



# SEAFARERS LOG

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



## Major Maritime Legislation Introduced

*Bipartisan SHIPS for America Act Would Revitalize Industry*

The SIU applauded the recent introduction of the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act, comprehensive legislation that holds great promise for the U.S. Merchant Marine and for domestic shipbuilding. Spearheaded by U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Arizona) (above) and introduced by him along with Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana) and U.S. Reps. John Garamendi (D-California) and Trent Kelly (R-Mississippi), the bill immediately garnered widespread acclaim. *Page 5.* (Photo courtesy DOT)



## Santa's Castle Once Again is a Hit

The SIU continued its long tradition of supporting Santa's Castle, a yearly philanthropic effort in the Pacific Northwest that benefits U.S. military personnel and their families. Retired Recertified Bosun Dana Cella (center) donates two bicycles at the hiring hall in Tacoma, Washington, for eventual transport to the Santa's Castle facility. He's flanked by (left) SIU VP Joe Vincenzo and a friend. Altogether, Seafarers in late 2024 donated more than \$7,000 worth of gifts. *Page 20.*



## Tallying Committee Completes Work

The union's rank-and-file tallying committee recently wrapped up its report on the SIU election. Committee members are pictured in the earlier stages of their week-long effort, at the union's headquarters building in Camp Springs, Maryland. *Pages 3-4.*



## Maintaining the Fight against FOCs



David Heindel

The story may have been largely overlooked around the winter holidays, but the recent seizure of the *Eagle S* oil tanker in the Baltic Sea highlights a critical issue in the maritime industry: the flags-of-convenience (FOC) system. Allegedly involved in sabotaging undersea cables between Finland and Estonia, the *Eagle S*, flagged under the Cook Islands, exemplifies the systemic flaws of the FOC scheme, which allows vessels to operate with minimal oversight and opaque ownership.

Specific details aside, this incident isn't isolated. FOCs, also known as runaway flags, facilitate poor maintenance standards, regulatory evasion, and anonymity that rogue actors exploit for financial and/or geopolitical gain. In the case of the *Eagle S*, its integration into Russia's "dark fleet" raises concerns

about hybrid warfare targeting critical infrastructure, underscoring the global security risks tied to FOC shipping.

For more than 75 years, calls for reform have highlighted the dangers that flags of convenience pose to maritime safety, workers' rights, and environmental security. Now, with incidents like this becoming increasingly linked to hybrid threats, it's clear that the FOC system is no longer just an industry concern – it's a global imperative.

Governments and industry leaders must advocate for stronger regulations to enforce transparency, hold flag states accountable, and close loopholes that enable vessels like the *Eagle S* to operate with impunity.

As many Seafarers know, an FOC ship is one that flies the flag of a country other than the nation of ownership. The flag state bears legal responsibility for making sure that vessel owners adhere to certain minimum standards for safety and crew wellbeing. But many shipowners use runaway flags to dodge responsibility, bowing to the bottom line no matter the human or environmental cost.

We in the SIU have helped fight against this system for a long time, primarily through our affiliation with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). As described by the ITF, "An FOC registry offers shipowners cheap registration fees, and low or no taxes. Once a ship is registered under an FOC, many shipowners then recruit the cheapest labor they can find, pay minimal wages and cut costs by lowering standards of living and working conditions for the crew."

There is more to the scheme than just saving money, however. Evading responsibility is often in the mix, so that when an issue arises – like the one involving the *Eagle S* – it's difficult to hold anyone accountable. As reported by industry publication *Lloyd's List*, "The beneficial owners of *Eagle S* ... are hidden behind complex corporate structures. The registered owner of *Eagle S* is a single-ship structure that purports to have an office in the business center of a luxury hotel in Dubai."

Consistent with the ITF, the SIU shares the belief that there should be a genuine link between the vessel owner and the flag the ship flies, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. There is no genuine link in the case of 43 countries declared as FOC registries.

It's worth noting that there are decent shipowners and operators out there, both independent and those engaged through the International Bargaining Forum (IBF). Together, they have agreements covering crews on over 13,000 FOC ships. These contracts provide basic protections and guarantees for foreign mariners. IBF vessel agreements are renegotiated every two to four years, while others are encouraged to join through the efforts of the ITF Inspectorate network.

Our important work in the maritime industry never ends. Collectively, FOCs present a significant challenge, but one worth tackling head-on.

What does this mean to you, the American seafarer? It underscores the importance of solidarity and collective action. The agreements we fight for globally don't just protect foreign mariners—they set benchmarks that impact the entire industry, including your working conditions and job security. A strong, united effort to hold FOCs accountable benefits everyone, ensuring fair treatment, safer workplaces, and a more level playing field for mariners worldwide.

This struggle isn't just about others; it's about protecting the rights of all seafarers, including you.

### Sincere Thanks

I appreciate the confidence you've shown in me and in the other SIU officials, through your strong turnout and supportive votes in the recently concluded SIU election. As someone who has spent my whole life in this organization, first going to the hall as a child with my dad, then as a rank-and-file member and later as an official, I couldn't be more committed to your success.

My predecessor Mike Sacco often said the SIU is more like a family than a union, and as I begin a full term at the helm, I have a greater appreciation for that sentiment. We may squabble like rival siblings from time to time, but ultimately, we are one crew, doing our very best to stay on the right course and lift each other up.

I look forward to our team earning plenty of success in 2025 and the years that follow.

## NY Waterway Crews Approve Contract

SIU members employed by NY Waterway recently ratified a new, seven-year agreement featuring significant wage increases and other gains.

The pact covers approximately 100 Seafarers who work for the popular commuter ferry service operating between points in Manhattan and New Jersey.

"A large majority of the members voted in favor of the new contract," said SIU Jersey City Port Agent Ray Henderson, who led the union's bargaining committee. "The negotiations took place from late October into November, and we signed the contract Dec. 5, following membership approval."

Henderson credited the four rank-and-file members of the SIU negotiating committee for "working tirelessly and doing a truly outstanding job throughout the entire process." Serving on the committee were Senior Deckhand/Shop Steward **George Schumpp**, Capt. **George Sullivan**, Capt. **Michael Muia**, and Senior Deckhand **Nestor Martinez**.

Schumpp, who retired at the end of 2024, had a unique perspective on the negotiations. He's been part of at least five different bargaining committees during a career that spanned more than 37 years with the company, dating back to its fledgling days in the late 1980s.

"All around, I think this is one of the best contracts we've ever secured," he said. "Negotiations went very



Pictured from left are the rank-and-file members of the union's negotiating committee: Senior Deckhand/Shop Steward George Schumpp, Capt. George Sullivan, Capt. Michael Muia, and Senior Deckhand Nestor Martinez.

well. We got the biggest wage increases for deckhands that we've ever gotten. We also [lowered] the cap on out-of-pocket medical expenses, and secured days of credit (toward pension benefits) that previously hadn't been counted.

"I'm glad I was part of this one on the way out," Schumpp concluded. "When I think back to the early days in the eighties, we didn't even know if the company would make it. They had four boats (more than 30 are in the fleet now). But we've all come a long way."

Muia stated, "We did very good with the contract. We got better raises than we've ever seen in my 25 years that I've been there. This shows some expected

longevity for the company. Negotiations were great; we have a very good relationship with their negotiating committee."

According to the company, since 1986, NY Waterway ferries have carried more than 300 million passengers.

Mariners sailing aboard SIU-contracted NY Waterway ferries have performed more than 100 rescues. The crews perhaps are best known for their roles in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when they evacuated upwards of 163,000 people from Manhattan.



Company CEO Armand Pohan (left) and SIU Port Agent Ray Henderson review the finalized collective bargaining agreement.



NY Waterway VP of Ferry Operations Alan Warren (left) and SIU Senior Deckhand/Shop Steward George Schumpp sign the new contract.

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The SIU engaged an environmentally friendly printer for the production of this newspaper.





The rank-and-file tallying committee, pictured at union headquarters Jan. 9, consisted of (seated, from left) Mubarek Ahmed, Drushelia Finney, Samuel Fanjoy, Tom Drummond, Anthony Jacobson, Patrick Slade, Lamont Faulks, (standing) Ronald Davis, John Hale, Richard Benoit, Jack McElveen, Kyle Jolivette, Jason Powell, Stephen Hoskins, Gerard Costello, Cleofe Bernardez Castro, Thalys Ealy, Chandler Williams, Ali Alhamyari, and Tyrell Thabit.

# Tallying Committee Announces Election Results

## David Heindel is Elected President of Seafarers International Union

A committee of rank-and-file members recently released its official report on the voting for national officers of the Seafarers International Union's Atlantic, Gulf, Lakes and Inland Waters. The report also covers voting on 23 constitutional amendments. Voting took place Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, 2024.

