

# SEAFARERS LOG

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION • ATLANTIC, GULF, LAKES AND INLAND WATERS, AFL-CIO



## **Shuler, Redmond Elected To Top Posts at AFL-CIO**

Delegates to the AFL-CIO convention on June 12 elected Liz Shuler (left) as president and Fred Redmond (right) as secretary-treasurer. SIU President Michael Sacco (center), the longest-serving member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, oversaw the election. Later, President Biden (photo directly below) addressed the delegates. The convention took place in Philadelphia. *Page 2.* (Photos by Jay Mallin)



## **SIU Helps Observe National Maritime Day**

SIU officials and apprentices from the union-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education took part in the National Maritime Day ceremony at DOT headquarters on May 24. Pictured in the front row, from left: SIU Port Agent Mario Torrey, SIU Asst. VP Pat Vandegrift, Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips, SIU VP George Tricker, SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez, Deputy Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley, SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel and MTD Executive Secretary-Treasurer Daniel Duncan. Apprentices from the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education are on stage. *Pages 4-5.*

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# President's Report

## Cargo Preference Laws Help USA

Recent attacks against our nation's cargo preference laws seem familiar in that they're apparently designed to capitalize on a crisis.

In this case, a pair of Senate resolutions targeting the "ship American" components of cargo preference sprung up in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Michael Sacco

Cargo preference is sometimes overlooked or misunderstood, but these laws are crucial for U.S. national, economic and homeland security. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, cargo preference "is the general term used to describe U.S. laws, regulations and policies that require the use of U.S.-flag vessels in the movement of cargo that is owned, procured, furnished, or financed by the U.S. Government. It also includes cargo that is being shipped under an agreement of the U.S. Government, or as part of a Government program."

If you remember nothing else about cargo preference, please let it be the following: The premium for using U.S.-flag ships accounts for less than one percent of program costs, according to our government's own data.

Nevertheless, the completely unnecessary resolutions call for waiving "ship American" rules and diverting cargo to foreign carriers for three years. This would apply not only to cargoes destined for Ukraine, and that's despite the fact that the law already permits the use of foreign-flag ships if U.S.-flag vessels aren't available at "fair and reasonable" rates.

Preference cargoes typically include military items, food aid, and shipments generated by the U.S. Export-Import Bank. There are corresponding percentage requirements that specify how much of the cargo must be moved on American bottoms, ranging anywhere from 50 to 100 percent.

Cargo amounts themselves vary from year to year. For example, according to the Congressional Research Service, U.S. international food-assistance outlays fluctuated from Fiscal Years 2016 to 2020 based in part on demands that changed due to conflicts in Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia. In the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021, U.S.-flag ships delivered approximately 650,000 metric tons of food-aid cargoes around the globe.

One thing that doesn't change is the rock-solid rationale for maintaining these laws. Again, we turn to the DOT for the following excerpt about why cargo preference is necessary: "Just as many other seafaring nations have learned, history has taught us that Cargo Preference ... is necessary for our national defense and a key driver of domestic and foreign commerce. This requires a U.S.-flag commercial merchant marine that can be called upon in times of war or national emergencies. Therefore, Congress has determined that the United States have a merchant marine sufficient to carry the waterborne domestic commerce and a substantial part of the waterborne export and import foreign commerce of the United States; capable of serving as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency; owned and operated as vessels of the United States by citizens of the United States; composed of the best-equipped, safest, and most suitable types of vessels constructed in the United States and manned with a trained and efficient citizen personnel; and supplemented by efficient facilities for building and repairing vessels."

While we've got a long way to go to meet the goal of having American-flag ships carry "a substantial part" of our exports and imports, the SIU wholeheartedly agrees with the above-stated rationale and goals. Moreover, cargo preference laws have helped us answer the bell during all the recent activations – a response that is endangered by efforts to weaken those statutes.

Cargo-preference laws are good for America, good for the U.S. maritime industry – and good for the foreign citizens who benefit from many of the cargoes themselves. I thank the Biden administration for supporting these laws, which should be maintained and strengthened.

# Delegates Elect Shuler, Redmond To Lead AFL-CIO into the Future

AFL-CIO Convention delegates on June 12 elected Liz Shuler to serve as president of the federation of 57 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor federation. Delegates also elected Fred Redmond to serve as secretary-treasurer; he is the first African American to hold the office.

SIU President Michael Sacco, the longest-serving member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, oversaw the election and later was re-elected to the board. The SIU delegation to the convention also included Executive Vice President Augie Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel and Vice Presidents Dean Corgey, George Tricker, Nicholas Celona, Joseph Soresi, Nick Marrone and Tom Orzechowski.

Other convention happenings included an in-person address by President Joe Biden, and passage of a pro-Jones Act resolution that was read by Heindel.

Immediately after her election, Shuler stated, "We are going to amplify the voices of working people – their hopes, struggles, and demands. This is more than a comeback story. This is a new story, yet to be told. A story we will write, on our terms, to be written by every one of us. A new era for all working people across this country. And generations from now, they'll tell the story of how we succeeded, together,



President Biden tells convention delegates that he remains an ardent supporter of unions. (Photo by Jay Mallin)

in solidarity."

In her acceptance speech, Shuler delivered a call to action to organize, innovate and reshape the labor movement to meet the moment that the country is in as it continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Shuler also announced the AFL-CIO's plan to activate one million workers throughout all 50 states to participate in the electoral process.

Redmond said, "We will keep fighting until every worker in this country has the

chance to have a good, union job. Everybody in, nobody out. And we're going to fix our labor laws and make that a reality. I know what the labor movement does. It brings the marginalized in from the margins. It brings respect to the disrespected. It lets people come together and collectively bargain for their own future."

From 2009 until 2021, Shuler served as the AFL-CIO's secretary-treasurer. She assumed the role of president following the passing of Richard Trumka in 2021.



Some of the SIU delegation is pictured on the convention floor. From left in front are SIU VPs Nicholas Celona, Joseph Soresi and Tom Orzechowski. SIU VP George Tricker is at far left in the second row while SIU VP Nick Marrone is third from left in that row.



SIU President Michael Sacco (right) and SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez participate in the AFL-CIO convention in Philadelphia.



SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel reads a resolution supporting the Jones Act. Delegates approved the statement. (Photo by Jay Mallin)

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Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation



Ann Phillips, Rear Adm. USN, (Ret.)  
Maritime Administrator



Adm. Karl Schultz  
Commandant  
U.S. Coast Guard



Daniel Maffei  
Chairman  
Federal Maritime Commission

# SIU Turns Out for Maritime Day Observances In Washington, DC, Elsewhere Across Country

*Editor's note: Additional photos from the various National Maritime Day ceremonies are available on the SIU Facebook page.*

SIU officials and apprentices from the union-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education contributed to the respectful, appreciative atmosphere May 24 at Department of Transportation (DOT) headquarters as the agency hosted an in-person observance of National Maritime Day.

The event (which also was available as a livestream) marked the first in-person National Maritime Day ceremony in the nation's capital since 2019.

SIU officials in attendance included Executive Vice President Augie Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel, Vice President George Tricker, Assistant Vice President Pat Vandegrift and Port Agent Mario Torrey. Paul Hall Center Apprentices **Faith Wood** and **Alexander Boothby** played key roles in the ceremony, which featured remarks from Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips (Rear Adm., USN, (Ret.)), U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl

Schultz, Federal Maritime Commission Chairman Daniel Maffei and Rear Adm. Michael Wettlaufer, commanding officer of the Military Sealift Command. Deputy Maritime Administrator Lucinda Lessley served as the emcee.

Seafarers and SIU officials also took part in National Maritime Day observances in Texas, California and Virginia (all of them in person).

At the DOT gathering, Buttigieg noted, "It is nice to have human voices reverberating in this atrium again."

He stated, "We are a maritime nation. From the three ships that changed the fate of the American continent, to the naval base in Hawaii whose bombing catalyzed America's entry into World War II, to the ships carrying most of the things we all count on every day to our nation's ports, we have always been and will always be a nation whose destiny is connected to the sea."

Buttigieg added, "In peace and in war, our mariners are the reason food reaches families' tables around the country, the

*Continued on next page*



Rear Adm. Michael Wettlaufer  
Commanding Officer  
Military Sealift Command



Lucinda Lessley  
Deputy Maritime Administrator





Paul Hall Center Apprentice Alexander Boothby (photo at left) sounds "eight bells" as part of the Transportation Department ceremony in D.C. while Apprentice Faith Wood (above) carries a wreath towards the stage.

## Union Participates in Events Highlighting Contributions of Merchant Marine

Continued from Page 3

reason supplies reach our service members deployed around the world.... Facing a once-in-a-century pandemic, you have adapted. You have kept sailing. You have kept America afloat."

"It's my distinct honor to be here as MARAD's 20th administrator," said Phillips. "I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to serve our nation, and to work with so many stakeholders, many of whom are here in person today.... To foster, promote and develop the maritime industry to meet our nation's current and future economic and security needs."

She continued, "Maritime Day is our annual opportunity to celebrate and commemorate, to honor our maritime history and to make sure our fellow Americans understand how critical the maritime industry has

been – and continues to be – to our nation's success. Most importantly, today we are thankful for the women and men of the U.S. Merchant Marine, and we celebrate their essential role in safeguarding and strengthening our nation."

Schultz said, "From the Coast Guard perspective, the marine transportation system is critical to our nation's economy and our national security. About 24 percent of our gross domestic product ties to that. And all of us here today, we know the importance of seaborne cargo. We know the importance of a strong U.S. Merchant Marine. But over the past few years, I think Americans are becoming increasingly aware of the ties to their day to day lives."

He added, "In our world, it's easy to focus on the ships, the ports and the other infrastructure that enable us to execute the mission. But you heard the secretary say it:

It's really about the mariners. It's not the steel, it's not the concrete. It's the people that make this important industry the great industry it is."

Maffei elaborated on the importance of the merchant mariners of WWII, who recently received a Congressional Gold Medal for their service. He said, "Now, more than three-quarters of a century later, we remember their sacrifice and heroism, and that of all U.S. Merchant Mariners who have – right up to the present COVID crisis – put their lives and health on the line in order to ensure the success of U.S. forces and humanitarian efforts abroad. U.S.-flag ships continue to deliver important cargoes, across waterways, to all parts of our country.... On this Maritime Day, we owe them once again our heartfelt gratitude."

Wettlaufer used his speech to look to the future, saying, "To the people in the

front row here, turn around and look at the [apprentices] from the [Paul Hall Center]. That's the future.

"In 2022, as in 1945, American mariners remain essential to our economy and our defense," he continued. "The close collaboration between and integration across our commercial and labor partners, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration, the shipbuilding and repair industry, certainly the Department of Defense and the merchant marine allow our nation to maintain and retain a vital strategic advantage. An advantage that allows the joint force to maneuver across the globe at the time and to the place of our choosing, in both peacetime and in conflict."

To close out the ceremony, students from the Paul Hall Center served as wreath tenders and performed the sounding of Eight Bells, as is tradition.



Among those pictured at the National Maritime Day event in San Pedro, California, on May 22 are SIU Port Agent Gerret Jarman (third from left), SIU Pensioner Mary Lou Lopez (second from left) and representatives from the SIUNA-affiliated SUP and MFOW.



Pictured at the National Maritime Day ceremony May 19 in Norfolk, Virginia, are (from left) SIU Safety Director Anthony Houston, SIU Government Services Division Representative Sam Spain, Maersk Line, Limited President/CEO Bill Woodhour and SIU Port Agent DeCarlo Harris. Woodhour gave the keynote speech.

### President Issues Proclamation For National Maritime Day 2022

From sea to shining sea, whether in still or raging waters, America has always been a Nation of maritime travel. Across our 25,000 miles of waterways and over 360 commercial ports, the United States Merchant Marine is integral to our Nation's prosperity. From helping move goods throughout the supply chain to supporting our troops wherever they are deployed, the Merchant Marine plays a vital role in the economic security and defense of our country. On National Maritime Day and every day, we honor the Merchant Mariners for their service and sacrifice and acknowledge their crucial role in protecting our Nation's security and commerce.

Today, our Merchant Marine remains inextricably linked to our national and economic security and competitiveness. Merchant mariners' legacy of perseverance and dedication is carried on by today's civilian mariners. As tyranny and violence again cause the tragic loss of innocent lives and senseless destruction in Europe, our merchant mariners have answered the call of duty by crewing vessels of our United States Ready Reserve, moving vital military cargo to help the Ukrainian

people in their defense of freedom.

We also salute the remarkable efforts of our entire maritime industry throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They put the well-being of the American people first, risking their lives to ensure that essential cargoes of medical supplies and personal protective equipment were delivered to those in need across our Nation.

As we continue to build a better America, our Merchant Marine plays a pivotal role in securing our coastal and inland waterways so that they are open to trade. No matter the hardship, mariners provide a smooth passage for America's critical domestic goods and serve as stewards of our Nation's trading gateways with the rest of the world. My Administration continues its unwavering support of the United States Merchant Marine, as well as the Jones Act, which protects the integrity of our domestic maritime industry, supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, and contributes over \$150 billion in economic benefits.

