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SIU's Year in Review

Rescues, Renovation, Recruiting & Retirement Highlight 2023



The union experienced no shortage of highlights last year, including the reopening of the hiring hall in Norfolk, Virginia (above), following a months-long renovation. SIU President Michael Sacco early in the year announced his retirement after a half-century of service to the union; he was succeeded by then-Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel. Those and other top stories are recapped on the back page.

Seafarer Honored in Maryland



Chief Cook Brittany Steward (second from left) on Nov. 16 received the Apprenticeship Champion Award from the Maryland Department of Labor, as did other honorees. The agency describes the award as “an honor bestowed to exceptional champions of apprenticeship who have a strong connection to apprenticeship in the State of Maryland.” Steward is a 2017 graduate of the apprentice program at the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center, located in Piney Point, Maryland. Pictured with her at the event are (from left) SIU Baltimore Port Agent John Hoskins, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) and SIU VP Contracts George Tricker. **Page 4.**

Whitmire Wins



Texas State Sen. John Whitmire (D) (center) will be the next mayor of Houston following his win in a runoff election Dec. 9. The SIU actively supported the labor-backed candidate for many months; Whitmire kicked off his campaign at the Houston hiring hall. He also visited the hall Nov. 13 during a benefits conference, when this photo was taken. Pictured from left are SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez, SIU President David Heindel, Whitmire, SIU VP Gulf Coast Dean Corgie, and SIU Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski.

Stick Together to Boost Manpower

As reflected in our “year in review” coverage this month, one of the biggest stories of 2023 was the SIU’s tireless effort to recruit new people into our industry.

This is a multi-faceted challenge, but we have made tangible progress, including a recent legislative gain – and a related upcoming tweak of the apprentice program in Piney Point – that will facilitate sailing in entry-level jobs as well as upgrading to ratings. We’ll share more details in the months ahead, but this is a big win.

While I am confident in saying the SIU has worked exhaustively and transparently to boost and retain manpower, I am concerned that some of our allies are trying to move in different directions to solve the problem. It’s important that we work together as an industry – labor and management alike – in order to identify and implement the most effective, most sustainable answers for America and its current and future mariners.

That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t brainstorm for creative solutions, but there’s nothing to be gained through catching people off-guard with public calls for steps that very well might weaken, rather than strengthen, the U.S. Merchant Marine. Our industry normally enjoys a well-earned reputation for being on the same page. We need to return to that standard.

Again, in the SIU we are taking steps in the right direction, and on that note, I thank our rank-and-file members for always stepping up to provide the best-trained, most reliable shipboard manpower. It’s been a challenge lately from a sheer numbers standpoint, because of numerous activations, post-pandemic retirements and new entries into the Tanker Security Program, but you have answered the call.

As you all know, it’s vitally important to take a job if you’re in position to do so – not just for the immediate income and experience, but also to help ensure that your jobs are still there in the future. Our survival hinges on our dependability (along with grassroots political action, but that’s a topic for another day). That’s something to keep in mind the next time you’re weighing whether or not to ship out.

Finally, I appreciate you continuing to do your part by promoting the industry and helping recruit future Seafarers, whether that’s by word-of-mouth or (as numerous members have done) volunteering to assist at a career fair. Your efforts are making a difference. Please continue to help your union out where and when you can.

Safety First

As of this writing in mid-December, at least three foreign-flag merchant ships and one U.S. warship had been attacked by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, according to the Pentagon. And, you may have read or heard about in-port protests on the West Coast that involved an SIU-crewed vessel which may or may not have been carrying military cargo.

The bottom line is that this is the right moment to adhere to the World War II mantra, “Loose lips sink ships.” These are emotionally and politically charged times. Please take every precaution in your communications to help ensure discretion and safety.



David Heindel

Norfolk Hall Hosts Pro-Maritime Virginia Senator, Congressman

The new-look hiring hall in Norfolk, Virginia, served as a distinguished but still down-to-earth setting for a recent gathering of Seafarers, representatives from various unions – and two prominent politicians from the Commonwealth.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) and U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D) headlined the Nov. 20 meeting of the Hampton Roads Ports Maritime Council (part of the Maritime Trades Department). Both are longtime friends of the SIU, backers of the U.S. Merchant Marine, and supporters of workers’ rights. They took part in a question-and-answer luncheon as the council conducted its first in-person meeting since the pandemic.

“It was a great event,” said SIU Norfolk Port Agent Mario Torrey. “I thanked them for being staunch supporters of the Jones Act and all things maritime, and made sure they know they are welcome here any time. They actually asked a lot of questions about Piney Point (home of the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, in Maryland).”

The gathering lasted 90 minutes and was well-attended. Attendees included rank-and-file SIU members and representatives from nine international



SIU members (from left) QMED John Morrison and OS Pinero Peek chat with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Virginia) at the hiring hall in Norfolk.



SIU Port Agent Mario Torrey (left) tells U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Virginia) about the extensive renovations that were completed at the Norfolk hall last year.

unions. Topics of discussion included the importance of building more U.S.-flag ships; increasing support for labor/company apprenticeship programs; boosting federal labor laws; and maintaining support for infrastructure investments.

Torrey, MTD Executive Secretary-Treasurer Mark Clements and MTD Administrator Brittanie Potter welcomed Kaine and Scott to the newly remodeled hall. Both members of Congress told Torrey how impressed they were with the facility (Kaine had visited a few years ago).

Prior to the meeting, Kaine and Scott spoke privately with participants and guests. Besides the SIU, other MTD affiliates with representation included the Boilermakers, Communications Workers, Electrical Workers, Operating Engineers, Painters & Allied Trades, and Teachers. In addition, the Masters, Mates & Pilots and the Food & Commercial Workers participated.

Finally, both Kaine and Scott saluted retired MTD Executive Secretary-Treasurer Daniel Duncan, who opened the meeting and announced this was his final function for the department.

Maritime Administrator Underscores Need to Boost Recruiting and Retention

During recent remarks delivered at an annual meeting of the American Bureau of Shipping, U.S. Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips emphasized the critical role of U.S. Merchant Mariners.

In a wide-ranging address that spelled out the administration’s multi-faceted pro-maritime strategy, Phillips spent significant time discussing American crews and also touched on the global manpower challenge.

Phillips said in part, “I have done a lot of international engagement over the last few months, meeting with leaders from the IMO, the UK, Vietnam and Korea. In all of these engagements the one consistent throughline that everyone spoke about was the critical nature of the mariner workforce and, more to the point, the mariner workforce shortage. For our part, the Maritime Administration is ... working to ... help recruit, train, and retain mariners by reducing barriers to entry.”

She added, “I am beginning to focus more keenly on quality of life for all mariners. Salaries for entry-

level merchant mariners are at an all-time high. However, despite the competitive pay, our industry continues to grapple with a mariner shortfall. While most acutely felt in the efforts to recruit and retain women – who are woefully underrepresented at about 8% of the maritime community

– the downward trend in the number of mariners across all demographics, demands our attention. With that in mind, over the next several months I am going to focus on quality-of-life issues and work with the industry on the sharing of best practices....

“I truly believe that to attract today’s workforce we must change the ‘way we have always done it.’ Mariners who want careers and families can indeed have both if a pathway is mapped out in an effective family policy and embraced by industry and labor.”

The administrator also provided an update on the agency’s work to develop a formal national maritime strategy, as directed by the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. As previously reported in the LOG, the Maritime Administration chose the Center for Naval Analyses (CAN) “to identify and examine the key components of an enduring national maritime strategy... that can be leveraged for decades to come,” Phillips said. “MARAD, working with CNA and numerous stakeholders from across government, industry, labor, academia, and other partners will identify the commercial sealift requirements to meet our nation’s future economic and security needs, identify shortfalls and challenges in current capabilities that need to be addressed, and provide MARAD with options to address any shortfalls in capacity and capability from which we then develop our strategy. This includes addressing any shortfalls in the areas of focus I mentioned earlier such as our strained workforce and the modest presence of U.S.-flag commercial ships in international trade.”

Moreover, Phillips said the agency “has developed a five-year strategic Mariner Workforce Development Plan to recruit, train, and retain merchant mariners.... We are close to a release date on this report, and it will be posted on MARAD’s website.”



Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips

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The Seafarers International Union engaged an environmentally friendly printer for the production of this newspaper.

SIU Crews Honored at AOTOS Event



Congratulating NY Waterway President/CEO Armand Pohan (second from right) are (from left) SIU Port Agents Joe Baselice and Ray Henderson, SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez and SIU VP Atlantic Coast Joseph Soresi.

SIU members were among the honorees at the most recent Admiral of the Ocean Seas (AOTOS) awards ceremony, which took place Dec. 1 in New York City.

Seafarers from the NY Waterway ferry *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*, the roll-on/roll-off ship *Midnight Sun* (TOTE), and the replenishment oiler *USNS John Lewis* (whose crew includes CIVMARS from the SIU Government Services Division) were among those recognized by event host the United Seamen's Service (USS).

Receiving the primary awards were Pasha Group President and CEO George Pasha IV; Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association President Adam Vokac; and Interlake Maritime Services President Mark W. Barker.

SIU personnel in attendance included President David Heindel, Executive Vice President Augie Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski, Vice President Contracts George Tricker, Vice President West Coast Nick Marrone, Vice President Atlantic Coast Joseph Soresi, Vice President

Government Services Nicholas Celona, Vice President Lakes and Inland Waters Bryan Powell, Assistant Vice President Pat Vandegrift, Philadelphia Port Agent Joe Baselice, Jersey City Port Agent Ray Henderson, Norfolk Port Agent Mario Torrey, Patrolman Osvaldo Ramos, and Manpower Director Mark von Siegel.

Pasha, whose company employs numerous SIU members, said in part, "We need additional investment in training and schooling of our mariner workforce, including funding for high school and pre-high school programs. We need to lower barriers for entry for our seafarers and to allow for our service members to transition into commercial roles more easily. It is crucial for this administration to communicate the significance and value of these well-paying jobs and to actively support the unions and employers in recruiting and retaining these essential positions."

