



President's Message

Maggie Whittingham-Lamont

Halifax, Nova Scotia

We are finally done with last winter and now this summer is nearly past as well. As I mentioned in my last report, winter was very long and very hard in the north-east. Things did improve with the advent of summer; ships were more often on schedule and that meant scheduling staff at the centre became a little easier. Instead of the incessant sound of the snow ploughs we heard the fog horn constantly. Seafarers told me that they had encountered the densest fog they had ever seen as they entered Nova Scotian waters.

Of course we are blessed; we do not have typhoons like in the Pacific, and very seldom do the dreaded hurricanes reach our shores. It's always heartbreaking to watch seafarers trying to reach their loved ones and it is such a relief to hear them finally connect by telephone and hear the voices of their families. One seafarer tried for three days to contact his family without success after the typhoon in the Philippines earlier this year. He stayed at the Mission until the very last moment before rejoining his ship, literally shedding tears of concern as he left. I had talked to him as he left and he wrote down the names of his family members so that they could be included in our prayers. Sometimes we struggle to offer comfort to a seafarer; there are times when words simply do not help as much as we would hope. But we remember that the ministry of presence is a very valuable part of caring for seafarers.

Another challenge we faced recently at the Mission in Halifax was caring for a hospitalized seafarer. The seafarer had been in hospital for a few days and we were unaware of this. Late one afternoon I received a call from Nash Garabedian telling me that he had been onboard a tanker and that the crew were very concerned for their cook who they had left behind in hospital in Halifax after he had fallen ill. I was able to track down the seafarer and within twenty minutes I was visiting him in hospital. The following day I drove to the Filipino bakery and bought him some food as well as acquiring some rice and fish from a Filipino cook on a container ship.

As is often the case, food is closely associated with recovery and emotional wellbeing and the seafarer was soon able to return to his ship. My ability to help him was brought about through the NAMMA network so once more I would like to highlight the benefits of being a member of NAMMA. I had been in such a rush to trace the hospitalized seafarer that I had not taken Nash's number so when I returned from the hospital I looked his name up in the NAMMA directory and was able to call and tell him how the seafarer was progressing and Nash was able to reassure the cook's crew-mates that he was recovering.

I was glad to see so many of you in Boston for the NAMMA Conference. As always I look forward to networking with fellow chaplains, ship visitors and administrators. I am sure each one of us has information to share that will benefit our individual centres.

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For Your Information

Sometimes I envy the folks who seem to have all sorts of time to browse the internet and find all sorts of valuable information. To that end, I encourage you to take a moment and browse our own website at www.namma.org and see what's been posted recently. From there, are links to other valuable websites.

One of these is the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA)'s website. You can find it at www.icma.as. One of the items is an on-line directory. I took a moment and tried to find a number of our agencies. They weren't there. That's because we haven't sent in the necessary data. So, I thought I'd call on you to help fill in the missing information. If you will copy and complete the template below, and send it to Rev. Hennie La Grange, he will see to it that North American ministries are better represented. (Please fill it out ONLY for agencies, not individual chaplains.) Note: The template is also on our website.

Template for the ICMA Online Database and printed Directory 2009

Name: Name of the Mission (and Society, i.e. AoS, etc)
Address: Location address, if the person wanted to visit, of the local contact person or agency
City:
State/PC:
Country:
Telephone: +(international country code) (regional code) (number)
Telephone2: As above
Fax: As above
Email: One or more Skype (or other internet based phone) number
VOIP number
Website:
Contact: Name of the local chaplain(s)
Comment:

Also, on the ICMA website I found under the link "Publication for Download", the **ICMA Ship Visiting Handbook**. It's there for you to use so you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You can download from there.

Another ICMA document which I found interesting is the **Code of Conduct**. The heading says that "membership in ICMA carries an obligation to abide by the Constitutions of the Association and of this Code of Conduct." Now NAMMA is a founding member of ICMA, and all NAMMA's members are thus obligated by this statement as well. I thought maybe, since this is so, we ought to have it in front of us so we can know what it says.

The Mission of ICMA :

The seafarers of the world remind us of the ultimate purpose of all God's plans: "the end will not come until the Gospel of God's Kingdom has reached to the borders of the whole inhabited world [oikumene]" (Matthew 24, 14). In a fragmented and divided society, it is ICMA's mission to promote unity, peace and tolerance. ICMA was founded for promoting and co-ordinating Christian ecumenical co-operation in maritime ministry.

(Continued on page 3, First Column)

(Mission of ICMA, continued from page 2)

A Look at NAMMAC 2008

Chaplains and staff of all ICMA Member Societies at local, national and international levels are therefore to:

- a) Show an unconditional love to the seafarer as a human being, created in the image of God, and a sincere respect for her/his personal values and beliefs;
- b) Serve seafarers and their dependants of all nationalities, religions, cultures, language, sex or race;
- c) Fight prejudice, intolerance and injustice of any kind;
- d) Respect the diversity of ICMA Members and Churches and to develop that which unites them ;
- e) Respect the loyalty of those engaged in maritime ministry to their particular ecclesiastical discipline and tradition;
- f) Co-operate with persons, organisations and institutions, Christian or non-Christian, which work for the welfare of seafarers.

