efforts!

In pursuit of a primary goal from the June retreat, the Society spent the last months of 2014 negotiating partnerships with several groups who share our interest in coastal science, management, policy, and education. Our successes in 2014 will inform other partnerships in 2015. Read about our joint effort with the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation’s (CERF) New England Estuarine Research Federation to [host a regional symposium](#) April 16 to 18, 2015, in Bristol, Rhode Island.

The Society also partnered with CERF to strengthen the relationship started in 2012 by past President Megan Bailiff and past Director Leigh Johnson. The effort to develop a special session on “The Role of Fish in Evaluating the Health of Coastal Watersheds,” supported by the American Fisheries Society, was accepted into the CERF biennial meeting in November 2015 in Portland, Oregon. We hope to see you there!

The Society joined Restore America’s Estuaries (RAE) as a primary co-host of RAE’s 7th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and the 24th Biennial Meeting of the Society. “Inspiring Action, Creating Resilience” convened in early November just outside Washington, DC. The joint event was a huge success, proving again the value of partnerships to address coastal priorities. We plan to continue this partnership in 2016 for the 8th National Summit on Coastal Estuarine Restoration and the 25th Biennial Meeting of the Society.

## A Special Edition

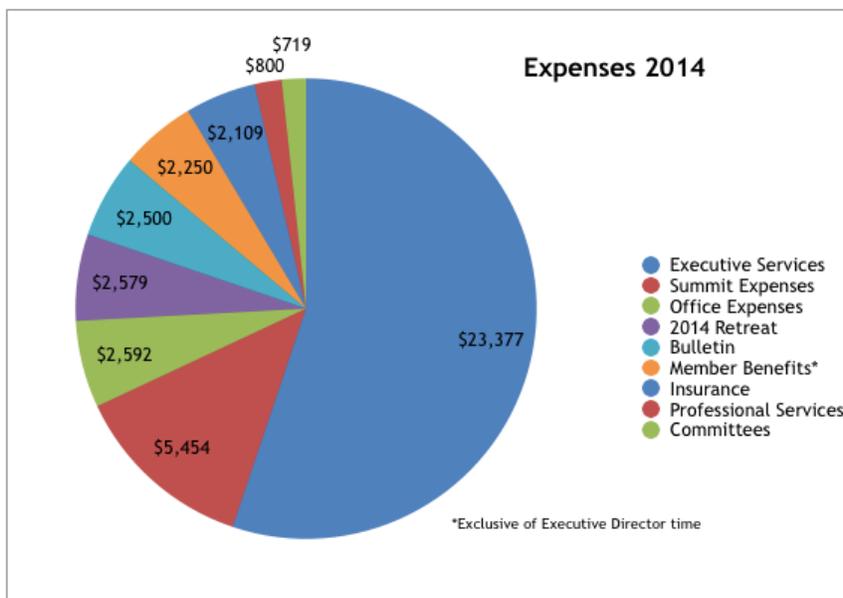
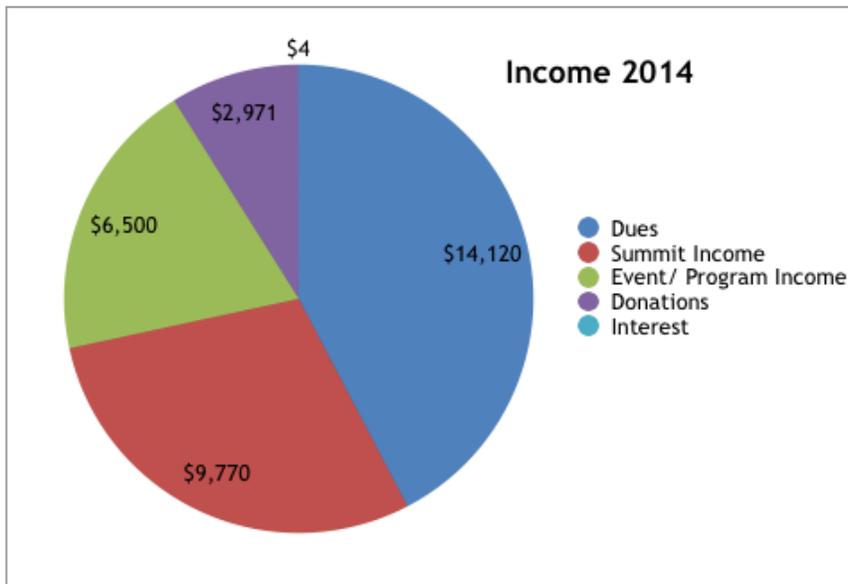
As part of our financial support from Taylor and Francis, publishers of our official journal, Coastal Management, we edited a special issue on coastal habitat conservation. Co-editors Tom Bigford and TyAnn Lee and reviewers from the Society’s membership are now reviewing manuscripts that will be included in the issue, due out late 2015. All regular members have online access to Coastal Management, and will receive the special issue as a bonus for their membership.

