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CIVMARS Honored At Prestigious Maritime Event

SIU members were among the honorees at this year's Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) awards dinner, which took place Oct. 28 in New York City.

Those mariners include CIVMARS from the *USNS Yuma* and SIU crews from the *Pacific Tracker* (operated by TOTE Services), the *Herodote* (operated by APL), and the *Maersk Peary* (operated by Maersk Line, Limited).

Sponsored by the United Seamen's Service (USS), the event also honored Edward W. Aldridge, President of CMA-CGM North America and American President Lines; Harold J. Daggett, President of the International Longshoremen's Association; and Eric P. Ebeling, President and CEO of American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier Group.

A humanitarian disaster was averted and the life of an infant saved as the CIVMAR crewed *USNS Yuma* was on routine operations Sept. 1 when it received a call to assist. The ship raced to the scene where a Maltese tanker, the *MT Nore*, had been struck by a distressed vessel carrying migrants. With more than 90 migrant men, women and children on board, the migrant vessel had begun sinking following the collision.

The *Yuma*, joined by Italian warship *ITS Libeccio*, deployed its rigid inflatable boat to render assistance, rescuing 35 male migrants who were provided life jackets, food, water and basic medical care. Families were pulled aboard the *Libeccio*, where they had a four-month-old girl who was "ashen and responsive." The *Yuma*, at the *Libeccio's* request, quickly

transported its nurse practitioner to the ship, then made another shuttle run with medical supplies. The medical officer stabilized the baby before returning to the *USNS Yuma*.

All the migrants were rescued and the 35 aboard the *Yuma* were transferred to a Maltese patrol boat while the *Libeccio*, with the other 58, raced toward Italy where a MEDIVAC flight could pick up the critically ill child. The *USNS Yuma* then resumed its patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility.

"The seamanship, professionalism and selflessness of the crew of the *USNS Yuma* is representative of the thousands of civil service mariners who are sailing ships for the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command," the USS noted.

National Survey Finds More Professionals Want a Union

The percentage of non-union professionals who want to form a union in their workplace increased to 65 percent in 2022, according to a survey commissioned by the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO (DPE). Additionally, 63 percent of those who would support a union at work said they would talk to their coworkers about forming a union in the next year.

The SIU is a DPE affiliate.

In a mid-November news release, the DPE noted that it last commissioned a survey of non-union professionals' attitudes towards unions in 2016. Then, 60 percent of professionals surveyed said they would support a proposal for a union.

"Professionals continue to want a union," said DPE President Jennifer Dorning. "Even before the pandemic a majority of professionals were supportive of forming a union in their workplace, and now, with changes in work and the economy, more professionals recognize the

need for a legally protected say in workplace decisions with a union."

For specific demographic groups, support for forming a union was even higher, with 82 percent of Black or African American respondents and 76 percent of Hispanic or Latino respondents saying they would support a union proposal in their workplace.

Young professionals also viewed unionizing more favorably with 74 percent of respondents 18 to 34 years old saying they would approve of an effort to form a union in their workplace.

Professionals employed in education and healthcare had the highest levels of union support among specific occupation groups, with 75 percent of education professionals and 71 percent of healthcare professionals saying they would approve a proposal for a union in their workplace. Computer and math professionals' support for joining together in union has increased drastically over the years. The DPE first surveyed computer and math

professionals in 2005 and found that 33 percent would support a union in their workplace. In 2016, computer and math professionals' union support increased to 59 percent, and now it has reached 62 percent.

Other key survey findings include:

-78 percent of professionals would be in favor of joining together in union to improve salaries and raises.

-Of professionals who were not required to perform in-person work during the first year of the pandemic, 69 percent said it was important that their union would work to improve work from home policies.

The DPE commissioned the research firm Clarity Campaign Labs to conduct the scientific survey of non-union professionals in late summer 2022. The survey contains responses from a representative sample of over 1,800 non-union professionals from across the U.S.

The DPE is a coalition of 24 unions representing over four million professional and technical union members, including CIVMARS.

