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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcus N. Bressler, President

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Fall 2009

## The Board is working for you!

The Board of Directors and SPM Management met for the Annual Budget Meeting in August. The good news from the meeting is that everyone worked very hard to hold the maintenance fees at last year's rate of \$530. Many of our owners have rising medical costs, have lost their jobs, and/or have had their incomes decreased. This has greatly affected folks ability to pay maintenance fees. The Board and Management did not want to add any additional stress to an already stressful time.

The bad news is like everything else, the resort opera-



Think about your body as a home. Twenty-five years ago most of us were fit, with all body parts functioning well. Now, we are falling apart. Our bones are arthritic (some have even been replaced), our heart is not as healthy as it once was, and we are full of wrinkles and flaws. Well, the same is for our buildings at Laurel

tions is feeling the effects of the current economic situations. Some difficult decisions will have to be made concerning staffing, services, building exteriors and interiors.

The Board has tried their best not to place a special assessment on the homeowners. For this reason, you might not get a new couch this year, or your refrigerator has some age on it, or you don't have a flat screen TV. However, these things will come, just have patience with us.

In the coming year we have some extensive pool building repairs that must be done, so there goes that new picture for your wall or new chair. Unforeseen repairs are a constant with the age of Laurel Point. The Board is constantly working to do their best for you.

Point. In the past five years, over **one and a half million dollars** has been spent on repairs and additions to the **outside** of Laurel Point buildings. Work has been done on the roofs, stairways, walkways, railings, truss repair, etc. and elevators have been installed in buildings A and B.

For the interior, all units

## GOING GREEN

Did you know that the average American consumes more energy than the world average? The United States uses one million dollars worth of energy each minute. As conscientious consumers, Laurel Point has started to implement some energy saving devices. To conserve energy and help reduce costs, as regular light bulbs need to be replaced, we will go with Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs.

The cost to keep hot water warm for the hot tubs is monumental. The next time a hot water heater needs to be replaced we are going to try an instant water heater. We will be using one unit as a model and getting feed back from the occupants.

We appreciate your help in conserving energy. The more we save in expenses, the more you save in Maintenance Fees.

have new carpeting, TV's have been placed in the second bedroom, interior painting and knockdown in A and C, and various other furnishings.

Interior furnishings and repairs have been meager but we must repair outside before inside. In six years over two million, two hundred thousand dollars has been used for capital repairs, additions, and replacements without a special assessment.

## Everything is getting old, including us!

## Wildlife at the Resort

The Great Smoky Mountains are a home for black bears, mountain lions, and other wildlife. Like humans, wildlife love to eat. They have a wonderful sense of smell and forage for food, even in the dumpsters and trash cans at our resort. Please do not leave food or trash outside your door or in the parking lot. Make sure that all refuse is placed in the proper sealed containers.



Keep your distance

Wild animals are fun to watch, but please be cautious. If you encounter a bear or mountain lion at the resort, never approach the animals. Do not **run**, but back away slowly, picking up small children. While picking up children do not bend over or kneel down. Do not stare directly into the animals eyes. You do not want to appear to be a threat to the animal. Give them as much space as you can. Never be aggressive to the bear or mountain lion.

What you need to do is make noise. Talk loudly, bang things together, make a commotion, yell and holler. Usually, the bear or lion is more afraid of you than you are of him. He is terrified of noises to which he is unaccustomed. Make yourself as big as you can. Stretch your jacket over your head between your arms to look twice as big. Stand up tall. Make yourself bigger. Stand on your toes, puff your chest and put your arms in the air. While it may not be the case, act unafraid. Animals are enjoyable to watch but watch from a distance.

## Have Your Ever Considered Getting Involved?

Each year elections are held for positions on the Laurel Point Board of Directors. Each director serves for three years. If you would like to serve Laurel Point, or know of someone you would like to nominate, please send a resume before the annual meeting to Laurel

**WANTED: Committed individual, willing to work for free, to be a member of Laurel Point Board of Directors.**

Point. The person nominated must be in attendance at the annual meeting. A Board of Director's member receives no pay. Travel expenses and meals are provided for the meetings or for work done on behalf of the association.

### New Faces

There are two new additions to the Laurel Point front desk.

Melissa Kelley has lived in the Gatlinburg area for the past thirty-four years. She has five years experience in the hospitality industry and seven years in the banking industry. Her cheerful personality has already been appreciated by the guests and owners she has assisted. She is looking forward to meeting all of you on your next vacation to the resort.

Sharon Maples received a marketing degree from U.T. She has thirty years experience in the hospitality and marketing industry. Sevier County has always been her home and she is a true "local." Her warm smile and experience are sure to be assets to Laurel Point.

### RENTALS

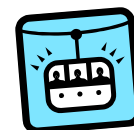
Do you want an extra vacation at Laurel Point? Would you like an extra week so you can bank it with RCI or II. Because of foreclosures, the Homeowners Association has extra inventory for rentals or sales. Rent a unit (or two or three) from your Homeowners Association, stay at Laurel Point for an extra week or bank it with RCI or II and travel somewhere else. A homeowner may pay the regular maintenance fee of \$530 for an extra week. Partial weeks may also be available, but rates will vary. Please contact the front desk at Laurel Point for availability.

NEED A DEED?

Call John at 865-497-2287

### Sales

Palmetto Marketing has a new sales team working at Laurel Point. They are Bill and Jackie Walters. These folks are on site, in the lobby. They have a large inventory ready to sell and will make you and your friends a good deal. You can call them at 865-436-3472, ext. 596. They can also answer any questions you might have about selling your unit. Bill and Jackie have extensive real estate sales experience and are very knowledgeable about timeshare.



**Take a ride over the resort on the tram.**

**WARNING, WARNING:** If you receive a call from any sales agent to sell your unit or change to a points program, please make sure you know who you are dealing with and what you're signing up for before you enter into any contracts or agreements. Also, be wary of companies that attempt to charge up-front listing or advertising fees. Your Board's stand is to **not pay any one any money up-front**, usually you end up paying your money and get nothing in return.