He added, "We extend our gratitude to our hard-working mariners who tirelessly carry out heroic duties to ensure the



In attendance to help salute honorees are (from left) SIU VPs Nicholas Celona and Bryan Powell and SIU President David Heindel.

ships remain safe and reliably on time. We also honor the work of United Seamen's Service in providing comfort and assistance to our mariners worldwide."

As previously reported in detail, the *Roosevelt* crew helped rescue hundreds of passengers from a Staten Island Ferry boat that had caught fire; the *Midnight Sun* crew quickly extinguished a shipboard fire; and the *John Lewis* crew rescued a boater who'd been stranded at sea for five days off the coast of Southern California.

SIU Fleet Expands With Sarter Marine Acquisition

The SIU gained new jobs following Great Lakes Towing Company's (GLT) acquisition of Sarter Marine Towing.

Sarter boatmen, though accretion, are now covered by the current contract between the union and GLT.

"It's all working out," said SIU Algonac Port Agent Todd Brdak. "The guys are really pleased to be in the union and they're excited about the benefits in particular."

Deckhand **Zachary Grovogel** said that not having to pay premiums for coverage through the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan "is definitely an improvement over what we had before."

He said the Sarter boatmen "are involved in towing, but longer distance compared to the rest of the Great Lakes

Towing fleet. They're in-harbor, whereas we're more the long-tow operations."

In a news release about the sale, Sarter noted that the transaction includes "purchase of the tugboats *Donald J. Sarter* and *William C. Selvik*, as well as all supporting machinery and equipment and most other shoreside assets. The remaining five tugs in Sarter's fleet will be chartered to [GLT] under a long-term bareboat charter arrangement. [GLT] has retained all employees of Sarter Marine and will supplement the business with administrative and financial support to help support and enhance Sarter's current book of towing business in the region."

"The Sarter Marine Towing team is excited to partner with Great Lakes Towing. They have been a pleasure to work with," said Julie Sarter, president and owner of Sarter Marine.

GLT President Joe Starck stated, "The acquisition of Sarter Marine significantly enhances the Towing Company's capabilities in Northern Green Bay and Lake Michigan. This is really a win-win outcome for everyone involved."



SIU Algonac Port Agent Todd Brdak (second from right) meets with Sarter Marine boatmen in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Pictured from left are Deckhand Zachary Grovogel, Deckhand Phillip Pfister, Brdak and AB Nicholas Sternard.



SIU Port Agent Todd Brdak (left) and GLT Operations Manager Lindsay Dew are pictured aboard one of the company's boats.

Chief Cook Garner Recognition

An enthusiastic Seafarer recently received recognition for her professional and inspirational dedication.

The Maryland Department of Labor (MDOL) on Nov. 16 honored Chief Cook **Brittany Steward** and others with the Apprenticeship Champion Award, which the agency describes as “an honor bestowed to exceptional champions of apprenticeship who have a strong connection to apprenticeship in the State of Maryland.”

Steward is a 2017 graduate of the apprentice program at the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education (PHC), located in Piney Point, Maryland. She's also a frequent upgrader.

SIU Vice President Contracts George Tricker and SIU Baltimore Port Agent John Hoskins attended the ceremony in support of Steward, as did her mother and brother.

Steward initially didn't know she'd been nominated for the award. MDOL Director of Apprenticeship and Training Chris MacLarion learned of her background and then visited the hiring hall in Baltimore to speak with Hoskins. Inspired by Steward's story (as relayed by the port agent), he contacted Steward to learn more about the path that led her to the PHC.

“I feel proud of the award because my journey has been far from easy,” Steward told a *Seafarers LOG* reporter. “I'm proud of the burning desire to rise above my circumstances. The recognition is not just a testament to my achievements but to the countless individuals who have supported me along the way. I am proud of the resilience I have developed, the empathy I have cultivated, and the determination that has fueled my journey.”

The timing worked out well. Steward (a Baltimore native but current Texas resident) had recently returned from a voyage to Dubai, and already planned to travel to Baltimore to visit family.

Steward mentioned that her early years were spent with a foster family. Her mother worked diligently, juggling multiple jobs and overcoming her own challenges so that she may one day be reunited with her daughter. Those efforts paid off and they indeed reconnected after three years.

Steward said her mother has “always been there to support me and to guide me on my path, even when I made mistakes. She did her best with guiding me and I appreciate that. She was definitely my biggest support system. That's really my motivation because her story inspired me. No matter what you go through or what you've been through, if you've got the right mindset, you can do anything you want.”

After Steward graduated from Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School (also known as Mervo) in Baltimore City, she struggled to find her footing in the working world. She eventually enrolled in a private career school, where she amassed a significant amount



Chief Cook Brittany Steward (center) is pictured at the awards ceremony with SIU VP Contracts George Tricker (left) and SIU Baltimore Port Agent John Hoskins (right).

of student loan debt – and still had no clear career path to show for it.

Prior to enrolling at the PHC, Steward at various times had worked as a dental assistant, bartender, and staff member in the Baltimore County American Job Centers. A friend had suggested joining the Seafarers via the apprentice program (which is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor), but she didn't take it seriously at first.

“I was listening, but I wasn't listening,” she admits, until about two months later when she finally read the information that she had asked them to provide. It was then that she thought, “This is my ticket out of Baltimore.”

Her vision proved correct. She'd never left the city until enrolling in Piney Point, but now has been to several countries.

Steward may have delayed her entry into the U.S. Merchant Marine, but she made up for it. After graduating from PHC Class 826S on a Friday in 2017, she shipped out the following Monday. As Steward described it, she “went straight to the money,” and made \$6,000 per month on her first vessel.

Seeing that first paycheck “was life-changing,” she recalled. “I received it and immediately paid off all of my student loans. I'm debt-free.”

After successfully completing two voyages as an SA, Steward returned to Piney Point to begin upgrading. She then climbed the gangway of the *USNS Impeccable* in the Philippines, ready to work as a chief cook – and promptly was asked to step in as the new chief steward.

Understandably nervous, Steward overcame some figurative speed bumps and handled the surprise assignment.



Celebrating the award are (from left) MDOL Director of Apprenticeship and Training Chris MacLarion, Antionette Nelson and her daughter, honoree Brittany Steward.

“I was nervous but I did it,” she said. “I took that opportunity to step up because I want to move up as fast as I can. I will still upgrade and still take classes, but I wanted to take advantage of that opportunity.”

Steward isn't only focused on her own advancement, though. Since finding her career path, she has shared her story in hopes of enlightening others about maritime careers.

“I'm trying to be reachable to people that look like me in my environment, that talk like me, that dress like me and think that they're not supposed to be in these rooms,” she said.

One method Steward launched was her own startup YouTube channel.

“What made me start filming? I got tired of talking to people in the neighborhood; they weren't listening. So, I said, instead of asking me, go to my YouTube channel and if the information is for you, it's for you,” she said.

She added, “I procrastinated on it for a few years because I didn't like how I talked in front of the camera. I didn't want to be too real, but I know my people are my people. If you can relate to me, then I'm happy with that.” (Her channel is @stuthesailor)

Meanwhile, the MDOL not only listened to Steward's story but found it compelling enough to include her in the agency's third annual awards event.

During the presentation, MDOL official Erin Roth stated, “The reason that she's getting this Apprenticeship Champion award today is because she continues to tell anyone and everyone in the city and where she lives now out of her home base in Houston, Texas, about the opportunities that apprenticeship can offer. So, thank you, Brittany. We really appreciate you.”

Maryland DOL Honors Apprentices

The who's who of Maryland labor and apprenticeship gathered at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel in Towson, Maryland, to take part in the state's third annual apprenticeship awards ceremony, including Governor Wes Moore (D), Maryland Labor Secretary Portia Wu (D), many other state and county government officials – and representatives from the SIU, including honoree Chief Cook **Brittany Steward** (see separate article, this page).

SIU Vice President Contracts George Tricker and Baltimore SIU Port Agent John Hoskins also attended the gathering, which took place Nov. 16.

The ceremony was part of this year's National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) celebration, which lasted from Nov. 13-19. NAW included numerous events across the country (the SIU participated in several of them) designed to publicize the opportunities that apprenticeship offers for workers to develop the skills employers value.

“The Maryland Department of Labor is proud to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week and showcase the key success of this program,” said Wu. “Maryland is full speed ahead on growing apprenticeship through expanding to new industries, working with schools and colleges, and partnering with communities across the state.”

Since the inception of these awards, the state has focused on expanding the number of apprenticeships available to people in Maryland and advocating for apprenticeships to become more commonly acknowledged as viable pathways to begin a career without defaulting to the traditional route of higher education via college.

Steward is a graduate of the apprentice program at the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, located in Piney Point, Maryland. (That program is open to applicants across the nation, not just Marylanders, and is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.)

“We have some of the best four-year colleges in America in the state of Maryland, and that's a fact that we should all be very proud of – but we are going to end this myth that every single one of our students must attend one of them in order to be economically successful,” Moore said.

Registered apprenticeship is widely considered an effective training strategy that leads to quality employment, equips workers with job-relevant skills, and helps employers meet their current and future workforce needs.

According to Moore's proclamation, the U.S. DOL's apprenticeship week celebration was established in 2015 to promote events that showcase the success and the value that registered apprenticeship represents in both Maryland and the United States for our workforce.

Currently, the state boasts more than 11,000 registered apprentices who are active in the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program. There have also been 165 new apprenticeship programs approved across key industry sectors over the past seven years, 23 of which happened since January 2023.

“Maryland has set ambitious goals for expanding apprenticeship and we mean to meet them,” Wu said. “Registered apprenticeship is key to our state's economic success. We've

already hit historic highs in apprenticeship adoption and today's investments will accelerate our progress.”

Maryland has an increased workforce demand for positions in many sectors, including teaching, advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and cybersecurity. Apprenticeship programs have been created in order to help address some of these needs, according to Moore's proclamation.

He further noted that the unemployment rate in Maryland is only 1.6 percent, “which is the lowest unemployment rate in the history of the United States.”

The governor also announced a new apprenticeship program. The \$1.6 million Maryland Hospitality Management endeavor will be sponsored by the U.S. DOL.

“The money will go towards six community colleges that will sponsor apprenticeships, for management positions in the hospitality sector. Together, these programs will reach over 1,200 Marylanders,” Moore continued.