Maritime Piracy Incident Level Lowest in 3 Decades

The International Chamber of Commerce's (ICC) latest piracy report revealed that recorded incidents of piracy are at their lowest level in three decades.

According to the report, which tracked piracy incidents from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2022 and is released

quarterly by the ICC's International Maritime Bureau (IMB), there were a total of 90 attacks throughout the world. Of those attacks, 85 vessels were boarded, four attacks were thwarted, and a single vessel was hijacked. Twenty-seven crew members were taken hostage during the period.

According to the IMB, "Of the 90 global piracy and armed robbery incidents, 13 have been reported in the Gulf of Guinea region – compared to 27 over the same period of 2021 – signaling a positive and significant decline in the number of reported incidents in the region off West Africa which emerged as the world's biggest piracy hotspot in recent years."

IMB Director Michael Howlett said, "We commend the efforts of the coastal authorities of the Gulf of Guinea. While the decline is welcome, sustained and continued efforts of the coastal authorities and the presence of the international navies remain essential to safeguard seafarers and long-term regional and international shipping and trade. There is no room for complacency."

Additionally, reports out of Callao Anchorage in Peru have dropped from 15 in 2021 to eight in 2022, signaling a change for the better in that area. However, incidents in the Singapore Straits have increased, with 31 incidents reported during the period, compared to

21 last year. As detailed in the report, "Vessels underway, including several large vessels and tankers, were boarded in all 31 reports and in most cases, ship stores or properties were stolen. Crews also continue to be at risk with weapons reported in at least 16 incidents, including some involving very large bulk carriers and tankers."

According to the report, "The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre also believes there is a degree of under-reporting as well as late reporting of incidents from these waters and encourages masters to report all incidents as early as possible so that local authorities are able to identify, investigate and apprehend the perpetrators."

Since 1991, the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre has served as a single point of contact for mariners to report attempted acts of piracy, 24 hours a day. As stated by the ICC, "Their prompt forwarding of reports, and liaison with response agencies, broadcasts to shipping via GMDSS Safety Net Services, and email alerts to CSOs, all provided free of cost, help the response against piracy and armed robbery globally. As evidenced by the standing up of multiple regional cooperation, reporting, and response mechanisms, its reports have over time increased awareness, resulting in the allocation of adequate resources to make waters safer."



Personnel from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Gridley* participate in a counter-piracy exercise aboard a foreign-flag ship in San Diego. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Colby A. Mothershead)

President's Column

Recognizing Industry's Importance

Recent remarks by the deputy commander of the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) underscored the high-level military support enjoyed by the U.S. Merchant Marine.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. John Sullivan addressed attendees at this year's Admiral of the Ocean Sea (AOTOS) gathering in New York City on Oct. 28. As longtime Seafarers know, the AOTOS ceremony is an important event for our industry, in large part because it raises money to benefit mariners through the United Seamen's Service, and also because it generates publicity for an often-overlooked industry.



Michael Sacco

Sullivan thanked the maritime industry for its history, dedication and patriotism, emphasizing to the audience that this year's honorees (including SIU members and executives from SIU-contracted companies) represent a vital component of our nation's security and economy.

He also cited the enormous "impact our maritime community has made over the past months in supporting USTRANSCOM's movement of materiel to the European continent. Even before Russia's blatant aggression in Ukraine, with your assistance, USTRANSCOM began delivering supplies to reinforce our allies and partners," he said. "The sheer volume of materiel moved by sealift has been incredible and has contributed immensely to this effort."

Importantly, Sullivan explained that although "as a nation we have enjoyed the luxury of being able to strategically move forces and sustain them worldwide with relative impunity" throughout his career, the investments by foreign nations into their respective maritime industries makes it "foolish to believe that we will continue to enjoy that luxury."

With that in mind, he stressed that mariners, U.S.-flag operators and American bottoms have a massive effect on USTRANSCOM's ability to project and sustain combat power worldwide, and it will be a team effort to "navigate, communicate, and adjust to the dynamic requirements of the joint force we support.... I am extremely proud of the relationship between USTRANSCOM and our maritime industry."

The SIU is equally proud of that partnership, and we remain committed to always delivering the goods.

