OUR MISSION: To promote the Puget Sound’s maritime heritage through the restoration, preservation, operation, and interpretation of the National Historic Landmark vessel VIRGINIA V.
When the boiler lights off, the engine turns over, and the lines slip away from their cleats, the VIRGINIA V transforms from floating museum to living, operating ship. It's exceptional every time. To read about the Mosquito Fleet is great, but to experience that history first hand as the steam whistle echoes off the water and the engine builds to a steady 60 RPMs is a marvelous thing.

In 2018, we were able to share that experience with thousands through 54 operational days on board the VIRGINIA V. While we love our private events such as weddings and corporate parties, the real highlights of the season were the public cruises, partnerships, and educational opportunities we continued to prioritize. These included circumnavigations of Vashon and Bainbridge with their respective historical societies, multiple public cruises in Olympia, and operational field trips with students from the Ballard Maritime Academy, Seattle Goodwill, and the Port of Seattle.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our volunteer crew. From the licensed mariners like our Captains and Chief Engineers, to our bartenders, docents, deckhands, engineers, and maintenance team, the VIRGINIA V would simply not function without this incredible community. We thank you for your service.

2018 OPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

» 54 Days Underway on the VIRGINIA V
» 20,528 Total Visitors to the Vessel
» 4,277 Guests During Public & Private Cruises
» 3,104 Volunteer Hours Donated
The VIRGINIA V continues to be the largest operational, wooden steamboat certified to carry passengers in the United States. Preservation is the cornerstone of our mission, and we are proud to report the VIRGINIA V is in excellent condition in 2018.

One of the most underrated forms of preservation is finish work. This is especially important for wooden vessels as a good finish is the first line of defense for degradation of any sort. On the engine deck, we were able to repaint all the white interior surfaces and put a fresh coat of red paint on the main engine frame. To accomplish this work, we were lucky to have the support of our five interns, the Seattle Goodwill Maritime Training Program cohort, and our exceptional volunteers.

As we look ahead to 2019, our focus is getting the ship ready for her centennial. We will be conducting a professional survey during the 2019 haul-out to determine our priorities for preservation efforts between now and 2022. This critical work is made possible by donors and members who invest in the continued preservation of the VIRGINIA V.

2018 PRESERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

» 4 Maintenance Shifts with Summer Interns
» 4 Maintenance Days with Seattle Goodwill
» New Pilothouse Steps Built and Installed
The SS VIRGINIA V is the most valuable and unique maritime educational tool in our region. In 2018, we leveraged that opportunity by offering our most diverse and comprehensive set of programs, events, and activities ever.

In an effort to get more people on the water and foster an appreciation for our local history, we launched a new low cost one-hour Portage Bay cruise with historical narration called Steamship Saturday in partnership with the Center for Wooden Boats. This program will continue in 2019 with sailings every 2nd and 4th Saturday of June, July, and August.

Our summer camp programs grew in 2018 with the addition of Drama on Deck in partnership with the Seattle Children’s Theater. During this week-long program, campers learned all about the history of the Mosquito Fleet and the VIRGINIA V, practiced storytelling and playwriting techniques, and producing a play on the VIRGINIA V at the culmination of the program.

We also hosted five youth interns, the most to date, and partnered with new organizations like Seattle Goodwill and the Port of Seattle to create South Lake Union based maritime field trips. These activities provide meaningful opportunities for future mariners to explore our local heritage, access our incredible waterways, and gain maritime skills.

2018 EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

» 5 Birkenfeld Summer Interns
» 3 Underway Educational Field Trips
» 35 Summer Camp Participants
» 12,365 Open Ship Visitors
FINANCIALS

Thanks to the support of our volunteers, board members, donors, and community, the Virginia V Foundation, remained fiscally stable in 2018.*

*Foundation Fiscal Year = January 1st to December 31st

REVENUES

- Individual Giving: 236,890
- Corporate Gifts/Grants: 39,465
- Underway Charters: 107,074
- Public Cruises: 56,507
- Dockside Rentals: 18,513
- Bar: 11,859
- Programs: 20,139
- **TOTAL**: 490,445

EXPENSES

- Vessel Operations: 165,617
- Programs: 31,371
- Fundraising: 65,241
- Administration: 93,362
- Debt Interest: 8,839
- Bar: 8,623
- **TOTAL**: 373,053

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Thank you to our supporters in 2018!

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4Culture
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
As the VIRGINIA V begins her 97th year of sailing, her legacy and impact continue to resonate today. Thanks to our donors and members, she remains the largest operational wooden steamboat in the country and over 20,000 visitors were able to experience our maritime history onboard the VIRGINIA V in 2018. After nearly a century on the water, that is an exceptional feat. Our community’s commitment to preservation makes this possible. And that’s something to celebrate.

Heron Scott, Executive Director

OUR CORE VALUES:

AN OPERATIONAL ARTIFACT
The VIRGINIA V is a steam powered operational vessel that allows everyone in our community access to our incredible waterways, maritime skills training, and hands-on maritime heritage.

MARITIME PRESERVATION
The VIRGINIA V is a National Historic Landmark, the last steamer of the Mosquito Fleet, the largest operational wooden steamboat in the country, and a living connection to our maritime past.

EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS
The VIRGINIA V is a one-of-a-kind learning environment for kids and adults to explore maritime history, to learn about maritime careers, and get on the water.