He also announced the appointment of five new “apprenticeship ambassadors” who will help expand the apprenticeship push in the state and will help recruit more organizations to join in the movement.

“We are ready to unearth all the potential that this state has,” Moore concluded. “We are prepared to invest in genius – in the genius that each and every person has – and our job becomes how we make sure they see that genius for themselves. The whole reason that we celebrate apprenticeships is because we want to say to every single Marylander with a full sense of certainty that you're more than worthy regardless of the direction that you choose.”

Benefits Conferences Continue in New Year

Three more benefits conferences are scheduled to take place within the first few months of the new year, and those will mark the conclusion of a series of 15 that began last summer.

The gatherings are hosted by the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan (SHBP) at various hiring halls and are supported by the SIU. Seafarers, pensioners and their families are encouraged to attend.

The remaining schedule is:

- Wilmington, California: Tuesday, Jan. 16
- Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Tuesday, Feb. 20
- Algonac, Michigan: Friday, March 8

(Editor's note: The Wilmington date is new; the originally scheduled conference had been postponed due to inclement weather.)

Seafarers Plans Administrator Maggie Bowen has led the conferences and appreciates the widespread participation.

"They've all been well-attended," she said. "Members and families have come out, and they've asked great questions. We've talked about a lot of different things."

Bowen emphasized that membership feedback from the first several conferences directly led to positive change: "As a result of Seafarers talking about their optical benefits, we put that (topic) before the trustees, and they agreed to an increase in those benefits. Vision benefits will double as of Jan. 1, and I think this shows that the process works. Leadership heard the members' concerns and did something about it."

Conferences already have taken place in Norfolk, Virginia; Oakland, California; Honolulu; Tacoma, Washington; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Piney Point, Maryland; Jacksonville, Florida; Houston; New Orleans; Mobile, Alabama; and Jersey City, New Jersey.

As previously reported, the meetings usually begin with an overview of the SHBP, including eligibility requirements, coverage levels, prescription considerations and more. Attendees have received tips on how to reduce out-of-pocket expenses and how to take advantage of new benefits.

Comparable information is shared during separate reviews of the Seafarers Pension Plan, Seafarers Vacation Plan, SIU 401K, and Seafarers Money Purchase Pension Plan. Plentiful handouts from the Seafarers Plans and from Cigna also are available.



Pictured from left at the Mobile gathering are SIU VP Gulf Coast Dean Corgey, Seafarers Plans Administrator Maggie Bowen, SIU Asst. VP Chris Westbrook, SIU Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski, SIU President David Heindel, SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez, Benefits Director Gunilla Watts, Media Coordinator/ Recruiting Lauren Liles, and SIU Mobile Port Agent Jimmy White.

In the photos below, attendees pack the halls in (from top to bottom) Houston, New Orleans, Mobile, and Jersey City.



Retired Recertified Steward Denis Burke (second from left) and his family attend the Houston conference and are pictured with SIU President David Heindel (right) and Seafarers Plans Administrator Maggie Bowen (left).

Thanksgiving in Jacksonville

This year's Thanksgiving gathering at the hiring hall in Jacksonville, Florida, took place Nov. 20 and drew a large, enthusiastic crowd of members, pensioners and guests. Additional photos are available on the SIU's social-media pages.



GUDE Ashanty Castillo, Administrative Assistant Ashley Castillo



Retired Recertified Steward Darryl Goggins, Recertified Steward Jerome Jordan



SA Shantel Sykes, Chief Cook Brittany Harris



Recertified Bosun Tavell Love (right)



ABG Vicente Mansilungan, SIU Port Agent Ashley Nelson, Steward/Baker Manuel Daguio



Safety Director Adam Bucalo, Patrolman Eddie Pittman, Admin. Asst. Marquita Stamper, Port Agent Ashley Nelson, Admin. Asst. Ashley Castillo, Patrolman Brian Guiry

Thanksgiving At Sea

SIU steward departments upheld the decades-long tradition of putting out scrumptious holiday spreads for Thanksgiving 2023. Additional photos are available on our social-media pages.



ABOARD MAERSK KANSAS - Pictured from left are ABM Mike Pockat, ABM Alfonso Marin, SA Elena Tate, CS James McLeod and Bosun Kyle Silva.



ABOARD USNS RED CLOUD - Pictured from left in photo above, middle, aboard the Patriot-operated ship are Chief Cook Julian Abreu, SA Emily Lepley and Recertified Steward Dennison Dizon.



ABOARD MANULANI - Pictured from left in photo above, right, aboard the Matson-operated vessel are Capt. Travis Seely, Chief Cook Steven Johnson, Recertified Steward Fakhruddin Malahi and ACU Abdulwali Mugalli.



ABOARD MAERSK PITTSBURGH - Pictured from left in photo above, middle, are Chief Cook Erik Loret, SA Nagi Alzaim and Recertified Steward Ali Matari. The remaining photo includes other crew members and officers.

Biden To Use Trade Pacts, Leverage To Advance Worker Rights Worldwide

Building on the provisions of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA), the Biden administration recently launched a whole-of-government initiative, via an executive order to use trade pacts and other leverage to advance worker rights worldwide.

Biden's objective, said Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su, is to expand and increase worker rights and incomes abroad. When those rights advance and incomes advance, those workers benefit – and U.S. workers do, too, the three said.

That's because advancing workers' rights and wages abroad also removes low-wage exploitation, which many businesses commonly use to export U.S. jobs and undercut U.S. workers, the officials said.

"In support of workers and our national security interests, my administration will consider actions to integrate and elevate workers' rights and the promotion of high labor standards in our foreign, international development, trade, climate, and global economic policy priorities," Biden's executive order declares.

Biden's order supersedes more corporate-leaning trade policies, some of which date back to the Gilded Age, which heavily rely on foreign labor to produce U.S. goods. These policies often came at a great cost to laborers in "opening markets," many of whom suffered abuse and repression. Some examples include NAFTA, USMCA's predecessor, which passed in spite of strong union opposition.

Now, Biden is pivoting the government in a pro-worker direction, and that drew cheers from the AFL-CIO. Its then-top trade expert, Deputy Chief of Staff Thea Lee, led the crafting of tough, enforceable worker rights into the USMCA during the Trump presidency. Legislative directors

from the Steelworkers, the Auto Workers and the Teamsters helped.

Labor then worked with U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, (D-Conn.) and other pro-worker lawmakers, to ensure those tough standards remained and the USMCA passed. Tai noted it's led to large growth in Mexico in both independent unions – as opposed to company and pro-government unions – and rising wages there, notably in the auto industry.

With that as a model, as Tai and Su pointed out, Biden's executive order framework "will reshape how U.S. government agencies conduct international diplomacy by putting workers' rights and standards at the center," AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said.

"Across the globe, working people are united in our fight against growing corporate overreach and abuse, low wages, attacks on organizing, the absence of strong benefits, and poor working conditions. This new strategy is a major victory for workers everywhere and underscores workers' rights are essential to our country's national and foreign policy, and national and economic security."

Shuler added, "This framework will leverage diplomacy to promote internationally recognized labor rights and worker organizing; create measures that enable swift responses to violence and threats against trade union leaders, activists and organizations; improve the capacity of U.S. agencies and foreign missions to engage with workers and their representatives to improve the lives of working people; and enhance and enforce fair trade practices. The directive recognizes that no matter where we live, all workers deserve dignity and respect on the job. We need a global economy that puts working people at the center."

During a ceremony in San Francisco where the executive order was announced, and with many union members

in attendance, Su (a Californian) said, "Every worker deserves a just day's pay for a hard day's work. Every worker should come home healthy and safe at the end of the day. And every worker should have a right to join a union. These are not just American values. They apply to workers around the world. And in President Biden's America, we want to lead by example."

Su also warned that the executive order to all federal agencies to push worker rights worldwide, together, isn't enough. "Corporations are global. So, workers, and worker power, and the way we think about workers have to be global, as well," she explained. "When some corporations cut corners and contract out work to low-road businesses that exploit workers around the world, it creates an unfair playing field for every responsible business that does right by its workers. When global actors are allowed to evade labor laws in one country by exploiting workers in another part of the world, this undermines workers' rights everywhere. And when workers are harassed, discriminated against, and attacked as they produce things sold all around the world, we cannot simply look away and ignore the ways our global economy brings with it global responsibility."

Blinken outlined practical moves to enforce worker rights worldwide, besides using trade pacts as leverage. They include "engaging governments, workers, unions, civil society and the private sector to protect and promote internationally recognized labor rights." He's ordering ambassadors to "engage with workers, with unions so their voices are reflected in everything that we do."

"Second, we will work to hold accountable those who threaten, who intimidate, who attack union leaders, labor rights defenders, labor organizations – including using things like sanctions, trade penalties, visa restrictions – all the tools in our kit," he said.

2024 SEAFARERS HEALTH AND BENEFITS PLAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships totaling \$132,000 are available under the 2024 Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan Scholarship Program. The grants are available to Seafarers and their dependents looking to continue their education. Allocations for each category will be as follows:

SEAFARERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Three scholarships designated for active Seafarers:

- One \$20,000 offering for a four-year course of study at an accredited college or university
- Two scholarships (\$6,000 each) for Seafarers interested in pursuing two-year courses of study at a community college or vocational school



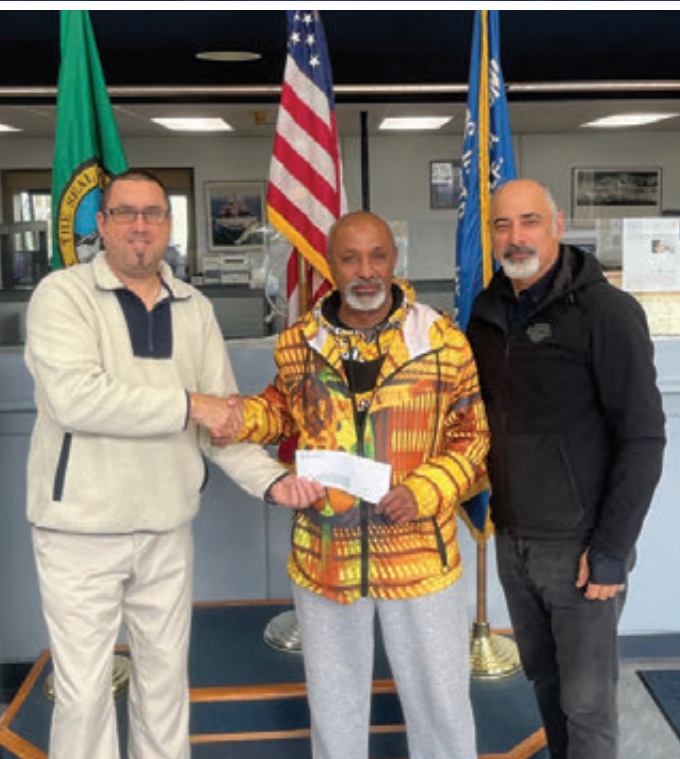
DEPENDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Five scholarships designated for dependents:

- A total of five scholarships, each worth \$20,000, are being offered to dependents (spouses included) to attend four-year courses of study at accredited colleges or universities. Dependents and spouses of active as well as retired Seafarers may apply.

