The past year was outstanding for the museum. The museum continued to be a focal point throughout the year. The March membership campaign, the October Annual Appeal, and for lectures and activities.

The museum was significant in Marblehead’s history, and over forty states defined itself as a new country. The ideals that were important to war, and its importance both nationally and locally. The U.S.S. "America First Met China" ship, Marbleheader Rob Goodwin, and Marblehead Public Schools. Beyond Marblehead, the museum collaborated with the Essex National Heritage Commission for Trail and Sails, and for maritime and historical programs.

Marblehead Little Theatre, the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce, Marblehead Cable Access TV, the Rotary of Marblehead Harbor and the Marblehead Public Schools. Beyond Marblehead, the museum collaborated with the Essex National Heritage Commission for Trail and Sails, and for learning activities.

The first exhibit of the year, "Marblehead’s First Harbor Constitution" sponsored by the Essex National Heritage Commission for Trail and Sails, was a major focus for the museum. The partnership with the Marblehead Family Fund began six years ago with the Garage Museum of Eastern Art, and has expanded to include the Pumpkin Illumination and the Ice Cream Social. Some of the museum’s community programs include events with the Marblehead Little Theatre, the Marblehead Chamber of Commerce, Marblehead Cable Access TV, the Rotary of Marblehead Harbor and the Marblehead Public Schools.
Fundraising events are an important part of every year, providing members and friends with an opportunity to support the Museum and enjoy themselves as well. 2012 was a great year for creative and successful events presented by event chair Diane Barbour. The Star Spangled Pops, chaired by Rick Settemeyer, featured a War of 1812 music. The Online Auction, chaired by Sharon Thibodeau, Pam Cassidy and Kim Dornung, with terp support by the Museum’s Development Director Lisa Passalacqua, was a great success. The Lee Mansion FUNDraising Party, chaired by Sharon Pingon-Russell and Karen Long, kicked off the Lee Mansion summer season. The Annual Garden Party coincided with Marblehead’s Maritime Festival on a lovely summer evening in August. A new event, A Taste of the 16th Century in the Lee Mansion, was conceived by Karen Mac Linus and resulted in outstanding fundraising, led by Rick Settemeyer, for the conservation of the Lee Mansion’s demi-lune window. Appreciation for the volunteer support that and all our activities represent was celebrated at our annual Volunteer Appreciative Holiday Party, graciously hosted at the lovely home of Jean and Dick Carlson.

The Museum took a real political stand in 2012, actively lobbying for support of the installation of an elevator in the Old Town House to make the building accessible to all. The Museum’s G.A.R. and Civil War Museum is housed on the second floor, and has been open much more in the last few years, but handicapped access will be of benefit to all who want to enjoy this historic building. Led by Mayor Richard Carlson, and supported by Board member Amy Drinker, the override was successful and work is now underway.

The Old Marblehead Improvement Association recognized the efforts of Dick Carlson and Amy Drinker with awards at their Annual Meeting. Marblehead 101 continues to provide an overall theme and structure by which to interpret and celebrate Marblehead’s unique history. The Marblehead Reporter, now online, is very popular and also fulfills its mission to promote the history of Marblehead.

Three years ago in a response to a challenge we formed a committee under the leadership of VP Lynne Ambrose to identify Marblehead Projects for new directions regarding the Civil War Museum. After hours of research of innumerable sources the committee identified over 4,000 projects with associations to Marblehead, an incredible number since Marblehead at that time had only 1,050 registered voters.

The Marblehead Museum continues to seek funding for programs to maintain the Lee Mansion, the Collections, and the Civil War Museum. Members are vital to our mission to preserve and protect and promote Marblehead’s unique history. For many of the donors who support us on the Strategy Plan. The Museum is energized and seeks your continued support. As we like to say, “We own Marblehead’s rich history.”

Fred Settemeyer, Treasurer