The union's tallying committee consisted of 20 Seafarers (two members elected from each of the SIU's 10 constitutional halls). The group certified the election of David Heindel as president of the SIU; Augie Tellez as the union's executive vice president; Tom Orzechowski as secretary-treasurer; and George Tricker as vice president of contracts and contract enforcement, among other results. The committee also certified the rank-and-file approval of all 23 proposed amendments that were on the ballot.

The tallying committee's report will be submitted for approval by the membership at union meetings in March.

According to the report, the two contested races for office were decided by large margins. Similarly, most of the amendments passed by a sizeable number of votes.

The committee disclosed the election of the following officers, who will serve four-year terms:

- David Heindel, president;
- Augie Tellez, executive vice president;
- Tom Orzechowski, secretary-treasurer;
- George Tricker, contracts and contract enforcement vice president;
- Joseph Soresi, Atlantic Coast vice president;
- Dean Corgy, Gulf Coast vice president;

- Nick Marrone, West Coast vice president;
- Bryan Powell, Great Lakes and inland waters vice president;
- Joe Vincenzo, Government Services Division vice president;
- Pat Vandegrift, contracts and contract enforcement assistant vice president;
- Amancio Crespo, Atlantic Coast assistant vice president;
- Kris Hopkins, Gulf Coast assistant vice president;
- Chris Westbrook, West Coast assistant vice president;
- Michael Russo, Great Lakes and inland waters assistant vice president;
- Sam Spain, Government Services Division assistant vice president;
- Mark von Siegel, Piney Point port agent;
- Ray Henderson, Jersey City port agent;
- Joe Baselice, Philadelphia port agent;
- John Hoskins, Baltimore port agent;
- Jimmy White, Mobile port agent;
- George Owen, New Orleans port agent;
- Joe Zavala, Houston port agent;
- Hazel Galbiso, Oakland port agent;
- Chad Partridge, St. Louis port agent;
- Todd Brdak, Detroit-Algonac port agent.

Despite a significant winter storm in the region, the committee met with the union's secretary-treasurer to receive instructions on Jan. 5. Because of weather-related bank closures, ballots were picked up on Jan. 7 (instead of Jan. 6, as originally planned). The committee concluded both their tallying and their report by the evening of Jan. 10. They met during that week primarily at

the union's headquarters in Camp Springs, Maryland, and at the SIU-affiliated school in Piney Point, Maryland.

Serving on the committee were Seafarers **Mubarek Ahmed, Drushelia Finney, Samuel Fanjoy, Tom Drummond, Anthony Jacobson, Patrick Slade, Lamont Faulks, Ronald Davis, John Hale, Richard Benoit, Jack McElveen, Kyle Jolivette, Jason Powell, Stephen Hoskins, Gerard Costello, Cleofe Bernardez Castro, Thalys Ealy, Chandler Williams, Ali Alhamyari, and Tyrell Thabit.**

Unanimously approved by the committee, the report reflects strong rank-and-file turnout for balloting. The committee members concluded that they "wish to express [our] deep appreciation for the cooperation and assistance given to us by the union's legal department and its technical and clerical staff. Finally, the members of the union tallying committee wish to congratulate the elected officers and jobholders. We extend our best wishes for the next four years. We hope that you will carry on the tradition of our union and advance the strength of the maritime industry."

Many of the constitutional amendments were of the unremarkable/housekeeping variety – for example, replacing outdated terminology with modern-day vocabulary. Others were more substantive, including amendments that formalized the addition of four constitutional ports; increased dues for the first time in almost 20 years; expanded the voting period in future SIU elections; and added two vice president positions and two corresponding assistant vice president slots.

**Additional photos on Page 4.**



A winter storm caused a slight pause in the tallying committee's work, but they made the best of it by utilizing a meeting room in Piney Point, Maryland, Jan. 7 before shifting to union headquarters the rest of the work week.



Casting their ballots aboard the *ARC Independence* (TOTE) are (from left) Chief Cook Evelyn Cruz, Steward/Baker Gerald Hyman, and Bosun Shatina Wright.



# Seafarers Cast Their Votes in Union Election



Bosun Reynaldo Tinay (right) casts his vote in the union election, aboard the *SSG Edward A. Carter Jr.* (Sealift). SIU Norfolk Patrolman Josh Rawls is at left.



SIU Wilmington Port Agent Gerret Jarman (second from right) brings ballots to the *Marjorie C* (Pasha) in early December. Pictured from left are GVA Abdulrehman Shayef, GVA Abdullah Al-Mohseni, QEE Alvin Alcasid, Bosun Fadel Mohamed, Chief Cook Travis Rogers, Recertified Steward Jatriel Aguilera Santiago, Jarman, and AB Omar Madrid.



Completing their ballots for the union election are (from left) Recertified Bosun Richard Molina and ABM Kyle Parson, aboard the *Maersk Kansas*.



Displaying their ballots for the quadrennial union election are (from left) Mate Chris Ward, Capt. Keith Gunning, Chief Engineer Phillip Koenning, and Oiler Jordan Allen. SIU Houston Patrolman J.B. Niday is at right, aboard the G&H Towing vessel *Leighton K*.

## Ballots Secured at Hiring Hall in San Juan

Pictured directly below are Seafarers securing their respective ballots at the hiring hall in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



QEP Edwin Morales, Safety Director Ricky Rivera



ABM Josean Martinez



Chief Steward William Otero



Bosun Roberto Flores



QMED Ronaldo Quinones



ABW Bryan Rojas



ABM Ricardo Valenzuela





U.S. Rep. John Garamendi (D-California)  
(Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento District)



U.S. Rep. Trent Kelly (R-Mississippi)



U.S. Sen. Todd Young (R-Indiana)



U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly (D-Arizona)

## Maritime Revitalization Bill Introduced *Comprehensive Federal Legislation has Bipartisan Backing*

**A**fter more than a year of widespread collaboration and fine-tuning, a new bill has been introduced that arguably would offer the most comprehensive remake of the U.S. maritime industry in at least half a century.

On Dec. 19, U.S. Senators Mark Kelly (D-Arizona) and Todd Young (R-Indiana), along with U.S. Reps. John Garamendi (D-California) and Trent Kelly (R-Mississippi), introduced the Shipbuilding and Harbor Infrastructure for Prosperity and Security (SHIPS) for America Act.

The SIU, along with dozens of other organizations, provided extensive input for the bill, and the union fully supports it.

In a joint news release, the legislators described the SHIPS for America Act as “comprehensive legislation to revitalize the United States shipbuilding and commercial maritime industries. After decades of neglect, the United States has a weakened shipbuilding capacity, a declining commercial shipping fleet that is dwarfed by China, and a diminished ability to supply the U.S. military during wartime. This historic bipartisan proposal would restore American leadership across the oceans by establishing national oversight and consistent funding for U.S. maritime policy, incentivizing domestic shipbuilding, enabling U.S.-flagged vessels to better compete in international commerce, rebuilding the U.S. shipyard industrial base, and expanding the mariner and shipyard workforce.”

SIU Political and Legislative Director Brian Schoeneman noted, “This bill represents a welcome opportunity for Congress to address many of the most pressing issues that impact the modern U.S. Merchant Marine. We have not had a comprehensive Merchant Marine Act in more than half a century. While it’s clear that a bill of this size and scope is unlikely to pass without changes, we’re committed to working with the sponsors and our allies in both the House and Senate to push this legislation forward and get as much of it enacted as possible. Now is the time for America to recommit itself to the goal of having a vibrant and robust maritime industry, and this bill is the first step in the long journey towards a new Merchant Marine Act for the 21st century.”

Mark Kelly, a U.S. Navy veteran and the first U.S. Merchant Marine Academy graduate to serve in Congress, stated, “We’ve always been a maritime nation, but the truth is we’ve lost ground to China, who now dominates international shipping and can build merchant and military ships much more quickly than we can. The SHIPS for America Act is the answer to this challenge. By supporting shipbuilding, shipping, and workforce development, it will strengthen supply chains, reduce our reliance on foreign vessels, put Americans to work in good-paying jobs, and support the Navy and Coast Guard’s shipbuilding needs. I’m excited to introduce this comprehensive, fully-paid-for legislation today alongside my Republican and Democratic colleagues and our partners representing all parts of the industry, and together we’re going to work to get this effort across the finish line.”

Young said, “America has been a maritime nation since our founding, and seapower was a

significant contributor to our rise to being the most powerful nation on earth. Unfortunately, the bottom line now is America needs more ships. Shipbuilding is a national security priority and a stopgap against foreign threats and coercion. Our bill will revitalize the U.S. maritime industry, grow our shipbuilding capacity, rebuild America’s shipyard industrial base, and support nationwide workforce development in this industry. This legislation is critical to our warfighting capabilities and keeping pace with China.”