To take advantage of these opportunities, visit seafarers.org, go to the Benefits menu, open the "Core Plus and Core Benefits" section, scroll to "Applications and Forms," and select "Scholarship Application" to download a fillable PDF version of the application. Email scholarship@seafarers.org for assistance or additional information.

At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



WELCOME ASHORE IN TACOMA – AB Muhiddin Awale (center) receives his first pension check at the hiring hall. He first sailed with the union in 1996. Congratulating him are SIU Asst. VP Joe Vincenzo (right) and SIU Port Agent Warren Asp.



BOSUN CALLS IT A CAREER – Longtime Seafarer Boyce Wilson (center) is pictured at the Houston hall (receiving his first pension check) with SIU Asst. VP Mike Russo (left) and Port Agent Joe Zavala. Wilson started sailing with the SIU in 1990.



SIGNING UP IN ALGONAC – STOS Chandler Williams (right) receives his B-book at the hiring hall. He's pictured with Safety Director Jason Brown.



WELCOME ASHORE IN HOUSTON – QEP Craig Croft (center), who started sailing with the SIU in 1985, displays his first pension check. He's pictured at the hall with (from left) Asst. VP Mike Russo, Patrolman J.B. Niday, Patrolman Kelly Krick and Port Agent Joe Zavala.



ACTIVE IN APPRENTICESHIP WEEK – The SIU recently participated in National Apprenticeship Week, a DOL-led effort featuring events from coast to coast. Pictured from left are AB Blake Stollenwerck, SIU President David Heindel, SIU Asst. VP Chris Westbrook, and Louisiana Workforce Commission Apprenticeship Director Stephen Peychaud. The SIU's ongoing collaboration with the commission has been successful. Meanwhile, Heindel commended Stollenwerck for stepping up on short notice to assist in manning the first of the Tanker Security Program vessels.



PRE-THANKSGIVING TREAT – An impromptu gathering took place on Thanksgiving eve at the hiring hall in Oakland, California. Retirees and active members enjoyed good food and swapped sea stories, according to Port Agent Duane Akers, who submitted this photo. Among those in attendance (and pictured above) were retirees Emmanuel Bayani, Jovencio Cabab, Rolando Gumanas and Angelito Francisco, and Recertified Bosun Ritche Acuman.



FULL BOOK IN SAN JUAN – ABW Felipe Flores (right) receives his full book from Safety Director Ricky Martinez at the hiring hall.

At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



ABOARD TUGBOAT TEXAS – This Seafaring selfie was taken aboard the Great Lakes Towing boat during a servicing in Green Bay, Wisconsin. From left are AB/Delegate William Hermes, AB Steve Rodziczak, SIU Algonac Port Agent Todd Brdak, and AB Patrick Hermes.



ABOARD ISLA BELLA – Chief Cook Gregory Eady is pictured aboard the TOTE ship. As noted by vessel master Capt. Andrew M. Mayher, “His hard work and dedication has made noticeable improvements to the vessel by his shipmates and those who visit.”



YOUNG VOICES OF EXPERIENCE – Three SIU members – all graduates of the apprentice program at the union-affiliated school in Maryland – recently participated in a career fair sponsored by Kamehameha Schools, a private school system in Hawaii. The Seafarers shared their respective training and sailing experiences with prospective apprentices. Pictured from left are QE4 Jade Ezera, AB Desmond Unutoa, and AB Luke Satsuma.



OUTREACH IN LONE-STAR STATE – In photo above, left, SIU Patrolmen Kelly Krick (left) and J.B. Niday (right) bump into SIU Chief Engineer Pearson Smith (center) at a recent career fair at Texas A&M Galveston. Pearson, who sails with G&H Towing, is on active-duty orders from the U.S. Navy Reserve. The remaining photo (taken at a separate gathering) includes AB/Tankerman Jarred Moylan, Krick and Safety Director Kevin Sykes. The career-day event took place at Moylan's alma mater: Aransas Pass High School.



MILESTONE IN GUAM – AB Julee Quiapos (left) picks up his A-seniority book at the hall. Congratulating him is SIU Port Agent Victor Sahagon.



SALUTING A HALF-CENTURY OF SERVICE – Coinciding with the recent benefits conference in New Orleans, the union recognized retired Lead Bosun John Cain (center) for his more than 50 years with the union. Pictured from left are SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Orzechowski, VP Gulf Coast Dean Corgey, Cain, SIU President David Heindel, SIU VP Government Services Nicholas Celona, and New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association President Louis “Toby” Wattigney (who is a former SIU captain with Crescent Towing).



THANKING OUR VETERANS – This snapshot was taken shortly before Veterans Day 2023, aboard an SIU-contracted NY Waterway ferry. It includes (from left) Capt. Rick Thornton (former U.S. Navy), Senior Deckhand George Schumpp (Army), and SIU Port Agent Ray Henderson (Coast Guard).

At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



ABOARD STENA IMPERATIVE – Pictured from left in the galley of the Crowley vessel above, right are SA Richmond Almocera, Chief Cook Esper Jordan and Steward/Baker Jose Norales. Remaining photo includes Safety Director Amber Akana, Norales and other crew members.



TAKING THE OATH IN JACKSONVILLE – Receiving their respective B-books at the hiring hall are (facing camera, from left) STOS Dale Henry and QMED Tyler Summersill. SIU Port Agent Ashley Nelson is at left.



B-BOOK IN HOUSTON – STOS Joshua Daniel (left) receives his full book at the hiring hall. He's pictured with SIU Patrolman Kelly Krick.



ABOARD STENA IMPECCABLE – Pictured from left aboard the Crowley ship in Hawaii are Pumpman Martin Hamilton, SIU Port Agent Hazel Galbiso, Bosun Isaac Amissah and Recertified Steward Anthony Jacobson.



AROUND THE NORFOLK HALL – In photo above, middle, OSs Travis Smith and Joseph Ilao display their newly acquired B-books. The outdoor photo features Chief Cook Carl Royster volunteering to help keep the grounds tidy, while the remaining snapshot includes newly retired QMED George Kee (left) and SIU Port Agent Mario Torrey.

Notice

Increase in Vision Benefits

The Trustees of the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan are pleased to announce that they have decided to increase the vision benefits that the Plan provides to mariners and their families at the Core-Plus, Core and Pensioner benefit levels. The new vision benefits will be double the amount that was previously available. This increase in benefits goes into effect Jan. 1, 2024.

Mariners and their dependents at the Core-Plus level will now be eligible to receive up to \$400 per person during any 24 consecutive months, to help pay for eye exams, glasses or contact lenses. At the Core level, mariners will be eligible to receive up to \$250 in vision benefits during 24 consecutive months, and their dependents may receive up to \$80 in vision benefits during this period. Pensioners and their dependents will now be eligible for up to \$80 in vision benefits within 24 consecutive months.

The Trustees wish all participants in the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan a happy and healthy new year!

With Seafarers Aboard OS Santorini



This snapshot was taken in early December in Corpus Christi, Texas. Pictured from left aboard the Overseas Ship Management vessel are OS Alex Needham, Chief Cook Joshu Lee, AB Christopher Collins, OS Elvershon Williams, Bosun Ryan Legario, SIU Patrolman J.B. Niday and Steward/Baker Michael Carello.

January & February Membership Meetings

Piney Point	Monday: Jan. 8, Feb. 5
Algonac	Friday: Jan. 12, Feb. 9
Baltimore	Thursday: Jan. 11, Feb. 8
Guam	Thursday: Jan. 25, Feb. 22
Honolulu	Friday: Jan. 19, Feb. 16
Houston	Tuesday: Jan. 16, Monday: Feb. 12
Jacksonville	Thursday: Jan. 11, Feb. 8
Joliet	Thursday: Jan. 18, Feb. 15
Mobile	Wednesday: Jan. 17, Feb. 14
New Orleans	Tuesday: Jan. 16, Feb. 13
Jersey City	Tuesday: Jan. 9, Feb. 6
Norfolk	Friday: Jan. 12, Feb. 9
Oakland	Thursday: Jan. 18, Feb. 15
Philadelphia	Wednesday: Jan. 10, Feb. 7
Port Everglades	Thursday: Jan. 18, Feb. 15
San Juan	Thursday: Jan. 11, Feb. 8
St. Louis	Friday: Jan. 19, Feb. 16
Tacoma	Friday: Jan. 26, Feb. 23
Wilmington	Monday: Jan. 22, Tuesday: Feb. 20

Date changes due to holiday observances.

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

Dispatchers’ Report for Deep Sea

“Total Registered” and “Total Shipped” data is cumulative from November 11 - December 12, 2023.
“Registered on the Beach” data is as of December 13, 2023.