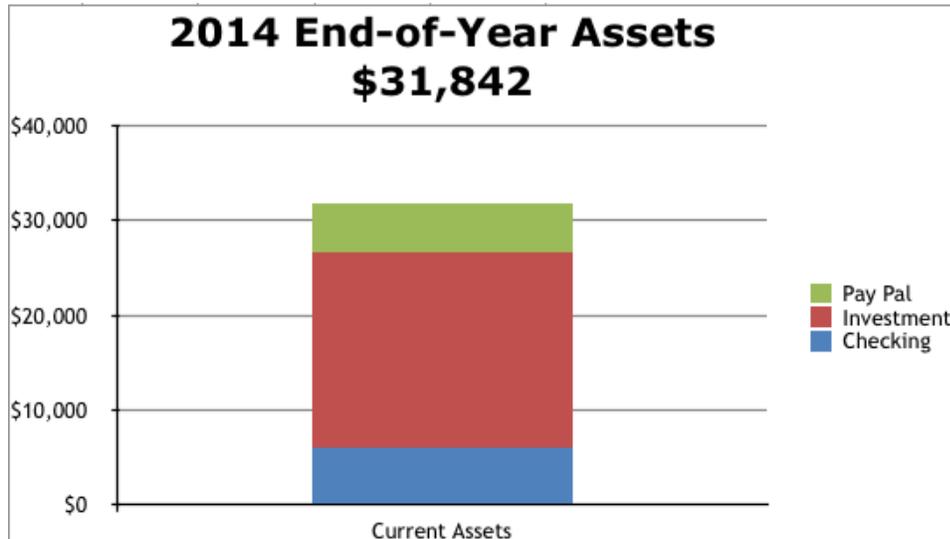
## Our Annual Campaign

As is our tradition each autumn, your Society hosted its Annual Giving Campaign (AGC). Under a theme of “What does TCS mean to you and your professional development,” the AGC generated more than \$3,000 in donations! Those funds will support

member services such as our Jobs Listing and changes to our member communications strategy.

You'll see that campaign reflected in the following charts depicting our financial health. The Society continues to rely heavily on member dues for operating funds, supplemented by the Taylor and Francis arrangement noted above. A top priority is to supplement those sources with non-dues revenue from shared proceeds of joint meetings and other special efforts. Those needs are paramount for 2015.





### Changes to Leadership

As the year ended, the Society held its annual elections. Thanks to all members who voted, and thanks to the winners:

- o Directors
  - Susan Farady, Assistant Professor of Ocean Studies and Marine Affairs at the University of New England in Maine (re-elected)
  - Lewie Lawrence III, Executive Director for the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission in Virginia (newly elected)
  - Erika Washburn, Manager of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wisconsin (newly elected)
- o President Elect
  - Julia Wyman, formerly Interim Director at the Marine Affairs Institute/Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program at Roger Williams Law School, Rhode Island
- o President
  - Tom Bigford, Policy Director at the American Fisheries Society, Maryland

With Tom elected President, he vacated his seat as a Director. Following the Society's by-laws for such vacancies, the Board approved Steve MacLeod to fill that seat. Steve is a consultant with Ecology and Environment, Inc. in New York.

Although no reason to celebrate, we must acknowledge the retirement of long-time Society Bulletin editor, Ellen Gordon. Ellen was the creative and technical inspiration behind our Bulletin for more than a decade, producing nearly 40 individual issues! Our heartfelt thanks to Society member extraordinaire, Ellen Gordon.

## **The Future**

This year promises to be just as challenging and rewarding as the past 40. Yes, The Society has been around since 1976! In some ways our priorities have held steady – commitment to young professionals, focus on creative ways to inspire informed debate, interest in documenting trends through proceedings and regular newsletters, and so much more. In other ways, we are changing – more effort to partner with societies and associations who share our coastal interests, stronger embrace of electronic communications and social media to replace traditional vehicles, and even more collaboration with employers who seek strong professionals to fill vacancies around our coasts. Look for more on those and other fronts in a message from President Tom Bigford within the next month.