Garamendi, a longtime outspoken backer of American maritime, stated, “For far too long, the United States neglected our maritime industries and the critical role they play in our national and economic security. This ends with the SHIPS for America Act. I have spent over 10 years working to revitalize the U.S. maritime industry in order to strengthen our national economy, create good-paying American jobs, and support our national security during peacetime or war. This bill represents the most substantial and comprehensive approach to have America compete and lead globally, and I’m proud to lead it alongside Senator Kelly, Senator Young, and Representative Kelly. Today, less than 200 oceangoing ships fly the American flag; the SHIPS for America Act will empower our shipyards and [mariners] to uphold our country’s status as a leader in the maritime industry.”

Trent Kelly added, “Strengthening America’s shipbuilding capacity and revitalizing our commercial maritime industry is critical to both our national security and economic resilience. I look forward to continuing to work alongside Senator Mark Kelly, Senator Todd Young, and Congressman John Garamendi to secure our nation’s maritime future.”

As part of the bill’s announcement, SIU President David Heindel called it “an extraordinary piece of legislation that stands to revitalize, strengthen and sustain our nation’s maritime industry. The SHIPS for America Act addresses critical gaps in shipbuilding, maritime workforce development, and the modernization of our commercial fleet. It is a bold step toward ensuring that the United States maintains a robust and competitive maritime presence, which is essential for both economic and national security.”

### Highlights of Bill

Among other components, the SHIPS for America Act would:

- Coordinate U.S. maritime policy by establishing the position of Maritime Security Advisor within the White House. This individual would lead an interagency Maritime Security Board tasked with making whole-of-government strategic decisions for how to implement a National Maritime Strategy. The bill also establishes a Maritime Security Trust Fund that would reinvest duties and fees paid by the maritime industry into maritime security programs and infrastructure supporting maritime commerce.

- Establish a national goal of expanding the U.S.-flag international fleet by 250 ships in 10 years by creating the Strategic Commercial Fleet Program, which would facilitate the development

of a fleet of commercially operated, U.S.-flagged, American-crewed, and domestically built merchant vessels that can operate competitively in international commerce.

- Enhance the competitiveness of U.S.-flag vessels in international commerce by establishing a Rulemaking Committee on Commercial Maritime Regulations and Standards “to cut through the U.S. Coast Guard’s bureaucracy and red tape that limits the international competitiveness of U.S.-flagged vessels, requiring that government-funded cargo move aboard U.S.-flag vessels, and requiring a portion of commercial goods imported from China to move aboard U.S.-flag vessels starting in 2029.”

- Expand the U.S. shipyard industrial base, for both military and commercial oceangoing vessels, by establishing a 25 percent investment tax credit for shipyard investments, transforming the Title XI Federal Ship Financing Program into a revolving fund, and establishing a Shipbuilding Financial Incentives program to support innovative approaches to domestic ship building and ship repair.

- Accelerate U.S. leadership in next-generation ship design, manufacturing processes, and ship energy systems by establishing the U.S. Center for Maritime Innovation, which would create regional hubs across the country.

- Make historic investments in maritime workforce by establishing a Maritime and Shipbuilding Recruiting Campaign, allowing mariners to retain their credentials through a newly established Merchant Marine Career Retention Program, investing in long-overdue infrastructure needs for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and supporting State Maritime Academies and Centers for Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education. The bill “also makes long-overdue changes to streamline and modernize the U.S. Coast Guard’s Merchant Mariner Credentialing system.”

Jennifer Carpenter, president of the SIU-affiliated American Maritime Partnership (AMP), said the coalition “applauds the sponsors of the SHIPS for America Act for their focus on the maritime needs of our nation, as AMP believes it is very important for there to be a robust national maritime strategy that promotes the economic, national and homeland security of the nation. We appreciate that the legislation builds on the strong foundation of the Jones Act to further strengthen and revitalize the U.S.-flag maritime industry.”

Transportation Institute President and Chair James L. Henry said that his organization, representing American-flag vessel operators, “is proud to support the SHIPS for America Act. As America enters an era of increased global competition, it is the right time to make significant investments in our U.S.-flagged merchant marine. As we’ve learned throughout history, the U.S.-flag merchant marine can be depended upon by the United States military for assured access to sealift, and trusted by the American people for the secure and reliable movement of goods. This trailblazing legislation will make America an even stronger maritime nation for future generations.”

*Editor’s note: Text of the entire bill, additional quotes, and a full list of organizations endorsing the legislation are available on the SIU website.*



# Brightening the Holidays at Sea

SIU steward departments went the extra nautical mile during the holiday season by providing special menus for their shipmates. In addition to the photos on this page, many more are available on the union's social media accounts.



**ABOARD ALASKAN NAVIGATOR** – Pictured in the larger group photo on the ATC ship are (from left, starting in back) AB Kyle Silva, DEU Ahmed Ahmed, Recertified Bosun Adel Ahmed, SA Abdulrahman Omar, QMED James Grant, AB Michael Adote, AB Nathaniel Rivera, Recertified Steward Albert Sison, (sitting, also from left) AB Francisco Anacta, and Chief Cook Nasr Almusab. Sison (right) and Almusab are also pictured in photo above, left.



**ABOARD EL COQUI** – Recertified Steward Jesus Pacheco (left) and Chief Cook Steven Lopez finalize some of their Christmas meal offerings aboard the Crowley vessel.



M/V/LNG MATSON MANUKAI WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 2024 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!		
BREAKFAST		
CHILLED FRESH FRUITS	HOT OAT MEAL	CHILLED JUICES
GRILLED BACON	BUTTERMILK PANCAKES	EGG BENEDET
HASH BROWN POTATO	Navajo Salsita Platter	EGGS TO ORDER
	COMBINATION VEGGIE-CHEESE OMELET	COMBINATION VEGGIE-CHEESE OMELET
LUNCHEONS		
BOSTON CLAM CHOWDER SOUP		
ROAST TOM TURKEY, DRESSING, GRAVY		
STEAMED ALASKA KING CRAB LEGS WITH DRAWN BUTTER & LEMON		
GRILLED NEW YORK CHOP CHEESE STEAK SANDWICH TO ORDER		
STEAMED RICE	STEAMED SHRIMP	FRESH MASHED POTATOES
CANDIED YAM	CHEF'S DESSERTS	STEAMED
DINNER		
CHARGED BEEF FILLET MIGNON STEAK TO ORDER W/HERBES SAUCE		
WILD MAINE LOBSTER TAILS WITH CLARIFIED BUTTER		
BAKED VIRGINIA BAK, SAISON SAUCE		
STEAMED RICE	BAKED PITATOES W/ SAISON	SEASONED GARLIC ASPARAGUS / BROCCOLI / BAKED ACORN SQUASH
SHRIMP ROLL, VEGAN SHRIMP COCKTAIL / FRESH ASSORTED PINK TUNA	POTATOE SALAD / MACARONI SALAD / FRESH'S CAESAR SALAD	HOLIDAY COOKIES / ASSORTED CHEESE CAKE, LEMONADE BAKALAYA
ENJOY YOUR MEALS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!		



**ABOARD MANUKAI** – Pictured from left in the group photo aboard the Matson ship are ACU Amado Paulito Angeles, Recertified Steward Fakhruddin Malahi, Capt. Roland Hobson, and Chief Cook Juan C. Baquera.



# Norfolk Celebration

The snapshots on this page were taken Dec. 18 at the hiring hall in Virginia, where Seafarers got together for a pre-holiday meal. Identifications are from left to right.



Donating their time and service to help ensure the event's success are Steward/Baker Darryl Jackson, Recertified Steward Adele George and Recertified Steward Lamont Faulks.



This photo includes further proof that seafaring often runs in families. From left are AB Aretta Jones, Wiper Trinity Carter, SA Shelonti Jones, Chief Cook Nikia Cooper, QEE Tyesha Boyd, Steward/Baker Elizabeth Ibanez, Chief Cook Deborah Artis, Admin. Asst. Shelia Burton, SA Zamariya Wilson, Wiper Selena Mason and AB Arielle White. Aretta is Shelonti's mother and Trinity's grandmother; Shelonti is Trinity's mom.



Steward/Baker Edward Harnish, Bosun Johnny Dozier



Safety Director Anthony Houston, Port Agent Mario Torrey, Admin. Asst. Sheila Burton, Patrolman Josh Rawls, ITF Inspector Bobbi Shipley, Asst. VP Sam Spain.



In line starting at far left are Bosun Darrol Bates, Recertified Bosun Larry Dizon and AB Noel Gemo.



A reliable source tells the *LOG* that this table was reserved for individuals respectfully known as "old salts."



Crew members from *USNS Montford Point* (Ocean Shipholdings)



AB/DJ Maurice Woodhouse Jr. shows that his skillset extends well beyond the deck department.



