



## President's Perspective

Fall 2009

By Don Gibson

With much energy and optimism, I began my term as President of the Board in July. I am always in awe of how much we accomplish as an organization. Blessed with a dedicated board, a terrific staff, and talented and passionate volunteers, we continue to move forward in all areas.

Particularly rewarding was to join the Celebrity Chef Judges during the *Fall Food Stroll* as we visited each restaurant. The scores were incredibly close – each restaurant had something special and unique to offer.

The new District website was another key initiative this fall. Have you had the opportunity to explore it? Visitors and residents can now use the site to pick a restaurant, find a shop, go gallery hopping or select a show. Don't forget to check out the coupons! In addition to events and latest news, you can learn more about Main Street projects and volunteer opportunities. The site is evolving and keeps getting better. Let us know what you think.

I want to thank all of our volunteers, including those who have helped at the Hygienic events. One of my goals is to continue to support and complement the work other organizations are doing toward realizing our shared goal of a revitalized New London. The variety of art and entertainment that is offered downtown will continue to increase foot traffic, which will help existing businesses and hopefully bring new ones to The District.

Plan to march with your dog in the third annual Pooch Parade at the *Celebration of Lights & Song* on December 5 (see pg. 5). It's a lot of fun! I'll be there with my dog, Sam Hope we see you there!