We also know that the future success of the vital maritime industry depends on its ability to attract the talent of all Americans and reflect the diversity of the Nation it serves. That is why we are resolved to continue the urgent work of advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the ranks of the Merchant Marine and to end sexual assault, sexual harassment, and bullying in the workplace.

Our Nation's merchant mariners serve with honor and integrity each and every day. Today, we recognize their service and sacrifice and recommit ourselves to fulfilling the promises and uplifting the values that they continue to protect.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 20, 1933, has designated May 22 of each year as "National Maritime Day" to commemorate the first transoceanic voyage by a steamship in 1819 by the S.S. Savannah. By this resolution, the Congress has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation calling for its appropriate observance. I also request that all ships sailing under the American flag dress ship on that day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2022, as National Maritime Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day and to celebrate the United States Merchant Marine and maritime industry with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.



From left, Bosun Moussa Hamdy and Third Mate Lucan Shanahan welcome the rescued boater aboard the *Endurance*.

## Jack Sparrow? No, but Endurance Crew Rescues Capt. of Black Pearl

Seafarers recently rescued an individual boater from a disabled, leaky craft approximately 170 miles off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina.

SIU and AMO members from the *Endurance* (operated by TOTE Services for vessel owner American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier) (ARC) performed the operation June 15, shortly after loading more than 1,900 pieces of high-priority military cargo destined for Europe to support ongoing NATO exercises.

SIU members aboard the ship during the rescue included Bosun **Moussa Hamdy**, ABs **Michael Otwell**, **Hussein M. Hussein**, **Dennis Stevens**, **Charles Frisella** and **Joshua Cutchin**, Oilers **Jorge Valencia Bon**, **Starling Priester** and **Denard Williams**, Chief Steward **Wilfredo Ramos Silva**, Chief Cook **Michael Page** and SA **Lynford Robles**.

The *Endurance* received a distress call from the *Black Pearl*, a 30-foot sailboat that was sinking 12 nautical miles from their position.

According to a report from ARC, "Once the *Black Pearl* was in visual range, *Endurance* Captain Glenn Koshak deftly maneuvered the *Endurance* into position to lower a rescue ladder and recover the exhausted sailor who was the sole occupant of the boat. Ultimately, he was transferred at sea to the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *USCGC Yellowfin* and returned to shore. The swift and professional actions of the *M/V Endurance* Captain and Crew reflect the best values of the American Merchant Mariner and American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier."

"Helping a sailor in distress on the open seas is a moral imperative regardless of the priority of our cargo. I'm just happy we could help," said Koshak.

The sailboat reportedly had been taking on water for 24 hours and the occupant's bilge pump stopped working.

Koshak reported, "The distressed sailboat was spotted through the binoculars by the AB on watch at about nine

nautical miles distance. Meanwhile the chief mate, bosun, and deck crew were readying the starboard pilot ladder and marshalling emergency equipment at the starboard pilot door. The engine crew were readying the ship's generators to use the bow thruster and getting prepared for maneuvering....

"The mate on watch informed the captain of the *Black Pearl* of *Endurance's* intentions and he stated that the water was above the settee and that he didn't know how long he would have comms as the water level was nearing the radio equipment. The master of the 868-foot *Endurance* circled around to the east and cautiously approached the *Black Pearl*, keeping her at about 20m distance from the starboard side. Once the *Endurance* had come to a stop and the *Black Pearl* was positioned near the starboard pilot ladder, the captain of the *Black Pearl* abandoned his sinking craft and boarded his dinghy. Exhausted, he paddled the small inflatable the 20m to the pilot ladder and boarded the *Endurance*.

"The crew greeted the shipwrecked sailor with urgency, removing his soaked shoes, and giving him blankets and dry clothes. He was checked by the ship's medical officer, and vitals were relayed to the USCG. All in all, the captain of the *Black Pearl* was in ok condition with a swollen elbow and a bruise on his side. The steward department made sure he had plenty of Gatorade and food to eat after his exhausting ordeal."

The *Endurance* then headed back toward Charleston and met the Coast Guard cutter four hours later.

"The crew of the *Endurance* acted with urgency and professionalism to ensure the safe rescue of the captain of the sailboat," Koshak said. "They put their merchant marine training to the test and because of that a man is alive today. Merchant mariners rely on our brothers and sisters of the sea in times of crisis and always keep a weathered eye on the horizon."



The boat (above) had been leaking for 24 hours off the coast of South Carolina. In photo below, the sailboat's occupant climbs aboard the SIU-crewed *Endurance*.



## Sen. Murkowski Receives SCA Maritime Leadership Award



Senator Lisa Murkowski (right) receives the Maritime Leadership Award from Shipbuilders Council of America president Matthew Paxton (center) and Chairman Ben Bordelon. (Photo courtesy SCA)

At their annual meeting in Washington, D.C., the Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA) recently presented U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) with the SCA Maritime Leadership Award.

According to the SCA, "The award is given each year to national leaders or elected officials who demonstrate exemplary dedication and support for the nearly 400,000 men and women who serve in America's shipyards and throughout the domestic industrial base."

"Throughout her time in public office, Sen. Murkowski has been a staunch advocate for the entire American maritime industry and especially for the hundreds of thousands of hardworking men and women who design, build and maintain our domestic fleet," said SCA President Matthew Paxton. "Hailing from the Last Frontier, Sen. Murkowski knows firsthand the value of a strong maritime sector to our national defense and transport of commerce, and this award recognizes her unparalleled leadership and significant contributions to our industry in Alaska and across America."

Murkowski stated, "Since our nation's founding, in times of conflict and peace, U.S. shipyards have built and maintained the vessels that protect America's coastlines and waterways, carry the brave men and women of the U.S. military, and secure the movement of domestic and international commerce. The current geopolitical situation in Ukraine and persistent security threats from China demonstrate the need for Congress to prioritize investments into expanding the fleet of the future, particularly building out a robust fleet of polar security cutters. We must ensure our military is positioned to respond to the increased demand for their services as the maritime theater gets increasingly complex. It's an honor to be recognized with this year's Maritime Leadership Award and we will continue to be a vocal advocate for these essential national defense programs."

Murkowski currently serves on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, where she has advocated for the U.S.-flag maritime industry, as well as advancing policies to strengthen investments in Navy force structure and Coast Guard shipbuilding programs.

# \$136,000 in Scholarships Awarded to Members, Dependents

Three Seafarers and five SIU dependents were awarded scholarships from the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan (SHBP) this year, totaling \$136,000.

The following Seafarers were selected to receive Charlie Logan Scholarships, as selected by the SHBP Scholarship Committee (consisting of active and retired educators from various colleges and universities from across the country): QMED **Kabir Garcia Santiago**, Chief Steward **Sheneisha Thompson** and QMED **Justin Nicholson**. In addition, the following dependents will also receive awards: Althea Rose Calixto, Fiona Forbes, Gabrielle Newgen, Hala Saleh and Kaylyn Zwernemann.

Santiago's grant was for \$20,000, while Thompson and Nicholson each received an award worth \$6,000. Each of the dependent scholarships is worth \$20,000.

Brief profiles of the winners follow.

## Kabir Garcia Santiago

**SIU Connection:** QMED who joined the union in 2008.

**Notable:** Puerto Rico native who lives in Carolina. Began working at age 10, and began sailing after college. Plans to become a Third Assistant Engineer in the near future.



**Academic Items:** Graduated from Universidad Del Sagrado Corazon in 2005. Applied to multiple maritime academies.

**Quotable:** "It's difficult to condense 13 years of sailing.... I'm not

only an asset because I have what could be considered a spotless professional record, but I have also never been fired from a job, have excellent social skills, an energetic drive, and am hungry for knowledge and always looking to go to the next level."

## Sheneisha Thompson

**SIU Connection:** Chief steward who began sailing in 2014.

**Notable:** Currently raising her daughter while managing her Seafaring career and finishing her degree.



**Academic Items:** Is enrolled in Tidewater Community College, aiming to complete her Associates Degree in radiography.

**Quotable:** "I have a success plan which will help me to achieve and manage my degree. I am determined to prove that I am more than capable of what's required to succeed. I stay focused on studying and turning in assignments ahead of time. I also love to make weekly plans for my studies and decide in advance my goal for the week, which helps me manage my time better."

## Justin Nicholson

**SIU Connection:** QMED who has been sailing since 2015.

**Notable:** Worked as a manager in a ski resort, before learning of the Paul Hall Center apprentice program from an old friend from high school. Joined Class 790 at age 33.

**Academic Items:** Graduated from University of Hawaii in 2010, with a



BA in communications. Plans to earn an engineer's license.

**Quotable:** "As soon as I heard about the apprentice program, it became crystal clear to me how to get out of the 9-to-5

deathtrap I was in, because I saw I could change the rules. I no longer had to spend all of my time trying to please a company, when I could join a union."

## Althea Rose Calixto

**SIU Connection:** Daughter of QMED **Larry Calixto**.

**Notable:** Played tennis and participated in theater in high school. Worked at a tea house after high school, while enrolled in community college.



**Academic Items:** Currently enrolled in Cosumnes River College, a community college in Sacramento. She has applied to California State University Long Beach and Sacramento. Pursuing a degree in psychology.

**Quotable:** "I have always admired my dad's dedication to his career, therefore inspiring me to pursue higher education. I plan to maintain good grades while being an undergraduate, allowing me to apply to graduate schools to advance my schooling and future job opportunities, with the intention of eventually giving back to my family."

## Fiona Forbes

**SIU Connection:** Daughter of Tugboat Master **Vincent Forbes**.

**Notable:** Fluent in Japanese and English, written and illustrated two published books, National Honor Society member.



**Academic Items:** Current high school student, dual enrolled in college courses, applied to multiple four-year colleges. Plans to earn a fine arts degree.

**Quotable:** "I can remember sitting on my father's lap, begging for 'just one more story' as I stare at the painting of him that hangs on the living room wall, trying desperately to see his face, hear his voice, feel his warmth for 'just a little longer' before he has to set out for another length out at sea."

## Gabrielle Newgen

**SIU Connection:** Daughter of QMED **Allen Newgen**.

**Notable:** Played volleyball, softball, and swam in high school. Multiple volunteer positions.



**Academic Items:** Current honor roll high school student, applied to several colleges in California. Pursuing a degree in business administration or graphic design.

**Quotable:** "I want to create an enterprise that encourages all influential artists to produce a work of art that gives true meaning and has power within their own voice."

## Hala Saleh

**SIU Connection:** Daughter of SA **Younis Hizam Faid Saleh**.

**Notable:** Currently working as a medical assistant while enrolled in a



nursing program.

**Academic Items:** Currently enrolled at Henry Ford College. Has applied to multiple four-year schools, with a plan to obtain a nursing degree.

**Quotable:** "I want to contribute to the betterment of society as a whole. In the end, it's not about me as much as it is about others. What can I do to make the world a better place? How can I, on my own, improve the lives of others?"

## Kaylyn Zwernemann

**SIU Connection:** Daughter of Tugboat Captain **Michael Zwernemann**.

**Notable:** Volunteered by planting trees and working in an animal shelter. Active member in five National Honor Societies.

**Academic Items:** Current high school student who has applied to multiple four-year colleges in Texas. Plans to get a degree in finance.



**Quotable:** "My dad is probably the most sacrificial and hardworking man I know. When I was younger, I always hated the fact that my dad was away for what seemed like every big event working on a tugboat. But as I have grown older, I have gained an understanding that he did this so I could have every dream I have ever dreamed of, and I know now that it probably hurt him just as much as me to be away for some of those big moments."



The SHBP Scholarship Committee met virtually in May to finalize the scholarship awards. The committee consisted of Dr. Trevor Carpenter, Dr. Henry Toutain, Dr. Michael Glaser, Dr. Marla Kohlman, Dr. Gayle Olson and Dr. Keith Schlender. Each are current and/or retired educators.



**UNION HONORED IN TEXAS** – The SIU recently received an award from the Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation, for “leadership in time of crisis.” The recognition stems from various seafarer efforts and humanitarian aid. SIU Safety Director Kevin Sykes accepted the honor on behalf of the union. Pictured from left in photo above (taken at the Texas Gulf Coast Working Families Awards Celebration) are Sykes with U.S. Rep. Al Green (D-Texas) and SIU Patrolman Clay Casteel; and (remaining photo) Sykes with U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and SIU Patrolman Kelly Krick.

**MEETING WITH PRO-MARITIME CONGRESSWOMAN** – SIU Asst. VP Joe Vincenzo (right) is pictured with U.S. Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-Washington) at a kickoff event for Washington State’s 10th District.

## *At Sea and Ashore with the SIU*



**ABOARD ATB ACHIEVEMENT** – SIU Asst. VP Kris Hopkins (second from right) meets with Seafarers aboard the Intrepid Personnel and Provisioning vessel. Pictured from left are AB Joseph Andre Gouveia, AE Zach Lindsey, Capt. Ryan Emmons, Hopkins and CM Jon Hendrickson.