Seafarers from Keystone's *Cape Rise*, *Cape Ray* and *Cape Race*



Mariners from *Cape Sable* (Intrepid)



# Jacksonville Holiday Gathering

These photos were taken Dec. 20 at the hiring hall, during a well-attended feast. Identifications are from left to right.



Retired Recertified Steward Gregory Melvin leads the blessing of the food.



ABM Edsel Renegado



Guests line up for the meal.



Retired Recertified Steward Larry Ewing



Bosun Damon Anderson, STOS Terence Tripp, QEE Fernandez Wilcox



GUDE Braulio Ente, ABM Edsel Renegado, ABM Ruziell Bautista



Port Agent Ashley Nelson, Patrolman Adam Bucalo



Chief Cook Sonia Pabon Barreto, Chief Cook Edna Bakhos



Retired ABG Rubin Mitchell, Port Agent Ashley Nelson



Patrolman Brian Guiry, retired Recertified Bosun Randell Porter, Bosun Damon Anderson



# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



**BOOKS GALORE IN ALGONAC** – From left to right, AB Ahmed Saleh receives his A-seniority book, while OS Mofeed Shaibi and SA Tara Lee obtain their respective full B books. All are pictured at the hiring hall in Michigan.

**ABOARD ARC DEFENDER** – Pictured aboard the TOTE ship in Baltimore are (from left) Safety Director Jose Argueta and Recertified Bosun Ion Irimia.



**AT THE HONOLULU HALL** – OS Gerald Viray (left) receives his full B book at the hiring hall. Congratulating him is SIU Port Agent Hazel Galbiso.

**WELCOME ASHORE IN HAWAII** – Recertified Bosun Gregorio Cudal (left), pictured at the Honolulu hall with Admin. Asst. Caitlyn Wharton, sailed with the SIU for 37 years.

**FULL BOOK IN SAN JUAN** – Chief Cook Carlos Colon De Jesus displays his newly obtained B-seniority book at the hall in Puerto Rico.



**BOOKS OBTAINED IN LONE STAR STATE** – Starting with photo at left, SA Alex Temetang Dongmo (left) obtains his full B book. He's pictured with SIU Patrolman Kelly Krick. In the center photo, STOS Fausto Aranda (center) receives his A-seniority book at the Houston hall. He's pictured with SIU Port Agent Joe Zavala (left) and Krick. In the remaining photo, AB Vidal Cacho Medina (left) receives his full B book from Safety Director Kevin Sykes.



# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



**ABOARD ISLA BELLA** – Shown aboard the TOTE vessel are (from left, standing) Chief Cook Adalberto Colon, Steward/Baker Thomas Smith, Electrician Jesus Manuel Ortiz, and (in front) Safety Director Ricky Rivera.



**ABOARD ARC INTEGRITY** – Seafarers are pictured aboard the TOTE vessel in Baltimore. Safety Director Jose Argueta is at left.



**TAKING THE OATH IN WILMINGTON** – From right, Chief Cook Cameron Azadi and AB Ethan Stacy receive their respective full B books at the hall. Administering the oath SIU VP Joe Vincenzo.



**ABOARD MAERSK KENSINGTON** – Pictured from left aboard the MLL ship are SIU Patrolman Kirk Pegan, Seafarers Yeilyn Martinez, Francisco Bonilla, Tania Rameriz-Diego, Reny Arzu and Abraham Moreira, and SIU Patrolman J.B. Niday. The members are part of the Houston shore gang; they came aboard to cast their respective ballots in the SIU election.



**ABOARD PERLA DEL CARIBE** – Here's a pre-Christmas snapshot from the TOTE ship. From left are ABM Julio Perez, Chief Cook Fernando Marques, Safety Director Ricky Rivera, SA Juan Santiago, Bosun Charles Ortiz, Steward/Baker Jacob Parrilla, and AB Carlos Diaz.



**TALKING MARITIME WITH SENATOR** – During U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono's pre-Election Day dinner in Hawaii, she met with several Seafarers and thanked them for their support. Pictured from left are Bosuns Fernando Haber and Gregorio Cudal, Senator Hirono (D), Bosun Edgar Elegino, and Pensioner Brandon Maeda.



**ABOARD MANULANI** – Pictured from left on the Matson vessel are ACU Abdulwali Mugalli, Chief Cook Khalid Mohamed, and Recertified Steward Joseph Laureta.



**FULL BOOKS IN MOBILE** – QEP Bobby Conner (above, right) and AB Benjamin Cone (left in other photo, with SIU Port Agent Jimmy White) receive their respective full books late last year at the hiring hall.





# At Sea & Ashore with the SIU



**SIU TRADITION** – Further proof that Seafaring runs in families: AB Stephen Hoskins (center) receives his full book at the Baltimore hall. Congratulating him are (from left) Safety Director Jose Argueta, Baltimore Port Agent John Hoskins (aka, Dad), VP Atlantic Coast Joseph Soresi, and Jersey City Port Agent Ray Henderson.



**WELCOME ASHORE IN JERSEY CITY** – AB Roque Lambert (left) picks up his first pension check at the hiring hall. He sailed with the SIU for more than 30 years. Congratulating him is SIU Port Agent Ray Henderson.



**WITH MEMBERS IN VIRGINIA** – Pictured from left to right in each photo, starting at far left: SIU Port Agent Mario Torrey congratulates AB Antonio Hamilton on obtaining his A-seniority book. ABs Jonte Granger and Larry Mann receive their respective full books at the hiring hall in Norfolk. AB Kristopher Green receives his A-seniority book; he's pictured with SIU Asst. VP Government Services Sam Spain.



**ABOARD PACIFIC COLLECTOR** – These photos from the TOTE vessel were taken Dec. 13. In the Seafaring Selfie at right (from left) are SIU Guam Port Agent Victor Sahagon and Recertified Bosun Ken Steiner. The crew photo includes Bosun Ken along with QMED Davon Brown, AB Jack Corn, SA Hamid Shahbain, OS Abdul Muther, AB Rafael Concepcion, OMU Cody Higgs, SA Orlando Makiling, Steward/Baker Clark Williams, AB William McIntyre, and SA Anthony Hermoso.



**ABOARD USNS MARY SEARS** – These snapshots were taken Dec. 11 aboard the Ocean Shipholdings vessel. Pictured from left in photo above, center are Bosun Dante Dizon and SIU Guam Port Agent Victor Sahagon. In the other two-person photo (also from left) are brothers Torrence Henry and Dale Henry, sailing together as OSs. Other Seafarers are included in the largest of the three photos.



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

Joe Vincenzo, Vice President  
Government Services

Bryan Powell,  
Vice President Lakes and Inland Waters



## HEADQUARTERS

5201 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746 (301) 899-0675

## ALGONAC

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

## ANCHORAGE

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

## BALTIMORE

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

## GUAM

P.O. Box 3328, Hagatna, Guam 96932  
Cliffline Office Ctr. Bldg., Suite 103B  
422 West O'Brien Dr., Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 477-1350

## HONOLULU

606 Kalihi St., Honolulu, HI 96819  
(808) 845-5222

## HOUSTON

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

## JACKSONVILLE

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

## JERSEY CITY

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

## JOLIET

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

## MOBILE

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

## NEW ORLEANS

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

## NORFOLK

115 Third 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) 549-4000

# Inquiring Seafarer

*This month's question was answered by upgraders in Piney Point, Maryland.*

## Question: What are some of the reasons you joined the SIU?



**Maria Soler**  
*Chief Cook*

The security that comes from having a good-paying job. Someone told me about the SIU down where I'm from in Puerto Rico, and when they got to the bottom line, I was sold!



**Anthony Hill**  
*AB*

The ability to pick my own ships, pick the job that I want, and the freedom to work when you feel like it. I've got friends in the union, and they convinced me to join.



**Milton Sivells**  
*Steward Baker*

I wanted to see the world. I joined the union in 1988, after a friend of mine told me about it. I was a foreman at a truck-yard, which naturally led me to the shipyard down in Norfolk, and the rest is history.



**Shane Beall**  
*AB*

I wanted to travel the world and get paid while doing it. Before I joined, I was in construction, and I helped renovate the campus in Piney Point. Heard about the opportunities in the union, and joined up.



**Christopher Weaver**  
*OS*

See the world, sure, but it was time to make some career changes for me. I had a lot of friends who were in this industry already, and so far it's going great!



**Tyler Maddox**  
*QMED*

I was a former bridgetender, and I wanted to join a labor union and learn a trade. But I knew I didn't want to join the Navy, and I didn't want to be trapped behind a desk. The SIU was a natural fit.