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
Deck Department										
Algonac	12	4	1	15	5	0	10	24	4	3
Anchorage	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
Baltimore	3	2	1	3	3	0	4	1	1	1
Fort Lauderdale	20	11	2	15	6	1	11	28	15	2
Guam	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1
Harvey	7	4	3	3	4	2	3	13	5	2
Honolulu	9	2	0	7	1	0	2	13	6	1
Houston	35	27	5	22	16	3	8	47	37	4
Jacksonville	39	22	5	16	20	2	14	51	31	7
Jersey City	19	6	2	14	6	0	10	35	11	5
Joliet	3	1	1	5	0	1	1	2	3	0
Mobile	9	3	1	4	1	0	2	13	3	1
Norfolk	19	16	8	14	10	5	4	26	21	8
Oakland	9	2	0	7	4	1	5	16	1	0
Philadelphia	3	2	0	3	2	0	1	7	2	0
Piney Point	1	2	0	1	3	0	2	1	2	0
Puerto Rico	7	1	2	1	4	3	2	12	6	2
Tacoma	12	6	3	14	3	0	9	24	10	5
St. Louis	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	0
Wilmington	25	10	1	15	6	1	6	38	11	5
TOTAL	235	126	36	161	95	20	94	357	174	47
Engine Department										
Algonac	1	2	1	2	2	2	4	2	0	0
Anchorage	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
Baltimore	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	1	0
Fort Lauderdale	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	9	5	2
Guam	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Harvey	2	2	1	3	3	1	5	1	2	0
Honolulu	5	2	0	3	0	0	0	9	4	1
Houston	7	7	2	10	3	3	10	13	14	2
Jacksonville	20	10	3	14	12	1	12	24	12	3
Jersey City	12	6	3	4	2	0	2	14	5	3
Joliet	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	3	0	0
Mobile	3	2	2	2	1	0	0	3	4	3
Norfolk	13	6	6	13	3	7	5	17	12	4
Oakland	3	2	2	3	0	1	1	5	2	4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	2	1	1
Piney Point	2	0	0	3	0	0	1	3	0	0
Puerto Rico	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	5	3	0
Tacoma	9	4	0	4	3	1	6	13	2	3
St. Louis	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Wilmington	9	6	3	11	2	3	8	16	12	6
TOTAL	99	62	28	86	37	22	66	143	82	33
Steward Department										
Algonac	3	2	0	3	3	0	3	7	2	0
Anchorage	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Baltimore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Fort Lauderdale	8	4	2	4	1	2	5	12	5	1
Guam	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Harvey	3	2	0	3	5	0	4	2	0	0
Honolulu	10	2	0	3	1	1	3	12	3	0
Houston	18	7	2	6	8	0	5	27	10	3
Jacksonville	29	14	1	11	15	2	14	45	17	5
Jersey City	8	4	2	6	4	1	4	13	6	1
Joliet	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
Mobile	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	1	1
Norfolk	15	12	2	9	9	2	7	18	14	5
Oakland	8	6	2	6	0	1	4	15	8	2
Philadelphia	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	1
Piney Point	4	3	2	4	5	2	3	2	3	2
Puerto Rico	6	7	2	1	5	3	3	7	11	0
Tacoma	9	7	0	4	3	0	8	9	7	0
St. Louis	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Wilmington	11	5	4	11	7	1	10	25	10	1
TOTAL	139	78	20	73	67	15	74	210	102	22
Entry Department										
Algonac	0	10	15	0	3	6	5	0	15	17
Anchorage	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Baltimore	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	2
Fort Lauderdale	0	7	5	0	1	2	0	1	12	17
Guam	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Harvey	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	6
Honolulu	0	0	9	0	1	2	0	1	3	14
Houston	4	20	13	1	13	7	6	5	27	42
Jacksonville	1	25	70	1	24	40	13	2	45	124
Jersey City	1	14	22	1	5	10	4	1	25	35
Joliet	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
Mobile	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Norfolk	2	9	28	0	8	16	6	2	13	48
Oakland	1	3	5	1	1	7	0	0	7	7
Philadelphia	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Piney Point	0	2	15	0	5	12	5	0	2	18
Puerto Rico	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1
Tacoma	1	8	7	2	2	3	2	3	15	10
St. Louis	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Wilmington	0	13	5	0	10	3	0	3	19	16
TOTAL	12	116	206	6	79	115	43	21	192	368
GRAND TOTAL	485	382	290	326	278	172	277	731	550	470

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.

MAGOTHY (Argent Marine Operations, Inc.), August 19 – Chairman **Rudy Harjanto**, Educational Director **Ryan Sotomayor**, Deck Delegate **Justo Guity**. Chairman reiterated the importance of upgrading at the Paul Hall Center and reminded crew of the Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan's scholarship opportunities. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew discussed dangerous-cargo pay and requested new fans, linens and beds. TVs and refrigerators are needed in rooms. Members reported issues with internet service. Crew asked for boot reimbursements, air conditioning in galley, wage increases. Crew requested specific wage allocations to be reported on pay vouchers.

SBX (TOTE Services), September 19 – Chairman **James Reynolds**, Secretary **Annie Nodd**, Educational Director **Rolando Torres**, Deck Delegate **Jehu Laranjo**, Engine Delegate **Olivier Espoca**, Steward Delegate **Gilma David**. Chairman discussed the MSC contract extension and explained how it may delay annual raises. He reviewed medical benefits as well as the pension plan. Secretary directed members to the steward's office to find all SIU forms and reminded everyone to verify documents before signing them. She informed crew of upcoming benefits conferences and encouraged everyone's attendance. Educational director recommended members upgrade at the Paul Hall Center. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members suggested several additions for the next contract including implementing "roommate pay." Crew motioned to increase continuity retention program and to make increases to all wages across the board. New dates for safety training courses

have been posted for those interested. Next port: Honolulu.

HUDSON EXPRESS (Marine Personnel & Provisioning), September 30 – Chairman **Zeki Karaahmet**, Secretary **Abraham Mills**, Educational Director **Fernandez Wilcox**. Chairman brought up various overtime issues, including considerations regarding department delegates and meetings. He also thanked the steward department for a job well done. Secretary reminded members to keep mess hall and laundry room clean and thanked crew for help with recent ship stores. Educational director urged members to upgrade at the Piney Point school and reminded them to keep their documents up to date. Members requested increases to vacation and pension benefits. Crew experienced a safe voyage and good weather.

CAPE WRATH (Crowley), October 1 – Chairman **Prateek Poras**, Secretary **Douglas Flynn**, Educational Director **Timothy Chestnut**, Deck Delegate **Alexander Busby**, Engine Delegate **Morey Lewis**, Steward Delegate **Wilma Joy Smith**. Chairman discussed manning of Cape ships. Educational director advised crew to renew documents in timely manner and keep beneficiary information updated. He directed members to the SIU website to check for upgrading courses at the Piney Point school and reminded them to use the member portal. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew asked for upgrades to air conditioning, furniture and Wi-Fi service. News books and movies were requested as well as a new ice machine. Next port: Charleston, South Carolina.

TEXAS (Seabulk Crew Management),

October 12 – Chairman **Jovan Williams**, Secretary **Ronald Davis**, Educational Director **Michael Banks**, Steward Delegate **Jose Santos**. Chairman asked for members' patience when they're awaiting reliefs. Secretary encouraged crew to upgrade at the Paul Hall Center and to keep physicals up-to-date. Educational director reminded members to keep documents current and to leave clean rooms for oncoming crew. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Three refrigerators needed on ship, and engine department in need of winter gear. Members requested increased coverage for eyeglasses. Next port: Anacortes, Washington.

MYKONOS (Overseas Ship Management), October 21 – Secretary **Brian Lunsford**, Educational Director **Lawrence Banks**. Chairman advised crew to stay on top of sanitation. Secretary urged members to renew medical documentation early and to check credentials for expiration dates. No beefs or disputed OT reported. New beds needed on ship. Crew requested 30 for 30 vacation and improvements to medical and pension benefits. Next port: Singapore.

USNS BRUCE HEEZEN (Ocean Shipholdings), October 29 – Chairman **Robert Natividad**, Secretary **Emmanuel Matias**, Educational Director **Yuri Hernandez**, Deck Delegate **Ricardo Dayrit**, Steward Delegate **Marcus Dalton**. New plates and linen orders are underway for next trip. Educational director encouraged members to upgrade at the Piney Point school and announced plans about completing documents. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members requested new shower curtains and shower mats. They asked for addi-

tional food and for easier access to the internet.

MAERSK KANSAS (Maersk Line, Limited), November 11 – Chairman **Kyle Silva**, Secretary **James McLeod**, Educational Director **Francois Doucet**, Deck Delegate **Alfonso Marin**, Engine Delegate **Adrian Darden**, Steward Delegate **Cody Younghans**. Chairman thanked crew for working safely and keeping ship clean. He especially thanked members for doing a good job with oil cleanup. Educational director advised members to take advantage of the new courses being taught at the Paul Hall Center. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members requested new linens and towels. Crew needs carpet cleaner and new washer and dryers. Steward department was thanked for a job well done.

TORM THUNDER (Eco-Tankers Crew Management), November 25 – Chairman **Ryan Scott**, Secretary **Michael Watts**, Educational Director **Michael Kelly**, Deck Delegate **Adam Riley**, Engine Delegate **Greg Alvarez**, Steward Delegate **Angel Bernardez**. New dryer ordered. Fans and refrigerators in state-rooms are being worked on. Chairman told members to stay up to date on documents and physicals. Educational director urged crew to attend upgrading courses at the Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members asked for Gatorade powder mix to drink while working in a hot-weather climate. Crew requested increases in vacation as well as pension benefits. Members would like financial compensation for going past contractual sign on time without a relief. Next port: Guam.

Know Your Rights

FINANCIAL REPORTS. The Constitution of the SIU Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters 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:

George Tricker, 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 David Heindel at headquarters by certified mail, return receipt requested. The address is:

David Heindel, President
Seafarers International Union
5201 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20746

David Heindel, President

Augustin Tellez, Executive Vice President

Tom Orzechowski, Secretary-Treasurer

George Tricker, Vice President Contracts

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

Bryan Powell,
Vice President Lakes and Inland Waters

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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 Street, 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 members of the most recent bosun recertification class. That class included 11 Seafarers; the responses of the other six members were published in the previous edition.

Question: Why did you join the union and why have you stuck with it?



Luis Garcia
Recertified Bosun

Since I was a kid, I dreamed of becoming a seaman, because I'm from a port town (Buenaventura, Colombia), and seeing those seamen coming ashore, they were almost heroes. I joined the SIU thanks to a friend, in 2004. The reasons I'm still an SIU member are because of all the benefits we get, good money, traveling to different countries for free, and I spent quality time with my family when I'm home.