Significant Progress

The previous edition of the *Federal Mariner* included an article about a possible settlement between the union and the Military Sealift Command regarding pandemic-related notice of restrictions to liberty.

I'm pleased to report that, at press time, we are putting the finishing touches on a settlement that I believe is very fair for all involved. It'll cover CIVMARS from the *USNS McLean*, *USNS Burlington*, *USNS Charles Drew*, *USNS Laramie* and the *USNS Yukon*.

Look for a more-detailed account in the next edition, and in the meantime our officials will be spreading the word during in-person meetings aboard the vessels and at the CSUs.

This is another example of the power of union representation, and I applaud the work of our team in securing the settlement.

Happy Holidays

And just like that, another year has flown by. I extend heartfelt best wishes to our members, retirees and their families for a safe and happy holiday season. Extra thanks go to those who are spending the holidays at sea, which is part of the job but not always easy.

Last but not least, I extend my gratitude to all of our women and men in uniform. Thank you for your ongoing service, please stay safe – and know that you always can rely on the SIU.

SIU Directory

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VP Harris Reiterates Support for Maritime



SIU VP Government Services Nicholas Celona (left) and United States Vice President Kamala Harris meet at a recent labor gathering in San Francisco. Harris is a longtime friend of the SIU. During the meeting, she underscored her ongoing support for the U.S. Merchant Marine and for workers' rights.

Holiday savings just for you

Do you want to save money? We thought so. Thousands of union families save money every day by taking advantage of exclusive benefits from **Union Plus**. Join them in accessing all kinds of discounts.



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Flowers & Gifts



Restaurants



Movie Tickets & Live Events



Exclusive discounts for union families

UNIONPLUS



See more at unionplus.org

SIU-HOLSAV-JFY-11-14-2022

How to Become an SIU Member

Joining the SIU is easy and an important step in protecting your workplace rights. The union's website – www.seafarers.org – includes printable PDF versions of forms that mariners may use to request and authorize payroll deductions for labor organization dues. The forms are posted at:

<https://www.seafarers.org/news/labor-maritime-news/civmar-news/>

Forms are also available under "SIU Forms" in the ABOUT tab.

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Working People Key in Driving Midterm Wins—and We’re Just Getting Started

Editor’s note: AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler wrote the following article in mid-November.

The pundits had it all figured out. All the polling data and conventional wisdom pointed to a shift in power in both the House and the Senate. A red wave was coming. But then, in state after state, union households provided critical votes that put pro-worker candidates over the top. As with any election, there’s no one explanation. Abortion rights was a huge factor in the wake of Roe v Wade being overturned. Young people turned out and voted for pro-worker candidates by large margins. Latinos and Black voters heavily favored Democrats. But one key storyline that remains largely untold is the role working people played in securing these victories—specifically, the role of union voters.

In the labor movement, our approach to politics is simple: Organize. Face to face. Cut through the noise with real conversations about the issues that matter. It’s a feedback loop. Organizers talk with workers. Workers share their concerns, which informs future conversations. As any organizer knows, the key to good communication isn’t just what you say. It’s how intently you listen. And we got an earful.

Corporate profits are now at a 70-year high. While Big Oil has had a run of record-breaking profits, such as Exxon’s \$20 billion haul and Shell’s eye-popping \$9.45 billion in the third quarter, working people continued to pull up to the gas tank with a lump in their throats. Any wage increases workers have earned are eaten up by rising prices. In those conversations, we heard over and over again, “Something doesn’t add up.” Workers and their families know when they’re being hoodwinked. Many didn’t yet know about the Biden administration’s efforts to give workers a boost through infrastructure jobs, student debt relief or prescription drug price cuts. And there was deep anxiety over the threats to our basic freedoms, including the freedom to have a union on the job, the freedom to control our own bodies and the freedom to participate in democracy. Over time, these conversations shifted to the stakes in this election.