## Pic from the Past



Pictured in 1979 aboard the *LNG Libra* are AB Paul Klippel, Quartermaster Evan Jones, Recertified Bosun Bob O'Rourke, Quartermaster John Hamot, Quartermaster Howard Webber, W. Murphy, Jeffrey Thompson, and OS Richard Grant.



# 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

### REYNALDO AGBULOS

Brother Reynaldo Agbulos, 65, started sailing with the Seafarers International Union in 2006 when he shipped on the *Richard G. Matthiesen*. Brother Agbulos worked in all three departments and most recently shipped aboard the *Liberty Passion*. He calls Renton, Washington, home.



### ROLANDO BATIZ

Brother Rolando Batiz, 73, joined the union in 1994, initially sailing aboard the *Independence*. He worked in the steward department and upgraded on multiple occasions at the union-affiliated Piney Point school. Brother Batiz concluded his career on the *Maersk Atlanta* and resides in New York.

### MARIO DELA CRUZ

Brother Mario Dela Cruz, 74, signed on with the SIU in 2000. He first sailed aboard the *Overseas New York* and worked in the engine department. Brother Dela Cruz upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. He last shipped on the *Green Ocean* and makes his home in the Philippines.



### FREDERICK GIBSON

Brother Frederick Gibson, 65, joined the Seafarers International Union in 1990, initially working on the *USNS Denebola*. An engine department member, he upgraded on numerous occasions at the Piney Point school. Brother Gibson was last employed with McAllister Towing and is a Baltimore resident.



### JOHN GRAYSON

Brother John Grayson, 65, embarked on his SIU career in 1982 when he shipped on the *Amco Voyager*. He sailed in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. Brother Grayson's final vessel was the *Overseas New York*. He makes his home in Satsuma, Alabama.

### ANDY ILISCUPIDEZ

Brother Andy Iliscupidez, 72, joined the union in 2001. He sailed in both the deck and engine departments and upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Brother Iliscupidez first sailed on the *Roy M. Wheat*. He most recently shipped on the *Alliance St. Louis* and settled in Carson, California.



### KOSAR IQBAL

Brother Kosar Iqbal, 71, joined the union in 2000, initially sailing aboard the *USNS Seay*. He sailed in the deck department and upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on numerous occasions. Brother Iqbal last sailed on the *USNS Loyal*. He makes his home in Iselin, New Jersey.



## ROQUE LAMBERT

Brother Roque Lambert, 66, signed on with the SIU in 1993 when he shipped on the *Independence*. He sailed in the deck department and upgraded at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Brother Lambert's final vessel was the *Maersk Denver*. He lives in the Bronx, New York.



## KENNETH MITCHELL

Brother Kenneth Mitchell, 78, became an SIU member in 2001. A steward department member, he first sailed on the *Kenai*. Brother Mitchell upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. He most recently worked on the *President Wilson* and resides in Lemon Grove, California.



## DALE NESFIELD

Brother Dale Nesfield, 65, embarked on his career with the Seafarers International Union in 2002 when he shipped on the *Paul Buck*. He worked in the engine department and last sailed on the *Noble Star*. Brother Nesfield lives in Cypress, Texas.



## BRADLEY RENOLLET

Brother Bradley Renollet, 65, joined the union in 2012, initially sailing aboard the *William R. Button*. He worked in all three departments and upgraded on multiple occasions at the Paul Hall Center. Brother Renollet's final vessel was the *Brittin*. He makes his home in Arkansas City, Kansas.



## JOSEPH SMITH

Brother Joseph Smith, 69, became a member of the union in 1995. He first shipped on the *Columbia* and sailed in the deck department. Brother Smith's final vessel was the *Maersk Wyoming*. He lives in Katy, Texas.



## MICHAEL STROUD

Brother Michael Stroud, 73, signed on with the Seafarers in 2003 when he shipped on the *Explorer*. He sailed in the steward department. Brother Stroud most recently sailed aboard the *Pacific Tracker*. He resides in San Pedro, California.



## GREAT LAKES

### DAVID MORGAN

Brother David Morgan, 65, donned the SIU colors in 1979. A deck department member, he upgraded his skills at the Piney Point school on multiple occasions. Brother Morgan's first vessel was the *William Roesch*. He last sailed with VanEnkevort Tug & Barge and calls Hermansville, Michigan, home.



## INLAND

### ROMAN ARABSKI

Brother Roman Arabski, 66, began his career with the Seafarers International Union in 1978, initially shipping aboard the *Pittsburgh*. He worked in the deck department and last sailed with Moran Towing of Maryland. Brother Arabski is a Baltimore resident.



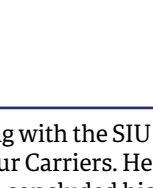
### KEVIN CASS

Brother Kevin Cass, 65, joined the SIU in 2001. A deck department member, he initially sailed with Keystone Shipping Services. Brother Cass upgraded at the Paul Hall Center on several occasions. He most recently sailed on the *Rocketship* and resides in Tyler, Texas.



### JASON MIXSON

Brother Jason Mixson, 57, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1996 when he sailed on the *USNS Kane*. He worked in the engine department and upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions. Brother Mixson concluded his career with Great Lakes Dredge and Dock. He lives in Sanford, Florida.



### LARRY MULL

Brother Larry Mull, 64, started sailing with the SIU in 2012, initially working with Sulphur Carriers. He was a deck department member and concluded his career working for Eco Tankers. Brother Mull settled in Wimauma, Florida.

### ROBERT YOUNG

Brother Robert Young, 63, signed on with the union in 1983. He sailed in the engine department and was employed by G&H Towing for the duration of his career. Brother Young makes his home in Friendswood, Texas.



## CORRECTION

The January LOG contained a mistake in James Cameron's write-up. The correct information follows.

### JAMES CAMERON

Brother James Cameron, 64, embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1990. He initially sailed on the *Cape Ann* and was a member of the steward department. Brother Cameron upgraded at the Piney Point school on several occasions and spent most of his career working aboard Maersk ships. A recertified steward, he plans on spending his retirement in both Mobile, Alabama and Portsmouth, Virginia.





# 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

### FRANKLIN BANDO

Pensioner Franklin Bando, 80, died November 24. He began his career with the Seafarers in 2001, initially sailing aboard the *Dewayne T. Williams*. Brother Bando worked in the steward department. He last sailed on the *Calvin B. Titus* before going on pension in 2012. Brother Bando lived in Snellville, Georgia.



### OTHELLO DANSLEY

Brother Othello Dansley, 59, passed away August 31. He joined the union in 1991 and first shipped on the *USNS Hess*. Brother Dansley worked in the steward department. He last sailed aboard the *Sam Laud* in 2003 and made his home in Mobile, Alabama.

### WILLIAM DAY

Pensioner William Day, 80, died October 25. He started sailing with the Seafarers International Union in 1990 when he shipped on the *Courier*. Brother Day sailed in the engine department and concluded his career aboard the *Baldomero Lopez*. He retired in 2010 and resided in Baker, Florida.



### CARLTON GRIFFIN

Pensioner Carlton Griffin, 65, passed away July 12. He embarked on his career with the Seafarers in 1978, initially sailing aboard the *Santa Maria*. Brother Griffin sailed in the steward department and concluded his career on the *Green Point* in 2009. He became a pensioner earlier this year and lived in Tucson, Arizona.



### NATHANIEL LAMB

Pensioner Nathaniel Lamb, 66, died November 29. He joined the SIU in 1977 and first sailed with Waterman Steamship. Brother Lamb worked in the deck department and most recently sailed on the *Green Ridge*. He retired in 2019 and made his home in Jacksonville, Florida.



### CANOVA MITCHELL

Pensioner Canova Mitchell, 94, passed away November 30. He signed on with the union in 1947 and initially sailed aboard the *Alcoa Roamer*. A steward department member, Brother Mitchell concluded his career aboard the *Cape Taylor*. He began collecting his pension in 1994 and resided in Mobile, Alabama.



### JOSEPH MOLL

Pensioner Joseph Moll, 86, died November 20. Brother Moll signed on with the union in 1964 when he shipped on the *Hudson*. He worked in the deck department and last shipped aboard the *Robert E. Lee*. Brother Moll retired in 1999 and settled in Destin, Florida.



### EVELYN NORDBROK

Pensioner Evelyn Nordbrok, 84, passed away November 25. She donned the SIU colors in 1990. A steward department member, Sister Nordbrok first shipped on the *USNS Hess*. She last sailed aboard the *Sumner* and became a pensioner in 2011. Sister Nordbrok made her home in Chesapeake, Virginia.



### MACK REVIS

Pensioner Mack Revis, 69, died November 17. He became a member of the SIU in 1978. Brother Revis initially sailed aboard the *Delta Panama*. He worked in the engine department and last shipped aboard the *Liberty Eagle*. Brother Revis went on pension in 2021 and resided in Beaumont, Texas.



