Staff Profiles:

Mike DiPaolo has served as Executive Director of The Lewes Historical Society since September 2001. He serves on the boards of the Delaware Heritage Commission (appointed by Gov. Jack Markell) and U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association, and represents Delaware on the Board of Advisors to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He was Chairman of the Lewes & Delaware 375th Anniversary Commission (2004-2007); for his role in the 375th Commission he was named Southern Delaware Tourism person of the year in 2006 received the Governor’s Delaware Tourism Award in 2007. He was the 2011 recipient of the Nancy Hanks Award for Professional Excellence presented by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). He has previously served as Vice President of the Delaware River & Bay Lighthouse Foundation, as Vice President of Preservation Delaware, Delaware Museum Association, Small Museum Association where he served as Annual Conference Chair and President, Delaware Tourism Alliance, Delaware Governor’s Archives Council (appointed by Gov. Ruth Ann Minner). Mr. DiPaolo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Archaeology from The College of Wooster and a Master of Library & Information Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

Susan G. McElligott joined the Society as Business Manager in December of 2014. Previous to holding a staff position, she was the Treasurer of The Lewes Historical Society as a non-voting member and was involved in the Society's Endowment Committee, Finance Committee, and Accreditation Team. Ms. McElligott was a senior staff member for Economic Decision and Analysis Center (MITRE) for four years. She was also a manager for Contracts and Pricing and Senior Contracts Administrator for Unisys for 10 years and an Order Services Manager for five years. Ms. McElligott has knowledge of general management, contracting, and procurement. She contributes her skills in financial management, business planning and analysis to the Society, and excels in problem solving. Ms. McElligott holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University.

Jose Marcos Salaverria started with the Society in August 2014 as the Director of Education. Mr. Salaverria has had a love for history since age 8 when his grandfather took him to explore the Revolutionary and Civil War Battlefields of Virginia. Graduating with a BA degree in History from Saint Mary’s College of Maryland in 2006 and a Masters degree in History from Washington College in 2009 he possesses eight years in the museum field. Beginning as a historical interpreter and tour guide he knows that education through interesting interaction with the public of all ages is the key to a site’s success. Some of Mr. Salaverria’s previous museum related positions include Director of Education and Volunteer Manager (Historic Annapolis), Visitor Programs Manager (Tryon Palace), Children’s Program Assistant (Hammond Harwood House). He provides experience in museum programming design and execution, events administration, retail location management, and volunteer training/mentoring. As a new resident to Lewes he looks towards promoting the unique history of the Society, Lewes, and the region. His continual goal is to encourage visitors to experience education through the exploration of the past.

John McGovern has served as the Society’s Maintenance Supervisor since April of 2012. He has been a volunteer on the Society’s Wooden Boat Program since 2009. Mr. McGovern has over 20 years of experience in the design, manufacture and installation of high-end contract furniture. He has 5 years of experience in high-rise construction and two years in factory maintenance. Mr. McGovern held both a New York State real estate sale and appraiser’s licenses, and was a researcher for an online commercial real estate information service. He is currently on the Board of the Archaeology Society of Delaware’s Sussex Chapter and has worked on the archaeological dig at Avery’s Rest in Rehoboth. He has a Bachelor Degree in Art and Design with a major concentration of study in sculpture and furniture design. His areas of interest are Art, Architecture, Design, Wood Working, Historical Preservation, Boat Building and Archaeology.

Jenny Manning started with The Lewes Historical Society as part-time Marketing Coordinator in July of 2011, becoming full-time Director of Marketing and Events in May of 2013, and returning to part-time Marketing Coordinator in February 2016. Ms. Manning owned and operated Market This, LLC, focusing on modern marketing solutions for small independently-owned businesses for two years. Prior to that, she served five
years at Rehoboth Beach Main Street, progressing from Administrative Manager, to Program & Event Coordinator, to Executive Director. Ms. Manning also held the position of Naturalist at New Germany State Park in Grantsville, Maryland for three consecutive contracts. She interned as a Naturalist at Bear Branch Nature Center in Westminster, Maryland, and enjoyed a work-study as Activity Director at St. Vincent de Paul Nursing Center in Frostburg, Maryland. She holds a Bachelors of Science from Frostburg State University in the School of Education in Parks and Recreation Management with a focus on community programs and minor in Sociology. She brings experience in membership and volunteer development, social media and website management, promotional material and branding enhancement, and special event coordination.

Information Current as of 2/16/2016