Union voters comprise nearly a quarter of all votes in Michigan. In the key battlegrounds of Nevada, Pennsylvania and Ohio, one in five voters is from a union household. That’s a lot of voters to reach. We left the air wars to others while union volunteers spent countless days, evenings and weekends hitting the doors. Workers talked with one another on their lunch breaks at the worksite and in front of the plant gate on cool fall mornings. All told, the union program, which featured 100,000 volunteers and reached 7.7 million voters, provided the ground game that was impossible for extremist, anti-worker Republican candidates to replicate.

In Nevada, UNITE HERE’s formidable Culinary Union led a program that knocked on 1 million doors, and UNITE HERE canvassers played a big role in reaching workers in other battleground states. The



AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler

American Federation of Teachers rallied workers with a bus tour through battleground states. In community after community, teachers, school aides, nurses, community groups, activists and vital members of our communities showed up to rally and then hit the doors and phones to make sure their communities knew what was at stake.

North America’s Building Trades Unions members organized alongside AFSCME public-sector workers to turn out the vote. Electricians and plumbers, grad students and service workers, entertainment workers and laborers, and so many others stood shoulder to shoulder day after day to ensure that every union voter in America knew how important this election was to our collective future.

I saw the energy grow as I criss-crossed the country to walk precincts with workers. With every labor walk and worksite visit, unions were breaking through the political noise created by \$1 billion of TV ads and endless horse-race analysis from the chattering class.

When workers have a voice in our elections, we deliver results:

- In Georgia, union voters are responsible for roughly 50,000 net votes for Raphael Warnock, pushing him into the lead over extremist Herschel Walker.
- In Michigan, union voters turned out in droves to deliver Gov. Gretchen Whitmer an estimated net 210,000 votes, propelling her to victory and boosting pro-worker candidates in the state legislature to give workers the opportunity to make huge gains in the coming two years.
- In Minnesota, union voters gave Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party candidate Tim Walz an estimated net 110,000 votes, making unions responsible for roughly half of the vote margin.
- In Nevada, the political organizing led by hospitality workers mobilized an army of workers to re-elect

Catherine Cortez Masto, ensuring a pro-worker majority in the U.S. Senate.

- In Pennsylvania, union voters gave Josh Shapiro an estimated net 185,000 votes in the governor’s race, providing approximately 28% of the vote margin. In the Senate race, union voters are similarly responsible for 26% of the margin for John Fetterman.

- In Wisconsin’s race for governor, union voters netted Tony Evers an estimated 40,000 votes, or roughly half of his vote margin.

- In Arizona, Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, ran the largest get-out-the-vote operation in the state with community partners.

- In Ohio, Democrat Tim Ryan ran a competitive race fueled by a 14-point margin from union voters, outpacing other Dems in statewide races, and Democrats picked up key congressional districts, including holding labor champion Marcy Kaptur’s seat.

- Nationally, union members made up an estimated 11% of the electorate and, with union households, 18%. Associated Press VoteCast results suggest union members voted 56 Democrats/38 Republicans.

- In state after state, working people rejected astroturf candidates trying to bring culture wars and book bans into our schools.

- Unions are always on the frontlines of democracy struggles, and it should be no surprise that up and down the ballot—and in critical secretary of state races—union members stopped candidates who were 2020 election deniers and ran with the clear intention of ignoring the will of the people.

The 2022 midterms aren’t over just yet. Union volunteers will be out en masse every day between now and the Georgia primary on Dec. 6. But even that doesn’t mark the end of our political organizing. The AFL-CIO and affiliated unions built a 365-day-a-year operation that will engage voters through 2024 and beyond.

Taking an organizing approach to politics may seem a little old school to some. And while we’ll continue to supplement the work on the ground with sophisticated political outreach through digital advertising, peer-to-peer texting, cutting-edge microtargeting and other tactics, the focus will always be the human interaction that voters want and need in these uncertain times.

For far too long, big money in politics has drowned out the voices of everyday people. The lesson learned in 2022 is that democracy belongs to all of us, not just to the powerful few. When we organize to ensure that workers have a voice, democracy blossoms.

The issue-based conversations that were the heart and soul of this effort will only intensify in the coming months as we head toward 2024. Soon, the midterm elections will be in the rearview mirror. But working people aren’t heading home. We’re staying in the fight to rebuild our economy, brick by brick, until America’s promise is fully realized.