### JAMES WEISMORE

Pensioner James Weismore, 87, passed away June 15. He signed on with the Seafarers International Union in 1990 and first sailed aboard the *William Baugh*. Brother Weismore sailed in the engine department. He last sailed on the *Virgo* and began collecting his pension in 2004. Brother Weismore lived in McMinnville, Tennessee.



### JAMES WYNEGAR

Brother James Wynegar, 53, died October 18. He embarked on his career with the SIU in 2006. A deck department member, Brother Wynegar first shipped on the *USNS Victorious*. He most recently worked aboard the *George III* and resided in Boca Raton, Florida.



## INLAND

### EARNEST WYATT

Pensioner Earnest Wyatt, 82, passed away November 27. He joined the union in 1960 and initially sailed with Gulf Atlantic Transport. Brother Wyatt sailed in the deck department and concluded his career with Allied Transportation. He became a pensioner in 2001 and made his home in Disputanta, Virginia.



## NMU

### ARTHUR CAMPBELL

Pensioner Arthur Campbell, 87, died October 18. Brother Campbell sailed as a steward department member. He last shipped on the *Tillie Lykes* and began collecting his pension in 1996. Brother Campbell lived in Jackson, Mississippi.

### THOMAS FAZIO

Pensioner Thomas Fazio, 91, passed away October 2. Brother Fazio last shipped with Lykes Brothers and began collecting his pension in 1984. He made his home in Metairie, Louisiana.

### AURELIO GUIBAS

Pensioner Aurelio Guibas, 87, died May 9. He started sailing in 1966, initially aboard the *Atlantic*. Brother Guibas worked in the steward department and concluded his career aboard the *Fredericksburg*. He retired in 2000 and settled in Long Beach, California.



### SERGIO GIUSTI

Pensioner Sergio Giusti, 93, passed away September 28. Brother Giusti worked in the engine department. He last sailed aboard the *Cape Race* and became a pensioner in 2012. Brother Giusti was a Miami resident.



### JAMES KENNEDY

Pensioner James Kennedy, 88, died September 8. Brother Kennedy became a pensioner in 1998 after concluding his career with Cleveland Tankers. He made his home in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

### WILLIE MAGEE

Pensioner Willie Magee, 80, passed away November 26. Brother Magee sailed in both the deck and engine departments and last shipped on the *American Pioneer*. He went on pension in 1989 and settled in the Bronx, New York.

### SIMON MUNTEAN

Pensioner Simon Muntean, 81, died October 7. Brother Muntean shipped in the engine department. He concluded his career aboard the *Mormacstar* and began collecting his pension in 2001. Brother Muntean was a resident of Burkeville, Texas.

### HECTOR PILGRIM

Pensioner Hector Pilgrim, 72, passed away October 24. Brother Pilgrim sailed in the deck department. He last shipped on the *Liberator* and started collecting his pension in 2017. Brother Pilgrim made his home in Brooklyn, New York.



### JOHN ROBINSON

Pensioner John Robinson, 82, died October 7. Brother Robinson worked in all three departments. He retired in 2007 after concluding his career aboard the *Cape Trinity*. Brother Robinson resided in Texas City, Texas.

### FELIX SALAS

Pensioner Felix Salas, 89, passed away October 31. Brother Salas last sailed aboard the *Columbia*. He retired in 1990 and settled in Orange Grove, Texas.

### ROBERTO SALOMON

Pensioner Roberto Salomon, 85, died July 6. Brother Salomon worked in the deck department. He last sailed aboard the *Mormacsky* and went on pension in 2004. Brother Salomon lived in Plantation, Florida.



# 2025 HEALTH & BENEFITS PLAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships totaling \$132,000 are available under the 2025 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](http://seafarers.org), go to the Benefits menu, open the "Core Plus and Core Benefits" section, scroll to "Applications and Forms," and select Scholarship Application.

## February & March Membership Meetings

Piney Point	Monday: Feb. 3, March 3
Algonac	Thursday: Feb. 13, March 13
Baltimore	Thursday: Feb. 6, March 6
Guam	Thursday: Feb. 20, March 20
Honolulu	Friday: Feb. 14, March 14
Houston	Monday: Feb. 10, March 10
Jacksonville	Thursday: Feb. 6, March 6
Joliet	Thursday: Feb. 13, March 13
Mobile	Wednesday: Feb. 12, March 12
New Orleans	Tuesday: Feb. 11, March 11
Jersey City	Tuesday: Feb. 4, March 4
Norfolk	Friday: Feb. 7, March 7
Oakland	Thursday: Feb. 13, March 13
Philadelphia	Wednesday: Feb. 5, March 5
Port Everglades	Thursday: Feb. 13, March 13
San Juan	Thursday: Feb. 6, March 6
St. Louis	Friday: Feb. 14, March 14
Tacoma	Friday: Feb. 21, March 21
Wilmington	Tuesday: Feb. 18, Monday: March 17

Wilmington change due to holiday observance

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

# Dispatchers' Report for Deep Sea

"Total Registered" and "Total Shipped" data is cumulative from December 16, 2024 - January 15, 2025.  
 "Registered on the Beach" data is as of January 15, 2025.

Port	Total Registered All Groups			Total Shipped All Groups			Trip Reliefs	Registered on Beach All Groups		
	A	B	C	A	B	C		A	B	C
<b>Deck Department</b>										
Algonac	13	6	1	9	5	0	6	19	8	2
Anchorage	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	3	0
Baltimore	5	3	2	4	2	1	4	3	3	2
Fort Lauderdale	24	5	7	5	5	5	8	35	10	8
Guam	3	0	1	1	0	1	0	5	2	2
Harvey	3	2	2	6	2	2	3	10	4	2
Honolulu	3	0	0	5	1	0	1	11	2	0
Houston	35	17	6	19	8	3	13	54	26	15
Jacksonville	38	25	11	21	12	7	13	47	37	15
Jersey City	13	9	1	8	5	1	1	31	11	7
Joliet	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	4	2	1
Mobile	3	2	1	2	4	1	2	7	4	1
Norfolk	14	16	3	15	8	3	8	25	24	10
Oakland	11	2	3	4	1	2	1	16	2	2
Philadelphia	2	3	1	2	3	0	2	1	1	1
Piney Point	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	0
Puerto Rico	5	6	0	7	3	0	2	8	8	0
St. Louis	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Tacoma	13	3	2	7	4	1	2	21	3	4
Wilmington	19	8	2	12	9	1	6	50	11	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Engine Department</b>										
Algonac	5	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	0	0
Anchorage	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Baltimore	3	1	0	3	2	0	2	4	0	0
Fort Lauderdale	8	9	0	4	5	2	4	11	10	0
Guam	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2
Harvey	4	2	1	3	1	1	0	4	2	1
Honolulu	7	4	0	2	3	0	2	11	3	1
Houston	7	9	4	6	5	3	6	18	13	5
Jacksonville	21	8	6	22	8	3	10	30	15	6
Jersey City	7	5	0	7	2	0	2	6	7	0
Joliet	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Mobile	7	2	0	3	0	0	2	5	4	1
Norfolk	12	16	6	9	9	6	9	16	21	8
Oakland	2	2	0	2	2	0	1	4	7	2
Philadelphia	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	0
Piney Point	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
Puerto Rico	7	2	1	3	2	2	0	10	4	1
St. Louis	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	2
Tacoma	8	3	3	6	1	1	2	14	5	3
Wilmington	9	12	3	5	3	1	3	16	9	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Steward Department</b>										
Algonac	3	0	0	5	0	0	1	4	0	0
Anchorage	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Baltimore	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0
Fort Lauderdale	11	1	1	9	2	0	3	13	6	1
Guam	3	2	0	3	1	0	0	2	6	0
Harvey	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	1
Honolulu	5	1	0	1	1	0	1	10	3	0
Houston	11	8	1	8	5	3	4	19	12	2
Jacksonville	25	17	4	12	16	3	8	35	22	3
Jersey City	6	4	2	4	4	0	1	16	5	2
Joliet	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Mobile	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	8	1	1
Norfolk	15	10	3	11	10	3	3	19	15	4
Oakland	14	2	1	9	3	0	2	17	4	3
Philadelphia	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0
Piney Point	2	2	1	0	3	0	0	3	0	1
Puerto Rico	3	4	1	5	7	0	2	3	7	1
St. Louis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tacoma	9	1	1	3	0	0	1	11	5	2
Wilmington	12	8	2	12	4	1	4	42	7	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Entry Department</b>										
Algonac	0	6	13	0	2	3	1	1	7	23
Anchorage	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Baltimore	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	5	2
Fort Lauderdale	1	5	9	0	1	5	2	1	10	14
Guam	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Harvey	1	1	5	0	1	0	1	2	2	8
Honolulu	0	3	5	1	3	1	0	1	2	7
Houston	2	12	16	1	5	5	2	3	34	25
Jacksonville	0	39	62	0	21	34	7	1	54	91
Jersey City	0	7	21	0	6	11	3	2	15	28
Joliet	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Mobile	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Norfolk	1	12	28	0	4	19	2	1	18	52
Oakland	0	7	8	0	2	10	1	0	13	7
Philadelphia	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	0
Piney Point	0	1	3	0	0	5	7	0	2	3
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tacoma	1	2	2	0	4	1	0	7	7	10
Wilmington	2	6	13	0	5	10	1	4	13	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>298</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>432</b>