John Coleman
Recertified Bosun

I joined and have stuck with it because the SIU offers great money and great benefits. You can live anywhere you want, and you have a flexible work schedule.



Robert Hoppenworth
Recertified Bosun

I joined the union because I was able to start in the trainee program. I was in Class 535. I knew I could upgrade and move up at my pace, and of course make more money and have a future.



Paul Brown
Recertified Bosun

I became a seaman because I followed in my father's footsteps. I really enjoy this career. The SIU provides a great opportunity to get ahead in life, and it has worked out very well for me.



Junior Augustin
Recertified Bosun

Most of the men in my family are sailors, so I've had a desire to work on a ship from a young age. After coming to the United States and being introduced to the SIU, I knew this was a perfect opportunity to fulfill my career goals as well as provide me the lifestyle I wanted. I've been able to accomplish so many of my dreams – this career changed my life, and I truly enjoy what I do. I'm very thankful for all the leadership and instruction I've gotten; there are some truly monumental leaders in the union, and their passion for the industry along with their professionalism has motivated me and inspired my growth.

Pic from the Past



Oiler Antonio Garza works aboard the *Overseas Alaska* in 1971.

Welcome Ashore!

We pay tribute to our brothers and sisters of the SIU who have recently retired. THANK YOU for a job well done and we wish you fair winds and following seas.

DEEP SEA

EDDIE ALMODOVAR

Brother Eddie Almodovar, 66, signed on with the union in 1977 when he sailed on the *Overseas Chicago*. He shipped in the engine department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. Brother Almodovar most recently sailed aboard the *Maersk Montana*. He resides in Jensen Beach, Florida.



ARMANDO AMANTE

Brother Armando Amante, 70, started his career with the Seafarers International Union in 2004 when he sailed aboard the *Richard G. Matthiesen*. He upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Brother Amante shipped in the steward department and last worked on the *Pacific Collector*. He is a resident of Kent, Washington.



EDUARDO BARLAS

Brother Eduardo Barlas, 66, joined the SIU in 2001. He first shipped on the *Maersk Maine* and sailed in the deck department. Brother Barlas upgraded on multiple occasions at the Paul Hall Center. He most recently sailed on the *Maersk Columbus* and makes his home in New Milford, New Jersey.



ANDREW BARROWS

Brother Andrew Barrows, 68, joined the union in 1991, initially sailing aboard the *Falcon Leader*. A deck department member, he upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions. Brother Barrows' final vessel was the *USNS Pililaau*. He lives in New Orleans.



FELSHER BEASLEY

Brother Felsher Beasley, 63, joined the union in 1979, initially sailing with Inland Tugs. He worked in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on numerous occasions. Brother Beasley last shipped on the *American Pride* and makes his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



LEO BOGNOSON

Brother Leo Bognoson, 65, started sailing with the SIU in 1993. A deck department member, he first worked on the *Producer*. Brother Bognoson upgraded on multiple occasions at the Paul Hall Center. His final vessel was the *Pride of America*. Brother Bognoson resides in Long Beach, California.



JOSE BONITA

Brother Jose Bonita, 67, joined the Seafarers in 2005, initially sailing on the *Steven L. Bennett*. Brother Bonita was a member of the engine department. He upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. Brother Bonita last shipped on the *Washington* and lives in SeaTac, Washington.



EDWARD GAVAGAN

Brother Edward Gavagan, 69, became a member of the union in 2001. He shipped in the deck department and first sailed with Marine Personnel & Provisioning. Brother Gavagan upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. He most recently sailed on the *American Phoenix* and settled in Tampa, Florida.



EDISON INUMAN

Brother Edison Inuman, 68, donned the SIU colors in 2001, following the NMU's merger into the SIU. His first SIU ship was the *Cape Horn*. He was a steward department member and upgraded often at the union-affiliated Piney Point school. Brother Inuman most recently sailed on the *KamoKuiki*. He is a resident of San Jose, California.



GERALD KIRTSEY

Brother Gerald Kirtsey, 61, joined the union in 1987. A steward department member, he initially shipped on the *USNS Capella*. Brother Kirtsey upgraded his skills often at the Paul Hall Center. He concluded his career aboard the *California* and resides in Jacksonville, Florida.



STEVEN MCBRIDE

Brother Steven McBride, 65, signed on with the SIU in 1991. He first sailed aboard the *USNS Indomitable* and worked in the deck department. Brother McBride upgraded at the Piney Point school on numerous occasions. He last sailed aboard the *Chemical Pioneer* and is a resident of Atlantic City, New Jersey.



JULIOUS MIZELL

Brother Julious Mizell, 65, joined the Seafarers in 1978 and first sailed aboard the *Coastal Kansas*. He upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions and sailed in the deck department. Brother Mizell's final vessel was the *Ohio*. He makes his home in Denham Springs, Louisiana.



TRACEY NEWSOME

Brother Tracey Newsome, 60, started his career with the union in 1987, initially sailing aboard the *USNS Harkness*. A steward department member, he upgraded often at the Piney Point school. Brother Newsome most recently shipped on the *Texas*. He lives in Jacksonville, Florida.



ARISTEO PADUA

Brother Aristeo Padua, 65, became an SIU member in 2001. He first shipped on the *Samuel L. Cobb* and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. A deck department member, Brother Padua concluded his career aboard the *Alaskan Legend*. He resides in Cerritos, California.



STEPHEN PARKER

Brother Stephen Parker, 62, began his career with the Seafarers International Union in 1982, initially sailing on the *Long Lines*. He was a member of the steward department and upgraded often at the Piney Point school. Brother Parker last shipped on the *Ocean Grand* and makes his home in South Portland, Maine.



DONALD RICO

Brother Donald Rico, 65, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1991 and initially worked on the *Sealift Atlantic*. He was a member of the deck department and last shipped on the *Global Sentinel*. Brother Rico upgraded at the Paul Hall Center in 1997. He calls Morton, Washington, home.



ISAAC VEGA MERCADO

Brother Isaac Vega Mercado, 65, donned the SIU colors in 1984 when he sailed aboard the *Venture*. Brother Vega Mercado upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. A deck department member, he last shipped on the *Ocean Glory*. Brother Vega Mercado settled in Ponce, Puerto Rico.



BOYCE WILSON

Brother Boyce Wilson, 63, signed on with the union in 1990. He was a deck department member and first sailed aboard the *Sealift Atlantic*. Brother Wilson upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions and last shipped on the *Alliance Fairfax*. He makes his home in El Campo, Texas.



INLAND

MICHAEL EDWARDS

Brother Michael Edwards, 57, signed on with the union in 1987. He was a deck department member and sailed with G&H Towing for the duration of his career. Brother Edwards upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on multiple occasions. He settled in Spring, Texas.

DOMENIC RIZZO

Brother Domenic Rizzo, 62, joined the union in 1989 when he worked with Moran Towing of Philadelphia. Brother Rizzo was a deck department member. He last sailed with McAllister Towing of Philadelphia and resides in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey.

KENNETH WOMACK

Brother Kenneth Womack, 64, began sailing with the SIU in 2004, initially working with OSG Ship Management. He sailed as a deck department member and upgraded on multiple occasions at the Piney Point school. Brother Womack concluded his career with Penn Maritime and calls Rayville, Louisiana, home.



Final Departures

In solemn remembrance, we honor the legacies of these union members who have crossed the final bar. May they rest in peace.

DEEP SEA

BENJAMIN FERIA

Brother Benjamin Feria, 70, passed away October 10. He became a member of the SIU in 2006 when he sailed aboard the *Meteor*. Brother Feria was a steward department member. He last shipped on the *President Wilson* in 2020 and made his home in Ewa Beach, Hawaii.



VIRGILIO HOFFMANN

Pensioner Virgilio Hoffmann, 81, died September 18. He joined the union in 1972 and initially sailed aboard the *Santa Mercedes*. Brother Hoffmann sailed in the steward department and concluded his career aboard the *Lightning*. He started collecting his pension in 2012 and was a San Francisco resident.



DESMOND LYNCH

Brother Desmond Lynch, 70, has passed away. He was born in Guyana and began his career with the Seafarers in 1999. A steward department member, Brother Lynch was first employed by H&M Lake Transport. He most recently sailed on the *Sam Laud* in 2011 and lived in Covington, Georgia.



KELLY MAYO

Pensioner Kelly Mayo, 63, died October 6. Born in Toledo, Ohio, he signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1970. Brother Mayo first sailed with Michigan Tankers Inc. and worked in the engine department. He most recently shipped on the *Overseas Nikiski* and went on pension last year. Brother Mayo lived in Inverness, Florida.



ANGEL SOTOMAYOR

Pensioner Angel Sotomayor, 69, has passed away. He joined the SIU in 1969 and first shipped with OMI Bulk Corporation. Brother Sotomayor sailed in all three departments. He last shipped on the *El Morro* and went on pension in 2007. Brother Sotomayor made his home in Puerto Rico.



HERMAN STITH

Pensioner Herman Stith, 69, died November 8. He began his career with the Seafarers in 1997 when he sailed on the *Cape May*. Brother Stith was a steward department member and last shipped on the *Maersk Carolina* in 2008. He began collecting his pension in 2020 and resided in Norfolk, Virginia.



RUDOLPH WINFIELD

Pensioner Rudolph Winfield, 78, passed away October 21. He donned the SIU colors in 1965. A steward department member, Brother Winfield first shipped on the *Cottonwood Creek*. He concluded his career aboard the *Quality* and became a pensioner in 2011. Brother Winfield lived in Norfolk, Virginia.

INLAND

ROBERT ANDERSEN

Pensioner Robert Andersen, 83, died October 25. He started sailing with the SIU in 1978 and first sailed on the *Manhattan Island*. Brother Andersen sailed in both the deck and engine departments, and last worked aboard the *Padre Island*. He retired in 2002 and resided in High Falls, New York.

DAVID BREUNING

Pensioner David Breuning, 81, passed away October 31. Born in Durango, Colorado, he joined the SIU in 1977. Brother Breuning was first employed with Allied Transportation and worked in the deck department. He retired in 2005 after concluding his career with Crowley Towing and Transportation. Brother Breuning made his home in Orlando, Florida.