**WITH SEAFARERS IN JACKSONVILLE** – OMU Donnell Criswell (right in photo above) receives his A-book at the hiring hall, while Chief Cook Arielle Collier (right in photo below) picks up her B-book. Both members are pictured with SIU Port Agent Ashley Nelson.



**ABOARD GENERAL RUDDER** – SIU and AMO members are pictured aboard the training vessel, operated by Crowley during a recent voyage. Pictured in the first row (from left) are CM Rick Caudle, QMED Nasser Aljahmi, 3M Kevin Zeller, 1st AE Sean Holmes, 3M Jack Keating, 2AE Gregory Potemken, AB Andres Martinez, SA Ricardo Escorcia, AB Edwin Zschocher, (back row, from left) Chief Cook Greg Watts, Training CM Ricardo Giannone, 3AE Zachary Weaver, 3AE Cherokee Johnson, Bosun Shaib Juma, Training 1AE Dan Picciolo, Chief Steward Rene Gil, MDR Jack Ford and Capt. Philip Whitney. Thanks to Caudle for the photo, taken in Miami.



# At Sea and Ashore with the SIU



**ABOARD USNS ALGOL** – Seafarers from the *Algol* and *Capella* (Ocean Duchess) are pictured during a recent servicing on the West Coast. From left are Recertified Steward Dante Cruz, GUDE Rodolfo Ludovice, GUDE Mohsin Mohamed, Recertified Bosun Artis Williams, Recertified Bosun Antjuan Webb, Electrician Salah Saleh, GUDE Ruel Decrepito and Recertified Bosun Ritche Acuman.



**FULL BOOKS IN ALGONAC** – AB Trevor Allgeyer (above) and OMU Timothy McDonald (right in the photo immediately below, with SIU Patrolman Ryan Covert) recently received their respective full B-books at the hiring hall.



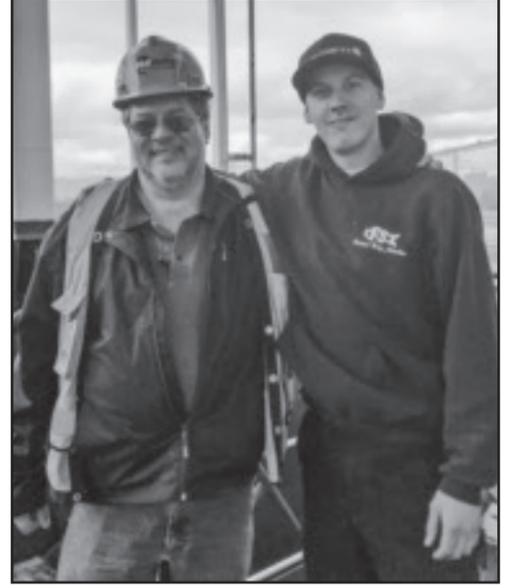
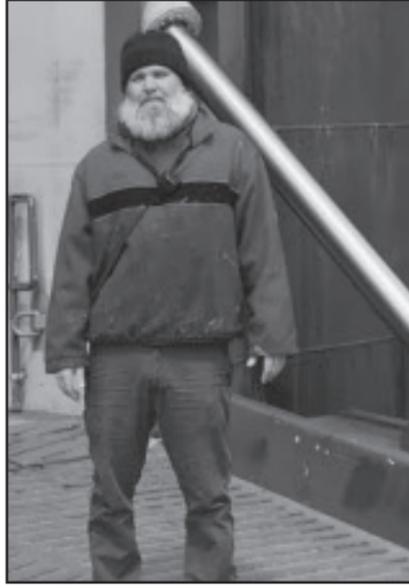
**HELPING FELLOW SEAFARERS** – The SIU recently gathered donations (mostly entertainment items) for crew members on the *President Wilson*, who've had a longer-than-expected shipyard stay in Shanghai. Above are snapshots of bags being packed at the Oakland hall and then delivered to the *President Roosevelt* for transport. Pictured from left aboard the *Roosevelt* in the photo at left are SIU Port Agent J.B. Niday and Third Mate Samuel Synstliem.



**ABOARD GEM STATE** – Seafarers are pictured aboard the PGM-operated vessel (photo at right) after returning to Alameda, California, following a turbo activation ordered by the U.S. Maritime Administration.



**ABOARD USNS JOHN LEWIS** – Vessel master Capt. Doug Voss submitted the three photos directly above – along with kudos for SIU members – from the recently completed sea trials. “We had a great crew on board,” the captain noted. “They were a very fun, hard-working crew. We had a one-week sea trial and it was a success.” While members of the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters handled the sea trials, CIVMARS from the union’s Government Services Division have since begun sailing aboard the vessel, which was built at General Dynamics NASSCO (a union yard).



**ABOARD SLNC YORK** – Pictured aboard the Argent Marine vessel in the Pacific Northwest are (far left) AB Clifford Carroll, (second from left) AB Mykel Potter, (second from right) Bosun Derek Minnix and (far right, from left) SIU Patrolman George Owen and Oiler Dennison Forsman.

## *At Sea and Ashore with the SIU*



**ABOARD AMERICAN PRIDE** – Pictured aboard the Intrepid Personnel and Provisioning tanker in Port Arthur, Texas, are (photo above, from left) Chief Cook Adolfo Bermudez, SIU Houston Port Agent Joe Zavala and Recertified Steward Richard Jones. Below is Oiler Mario Cruz Levy, also with Zavala.



**A-BOOK IN OAKLAND** – Chief Cook Ahmed Hussain (fourth from left) recently picked up his A-book at the hiring hall. A number of fellow Seafarers congratulated him, including SIU Port Agent J.B. Niday (far right).



**WELCOME ASHORE** – Longtime Seafarer Capt. Randy Isenhart (center) is wrapping up his career aboard Intrepid Personnel and Provisioning's Resolve. He's pictured with Chief Mate Chris Mullin (left) and Chief Engineer Kevin Hale.



**ABOARD OVERSEAS CHINOOK** – Pictured from left aboard the OSG vessel are Chief Cook Gladiz David, SIU Houston Patrolman Clay Casteel and ACU Vidal Vallesteros.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN TACOMA** – MDR Duane Akers (left) picks up his first pension check at the hiring hall. He's pictured with SIU Port Agent Warren Asp. (Akers hasn't completely left the fold. He's working as a safety director for the union.)



**GIVING BACK IN ALOHA STATE** – Volunteers from the SIU, including Port Agent Hazel Galbiso (above, left), recently helped spruce up a local school. The outreach was part of the "Labor of Love" community services program and included representatives from the Hawaii Ports Maritime Council. A few of the other volunteers are pictured in the photo at right.





**RALLYING FOR LIVING WAGE** – The SIU participated in a demonstration at the Hawaii state capitol calling for a minimum-wage increase with no tip penalty. Pictured from left are SIU Port Agent Hazel Galbiso, former Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council Executive Director Gino Soquena, and AFGE National Organizer Lisa Akau.



**RECRUITING IN PHILLY** – SIU Philadelphia Safety Director Andre MacCray (right) promotes the union and its affiliated school during a recent career fair.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN JERSEY CITY** – AB Lucas Mejia (left), who started sailing with the union in 1991, picks up his first pension check at the hiring hall. SIU Port Agent Ray Henderson is at right.

## At Sea and Ashore with the SIU



**WELCOME ASHORE IN OAKLAND** – QMED Daniel Daligcon (right) picks up his first pension check at the hiring hall. He started sailing with the SIU in 1995. Diana Marrone, executive administrative assistant, is at left.



**FAMILY TRADITION** – The Seafaring lineage is alive and well for Bosun Adiener Alfaro (right) and his son, AB Lexter Alfaro. The father-son team is pictured during a recent voyage aboard the *USNS Maury* (Ocean Shipholdings). Both members ship from the San Juan hall.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN JACKSONVILLE** – Chief Cook Thomas Smith (left) receives his first pension check at the hiring hall. Smith began sailing with the SIU in 1981. He's pictured with SIU Port Agent Ashley Nelson.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN NEW ORLEANS** – Recertified Steward Eddie Taylor (left), pictured at the hiring hall with SIU Port Agent Chris Westbrook, started shipping with the NMU in 1978, and wrapped up his career with Keystone aboard the *Cape Kennedy*. He's shown receiving his first pension check.



**SEAFARING SELFIE** – SIU Houston Safety Director Kevin Sykes (left) is pictured with AB Adam Simon, who works for G&H Towing.



**SAFETY TRAINING ABOARD TUG** – Longtime Seafarer Capt. John Cox submitted this photo of fellow SIU boatmen Chief Engineer Roberto Rubio (left) and Mate Kent Hayward aboard the G&H Towing boat *Frances E. Haden* in the Gulf.

# MTD President Credits Union Members For Dedication, Perseverance in Pandemic

Despite facing unprecedented challenges caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the labor movement not only answered the call but also made significant strides, said the leader of the Maritime Trades Department (MTD).

MTD President Michael Sacco, who also serves as SIU president, credited rank-and-file members and their unions with living up to their designation as part of the country's "essential workforce." Sacco expressed that sentiment in his opening remarks June 9 in Philadelphia, site of the MTD's quadrennial convention.

"Some of you may remember that we were just a week or so away from our 2020 executive board meetings when the pandemic basically overwhelmed North America," Sacco said. "It's no exaggeration to say that life hasn't been the same since then. But we survived, we adapted and we learned."

"Do you know what else we did?" he continued. "We delivered! Our members delivered. Our unions delivered. Obviously, there is nothing good about the COVID pandemic itself – but a lot of important things have happened since we had to cancel those meetings in 2020."

Sacco, who was reelected to his position later during the convention, reminded the audience of a period when "you couldn't find toilet paper or hand sanitizer on the store shelves" and when a runaway-flag ship became stuck in the Suez Canal in 2021.

"That's when people outside our industry began to understand the importance of maritime," he said. "That's when the term 'supply chain' started to become part of everyday news coverage."

The growing awareness of the industry's



Michael Sacco  
President, MTD/SIU

importance – starting with the significance of workers themselves – can only help bolster the U.S. Merchant Marine and American shipbuilding, Sacco stated.

"Additionally, people across the United States are realizing the value of their work – and they're waking up to the fact that the best way to get what they deserve is by

forming or joining a union," he added. "Our approval ratings are at historic highs. Our publicity is almost nonstop. Workers have won union elections at Starbucks and Amazon, two of the nation's most high-profile employers. Workers at some Apple stores are also mobilizing for union representation."

He then welcomed delegations from International Longshoremen's Association; the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association; and the American Federation of Teachers. Those respective unions affiliated with the MTD since the department's previous convention.

The MTD president also touched on his pandemic-era experiences with online connectivity, and in particular web meetings.

"It's amazing how quickly it became part of everyday life," he said. "What I've learned about technology is that it can be a double-edged sword. There is no doubt it can increase efficiency and save money. And there is no doubt that we also lose something if our only interactions with each other are on a computer screen. That's not an old-school sentiment. It's a human sentiment."

Like other speakers, Sacco also said it will be vital for workers and their unions "to make sure we're using online connectivity – and technology in general – to enhance workplaces and to boost productivity while still preserving the relationships that are built over time, in person.... Again, I'm not looking to turn back the clock. But it's up to us to harness the technology and put it to good use."

Lastly, he noted, "Whatever your personal political views, I hope you recognize that the Biden administration is well on its way to being the most pro-union administration ever. Not only that, the president himself has been an outspoken supporter of American maritime, starting in his first week in office. We've made great strides under his leadership, and we've also got lots of opportunities for more progress."

## Shuler Cites 'Power of Collective Action'

### Federation President Sees 'Future Where Unions Can Be the Constant'

The head of America's largest labor organization says that unions can and must play vital roles as technology constantly reshapes workplaces.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler delivered that message June 9 at the Maritime Trades Department convention in Philadelphia. She also expressed the federation's unwavering support for the U.S. maritime industry.

Primarily, she explained her vision for how the labor movement can protect its hard-won gains while remaining vibrant for many years to come.

"We cannot sit back and think it's just going to take care of itself," Shuler stated. "We want to be that labor movement that's opening its doors wider than ever, showing workers that we are the place to go to prepare for the future. I see a future where unions can be the constant – where unions can be the solid foundation that people keep coming back to, to learn that next skill, to join that next industry that's growing and emerging."

She said that, partly as a result of the pandemic, "people are waking up to the power of collective action and unions, like never before. There is activism like we haven't seen in decades. This is a whole new generation of trade unionists that are showing us all how to be bold, how to take risks, how to be creative and how to be fearless. We need to do the

same."

Shuler mentioned various businesses where people have organized or joined unions in recent months, and noted that new technologies can leave people feeling unsettled.

"Our workplaces are changing, especially coming out of the pandemic," she said. "How do we build that future? It's about embracing innovation and change. But it's also about organizing."