Meeting with USNS Pecos CIVMARS



During a recent shipyard period for the USNS Pecos in Vallejo, California, SIU Asst. VP Joe Vincenzo met with crew members who are part of the union’s Government Services Division. Vincenzo is at left in the outdoor photo, with Bosun Thomas Knox. A few of the other mariners are pictured in the remaining photo at right.



SIU Snapshots from Around the Fleet



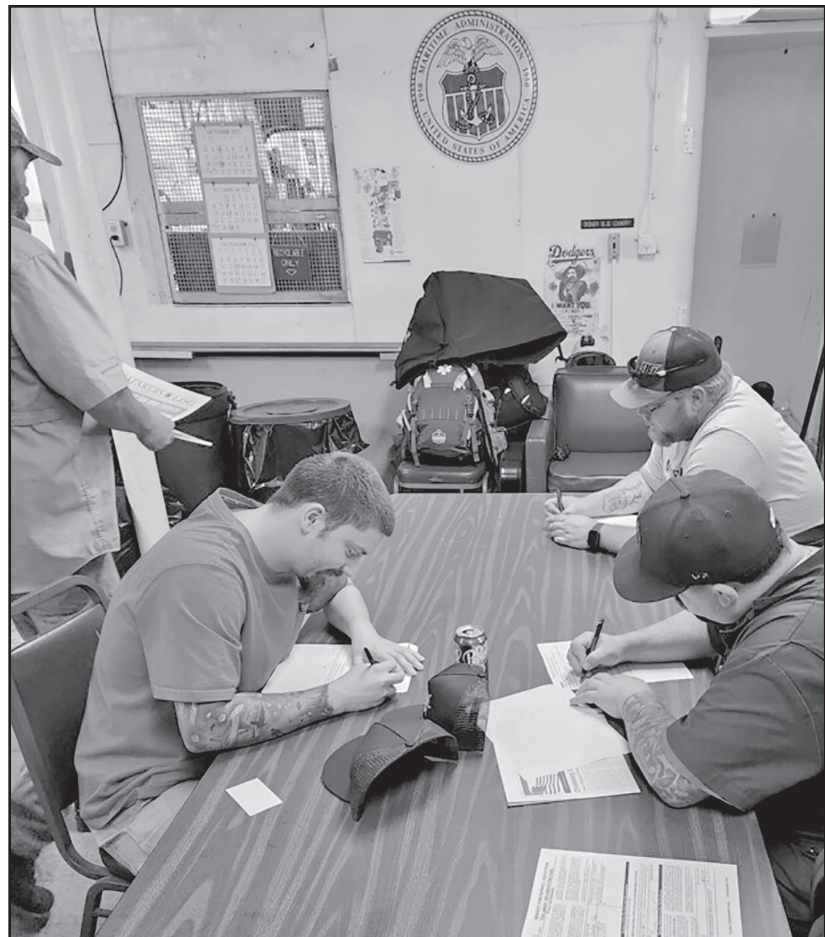
SIU CIVMARS gather for a photo outside a West Coast hotel following a union meeting.



SIU Government Services Division Representative Jesse Ruth (right) is pictured with former SIU CIVMAR Capt. Patrick Peck aboard the *USNS Washington Chambers*. Peck started sailing 20 years ago, as a supply utilityman. He moved up the ranks and encourages others to do likewise. “It has taken time and perseverance but I have learned that a person can go as high as they wish and the only one who sets your limitations is you yourself,” he said. “It’s been almost 20 years now and I’m as glad to be here today as I was on the first day I walked aboard the *USNS Sirius*.”



Mariners meet with SIU Government Services Division Representative Jesse Ruth (third from left) aboard the *USNS Byrd*



Maritime Administration (MARAD) unit members complete paperwork for joining the union.



The photo directly above and the one below were taken aboard the *USNS Kaiser*. SIU Asst. VP Joe Vincenzo is at far right in the top photo and in the center of the other one. SIU Government Services Division Representative Jesse Ruth is at far left in the top photo. As readers may have guessed, the photos were taken around Halloween.