# 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.

**MAERSK PITTSBURGH** (Maersk Line, Limited), August 17 – Chairman **Carlos Gibbons**, Secretary **Edward Harnish**, Deck Delegate **Jose Blanco Amaya**, Engine Delegate **Mashanda Carr**, Steward Delegate **Nikia Cooper**. Chairman provided details on wage bonuses for high-risk transit. Secretary said food budget requires an increase for extra days in transit. Galley needs three new faucets and a garbage disposal. Educational director encouraged crew to sign up for upgrading courses offered at the Paul Hall Center and to keep up with paperwork and physicals. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Members voiced their frustrations with internet quality and requested new mattresses, new linens, new comforters and a larger TV.

**MAERSK ATLANTA** (Maersk Line, Limited), September 22 – Chairman **Leoncio Gadingan**, Secretary **Oscar Gomez**, Educational Director **Derek Chestnut**, Deck Delegate **Juan Rochez**, Engine Delegate **Ion Boros**. New engine department classes offered at the union-affiliated Piney Point school, per educational director. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew requested online access to contracts, increases in vacation benefits and for annual physicals.

**ALASKAN LEGEND** (Alaska Tanker Company), October 6 – Chairman **Donny Castillo**, Secretary **Just Self**, Deck Delegate **Manuel Espinoza**, Steward Delegate **Jordan Harris**. Shower decks will be worked on this winter and room inspections

went well, per chairman's report. Secretary asked everyone to keep bridge wing locker and chow line locker clean and organized. Educational director recommended members renew merchant mariner credentials at least eight months in advance and to upgrade their skills at the Paul Hall Center. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew discussed penalty pay for engine department and motioned to lower age and sea-time required for retirement. Members would like 20 for 30 vacation, and more than two coveralls for DEUs and reliefs. Crew agreed with suggested pay increases for extra meals/extra riders and for entry-level pay rates to be equal among each department. Members recommended implementing an online option for ship minutes and requested new recliner chairs, desk chairs and mattresses in rooms. Next port: Long Beach, California.

**MAERSK DENVER** (Maersk Line, Limited), October 6 – Chairman **James Walker**, Secretary **Norma West**, Educational Director **Anson Johnny**. Members discussed the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) strike. Chairman warned crew about approaching weather conditions and reported a good trip overall. Secretary and educational director advised crew to plan ahead for credentials and to upgrade at the Piney Point school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew motioned for penalty rate amendment and would like raises in retirement benefits and lowered sea-time requirements for pension.

**LIBERTY PEACE** (Liberty Maritime), October 18 – Chairman **Rudy Puerto**, Deck Delegate **Moises Arzu**, Engine Delegate **Joshua Yancey**, Steward Delegate **Claribel Cabral**. Crew discussed overtime issue for unlicensed engine department members as well as requests for room TVs and internet upgrades. Everything in good standing, per chairman's report. Educational director urged members to take advantage of the upgrading opportunities offered at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, located in Piney Point, Maryland.

**KEYSTONE STATE** (Pacific Gulf Marine), November 7 – Chairman **Ali Naser**, Secretary **Tamara Houston**, Educational Director **Milan Dzurek**, Deck Delegate **Justin Baehring**, Engine Delegate **Florencio Tindugan**, Steward Delegate **Danilo Valencia**. Crew discussed issue with air conditioning in crew lounge. Secretary touched on SIU election. Educational director encouraged members to upgrade at the Piney Point school and to renew credentials on time. New LNG courses are being offered at the school. No beefs or disputed OT reported. Crew under ship restriction. The discussed OT sheets. Also requested more of a variety of items stocked in slop chest.

**LIBERTY PEACE** (Liberty Maritime), November 17 – Chairman **Rudy Puerto**, Secretary **Bebiana Eason**, Deck Delegate **Moises Arzu**, Engine Delegate **Joshua Yancey**, Steward Delegate **Claribel Cabral**. Spare fans needed on board and

steward department is still due reimbursement for purchasing ship items. Chairman reported good conditions aboard vessel and advised everyone to keep dues paid and to attend monthly union meetings. Steward department commended for providing good meals and services, despite low stock on supplies. Educational director reminded crew to keep documents current and to upgrade at the Paul Hall Center. Engine department still not receiving four hours OT daily, per delegate report. Next port: Brunswick, Georgia.

**HORIZON KODIAK** (Horizon Lines), November 24 – Chairman **Darryl Smith**, Secretary **Antoinette Amato**, Educational Director **Jason Powell**, Deck Delegate **Adel Shaibi**. Crew reviewed increases to safety shoe allowance, proposed union dues increase, sea-time limits for retirees in 2025 and renewing Coast Guard documents via email. Chairman encouraged members to donate to SPAD (Seafarers Political Activities Donation), the union's voluntary political action fund, and to contribute to the toy drive at the hiring hall in Tacoma, Washington. Payoff at sea scheduled for Nov. 26. Secretary reminded members to attend monthly union meetings at the newly designated constitutional port of Tacoma, Washington. Educational director recommended crew take advantage of the upgrading opportunities at the Piney Point school.

## 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 Seafar-

ers 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



# 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
<b>DECK DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES</b>		

Lifeboatman/Water Survival	April 14 June 30	April 25 July 11
Able Seafarer - Deck	March 17 May 5 June 9	April 4 May 23 June 27

<b>ENGINE DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES</b>		
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FOWT	March 17 April 21	April 11 May 16
Junior Engineer Program	May 5	June 27
Marine Electrician	March 17	April 18
Machinist	May 26	June 13
Pumpman	May 19	May 23
Welding	April 21 June 2	May 9 June 20

<b>STEWARD DEPARTMENT UPGRADING COURSES</b>		
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Galley Operations	March 10 April 7 April 28 May 26	April 4 May 2 May 23 June 20
Certified Chief Cook	April 28	July 4
ServSafe Management	April 21	April 25
Advanced Galley Operations	March 3 March 31 May 26	March 28 April 25 June 20
Chief Steward	April 28 June 23	May 23 July 18

<b>OPEN/SAFETY UPGRADING COURSES</b>		
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Basic Training	April 7 June 23	April 11 June 27
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Title of Course	Start Date	Date of Completion
<b>OPEN/SAFETY UPGRADING COURSES</b>		

Basic Training Revalidation	March 3 March 7 April 14 April 18 May 5 May 9 June 30	March 3 March 7 April 14 April 18 May 5 May 9 June 30
Basic Training/Adv. FF Revalidation	March 17	March 18

Government Vessels	March 17 April 7 May 5 June 2	March 21 April 11 May 9 June 6
Tank Ship - DL (PIC)	July 14	July 18

## Seeking Additional Instructors

The SIU-affiliated Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship is seeking to add to their team of qualified instructors in multiple areas of expertise. If you would be interested in applying to be an instructor, please review the following job titles and email [monicaszepesi@seafarers.org](mailto:monicaszepesi@seafarers.org) with a copy of your credential.

The school is seeking qualified candidates in the following areas:

- Chief Engineer
- Deck Instructor
- Engine Instructor

## 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 seatime 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](mailto:upgrading@seafarers.org) Mail: 45353 St. George's Ave., Piney Point, MD 20674 Fax: 301-994-2189.**

The Seafarers Harry Lundeberg 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**  
 915

**APPRENTICE WATER SURVIVAL CLASS #915** – Above: Phillip Adams, Tyler Allen, Corey Ambrose, Cerryisha Banks, Malakhi Basquez, Julius Douglas, Jeremy Fazio, Alex Greco, Keely Grochowicz, Kristopher Henny, Jevon Hill, Chifhon Hogan, Michael Johnson, Glennie McGee, Robert McMahon, Tylan Meekins, Osiel Moreno, Aniyah Napier, Nathaniel Orff, Justice Rodriguez, Charles Vanderpool, Chuck Willberth and Jordayn Williams.



**ABLE SEAFARER (DECK)** – Graduated November 22: Shane Beall, David Bessey, Emily Castellano-Marquez, Nirel Escalante, Eliza Fitzgerald, Kenny Galeno, Nathan Jackson, Jeffrey McGowin Jr., Joseph Tier and Juan Velasquez Jr.