Echoing the sentiments of MTD/SIU President Michael Sacco and other speakers, Shuler insisted, "Workers need to have a seat at that table where the decisions about technology are being made. No one knows our industries better than we do. We need to have workers' voices at every stage of that process. That's on us, and the labor movement has to prioritize it. We've got to keep evolving, and we've always been the source for those cutting-edge training programs. The maritime unions are right in the middle of this."

With that in mind, she announced that the federation recently launched the AFL-CIO Technology Institute.

"We have to be the ones that shape that technology and control it for workers," she added. "The industries that are emerging around us, especially coming out of the pandemic – we want to make sure that those are good, union jobs from day one.

We want to be the source for the highly skilled, most productive workers on the planet. That's how we get a foothold."

She called for a "solidarity" approach to organizing, and pointed out that during the Amazon campaigns in Alabama, upwards of 15 unions participated, even though most didn't have a membership stake. She sees that strategy as a model for the future and also said the campaign inspired other organizing drives in different economic sectors.

Additionally, Shuler noted the importance of domestic shipbuilding, the Jones Act and cargo preference. "Maintaining a first-class maritime industry is all of our fight," she said. "Having highly skilled, union, U.S. mariners is how we do that."

She also described U.S. maritime labor as "the most patriotic group of trade unionists. The role that the maritime trades play in keeping our country moving, making sure that our national defense is operable – this is who are movement is, and more people need to see that."

Shuler concluded by designating the Biden administration as "the most pro-union administration in history.... That means that working people were at the table as we were planning the country's recovery. We're going to keep pushing to get more investment in working people."

She expressed concern about polariza-



Liz Shuler  
President, AFL-CIO

tion among some union members and encouraged everyone to "get back to our roots, focus on issues, get back to face-to-face communication, talk about our shared values and vision. Listen before you talk."

## MTD Snapshot

The Maritime Trades Department is a constitutionally mandated department of the AFL-CIO. It consists of 21 port maritime councils and 24 affiliates (including the SIU), plus executive officers and an executive board.

Because of the pandemic, the MTD's convention – and its observance of the department's 75th anniversary – were bumped back from 2021 to June 9-10, 2022 in Philadelphia. There, delegates re-elected Michael Sacco as president; Anthony Gonsiewski

as vice president; and Daniel Duncan as executive secretary-treasurer. They also adopted numerous statements aimed at mapping out the MTD's future. The convention's theme was "Anchored in the Past – Full Ahead Toward the Future."

*Maritime Trades Department Delegates & Guests*



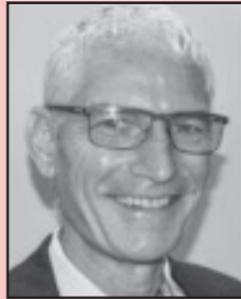
Adam Vokac  
President  
MEBA



Anthony Poplawski  
President  
MFOW



Anthony Shelton  
President  
BCTGM



Dave Connolly  
President  
SUP



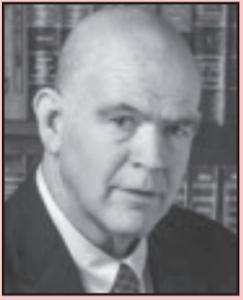
Edward Kelly  
President  
IAFF



Eric Dean  
President  
Ironworkers



Lonnie Stephenson  
President  
IBEW



Richard Lanigan  
President  
OPEIU



Lisa Bolton  
VP  
CWA



Peter Clark  
VP  
ILA



Brian Bryant  
VP  
Machinists



Warren Fairley  
VP  
Boilermakers



Patrice Caron  
Exec. VP  
SIU of Canada



Bob Rice  
Sec.-Treasurer  
AMO



Eric Bunn  
Sec.-Treasurer  
AFGE



Roland Rexha  
Sec.-Treasurer  
MEBA



Dale Troll  
Metal Trades Dept.



Harry Kaiser  
BCTGM



Jeanette Bradshaw  
Michigan  
Port Maritime Council



Robert Howard  
Chicago  
Port Maritime Council



Louie Diaz  
Southern California  
Port Maritime Council



John Baker  
General Organizer  
ILA



Patrick Dolan  
UA



Dan Duncan  
Sec.-Treasurer  
MTD



Mark Clements  
Administrator  
MTD



Augie Tellez  
Exec. VP  
SIU



Dave Heindel  
Sec. Treasurer  
SIU



George Tricker  
VP  
SIU



Tom Orzechowski  
VP  
SIU



Dean Corgey  
VP  
SIU



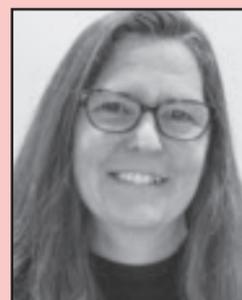
Nick Marrone  
VP  
SIU



Joseph Soresi  
VP  
SIU



Nicholas Celona  
VP  
SIU Govt Svcs



Karen Horton-Gennette  
National Director  
UIW



Kris Hopkins  
AVP  
SIU



Michael Russo  
AVP  
SIU



Bryan Powell  
AVP  
SIU



Pat Vandegrift  
AVP  
SIU



Amancio Crespo  
AVP  
SIU



Joe Vincenzo  
AVP  
SIU Govt Svcs



Maggie Bowen  
Plans Administrator  
Seafarers



Bernie Hostein  
Steelworkers

# ITF Official Praises Maritime Labor

## Cotton Says Jones Act Should be Global Model

The top official of a powerful international labor group said the global pandemic called overdue, positive attention to the maritime industry.

Steve Cotton, general secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), addressed the Maritime Trades Department convention June 10 in Philadelphia. He discussed the federation's efforts to help workers in Ukraine; the future of transportation jobs; and the maritime industry's response to COVID-19.

The ITF is a federation of 665 trade unions – including the SIU – representing 20 million workers in 147 countries in the seafaring, port, road, rail and aviation sectors. SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel chairs the federation's Seafarers' Section.

Cotton described the situation in Ukraine as "very challenging for the global labor movement." He also mentioned the Seafarers Union of Russia, and noted, "Those friends of a long time are still our friends, and they're not responsible for the behavior of Putin. We've had to very delicately make sure our brothers and sis-

ters in Ukraine, who are suffering terribly, are supported by the ITF and all the global union movement, and also deal with the fact that some Russian transport workers are not the devil."

He then described how the pandemic, along with the unrelated grounding of a runaway-flag ship in 2021 in the Suez Canal, "highlighted to the world's media how much they depend on the world's seafarers. I frankly feel that we've been invisible. COVID has given us a unique opportunity to get into the governing bodies of the United Nations and other policymakers to remind them how critical seafarers and other transport workers are."

Cotton said that throughout the pandemic, "we saw collaboration at the port council level to get seafarers on and off ships. Also, the world saw that seafarers are committed and professional, wherever they're working.... In some of the worst cases, we had seafarers on ships for 18 months, with no shore leave.

"We also saw – not in the U.S. – the inability of governments to react to crisis," he continued. "Bureaucracy made it very dif-

ficult for us to move seafarers around, and we lobbied in all of the countries. We also learned that if we want to make a significant difference, we have to be in a conversation with the shipowners, and we worked collaboratively with them. We got a message to United Nations secretary general, who agreed that seafarers should be defined as essential workers and at the top of the list when it comes to moving across borders because of the pandemic."

Nevertheless, the crew-change crisis proved challenging, in part because of "inconsistent application of international rules."

The ITF official then discussed the always-changing nature of work and how the United States' freight cabotage law can play a vital role in upholding workers' rights.

"You have the Jones Act, and the world is envious," he said. "You have a power that goes beyond just words.... What you have in the Jones Act is something we need to transfer globally."

Making "green jobs" union jobs is "critical," Cotton said. "Why is it critical? Because that's where the money is going. It's critical that we build better jobs – better union jobs – and we in the ITF are committed to do that."

Cotton commended Heindel's work in trying to ensure a bright future for transportation workers while not impeding progress. He described those efforts and said they're ongoing.

"How do we make sure that today's seafarers have got the skills to be tomorrow's seafarers?" he added. "We have to have a union voice in every single one of those rooms where decisions are being made."

As a prominent example, he stated, "We need you – the strong American labor unions – and the use of the Jones Act to help us establish what is best practice when it comes to constructing wind farms off the coast. Many of our unions in traditional maritime countries don't have the Jones Act and struggle to keep their men and women at work in the maritime sector. We think wind farms – the construction, the maintenance – could be an opportunity for good, well-paid unionized jobs for nationals all around the world."



ITF General Secretary Steve Cotton says the pandemic highlighted the maritime industry's importance.



MTD President Michael Sacco, ITF General Secretary Steve Cotton and SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel are pictured before the second day of the convention.

# Rep. Donald Norcross Stresses 'Buy American,' Lasting Value of Union Jobs in USA

In a wide-ranging address June 10 at the Maritime Trades Department convention in Philadelphia, U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-New Jersey) often returned to one key subject: good, union jobs.

A longtime electrician and one-time president of the South Jersey

Building and Construction Trades Council before his election to Congress, Norcross also underscored his support for the U.S. maritime industry; emphasized the need for unity across the country; promoted workplace safety; and asked rank-and-file union members to recognize the pro-labor work of the Biden administration.

Norcross, who's still a union member, pointed to his own family as a prime example of how union apprenticeships can be gateways to rewarding careers. He said he has three grown children: a doctor, a lawyer, and an electrician. Only the latter has paid off his house, the congressman said.

"College isn't the only path" toward a good job, Norcross stated, and the various paths "are of equal value."

One way to ensure availability of good jobs in the trades is by instituting project labor agreements (PLA), he said. President Biden earlier this year issued an executive order mandating that federally funded construction projects worth at least \$35 million must be handled by workers

covered by PLAs. Such agreements create and maintain good-paying jobs, promote local hiring and boost safety standards.

"PLAs don't happen accidentally," said Norcross, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee. "They happen because the stage has been set over years. But we know how important they are. They mean good wages, pensions, safety. It only happens because we collectively work together to put people in positions in public office who understand where we come from."

He said that when traveling in an Armed Services Committee capacity, "when I meet the General Dynamics and Boeings and Lockheeds, I always ask to meet with the union president at each site. I want to hear what they have to say."

Turning to maritime, Norcross said the wind energy sector holds great promise for various sectors of the industry. He also expressed his ongoing support for the Jones Act, and said the pandemic opened the public's eyes regarding the importance of maritime.

"The supply chain does matter,

doesn't it?" he asked. "Buy American means we have a supply chain that we're not going to (have) to worry about whether the Chinese are going to try to disrupt it. That's as real as you are sitting here. It is unbelievable on a classified level what we see going on throughout our country. I think we've turned a corner; now, we need to make sure we do it. We start with Buy American and we make sure we have the skillsets back here at home."

Speaking about both the maritime industry specifically and the U.S. workforce generally, Norcross added, "You don't build an industry or lose it overnight.... People are beginning to understand you don't just snap your fingers" and have a well-trained, reliable workforce in place.

Looking towards the midterms later this year, Norcross reminded the audience that Biden "uses the word 'union' proudly. This is a big deal."

The congressman called for unity and said when it comes to union involvement in politics, "It's not about what team you're on. It's about what

"We're not against change," he added. "We understand the world will continue to develop and change. But we want a say about what it changes. We want to have a conversation about, what does digitalization look like in the ports?... If we can work smarter, yeah, let's work smarter. But let's not put people out of work, and let's not put people out of work without a conversation about what unions want."

Technology can't replace the entire workforce, he said, pointing to a recent example of another foreign-flag ship that grounded in Baltimore. The eventual freeing of that vessel showed the importance of "skilled, working men and women," Cotton said. "Let's not mistake that a computer is going to come along and move that Evergreen ship out of the mud. That takes real people with real skills and the ability to time-manage the challenge."

He concluded, "Strong labor voices do make a difference, and our commitment in the ITF is unending to you."



MTD President Michael Sacco (left), U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-New Jersey)

we do: helping bring home a paycheck so they can take care of their family. If we get stuck in these (partisan) corners, it's not a good outcome.... I've been on picket lines and nobody likes a fight more than me. But I was on the (Capitol) floor on January 6. That's not my country. This is not a blue or red issue; this is an American issue as fundamental as anything we do."



Congressman Norcross addresses the MTD convention and emphasizes his support of the U.S. maritime industry.

# 'U.S. Merchant Marine is Essential'

## FMC Commissioner Notes Growing Awareness of Maritime

The U.S. maritime industry collectively should capitalize on the growing awareness of its essential roles.

Carl Bentzel, a commissioner with the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), emphasized that view June 9 at the Maritime Trades Department convention in Philadelphia.

The FMC is self-described as "the independent federal agency responsible for regulating the U.S. international ocean transportation system for the benefit of U.S. exporters, importers, and the U.S. consumer."

Bentzel said that the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted "the essential character of transportation... The U.S. Merchant Marine is an essential component of our industrial base and our security. We can't rely on foreign shipping to provide our nation's objectives."