HUGH PREWITT

Pensioner Hugh Prewitt, 92, died October 7. He signed on with the union in 1963 and sailed in the deck department. Brother Prewitt first sailed with HVIDE Marine. He was last employed with National Marine Service and became a pensioner in 1998. Brother Prewitt lived in Nederland, Texas.



DIMAS RODRIGUEZ

Pensioner Dimas Rodriguez, 90, died February 16. He embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1966, initially sailing aboard the *Seatrail New York*. Brother Rodriguez was a steward department member and concluded his career aboard the *Guayama* in 1994. He settled in Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico.



EDWARD SCHAFFHAUSER

Pensioner Edward Schaffhauser, 89, passed away September 28. He joined the union in 1974 when he worked with Gulf Atlantic Transport. Brother Schaffhauser shipped in both the deck and engine departments. He last sailed aboard the *Overseas Joyce* before going on pension in 1996. Brother Schaffhauser resided in Atlantic Beach, Florida.

NMU

EZEQUIEL DE OLIVEIRA

Pensioner Ezequiel De Oliveira, 92, died June 22. Brother De Oliveira worked in the deck department, lastly aboard the *Maersk Texas*. He became a pensioner in 2002 and resided in Brazil.

ELIAS ERAZO

Pensioner Elias Erazo, 93, passed away November 6. Born in Honduras, Brother Erazo began sailing in 1959. He was an engine department member and last sailed aboard the *Majorie Lykes*. Brother Erazo retired in 1991 and settled in Sunrise, Florida.



HERMAN GOVAERT

Pensioner Herman Govaert, 85, died June 26. Brother Govaert first shipped aboard the *Green Dale*, and worked in the deck department. He last sailed on the *Mormac Dawn* and became a pensioner in 1993. Brother Govaert lived in Belgium, his birthplace.



CLIFTON HUGHES

Pensioner Clifton Hughes, 97, passed away August 2. Brother Hughes sailed in the engine department. He last shipped aboard the *Lyra* and retired in 1993. Brother Hughes made his home in Rusk, Texas.



THOMAS JACKSON

Pensioner Thomas Jackson, 98, died September 27. He began sailing in 1944, when he worked on the *Charles L. O'Connor*. Brother Jackson was an engine department member. He last sailed aboard the *American Clipper* before going on pension in 2002. Brother Jackson resided in Jamaica, New York, his home state.



JOHN JENNINGS

Pensioner John Jennings, 70, passed away August 27. Brother Jennings sailed in the steward department. He last shipped on the *Green Wave* in 2003. Brother Jennings began collecting his pension in 2017 and was a resident of Lancaster, California.



FRANCISCO MARCHENA

Pensioner Francisco Marchena, 85, died October 30. Brother Marchena was born in New Jersey. He worked as a deck department member and last sailed aboard the *Mormac Star*. Brother Marchena retired in 2000 and settled in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

CARL SAARI

Pensioner Carl Saari, 86, passed away October 21. An engine department member, Brother Saari was born in Limestone, Michigan. He concluded his career aboard the *Agent* before retiring in 1993. Brother Saari made his home in Mathias, Michigan.

SIU SHOWS SUPPORT



SIU VP Government Services Nicholas Celona (fourth from left) attends the 248th birthday celebration of the U.S. Marine Corps in San Jose, California, along with other guests. The event took place last November.

Paul Hall Center Upgrading Course Dates

Printed below are dates for courses scheduled to take place at the SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, located in Piney Point, Maryland. The QR code connects to a web page with the latest course dates (they may differ from what's printed here, though in most cases the only changes are additions that haven't yet made it into the LOG). Seafarers are welcome to contact the admissions office with questions about upgrading courses: (301) 899-0657, admissions@seafarers.org

Latest Course Dates



Title of Course	Start Date	Date of Completion
DECK DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES		
Lifeboatman/Water Survival	February 19 March 18	March 1 March 29
Able Seafarer - Deck	March 11	March 29
ENGINE DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES		
FOWT	February 5 March 11	March 1 March 29
Marine Electrician	April 22	May 24
Marine Refer Tech	March 11	April 19
Adv. Refer Containers	February 5	February 16
Machinist	April 29	May 10
Pumpman	April 22	April 26
Welding	March 4 April 8	March 22 April 26
STEWARD DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES		
Certified Chief Cook	February 12 March 18 April 29	March 15 April 19 May 31
ServSafe Management	February 5 March 11 April 22	February 9 March 15 April 26
Advanced Galley Ops	March 18	April 12
Chief Steward	February 12 April 22	March 8 May 17

Title of Course	Start Date	Date of Completion
SAFETY/OPEN UPGRADING COURSES		
Basic Training Revalidation	February 2 February 12 February 16 March 4 March 8 March 18 March 22 April 5 April 22 April 26	February 2 February 12 February 16 March 4 March 8 March 18 March 22 April 5 April 22 April 26
Basic Training/Adv. FF Revalidation	February 5	February 9
Government Vessels	February 26 March 4 March 25 April 22	March 1 March 8 March 29 April 26
Tank Ship Familiarization - DL	April 22	April 26
Tank Ship Familiarization - LG	April 29	May 3



UPGRADING APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Date of Birth _____

☐ Deep Sea Member ☐ Lakes Member ☐ Inland Waters Member

If the following information is not filled out completely, your application will not be processed.

Social Security # _____ Book # _____

Seniority _____ Department _____

Home Port _____

E-mail _____

Endorsement(s) or License(s) now held _____

Are you a graduate of the SHLSS/PHC trainee program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, class # and dates attended _____

Have you attended any SHLSS/PHC upgrading courses? ☐ Yes ☐ No

With this application, COPIES of the following must be sent: One hundred and twenty-five (125) days seetime for the previous year, MMC, TWIC, front page of your book including your department and seniority and qualifying sea time for the course if it is Coast Guard tested. Must have a valid SHBP clinic through course date.

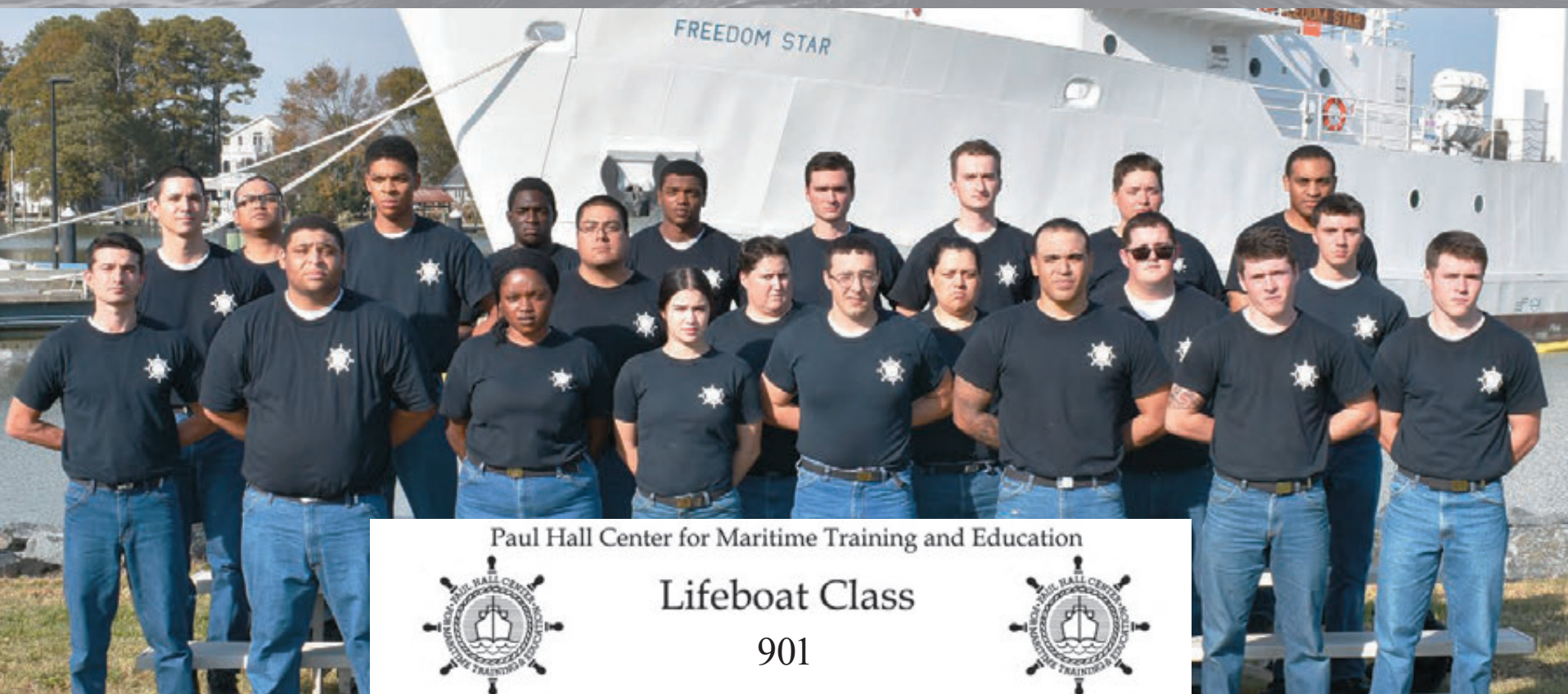
I authorize the Paul Hall Center to release any of the information contained in this application, or any of the supporting documentation that I have or will submit with this application to related organizations, for the purpose of better servicing my needs and helping me to apply for any benefits which might become due to me.

COURSE	START DATE	DATE OF COMPLETION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
LAST VESSEL: _____	Rating: _____	
Date On: _____	Date Off: _____	
Signature: _____	Date: _____	

NOTE: Transportation will be paid in accordance with the scheduling letter only if you present original receipts and successfully complete the course. If you have any questions, contact your port agent before departing for Piney Point. Not all classes are reimbursable. Return completed application to: Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education Admissions Office, Email: upgrading@seafarers.org Mail: 45353 St. George's Ave., Piney Point, MD 20674 Fax: 301-994-2189.