**CERTIFIED CHIEF COOK** – Graduated November 29: Quad Cheatham, James Petite, Perrin Proctor, Matthew Vargas, J'lon Williams, Keyanna Williams and Rachael Zavala.



**WELDING** – Graduated November 15: Alexander Baum, Richard Diaz Jr., Sierjohn Jove, Keith Martin Jr., Nesta Pafford, Dallas Smith and Stephen Swaby. Instructor Chris Raley is at far left.



**RFPEW** – Graduated December 13: Zyon Anderson, Paul Conlon, Nainoa Goodwin, Jacob Hall, Hans Hansen Quinones, Baldemar Hernandez Jr., Ken Kan, Kenny Nguyen and Allan Willingham.



**RFPEW** – Graduated December 13: Lee Javier Eludo Jr.



**RFPNW** – Graduated December 6: Kason Garibaldi, Jamar Gissentanner, Samaria Harper, Ashton Luuloo, Andy Phouminh, Joshua Robinson, Malachi Scott, Walter Stockwell and Daniel Valentine.



**GOVERNMENT VESSELS** – Graduated December 13 (not all are pictured): Wilmer Alvarez, Carlos Arzu, Talus Brown, Mashonda Corley, James Darr, Johnny Dozier III, Paul Erickson Jr., Latif Haija, Edward Harnish, D'mitri Hill, William Lima, Willie Moreland, Jason Newsham, Anthony Pacely Jr., Corey Porter, Dean Trott, Kawan Weaver, Keyanna Williams, Fikera Winfield and Michael Zabielski.



# Paul Hall Center Class Photos



**ADVANCED GALLEY OPS** – Graduated December 13: Sarah Awad, Edna Bakhos, Aaron Helton-Cox, Steven Johnson, Paul Mena, Mary Moelk and Latara Rengifo.



**GALLEY FAMILIARIZATION**– Graduated December 13 (not all are pictured): Malakhi Basquez, Julius Douglas and Nadia Forester.



**WATER SURVIVAL** – Graduated December 6: Joseph Tier.



**TANK SHIP FAMILIARIZATION (DL)** – Graduated December 13: Ninesha Anderson, James Billups III, Jeffrey Frye and Kevin O'Lone.



**TANK SHIP FAMILIARIZATION (DL)** – Graduated November 15: Hunter Abshire, Mark Baillie, Cedricka Banks, Jamequia Cherry, Wilfredo Cosme Ayala, Jacob Dezzutti, Michael Gaffney, Preston Harris, Suzanne Herrera, Alexander Holmes, Joshua Kelly, Ariel Marrero, Anthony Monroe, Metwa Ojoch, Juan Ortiz Reyes, Shawna-Kay Skinner, Carl Trice, Talib Weatherspoon, Dorian White, Justin White, Sean Wilson and Anton Zakoverya.



**GOVERNMENT VESSELS** – Graduated Decemehr 20: Hunter Abshire, Mark Baillie, Cedricka Banks, Jamequia Cherry, Wilfredo Cosme Ayala, Jacob Dezzutti, Michael Gaffney, Preston Harris, Suzanne Herrera, Alexander Holmes, Anthony Monroe, Metwa Ojoch, Juan Ortiz Reyes, Shawna-Kay Skinner, Carl Trice, Talib Weatherspoon, Justin White and Anton Zakoverya.



# SEAFARERS LOG

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

## SIU and Santa's Castle Spread Holiday Cheer

For the 16th consecutive year, Seafarers in the Pacific Northwest continued their show of support for U.S. military families in need of some extra holiday joy.

Participating members, officials, and staff – along with representatives from SIU-contracted companies – raised and contributed about \$7,000 worth of new toys to the Santa's Castle organization, including books, board games, bicycles, electronics (such as earbuds) and more.

"This is especially remarkable as the port this year has had more of its membership at sea than on the beach," said SIU Tacoma Port Agent Warren Asp.

The SIU has long been a supporter of Santa's Castle, a year-round program backed by volunteers in the area, dedicated to assisting active-duty military families by providing them with gifts for their children. This past December was no different as Tacoma-area Seafarers hosted a luncheon for the Santa's Castle staff and readied the supply of gifts that they collected for transport to the "castle" for the organization to distribute to the families.

"This year was a stellar turnout for the luncheon," Asp noted. "Retired Steward **Vicki Haggerty**, Recertified Steward **Robert Haggerty**, Recertified Steward **Amanda Suncin**, Steward **Marylouise Maddox**, Chief Cook **Dan Axl Monteclaro**, and SA **Rene Caballero** set up and ran the serving line flawlessly for our other members and guests."

Additionally, a record number of SIU retirees participated in the Santa's Castle event. One such pensioner is **Dana Cella**, a recertified bosun who has supported Santa's Castle for more than a decade.

"This is a great opportunity to show gratitude to the members of the armed forces whose families are struggling during Christmastime," said Cella. "The impact we make by doing this is relative to the fact that the merchant marine is the fourth arm of defense. We work in coordination with the armed forces and this outreach helps to strengthen the bond between us."



Attendees gather for a photo at the hiring hall in Tacoma, Washington. SIU VP Joe Vincenzo is in front, far right.

Cella usually donates bikes to the organization. This year, he donated bikes and participated in the Christmas luncheon where SIU volunteers help to load up the toys that they have collected and transport them to the base, which has been transformed into Santa's Castle for the service members.

"It's great to see so many of our 'old timers' coming out and socializing with the next generation of mariners," Asp said. "We extend a vote of thanks to retirees **Dana Cella**, **Terry White**, **Kevin Gatling**, **Tommy (T-Man) Belvin**, **Lewis Johansen** and **Dennis Skretta** among others for joining in on the festivities year after year."

Additionally, some SIU Government Services Division members, including Bosun Mate **Frederick Beck** came to the luncheon to assist. "It is always good to see MSC union members drop in and break bread with our deep-sea family here in Tacoma," said SIU Vice President Government Services Joe Vincenzo.

He added, "We also want to give a shoutout to Crowley Maritime for their continued support of our efforts here in Tacoma by donating yet again two bicycles."

Santa's Castle's mission is to ease holiday stress by providing new toys, board games and books to active military families in Washington State. The organization recently expanded into doing events year-round, such as giving away backpacks during the summer in preparation for the children to return to school in the fall.

Santa's Castle serves children from birth to 17 years of age for active-duty service members in Washington from all branches: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and active National Guard and Reserves. This past holiday season the organization helped 1,913 families and distributed a total of \$791,928 dollars' worth of toys, books, games, bikes, and stocking stuffers.

"We identify service members who have financial need via the service member's chain of command, through a chaplain or through other community programs made to assist service members," said Santa's Castle Executive Director Donna Handoe. "The people who identify the members in need then go to our website and fill out a form to submit the nomination. Once we receive all of our nominations, we contact

the selected service members and provide them an appointment to come to our castle during our toy distribution."

She added, "What we give to the parents all depends on how many donations come in.... A really important part of our program is that parents get to choose. We're not just handing them something; the parents get to choose depending on what they think their kid would like."

Anita Vargo, vice president of purchasing for Santa's Castle, has been participating in these philanthropic events for 13 years. To decide what will be on the shelves year after year, Vargo collaborates with inventory personnel to compile the spreadsheet for suggested donations, which are based on what children requested. She also is largely in charge of sourcing donations and purchasing items from the list, which are used to stock the aisles for families who come to shop for the holidays.

Vargo has seen firsthand the boost in morale that Santa's Castle provides for families. "It's the real deal, and many of the families thought they wouldn't have that big of a Christmas this year, and all of a sudden we're there to come to their rescue," she said. "For example, one lady in line wanted a coat for her kids, but they thought we didn't have any. It turns out that we had two coats which were exactly right size for her kids, and she broke down and cried. It's just such a sweet thing to see these families and get them what they want."

The Santa's Castle staff was grateful to have help from the Tacoma-area Seafarers for yet another year. "Everyone that helped out from the SIU, they're just amazing," Vargo said. "If we need help with anything, they always do it. They donate so much that it helps set us up for the following year. Plus, we really enjoyed the luncheon – they're great cooks and the food was really amazing."

"The SIU is a huge help with all of their donations," said Handoe. "Not only do they donate some really good stuff, they also help us get it back to the castle.... They're a great support."



From left to right in each photo, starting at far left: SIU Port Agent Warren Asp, SA Thomas Curley; Retiree Vicki Haggerty, SREC Robert Haggerty, Chief Cook Dan Axl Monteclaro; (in front) GUDE Reynaldo Mambulao, AB Samuel Schwimmer; Santa's Castle Executive Director Donna Handoe, Admin. Asst. Shelly Hinzman, VP of Purchasing Anita Vargo.