He also said that while the FMC is not involved in Jones Act issues, he strongly supports maintaining the century-old law, which is vital to U.S. national, economic and homeland security. (The Jones Act requires that cargo moving between domestic ports is carried aboard vessels that are crewed, built, flagged and owned American.)

"It was always something that offended me, that we would consider ceding our territory, our navigable waters, to some foreign nation," Bentzel said regarding those who would weaken or eliminate the law. "It would be like giving up the state of Nebraska to another nation. We can't consider that. It's stunning when we even consider" such proposals. "If you work in the United States, you should

be subject to our laws. We should have U.S. health, safety and labor standards. It's a disappointment to even have to argue this."

He noted the devastating consequences Australia has experienced due to wiping out their own freight cabotage laws.

Bentzel added, "During the pandemic, Jones Act carriers are transporting cargo on a timely basis. It's also getting there to the offshore islands and Puerto Rico. Rates have not gone up. By comparison, the shipping rates on (foreign flag) international cargo shipping have gone up 300 to 500 percent, and it's taking two to three times longer to travel."

The commissioner pointed out there aren't many U.S.-flag ships trading internationally, which leaves the country potentially vulnerable.

"One-hundred percent of every single container used in the world is built by the Chinese government," he said. "Forty-three percent of all ships are built by China," while roughly 80 percent of the world fleet sails under runaway flags."

Bentzel then talked about the original debate concerning the Maritime Security Act of 1996 (a law that created the Maritime Security Program). He read comments from the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) – an honorary SIU member. The senator explained the maritime industry's importance and said we cannot rely on the goodwill of foreign nations to transport military cargo and other vital supplies.

"Those comments are applicable today, perhaps even more so," Bentzel said.

He then focused on ways to grow the in-



FMC Commissioner Carl Bentzel

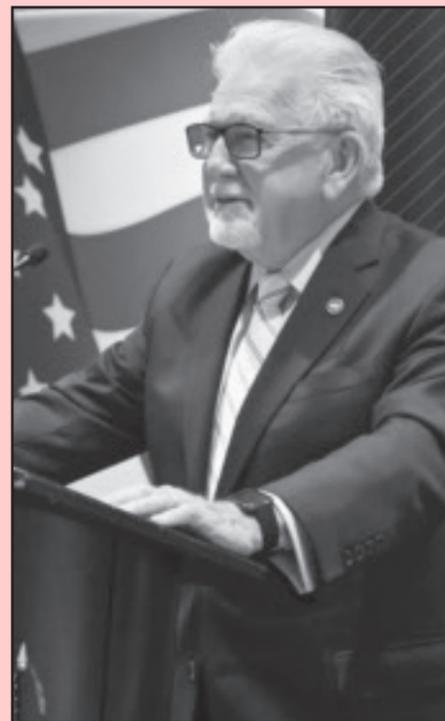
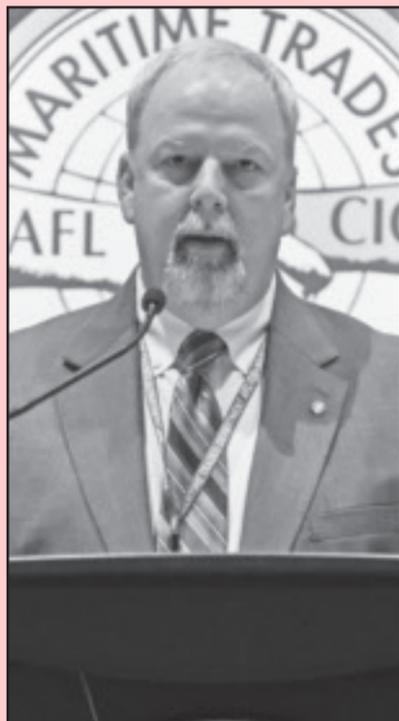
dustry.

"We should look at this crisis (the pandemic) as an opportunity to make the case that we have to have a (stronger) U.S. presence in (international) shipping," Bentzel said. "I am a regulator, but in my capacity, I will do anything I can to support and promote the presence of U.S.-flag shipping and U.S. Merchant Mariners."

He concluded, "It is an industrial base

that is strategically vital to the United States. We've spent too little energy and too little time and too little effort at the federal level doing what we could. I'm going to be working with you to do whatever I can, but it's really up to your folks in Washington to come up with some plans. There is an opportunity; people recognize that our supply chain is handled by an industry. Before this (pandemic), goods just magically appeared. Let's capitalize."

### Speakers Tackle Labor, Maritime Issues



Delegates and guests at the MTD convention heard from an array of speakers representing various segments of the maritime industry and the labor movement. Those speakers included BCTGM Secretary-Treasurer David Woods (above, left); Maryland Port Administration Executive Director Bill Doyle (second from left); Adriana O'Hagan of the American Federation of Teachers (second from right); and Philadelphia Central Labor Council President Pat Eiding (far right). Many of the convention's attendees are pictured in photo at immediate right.



## Important Notice: Norfolk Hall Renovations, Temporary Offices

Extensive renovations to the hiring hall in Norfolk, Virginia, are expected to commence soon.

At press time, the union secured temporary office space that will be utilized during the renovation period. The address of the temporary office is 111 Mill Creek Parkway, Suite 100, Chesapeake, Virginia, 23323. That facility is located 14 miles from the Norfolk hall.

The phone and fax numbers for the hall will remain unchanged.

"The planning for these renovations has been comprehensive, and I'm confident that the membership will be pleased with the re-

sults," said SIU Assistant Vice President Pat Vandegrift, who is overseeing the project. "It's definitely time to make these improvements, and we're still retaining the convenience of the hall's location, which is near both the waterfront and a main highway."

An exact move-in date wasn't known at press time but will be posted on the SIU website, communicated via the union's text service, and published in upcoming editions of the *LOG*. The renovations are expected to last several months and possibly as long as a year.

Contact the hall for more information.

## WellCheck Provides Fast, Convenient Vax Card Storage

Thanks to a partnership between the SIU and WellCheck, mariners can now verify their COVID-19 cards with state databases, store them digitally on their devices, and call up the information in an instant – all for free.

This service, which is being offered to members as an optional convenience, allows mariners to digitally authenticate their vaccine records. This is an important step that increases the card's acceptance rate in some locations, including foreign ports and some large events.

Once verified, the information is then stored digitally thru the WellCheck app, as well as automatically uploaded to the member's online SIU member portal. All members are strongly en-

couraged to upload their vaccine cards through the WellCheck app, even if they have previously submitted their information. Additionally, when a member receives a COVID-19 booster shot, they are encouraged to upload their updated vaccine card through WellCheck.

Members can also save their verified vaccine information to their Apple Wallet or Google Wallet on their mobile devices, to ensure they have ready access even if they lose internet connectivity. This is an added service being provided to the membership at no cost, and is not mandatory.

To get started, see the May 17 post on the SIU website or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz48avh>

## July & August Membership Meetings

Piney Point.....	*Tuesday: July 5, Monday: August 8
Algonac.....	Friday: July 8, August 12
Baltimore.....	Thursday: July 7, August 11
Guam.....	Thursday: July 21, August 25
Honolulu.....	Friday: July 15, August 19
Houston.....	Monday: July 11, August 15
Jacksonville.....	Thursday: July 7, August 11
Joliet.....	Thursday: July 14, August 18
Mobile.....	Wednesday: July 13, August 17
New Orleans.....	Tuesday: July 12, August 16
Jersey City.....	Tuesday: July 5, August 9
Norfolk.....	Friday: July 8, August 12
Oakland.....	Thursday: July 14, August 18
Philadelphia.....	Wednesday: July 6, August 10
Port Everglades.....	Thursday: July 14, August 18
San Juan.....	Thursday: July 7, August 11
St. Louis.....	Friday: July 15, August 19
Tacoma.....	Friday: July 22, August 26
Wilmington.....	Monday: July 18, August 22

\*Piney Point change in July due to Independence Day observance

Each port's meeting starts at 10:30 a.m

## Dispatchers' Report for Deep Sea

"Total Registered" and "Total Shipped" data is cumulative from May 14 - June 15. "Registered on the Beach" data is as of June 15.

Port	Total Registered All Groups			Total Shipped All Groups			Trip Reliefs	Registered on Beach All Groups		
	A	B	C	A	B	C		A	B	C
<b>Deck Department</b>										
Algonac	9	5	2	15	2	0	5	22	6	5
Anchorage	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	1
Baltimore	2	2	1	4	4	0	2	4	4	1
Fort Lauderdale	21	8	3	13	6	1	10	22	9	6
Guam	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Harvey	9	4	0	7	2	0	4	13	8	1
Honolulu	11	3	1	12	2	0	3	14	3	1
Houston	36	12	4	24	10	2	18	50	15	5
Jacksonville	43	25	8	23	9	6	14	48	38	9
Jersey City	31	13	0	22	6	1	18	47	17	1
Joliet	2	5	0	4	0	0	0	2	6	1
Mobile	9	0	3	4	2	2	3	17	1	2
Norfolk	13	15	5	16	8	4	10	25	19	7
Oakland	12	5	0	10	2	0	5	16	5	2
Philadelphia	5	0	2	6	0	1	3	5	3	1
Piney Point	0	7	3	0	3	1	3	0	7	1
Puerto Rico	7	7	2	2	2	1	2	15	5	2
Tacoma	25	7	2	18	6	2	16	34	17	3
St. Louis	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Wilmington	24	12	3	21	6	2	14	41	14	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>56</b>

<b>Engine Department</b>										
Algonac	2	1	0	5	1	0	3	3	1	0
Anchorage	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Baltimore	1	4	0	2	4	0	3	0	0	0
Fort Lauderdale	8	8	0	7	3	1	5	15	7	2
Guam	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Harvey	1	0	0	3	1	0	1	2	4	0
Honolulu	2	2	1	5	5	1	2	5	5	1
Houston	10	13	1	10	5	1	7	14	14	4
Jacksonville	13	8	2	18	5	2	6	22	13	3
Jersey City	12	3	1	8	2	2	5	17	5	1
Joliet	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Mobile	2	1	2	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Norfolk	9	10	9	13	4	5	4	15	12	5
Oakland	7	0	1	2	4	1	1	7	5	1
Philadelphia	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	4	1	1
Piney Point	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	1
Puerto Rico	3	2	0	2	1	0	1	2	5	0
Tacoma	12	4	2	6	4	0	6	16	9	2
St. Louis	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	1
Wilmington	15	8	0	7	8	3	3	15	7	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>25</b>

<b>Steward Department</b>										
Algonac	5	1	0	5	0	0	1	5	3	0
Anchorage	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Baltimore	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Fort Lauderdale	10	7	0	9	6	0	7	10	6	1
Guam	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Harvey	3	2	1	2	0	1	3	6	2	0
Honolulu	8	2	0	1	0	0	1	16	4	0
Houston	19	6	2	17	2	0	10	23	8	1
Jacksonville	18	12	2	12	11	1	11	28	16	3
Jersey City	11	3	0	5	5	1	2	14	3	1
Joliet	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mobile	2	3	0	3	1	0	1	1	7	1
Norfolk	12	13	3	11	9	3	8	20	14	5
Oakland	11	5	2	9	2	0	4	15	7	3
Philadelphia	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0
Piney Point	1	12	3	2	7	2	5	3	7	2
Puerto Rico	5	9	2	1	3	0	1	7	8	3
Tacoma	9	3	0	9	3	0	5	12	4	0
St. Louis	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
Wilmington	19	10	0	15	2	0	5	18	20	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>21</b>

<b>Entry Department</b>										
Algonac	3	9	4	2	2	3	4	2	12	7
Anchorage	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
Baltimore	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fort Lauderdale	0	2	8	0	1	2	3	0	7	7
Guam	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Harvey	0	1	3	1	3	0	1	0	1	5
Honolulu	0	3	5	0	2	1	1	1	4	8
Houston	4	9	13	2	10	8	6	2	13	19
Jacksonville	0	18	58	0	9	35	4	1	24	78
Jersey City	1	17	17	1	6	10	5	2	22	18
Joliet	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mobile	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Norfolk	0	16	27	0	13	20	6	0	17	29
Oakland	3	7	7	0	2	3	3	3	9	10
Philadelphia	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Piney Point	0	3	8	0	2	12	5	0	1	5
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Tacoma	6	9	1	3	6	0	2	8	14	4
St. Louis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wilmington	2	9	6	2	7	5	4	3	22	10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>308</b>

## Seafarers International Union Directory

Michael Sacco, President  
 Augustin Tellez, Executive Vice President  
 David Heindel, Secretary-Treasurer  
 George Tricker, Vice President Contracts  
 Tom Orzechowski,  
 Vice President Lakes and Inland Waters  
 Dean Corgey, Vice President Gulf Coast  
 Nicholas J. Marrone, Vice President West Coast  
 Joseph T. Soresi, Vice President Atlantic Coast  
 Nicholas Celona, Vice President Government  
 Services



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 Camp Springs, MD 20746 (301) 899-0675