The Seafarers Harry Lundeborg School of Seamanship at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education is a private, non-profit, equal opportunity institution and admits students, who are otherwise qualified, or any race, nationality or sex. The school complies with applicable laws with regard to admission, access or treatment of students in its programs or activities.

Paul Hall Center Class Photos



Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education



Lifeboat Class

901



APPRENTICE WATER SURVIVAL CLASS #901 – Graduated November 3 (above, in alphabetical order): Israel Christian-Grace, Aminata Diallo, Emma DiGennaro, Eden Dulin, Caleb Estrada, Dennis Freeman Jr., Austin Gass, Brenda Gonzalez Potash, Laurence Iledan, Justian Jones, Antoine Kozel, Madison Krue, Marcos Medina-Vargas, Mario Odom Jr., Dominic Pena, Orlando Quirantes, Simeon Roberts, Xavier Roberts, Sarah Silverleaf, Eric Simmons, Andrew Tingle, Wesley Tingle, Kiefer Vanderbilt and Marshall Whitcraft. (Note: Not all are pictured.)



ABLE SEAFARER DECK – Graduated August 4 (above, in alphabetical order): Mukhtar Ali, Jonathan Cordova-Alonso, Joshua Daniel, Elijah Diallo, James Jones, Derrel Oliver, Carl Piercy, Cody Quinn, Julian Ramirez, Felix Rivera Rodriguez, Dean Schrantz, Venise Spears, Preston Stine, Mark Stookey, Kamron Stripling, and Zachary Wilkinson. (Note: Not all are pictured.)



ADVANCED REFEER CONTAINER MAINTENANCE – Graduated November 3 (above, in alphabetical order): Dennis Blake II, Carlos Marcos Gutierrez, David Hain-Mendez, Ethan Love, Yahya Ali Mohamed and Kelly Percy. Instructor Roy Graham is at left, while Instructor Mike Fay is in the back, third from the right.

Paul Hall Center Class Photos



RFPNW - PHASE 3 – Graduated December 1 (above, in alphabetical order): Taher Albaneh, Alexander Baum, David Bessey, Emily Castellano-Marquez, Ne'shawn Christopher, Michael Cruz Diaz, Qadir Gillette-James, Colontae Hargrove, Wade Henry, Lynn James Jr., Lamar Johnson, Jeremiah Mills, Jabar Mohamad, David Morris, Gary Wassel Jr., and Dylan Wright.



ADVANCED GALLEY OPERATIONS – Graduated November 10 (above, in alphabetical order): Charlene Briggs, Esstonia Moore, Jacob Parrilla, Tony Pragosa, William Sanchez, and Delphine Simmons. (Note: Not all are pictured.)



JUNIOR ENGINEERING - PLANT MAINTENANCE II – Graduated November 17 (above, in alphabetical order): Kyree Carter, Akim Davis-Griffin, Lester Gonzalez, Cody Higgs, Quinton Sashington, Randy Slue, Daniel Ursitti, Joel Williams, and Sean Wilson. Instructor Christopher Morgan is second from left.



WELDING & METALLURGY – Graduated November 3 (above, in alphabetical order): Michael Clark, Marquez Fields, Jean Lozada, Ahbraam Ventura-Bishop and Michael Wilt. (Note: Not all are pictured.) Instructor Chris Raley is at the far right.



CERTIFIED CHIEF COOK (MODULE 4 – GROUP A) – Graduated November 24 (above, in alphabetical order): Timothy Cooper, Alondra Delgado, Benny Fera, Faith Gonsse and Britorria Hogan.



CERTIFIED CHIEF COOK (MODULE 4 – GROUP B) – Graduated November 24 (above, in alphabetical order): De'vine Lents, Joseph Lucas, Jubaree McHellen, Pura Moreno Soriano, Kevin Robinson and Suyapa Ruiz.

SEAFARERS LOG

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

SIU Year in Review: 2023



SIU President David Heindel (left) makes his first speech as the fourth president of the SIU. Michael Sacco, the previous president, is at right.

In 2023, the SIU's top priority wasn't hard to determine. In the pages of the *Seafarers LOG*, as well as on the SIU's social media pages, it clearly proved to be the year of the recruiter. From job fairs, ad campaigns and community outreach, the union and its affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education (PHC) have been hard at work finding new mariners to join the Brotherhood of the Sea.

However, the biggest story of the year is clear: the retirement of longtime SIU President Michael Sacco, and the subsequent appointment of SIU President David Heindel. The SIU Executive Board convened Feb. 13 near Orlando, Florida. Sacco announced his retirement and then nominated Heindel (who had served as the union's secretary-treasurer since 1997) as his successor. SIU Executive Vice President Augie Tellez seconded the nomination; a unanimous vote of approval followed.

Subsequently, the board unanimously approved the respective appointments of Tom Orzechowski as secretary-treasurer and Bryan Powell as vice president of the SIU's Great Lakes and Inland Waters sector. Orzechowski had served as Lakes vice president since 2003; Powell had been an assistant vice president since 2007.

"Dave will do a great job and he has my complete confidence," Sacco stated. "He has proven himself throughout his lifetime of service to the SIU. We are also fortunate to have outstanding leadership throughout our executive board, and I know this will be a seamless transition."

The following are other top stories from the year, grouped into broad topics.

New Tonnage and Contracts

The first tonnage of the year to join the U.S.-Flag fleet was the *Badlands Trader*, a tanker operated by U.S. Marine Management, Inc. (USMMI) for Maersk Line, Limited., reflagged to United States registry on April 17 in Piraeus, Greece. In July, Pasha Hawaii's new LNG-powered containership *Janet Marie* was delivered, as well as the TOTE-operated *Empire State* and a new NY Waterway tug, the *Arthur E. Imperatore*. In August, the *Janet Marie* was christened, as were the Crowley tug *Artemis* and the *USNS Navajo* (operated by MSC).

Near the end of the year, an influx of new tonnage added jobs for SIU members, including the *SLNC Star* (Chesapeake Crewing) the *Allied Pacific* (Patriot), the purchase of the *Alaskan Frontier* by Overseas Shipholding Group (OSG), and the impending additions of the *Cape Sable* and *Cape San Juan* (Crowley) into the Ready Reserve Force (RRF).

In 2023, multiple contracts were negotiated, with others ongoing as the year concluded. Contracts that were agreed and voted upon in 2023 included a mid-contract pay increase with G&H Towing and a new three-year contract with Great Lakes Dredge and Dock.

Rescues

Just missing our print deadline for the 2022 Year in Review, SIU members aboard a NY Waterway ferry came to the rescue of hundreds of passengers aboard a disabled Staten Island Ferry on Dec. 22. The NYPD and FDNY responded to the incident by requesting aide from other ferries in the harbor, and the SIU crew of the *Franklin Delano Roosevelt* rushed to help the passengers in peril. The SIU members rescued 558 passengers from the doomed vessel, with the remaining 310 taken to shore by other vessels.

The rescues didn't stop there: On January 3, the *Sagamore* (operated by Sealift) rescued 15 from the Straits of Florida; the *National Glory* (Intrepid Personnel and Provisioning) handled two such operations, one in February involving 21 migrants and the other in early March involving 15 distressed individuals; the *Overseas Long Beach* (OSG) saved 12 migrants on March 30; the *ATB Legacy* (Crowley) saved eight migrants who had been stranded for nearly a month on March 1; and both the *Overseas Nikiski* (OSG) and *Overseas Santorini* (OSG) performed rescues – 18 hours apart – on May 30-31. Members of the SIU Government Services Division also helped handle rescues, including one involving the *USNS John Lewis*.

Maritime News

As mentioned above, the union experienced just the third transfer of power in the SIU's history. President Heindel pledged his unyielding support of the rank-and-file in a meeting which took place in mid-February, and began serving in said role shortly thereafter, as the fourth SIU president.

In other news, Daniel Duncan, former *Seafarers LOG* editor and executive secretary-treasurer of the SIU-affiliated Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO, retired after more than three decades of service to the maritime community. Also retiring in 2023 was SIU of Canada President Jim Given, who was succeeded by Mike Given.

The union also completely renovated the hiring hall in Norfolk, Virginia, over the course of 2023, culminating in a re-dedication ceremony which took place on July 25. Heindel said the refurbished hall "symbolizes improvements in the present and the hope for the future. This location is excellent, and now this facility itself is state of the art and will serve our membership well into the future. It's a place where our members and their families can feel safe and proud to come and take care of their business."

Additionally, the union and the *Seafarers Plans* teamed up to conduct a series of benefits conferences at numerous halls. A few more such meetings are scheduled for 2024.

The SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education hosted many important gatherings



Five SIU members employed by NY Waterway played vital roles in safely evacuating hundreds of passengers from a Staten Island Ferry that caught fire in late December 2022. (Photo courtesy Baris Barlas, Big City Tourism)



SIU President David Heindel (left) was a featured speaker Aug. 9 as Seafarers-contracted Pasha Hawaii christened its new containership *Janet Marie* in Oakland, California. Pictured at the event are (from left) Heindel, company President and CEO George Pasha IV, SIU VP West Coast Nick Marrone and Elyse Pasha, wife of George.



SIU and Paul Hall Center personnel devote lots of time and resources toward recruiting, as reflected by this December snapshot taken in Jacksonville, Florida. Safety Director Adam Bucalo is at left.

throughout the year, including a meeting of the high-level U.S. Transportation Command's (USTRANSCOM) Sealift Executive Working Group, typically referred to as the EWG, on August 30. SIU Executive Vice President Augie Tellez is the labor representative on the committee.

Other notable events throughout 2023 included: the return of the *Seafarers Waterfront Classic*; the first Congressional Sail-In since the COVID-19 pandemic; and the opportunity for four SIU apprentices to serve as flag-bearers during the annual Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the *Seafarers LOG* itself underwent a notable change, moving to a new, full-color format beginning with the October 2023 edition. The change has been received positively by readers.

Final Departures

Last year saw the following maritime figures cross the final bar: *Seafarers Addiction Rehabilitation Center* Director John Gallagher; AFL-CIO President Emeritus Thomas R. Donahue; retired SIU Assistant Vice President Chester "Chet" Wheeler; and SIU Representative Gerard Dhooge.



The *Seafarers LOG* saw a noteworthy redesign in 2023.