**ALGONAC**  
 520 St. Clair River Dr., Algonac, MI 48001  
 (810) 794-4988

**ANCHORAGE**  
 721 Sesame St., #1C, Anchorage, AK 99503  
 (907) 561-4988

**BALTIMORE**  
 2315 Essex St., Baltimore, MD 21224  
 (410) 327-4900

**GUAM**  
 P.O. Box 3328, Hagatna, Guam 96932  
 Cliffline Office Ctr. Bldg., Suite 103B  
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**HONOLULU**  
 606 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819  
 (808) 845-5222

**HOUSTON**  
 625 N. York St., Houston, TX 77003  
 (713) 659-5152

**JACKSONVILLE**  
 5100 Belfort Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32256  
 (904) 281-2622

**JERSEY CITY**  
 104 Broadway, Jersey City, NJ 07306  
 (201) 434-6000

**JOLIET**  
 10 East Clinton St., Joliet, IL 60432  
 (815) 723-8002

**MOBILE**  
 1640 Dauphin Island Pkwy, Mobile, AL 36605  
 (251) 478-0916

**NEW ORLEANS**  
 3911 Lapalco Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058  
 (504) 328-7545

**NORFOLK**  
 115 Third St., Norfolk, VA 23510  
 (757) 622-1892

**OAKLAND**  
 1121 7th St., Oakland, CA 94607  
 (510) 444-2360

**PHILADELPHIA**  
 2604 S. 4 St., Philadelphia, PA 19148  
 (215) 336-3818

**PINEY POINT**  
 45353 St. George's Avenue, Piney Point, MD  
 20674  
 (301) 994-0010

**PORT EVERGLADES**  
 1221 S. Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316  
 (954) 522-7984

**SAN JUAN**  
 659 Hill Side St., Summit Hills  
 San Juan, PR 00920  
 (787) 721-4033

**ST. LOUIS/ALTON**  
 4581 Gravois Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116  
 (314) 752-6500

**TACOMA**  
 3411 South Union Ave., Tacoma, WA 98409  
 (253) 272-7774

**WILMINGTON**  
 510 N. Broad Ave., Wilmington, CA 90744  
 (310) 549-4001/4002

## Inquiring Seafarer

*This month's question was answered by upgraders at the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center in Piney Point, Maryland.*

**Question: What was the most memorable vacation you've taken since becoming a mariner?**



**Brandy Baker**  
*QMED*

Spain in 2009, back when I first started in the union. I went to Madrid, and the experience made me want to do and see more. It was a life-changing experience for me, and it put clouds under my feet, it gave me the urge to travel more.



**Vanessa Brumsey-Osbourne**  
*Chief Cook*

My best vacation was during off-time at work, when we went to Saipan. It's gorgeous, and a day's sail from Guam. The water was so blue, and you could see your toes through the water. It was a great time.



**Timothy Paul**  
*AB*

Scotland, 2007. I went over with my pregnant wife for our anniversary, and we came home with a daughter! But I love that I have been able to travel and see the world, both on a ship and in my free time.



**Michael Zabielski**  
*DEU*

While working on the *OSG Houston* while it was in the yard, we went to the Bahamas. We saw the palm trees, went snorkeling, we went fishing from the deck of the ship. It was a great time.



**Lance Gibson**  
*GUDE*

I went to Cancun for an anniversary trip with my wife. It was a surprise I set up for her, and she had no idea where we were going until we got to the airport. The smile on her face when she found out was priceless. And we've been married for 14 years.



**Ernest Grant**  
*DEU*

I've been on some tours that felt like vacations when we went ashore. Belgium was great – the people were so nice, the food was awesome, and their chocolate really is the best. They didn't speak a lot of English, but they were so nice to me.



**Ben Thuringer**  
*OMU*

I went to the Amalfi Coast in 2021. My intent was to tour the ruins of Pompeii, but I didn't know I needed a reservation! So, I drove my rental car down the coast, and camped out on the beach for the night. It was an amazing trip.



## Pic From The Past

In 1978, the SIU-crewed *Delta Sud* received the prestigious Jones F. Devlin award for an outstanding safety record. When the award was presented, the vessel had operated for 773 consecutive days without a single lost-time accident to any crew member. Among those pictured on the vessel in New Orleans are Steward/Cook Edward Vieira (left) and AB John Sanfferer (third from left). Vessel master Capt. W.L. Easter is fourth from left, accepting the certificate from Capt. E.R. Seamen, marine operations manager Delta Line. In that era, the Devlin award was sponsored by the American Institute of Merchant Shipping. It's still presented today, by the Chamber of Shipping of America.



*If anyone has a vintage union-related photograph he or she would like to share with other Seafarers LOG readers, please send it to the Seafarers LOG, 5201 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20746. Photographs will be returned, if so requested. High-resolution digital images may be sent to [webmaster@seafarers.org](mailto:webmaster@seafarers.org)*

# Welcome Ashore



Each month, the Seafarers LOG pays tribute to the SIU members who have devoted their working lives to sailing aboard U.S.-flag vessels on the deep seas, inland waterways or Great Lakes. Listed below are brief biographical sketches of those members who recently retired from the union. The brothers and sisters of the SIU thank those members for a job well done and wish them happiness and good health in the days ahead.

## DEEP SEA

### GREGORY AGREN

Brother Gregory Agren, 70, began his career with the SIU in 1987 when he sailed aboard the *USNS Bartlett*. He sailed in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. Brother Agren most recently shipped on the *Cape Island*. He makes his home in Port Angeles, Washington.



### GERTRUDIS ARZU

Sister Gertrudis Arzu, 65, started sailing with the Seafarers in 1999, initially working on the *Richard G. Matthiesen*. She was a steward department member and upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Sister Arzu most recently sailed on the *Maersk Kinloss*. She lives in the Bronx, New York.



### STEVE BIGELOW

Brother Steve Bigelow, 67, donned the SIU colors in 1973 when he shipped on the *Portland*. He upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions. Brother Bigelow was an engine department member and concluded his career on the *Reliance*. He calls Edmonds, Washington, home.



### JUSUF DJUNED

Brother Jusuf Djuned, 66, signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1981, initially sailing aboard the *Innovator*. He shipped in the deck department. Brother Djuned's final vessel was the *Overseas Ohio*. He makes his home in Seattle.



### WALTER FEY

Brother Walter Fey, 66, joined the Seafarers in 1981. He sailed in the engine department and upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Brother Fey's first vessel was the *Independence*; his last, the *Chemical Explorer*. He is a Philadelphia resident.

### ROMAN GENETIANO

Brother Roman Genetiano, 68, signed on with the SIU in 1990, first sailing aboard the *Independence*.

He shipped in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Genetiano most recently sailed aboard the *USNS Piliilau*. He resides in Honolulu.



### ROMARICO HINAYON

Brother Romarico Hinayon, 67, embarked on his career with the SIU in 2000. A steward department member, he upgraded on numerous occasions at the union-affiliated Piney Point school. Brother Hinayon first shipped aboard the *Coast Range*. He concluded his career aboard the *Manulani* and makes his home in Long Beach, California.



### VERNON HUELETT

Brother Vernon Huelett, 66, started sailing with the union in 1980, initially working on the *Gemini*. He sailed in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center in 1986. Brother Huelett last shipped on the *Dodge Island* and settled in Houston.



### ABUBAKAR IDRIS

Brother Abubakar Idris, 70, joined the union in 1997. He was a deck department member and first sailed aboard the *Overseas Philadelphia*. Brother Idris upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. He most recently worked on the *Overseas Key West* and calls Beaumont, Texas, home.



### HUGO INFANTE

Brother Hugo Infante, 65, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1994, initially sailing on the *Sea Lion*. He was a member of the engine department and upgraded at the Piney Point school on numerous occasions. Brother Infante last shipped on the *Dewayne T. Williams* and lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.



### TAHA ISMAIL

Brother Taha Ismail, 65, joined the SIU in 1999 when he sailed on the *Anders Maersk*. He was a steward department member and upgraded

at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Ismail concluded his career on the *Dodge Island* and makes his home in Dearborn, Michigan.



### JOHN JASINSKI

Brother John Jasinski, 69, signed on with the union in 2003. He first sailed with Keystone Shipping Services and worked in the deck department. Brother Jasinski upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. He most recently shipped on the *Burns Harbor* and is a resident of Marquette, Michigan.



### JAMES KASHA

Brother James Kasha, 65, began sailing with the Seafarers in 1997, initially shipping on the *McDonnell*. He sailed in the steward department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Kasha last shipped aboard the *St Louis Express*. He lives in Dunnellon, Florida.



### ELKANAH LADIA

Brother Elkanah Ladia, 70, donned the SIU colors in 2001. He first shipped aboard the *Keystone Texas* and worked in the deck department. Brother Ladia upgraded at the Piney Point school in 2007. He most recently sailed aboard the *Louisiana* and resides in Charleston, South Carolina.



### JAMES SIEGER

Brother James Sieger, 70, joined the Seafarers International Union in 1973 when he shipped on an Interseas Bulk Carriers vessel. He worked in the engine department and upgraded on several occasions at the Piney Point school. Brother Sieger concluded his career on the *Maersk Seletar*. He lives in West Babylon, New York.



### KENNETH SIMBLER

Brother Kenneth Simbler, 65, donned the SIU colors in 1988. He first sailed aboard the *Inger* and worked in the deck department.

Brother Simbler upgraded at the Piney Point school on numerous occasions. He last sailed on the *New York* and is a resident of Tyler, Texas.



### THESSOLONIAN SMITH

Brother Thessolonian Smith, 73, began his career with the SIU in 2005. He shipped in the steward department and initially sailed aboard the *Lykes Explorer*. Brother Smith upgraded often at the Paul Hall Center. He most recently shipped aboard the *Resolve* and resides in Alexandria, Virginia.



### RANDY SORIANO

Brother Randy Soriano, 54, joined the SIU in 2004. A steward department member, he first sailed aboard the *Jack Lummus*. Brother Soriano's final vessel was the *USNS Montford Point*. He lives in the Philippines.



### FRANK STRONG

Brother Frank Strong, 67, joined the union in 2001 and initially sailed on the *Cape Ducato*. He sailed in the engine department and upgraded on numerous occasions at the Paul Hall Center. Brother Strong concluded his career aboard the *Pelican State* and settled in Houston.



### EDDIE TAYLOR

Brother Eddie Taylor, 70, signed on with the Seafarers in 2001. He sailed in the steward department and upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions. Brother Taylor worked for Keystone Shipping Services for the duration of his career and last sailed aboard the *Cape Kennedy*. He makes his home in New Orleans.



### JUAN VEGA

Brother Juan Vega, 69, became a member of the Seafarers International Union in 1998 when he shipped on the *Long Lines*. He sailed in all three



departments and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Vega's final vessel was the *USNS Gilliland*. He resides in New York.

## GREAT LAKES

### PATRICK SMITH

Brother Patrick Smith, 65, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1982. He initially sailed with Atlantic Diving. Brother Smith upgraded at the Piney Point school in 2012. He was last employed by Great Lakes Towing and resides in Lakewood, Ohio.



## INLAND

### DARRYL ATHERLEY

Brother Darryl Atherley, 62, donned the SIU colors in 2007 when he shipped on the *Integrity*. A deck department member, he upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on numerous occasions. Brother Atherley's final vessel was the *Achievement*. He lives in Yanketown, Florida.



### MICHAEL LAS DULCE

Brother Michael Las Dulce, 56, signed on with the union in 1986 when he sailed aboard the *Columbia*. He worked in the engine department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. Brother Las Dulce most recently sailed aboard the *Liberty Island* and settled in Cudjoe Key, Florida.



## NMU

### LLOYD DAVID

Brother Lloyd David, 66, joined the Seafarers International Union during the 2001 SIU/NMU merger. He was first employed by Marine Personnel and Provisioning and sailed in the steward department. Brother David upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions and last sailed aboard the *Argonaut*. He resides in Philadelphia.



# Final Departures



## DEEP SEA

### GEORGE ARPIN

Pensioner George Arpin, 94, passed away May 9. Born in Webster, Massachusetts, he joined the SIU in 1949. Brother Arpin was a steward department member and initially sailed with Waterman Steamship. He concluded his career aboard the *Walter Rice* before retiring in 1985. Brother Arpin was a resident of Boynton Beach, Florida.



### MARK CARPENTER

Brother Mark Carpenter, 60, died April 27. A Connecticut native, he started sailing with the Seafarers International Union in 1986. Brother Carpenter shipped in the deck department, initially aboard the *USNS Kane*. He most recently worked on the *Maersk Columbus* and lived in Union, South Carolina.



### MACK FLORES

Pensioner Mack Flores, 79, passed away May 16. He became a member of the union in 1986, first working aboard the *USNS Algol*. Brother Flores sailed in the deck department. He became a pensioner in 2011 after concluding his career on the *Liberty Grace*. Brother Flores was a Houston resident.



### JOHN FORBES

Pensioner John Forbes, 91, died May 19. He embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1951. A steward department member, he first sailed aboard the *Alcoa Runner*. Brother Forbes' final vessel was the *Carolina*. He became a pensioner in 1992 and settled in Mobile, Alabama.

### WILLIAM HALE

Brother William Hale, 88, passed away April 19. He donned the SIU colors in 1951 when he sailed aboard the *Pan Atlantic*. Brother Hale was a deck department member and last shipped on the *Mount Washington*. He resided in Slidell, Louisiana.

### GREGORY HILL

Brother Gregory Hill, 66, died December 26. Born in Maryland, he joined the Seafarers International Union in 1971. Brother Hill was a member of the deck department and first sailed with Interseas Bulk Carriers. He last shipped on the *Anchorage* in 1995 and called Laurel, Delaware, home.



### GREGORY JOHNSON

Pensioner Gregory Johnson, 67, passed away May 5. He started sailing with the Seafarers in 1977 when he worked on the *Baltimore*. A deck department member, Brother Johnson last sailed on the *Maersk Missouri* in 2010. He became a retiree the following year and settled in Ronkonkoma, New York.



### MAURICE KRAMER

Pensioner Maurice Kramer, 96, died May 8. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, and joined the union in 1945. Brother Kramer was first employed by New York Central Railroad Company and was a deck department member. He last worked with Delta Steamship Lines before becoming a pensioner in 1982. Brother Kramer lived in Metairie, Louisiana.



### JOHN LEVASSEUR

Pensioner John Levasseur, 74, passed away May 4. He signed on with the SIU in 1969, initially sailing with Hudson Waterways. Brother Levasseur was a deck department member. He last shipped on the *USNS Yano* and became a pensioner in 2012. Brother Levasseur lived in Wolcott, Connecticut.



### PATRICK MAHER

Pensioner Patrick Maher, 74, died May 6. He donned the SIU colors in 1991 when he shipped on the *Independence*. Brother Maher worked in the engine department. He last sailed aboard

the *Horizon Reliance* and became a pensioner in 2012. Brother Maher called Alton, Missouri, home.



### GEORGE MAJOR

Pensioner George Major, 86, passed away March 12. He embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1967, initially sailing aboard the *Cortland*. Brother Major shipped in the steward department. He last sailed aboard the *Cape Mohican* and went on pension in 1994. Brother Major lived in Jacksonville, Florida.



### VARNEY MILNER

Pensioner Varney Milner, 76, died April 23. A deck department member, he joined the union in 2001. Brother Milner's first vessel was the *Matej Kocak*; his last, the *Comet*. He retired in 2010 and settled in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.



### KAID MOHAMED

Pensioner Kaid Mohamed, 66, passed away March 10. He began his career with the Seafarers in 1989. The steward department member's first vessel was the *Anders Maersk*. Brother Mohamed last shipped on the *Keystone State* in 2002. He began collecting his pension in 2021 and resided in Oakland, California.

### JOHN PONTI

Brother John Ponti, 67, died April 3. He started sailing with the union in 1977 when he worked on the *Overseas Vivian*. Brother Ponti was an engine department member and last sailed aboard the *Independence* in 1985. He lived in Maui, Hawaii.

### JOSE RADONA

Pensioner Jose Radona, 83, passed away March 11. He joined the SIU in 1999, initially shipping on the *Independence*. Brother Radona was a member of the deck department and last sailed



aboard the *Jack Lummus*. He became a pensioner in 2010 and settled in Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

### RUSTY STEWART

Pensioner Rusty Stewart, 67, died April 30. Born in Los Angeles, he became an SIU member in 1972. Brother Stewart sailed in the steward department, and his first vessel was the *Merrimac*. He most recently shipped aboard the *Liberty* and began collecting his pension in 2020. Brother Stewart called Poulsbo, Washington, home.



### PETROS TRIANTAFILOS

Pensioner Petros Triantafilos, 82, passed away April 14. He embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1969 when he shipped on the *Western Clipper*. Brother Triantafilos worked in the engine department and last sailed aboard the *Mariner*. He became a pensioner in 2005 and lived in Athens, Greece.



### RENE YANES

Pensioner Rene Yanes, 88, died April 23. He signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1969. An engine department member, Brother Yanes first sailed on the *Cottonwood Creek*. After concluding his career aboard the *Overseas Harriette*, he retired in 1998. Brother Yanes made his home in Martinsburg, West Virginia.



## GREAT LAKES

### CLARENCE MASON

Pensioner Clarence Mason, 92, passed away April 1. He joined the Seafarers International Union in 1966. An engine department member, Brother Mason first worked for Great Lakes Associates. He last sailed aboard the *Presque Isle* and went on pension in 1994. Brother Mason lived in Superior, Wisconsin.



## INLAND

### CHARLES CHARNOCK

Pensioner Charles Charnock, 85, died May 8. He signed on with the SIU in 1970, initially working with Gulf Atlantic Transport Company. Brother Charnock sailed in the deck department. He concluded his career with Piney Point Transportation in 1997. Brother Charnock resided in Tangier, Virginia.

### JOSEPH ZORBACH

Pensioner Joseph Zorbach, 78, passed away April 26. A member of the engine department, he joined the union in 1971. Brother Zorbach was employed by McAllister Towing of Baltimore for most of his career. He became a pensioner in 2000 and called Ocean City, Maryland, home.



## NMU

### GEORGE BROWN

Pensioner George Brown, 78, died March 25. He sailed with the NMU prior to the 2001 merger with SIU. Brother Brown was an engine department member. He last sailed aboard the *Eric G. Gibson* before becoming a pensioner in 2008. Brother Brown made his home in Shreveport, Louisiana.



In addition to the foregoing individuals, the following union members have also passed away. Insufficient information was available to develop summaries of their respective careers.

NAME	AGE	DOD
Bristow, Ray	86	05/01/2022
Brown, Harold	71	03/19/2022
Bruff, Noel	82	01/15/2022
Clarke, Ruben	84	03/16/2022
Cormier, Paul	95	03/21/2022
Denon, Larry	73	05/03/2022
Dingas, Loucas	83	03/27/2022
Gutierrez, Luis	70	02/22/2022
Horsford, Cedric	95	05/04/2022
Hunter, Raymond	92	04/22/2022
Hunter, Theodore	96	02/19/2022
Karalekas, Nicholas	94	04/16/2022
Kirksey, James	90	04/07/2022
Morales, Oscal	96	03/24/2022
Pablo, Franklin	81	03/22/2022
Paterson, Jay	84	04/13/2022
Rivera, Alejandro	87	03/19/2022
Sutton, Troy	96	03/13/2022
Thompson, Vincent	83	05/21/2022
Williams, Emmitt	94	05/05/2022



# Digest of Shipboard Union Meetings

The Seafarers LOG attempts to print as many digests of union shipboard minutes as possible. On occasion, because of space limitations, some will be omitted.

Ships' minutes first are reviewed by the union's contract department. Those issues requiring attention or resolution are addressed by the union upon receipt of the ships' minutes. The minutes are then forwarded to the Seafarers LOG for publication.

**POTOMAC EXPRESS** (Marine Personnel & Provisioning), February 27 – Chairman **Richard Hitchcock**, Secretary **Armon Bailey**, Educational Director **Ricardo Ducay**, Deck Delegate **Tyler Peyton**. Members discussed various issues with vessel and contract. Bosun to send documented issues to headquarters. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members asked for more assistance with steward department as there are two serving areas to satisfy. Crew gave thanks for the two apprentices on board from the Piney Point school. New flatscreen TV purchased from ship's fund. Members requested new mattresses, more vacation and Wi-Fi.

**MAERSK SELETAR** (Maersk Line, Limited), March 5 – Chairman **Cleofe Castro**, Secretary **Ronald Byrd**, Educational Director **Jerome Culbreth**, Deck Delegate **Michael Sherman**, Engine Delegate **Jason Fuller**. New sound system in crew lounge and in gym. Captain instructed crew to come to him with purchase requests. Secretary advised members to keep documents up to date and renew them well in advance. Educational director encouraged crew to upgrade at the Paul Hall Center and reminded them to get booster shots before attending. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Ship to receive new grill, smoker and pizza oven. Members asked for better Wi-Fi. All rooms need 110 voltage converters. Crew requested higher taxi fare allowance for airport trips and more vacation time. New mattresses needed. Steward department was thanked for their service. Next port: Newark, New Jersey.

**MAERSK CHICAGO** (Maersk Line, Limited), March 13 – Chairman **Leoncio Gadingan**, Secretary **Norma West**, Educational Director **Jing Hui Huang**, Engine Delegate **Syed Iqbal**. Members requested

more vacation pay. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew would like physicals to be required once per year instead of every six months. Ship is getting new blankets, pillows and towels.

**OVERSEAS NIKISKI** (Overseas Ship Management), March 27 – Chairman **Paulin Augustin**, Secretary **Steve Concepcion**, Educational Director **Fontanos Ellison**, Deck Delegate **Nelson Diego**, Engine Delegate **Ismael Manley**, Steward Delegate **Nelson Bernardez**. Educational director reiterated the importance of upgrading at the union-affiliated Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members can find many forms on the SIU website. Crew requested new pillows, washcloths, water bottles, and refrigerators in rooms. Wi-Fi is slow on board, making online communication difficult.

**MAERSK HARTFORD** (Maersk Line, Limited) March 27 – Chairman **Ancito Limboy**, Secretary **Stephan Osowitz**, Deck Delegate **Romulo Tubon**. New refrigerator received for crew lounge. Chairman encouraged members to contribute to SPAD (Seafarers Political Activity Donation, the union's voluntary political action fund) and reminded crew to leave clean rooms and linen for oncoming crew. Educational director advised crew to upgrade at the Paul Hall Center. Deck delegate reported beef regarding chief mate and assignment of weekend hours. Members requested a decrease in time needed for retirement and an increase in pension payments. Crew also desires a cost-of-living increase in new contract.

**POTOMAC EXPRESS** (Marine Personnel & Provisioning), April 3 – Chairman **Richard Hitchcock**, Secretary **Armon Bailey**, Educational Director **Darrell Goggins**, Deck Delegate **Tyler Peyton**,

Engine Delegate **Kevin Johnson**, Steward Delegate **Mark Keller**. Members reviewed old business and discussed several items relating to OT payments. Crew wants patrolman on board when arriving at the coast and would like to hear about upcoming contract. Union reps are also wanted aboard ship to discuss unresolved issues. Educational director reminded members to upgrade at the Piney Point school and to keep documents up to date. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew requested fans that fasten to the wall in rooms and safety mats outside of bathroom. Help needed in galley. Members would like to see 20 for 30 vacation and wage increases.

**JOHN PAGE** (Sealift Inc.), April 17 – Chairman **Rommel Lopez Miranda**, Secretary **Aaron Helton-Cox**, Educational Director **Nathan Bryant**, Deck Delegate **John Wahl**, Engine Delegate **Wayne Linnette**, Steward Delegate **Cameron Azadi**. Captain discussed upcoming crew change. Educational director underscored the upgrading opportunities at the union-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, located in Piney Point, Maryland. He reminded members to keep documents up to date. Issues discussed regarding garbage sorting and penalty pay in deck department. Crew asked for clarification on ship restriction. Members read communications. Crew requested DVD players in crew lounge, TVs in every room, repair to sauna, a treadmill in gym and additional bumper plates. Members would like a raise in vacation pay.

**TAINO** (Intrepid Personnel & Provisioning), April 24 – Chairman **Donley Johnson**, Secretary **Kimberly Strate**, Deck Delegate **Rafael Franco**, Engine Delegate **Shewanna Stephenson**, Steward Delegate **Digna Castillo**. No beefs

## Aboard New Tug



AB Kenneth Bolin (right) and SIU Houston Patrolman Kelly Krick are pictured aboard the new Seabulk hybrid tug *Spartan*, believed to be the first hybrid vessel in the company's fleet.

or disputed OT reported. Chairman motioned to make changes to contract wording relating to rest periods, emergency duties and drills, and coffee time.

**ALLIANCE NORFOLK** (Maersk Line, Limited), May 13 – Chairman **Richard Gathers**, Secretary **Timothy Dowd**, Educational Director **Marvin**

**Sacaza**, Deck Delegate **Ramsey Ingram**, Steward Delegate **John Ward**. Crew reviewed old business, most of which has been completed. Educational director recommended members upgrade at the Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew requested more food supplies and raises in vacation time.

## Know Your Rights

**FINANCIAL REPORTS.** The Constitution of the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters District makes specific provision for safeguarding the membership's money and union finances. The constitution requires a detailed audit by certified public accountants every year, which is to be submitted to the membership by the secretary-treasurer. A yearly finance committee of rank-and-file members, elected by the membership, each year examines the finances of the union and reports fully their findings and recommendations. Members of this committee may make dissenting reports, specific recommendations and separate findings.

**TRUST FUNDS.** All trust funds of the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters District are administered in accordance with the provisions of various trust fund agreements. All these agreements specify that the trustees in charge of these funds shall equally consist of union and management representatives and their alternates. All expenditures and disbursements of trust funds are made only upon approval by a majority of the trustees. All trust fund financial records are available at the headquarters of the various trust funds.

**SHIPPING RIGHTS.** A member's shipping rights and seniority are protected exclusively by contracts between the union and the employers. Members should get to know their shipping rights. Copies of these contracts are posted and available in all union halls. If members believe there have been violations of their shipping or seniority rights as contained in the contracts between the union and the employers, they should notify the Seafarers Appeals Board by certified mail, return receipt

requested. The proper address for this is:

Augustin Tellez, Chairman  
Seafarers Appeals Board  
5201 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Full copies of contracts as referred to are available to members at all times, either by writing directly to the union or to the Seafarers Appeals Board.

**CONTRACTS.** Copies of all SIU contracts are available in all SIU halls. These contracts specify the wages and conditions under which an SIU member works and lives aboard a ship or boat. Members should know their contract rights, as well as their obligations, such as filing for overtime (OT) on the proper sheets and in the proper manner. If, at any time, a member believes that an SIU patrolman or other union official fails to protect their contractual rights properly, he or she should contact the nearest SIU port agent.

**EDITORIAL POLICY — THE SEAFARERS LOG.** The *Seafarers LOG* traditionally has refrained from publishing any article serving the political purposes of any individual in the union, officer or member. It also has refrained from publishing articles deemed harmful to the union or its collective membership. This established policy has been reaffirmed by membership action at the September 1960 meetings in all constitutional ports. The responsibility for *Seafarers LOG* policy is vested in an editorial board which consists of the executive board of the union. The executive board may delegate, from among its ranks, one individual to carry out this responsibility.

**PAYMENT OF MONIES.** No monies are to be paid to anyone in any official capacity in the SIU unless an official union receipt is given for same. Under no circumstances should any member pay any money for any reason unless he is given such receipt. In the event anyone attempts to require any such payment be made without supplying a receipt, or if a member is required to make a payment and is given an official receipt, but feels that he or she should not have been required to make such payment, this should immediately be reported to union headquarters.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.** Copies of the SIU Constitution are available in all union halls. All members should obtain copies of this constitution so as to familiarize themselves with its contents. Any time a member feels any other member or officer is attempting to deprive him or her of any constitutional right or obligation by any methods, such as dealing with charges, trials, etc., as well as all other details, the member so affected should immediately notify headquarters.

**EQUAL RIGHTS.** All members are guaranteed equal rights in employment and as members of the SIU. These rights are clearly set forth in the SIU Constitution and in the contracts which the union has negotiated with the employers. Consequently, no member may be discriminated against because of race, creed, color, sex, national or geographic origin.

If any member feels that he or she is denied the equal rights to which he or she is entitled, the member should notify union headquarters.

**SEAFARERS POLITICAL ACTIVITY DONATION (SPAD).** SPAD is a separate segregated fund. Its proceeds are used to further its objects and purposes including, but not limited to, furthering the political, social and economic interests of maritime workers, the preservation and furthering of the American merchant marine with improved employment opportunities for seamen and boatmen and the advancement of trade union concepts. In connection with such objects, SPAD supports and contributes to political candidates for elective office. All contributions are voluntary. No contribution may be solicited or received because of force, job discrimination, financial reprisal, or threat of such conduct, or as a condition of membership in the union or of employment. If a contribution is made by reason of the above improper conduct, the member should notify the Seafarers International Union or SPAD by certified mail within 30 days of the contribution for investigation and appropriate action and refund, if involuntary. A member should support SPAD to protect and further his or her economic, political and social interests, and American trade union concepts.

**NOTIFYING THE UNION —** If at any time a member feels that any of the above rights have been violated, or that he or she has been denied the constitutional right of access to union records or information, the member should immediately notify SIU President Michael Sacco at headquarters by certified mail, return receipt requested. The address is:

Michael Sacco, President  
Seafarers International Union  
5201 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746



# Paul Hall Center Classes



**Apprentice Water Survival Class #882** – Graduated May 20 (above, in alphabetical order): Christian Alvarado, Amari Cowell, Jerwin Dela Cruz, Tahtyana Edmond, Omar Fahmie, Tyree Harris, Clayton Laulainen, Christopher Lopez, Joshua Moore, Sherwin Murrell, Kelvin Oliver Jr., Ahmad Quarles Jr., Alexander Reay, Kristian Sims and Michael Wilt.



**Tank Ship Familiarization DL (Phase III)** – Graduated April 15 (above, in alphabetical order): Alexander Boothby, Padgett Carpenter, Robert Cruz, Declan Gallagher, Daniel Moran, Travis Morris and Jaime Rios.

**Important Notice  
To All Students**

*Students who have registered for classes at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, but later discover - for whatever reason - that they can't attend, should inform the admissions department immediately so arrangements can be made to have other students take their places.*

# Paul Hall Center Classes

**Government Vessels –** Graduated April 29 (photo at right, in alphabetical order): Shared Abdulaziz Ahmed, Ronny Arzu Amaya, Andrzej Marek Bronkowski, Latiffe Brooks, Juan Domingo Cardona, Kathy Carter, Carlos Jose Castillo Vidal, Bobby Conner II, George Egbert, Faith Gonse, Paula Minton, Nelson Ilario Ordonez Buelto, Vanessa Louise Osborne-Brumsey, Greg Pavlich, Jeffrey Phillips, Anthony Alexander Rivera Jr., Shafreda Short Thigpen, Lisa Sottile, Aldo Thomas, Zachary Vincent, Vincent Vollaro and Shana Zeidenberg. (Note: Not all are pictured.)



**Tank Ship Familiarization DL –** Graduated April 8 (above, in alphabetical order): Steven Joseph Benavides Jr., John Coleman Jr., Christopher Ferguson, Melvin Hill III, Arabi Nagi Muthala, Ricardo Ramos-Rodriguez, Juan Rafael Santiago Robles and Mukhtar Ahmed Mohamed Suwaileh.



**Water Survival –** Two upgraders graduated from this course April 22: Mark Canada (not pictured) and Ryan Chapman (above).



**Medical Care Provider –** Graduated April 15 (above, in alphabetical order): Luke Branko Coffelt, Terrell Cuffee, Cody Fox, Vernon Van Humbles, Jahmal Jones, Christopher Marcani, Michael McGlone, Justin Nicholson and Gajatri Normatova. (Note: Not all are pictured.)

# Paul Hall Center Classes



**Tankship Familiarization LG** – Graduated May 9 (above, in alphabetical order): Husain Ali Ali, Nasser Abdulla Almansoob, Ronald Burris, Rohmy Butler, Michael Clark, Eugene Edwards, Bakr Saber Moustafa Elbana, Samed Shaif Kassem, Hubert Lawrence, Michael McGlone, Samuel Moore, Gajatri Normatova, Vanessa Osborne-Brumsey, Timothy Paul, Justo David Reyes, Mohsen Mohamed Said, Deontee Saypoh, Ryan Scott, Cynthia Servance, Joesef Moses Shaibi, Apollos Smalls, Benjamin Thuringer, Brandon Urich, Michael John Estavillo Valdez and David Watkins. (Note: Not all are pictured.)



**Pumpman** – Graduated April 8 (above, in alphabetical order): Theodore Gonzales, Leroy Harris, Vernon Van Humbles, Daniel Leon-Bruges, Joshua Mann, George Marcelo Mardones, Wordell Prescott and Lonny Scott.



**Government Vessels (Phase I)** – Graduated April 15 (above, in alphabetical order): Alondra Delgado, Kyle Jolivet and Jonathan Slattery.



**MSC Storekeeper Basic** – A pair of upgraders graduated from this course May 20. They are Christopher Marcani (above, left) and Sherron Davita Decoteau.



**Tankship Familiarization DL** – Graduated May 6 (above, in alphabetical order): Ronald Burris, Michael Clark, Lashay Creekmore, Julius Jumangit Dagoldol, Joseph Dupre, George Nier Egbert, Brian Guiry, Ferdinand Gabonada Hullana, Michael McGlone, Gajatri Normatova, Nelson Ilario Ordonez Buelto, Vanessa Osborne-Brumsey, Timothy Paul, Apollos Smalls and Benjamin Thuringer. (Note: Not all are pictured.)



**Certified Chief Cook (Module 4)** – Graduated May 20 (above, in alphabetical order): Garry Brandon, Graeme Simbajo Dy, Kim Holliman, William Johnson, Ricardo Ramos-Rodriguez and Juan Rafael Santiago Robles.



**Certified Chief Cook (Module 5)** – Graduated May 27 (above, in alphabetical order): Shabrielle Knight, D'Artis Mitchell, Nikia Stripling, Branden Williams and Jonathan Yates.

# SEAFARERS LOG

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION • ATLANTIC, GULF, LAKES AND INLAND WATERS, AFL-CIO

**Paul Hall Center  
Class Photos  
Pages 21-23**



The USNS Patuxent (left) and Maersk Peary conduct one of several UnReps/CONSOL operations. The photo at right shows the Peary alongside the RFA Tidesurge. AB Ed Majesky (left) works the line while Pumpman Pat Montgomery runs the winch.



## Captain Praises Crew for 'Amazing Job'

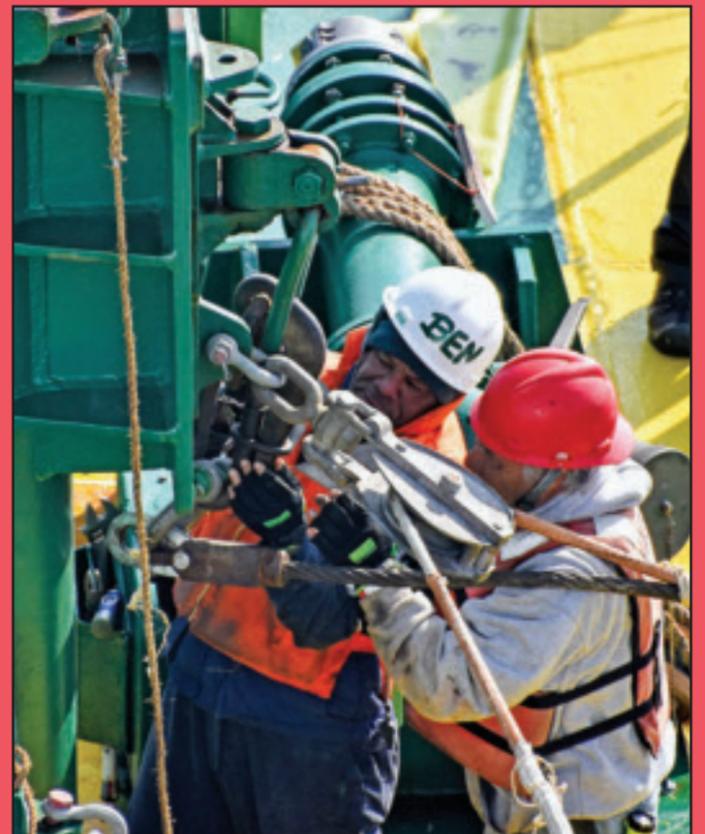
Maersk Peary vessel master Capt. Michele Laycock (an SIU hawsepiper) offered strong words of commendation following recent operations aboard the U.S. Marine Management vessel.

"The officers and crew alike did an amazing job and I especially want them to know this," she wrote. "From the middle of April to the middle of May, our vessel conducted several UnReps/CONSOL operations. The first operation was with USNS Supply.... It was our first two-station UnRep. The only way to make this work on a commercially run vessel is to make this an 'ALL HANDS' evolution. In order to run two stations and to keep them safely manned during the evolution, we take on extra crew. Every crew member from every department has to give a little to make this all come together so seamlessly. From the QMED standing by in the steering gear space to the wiper on deck as a signalman, from the steward and chief cook who cover the SA signaling on

deck, to the entire deck gang, all have important and integral roles that help to make this happen safely."

Laycock continued, "The crew of the Maersk Peary conducted five evolutions altogether in the covering a month-long period from April into May with Military Sealift Command owned and operated vessels USNS Supply (two altogether), USNS Patuxent and USNS Laramie. In addition to the full UnReps/CONSOLS we also had the privilege of conducting a dry hook-up with RFA Tidesurge (from the British Royal Fleet Auxiliary)."

She concluded, "I'm so impressed and in awe of what we've accomplished – not because I didn't think we could do it, but because the crew took this challenge and ran with it! As a crew and as a vessel, we have certainly learned, grown in our flexibility and our overall capabilities. We used every evolution as an opportunity to train and improve and it was apparent in the final results."



In photo above, AB Ben Wilson (left) and Recertified Bosun Ron Paradise connect the span wire. AB Roni Castillo (photo below) maintains manifold watch while alongside the USNS Patuxent.



Clockwise beginning from above: Pictured from front to back in this Seafaring selfie are Capt. Michele Laycock and ABs Dave Kennedy and Josh Gail. AB Berard Fedele observes operations from the deck of the Peary while Wiper Abdelhak Moutmir signals for the other vessel to continue slacking their line. Standing by at their respective work stations are Pumpman Pat Montgomery (left) and SA Nisha Jones.