A News Item to Share from Wilmington, NC

Rev. Mel Atento, the Filipino chaplain and director of the International Seaman’s Service in Wilmington NC, shared the following in a newsletter he sent out this summer. He said I could share it with you. Mel wrote, “God is good all the time, all the time God is good. One of my mentors in Minnesota used to say that even when they are experiencing bad times. I learned from that saying, that God is in the good and the bad times. Last month I can say that phrase and say that our God is good all the time. I am not saying this because there were bad things that happened at the center. In fact I have a few things to share that God has done through the Seamen center.

“A month ago there was a ship with 8 Filipinos as part of their crew. When I met them they were very happy to have someone that was from their country as the chaplain. They were so curious as to how I became the chaplain at the Seamen’s Center here in Wilmington. It gives me the opportunity to talk about my faith and my relationship with God when they ask me these questions. It is such a natural thing to just talk about how God moved in my life and share of His goodness, grace and salvation through his Son Jesus.

“These eight Filipinos wanted to take communion since they have not had it for a while. I told them that I could do it for them Sunday night at 7:30 pm. I came back to the Center the following night at about 7 pm so that I could get ready. When I got to the center there were already two guys there using the computer. I asked them if their co-workers were coming to take communion. They said that they hope they do. Then 7:45 pm came and the other 6 guys were not there. I decided to serve communion to the two Filipinos that were there. I asked them if they were ready and we went back to the chapel.

“Before I served them the communion I explained the gospel and why we take communion. I asked them if they have asked Jesus into their hearts as Lord and Savior and they said not yet. I then led them in a prayer of acceptance in Filipino and they prayed aloud with me. That was an awesome moment and I wanted to jump up and down with joy since two souls have been added to the Kingdom. Then we took communion and after that I gave them Bibles in their language and we went through some scripture to give them assurance of salvation. They were both grateful.”

NAMMAC 08 – Boston, “The Chaplain Inside-Chaplain Outside: Filling Your vessel with Grace” is now history. In all, we had 80-90 persons in attendance (included in this number are spouses and part-timers who attended for parts of the conference.) The primary focus of this year’s conference was our relations with the maritime industry.



This is only picture with Loring Carpenter, Stephen Cushing, and Michael Cicalese our conference organizers all present at the same time!

To help us focus on the second aspect of the theme, the conference organizers (Rev. Loring Carpenter – Seafarers’ Friend; Rev. Stephen Cushing – New England Seafarers’ Mission; and Capt. Michael Cicalese – Mariners’ House) brought to us an outstanding group of presenters. These included Capt. Gail Kulisch, USCG-Sector Commander, Boston; Michael Leone, Massachusetts Port Authority, Director of the port of Boston, and Rear Admiral Brian Salerno, Assistant Commandant for marine Safety, Security and Stewardship, USCG).



Capt. Gail Kulisch, USCG Michael Leone RAdm. Brian Salerno

For the spiritual focus, in addition to denominational worship, a time of spiritual reflection for the group was presented as well as a time of closing worship with Capt. Jeff Monroe (at right), a deacon in the Anglican Cathedral of St. Paul, Portland, ME, former Port Authority ED and Ship’s Master, giving the message.



One workshop was led by the Rev. Nizzi Santos-Digan (at left), a United Methodist chaplain with Seafarers’ Friend (Boston). Nizzi is a Filipina and led a dynamic workshop on “Filipino Culture—What are Filipino men thinking?”



The Rev. Nash Garabedian, Mission Director for Seafarers' Friend (Portland and Portsmouth) led "Listening Between the Lines". I guess I would say that it was about how to hear what isn't being said. Doug Stevenson spoke eloquently as always about "Maritime Seafarers Rights Issues" using statistics he has gathered from NAMMA chaplains on crew detentions, among other things. It was too bad that the conference was too tight to allow for migration between presenters.

Panel discussions on shore leave and TWIC as well as Critical Global issues, challenges and solutions facing the industry and potential relations with chaplains in light of those trends was ably discussed by Steve Galloway, Hapag-Lloyd, representing ship owners; David Burke, Vships, representing the viewpoint of Ship Management; Brad Berman, one of our Industry Advisory Board (IAB) members. Brad is from the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry. He represented Ships Flags. Last, the views of Ship Agents were represented by Steve Palmer of Moran Shipping. Moran Shipping deals with Tankers, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Marine Equipment, Oil Spillage or Pollution Dispersal.

The two NAMMA awards, the Joe R. Gerson Humanitarian Award and the Seafarer's Salute Award were given to the United States Coast Guard for their efforts on behalf of seafarers and to Hapag-Lloyd. NAMMA's president, Maggie Whittingham-Lamont of Halifax said, "I have been visiting the Hapag-Lloyd "Express ships" for many years in Halifax and the crew are usually very content. The company offers bonuses for continued services as well as medical care for the seafarer and his family even when he is on leave. I nominated them because they set a high standard for employment and treatment of crew." These award plaques were given to Rear Admiral Salerno and Steve Galloway, respectively. They will again be presented by NAMMA at World



Nash Garabedian (above) and his workshop (above, left)



Doug Stevenson leading his workshop



(right) Best Buy Presentation Tom Christiansen at the podium



(left) from the left: Loring Carpenter, Steve Galloway, Steve Palmer, Brad Berman, David Burke



(left) from the left: Steve Galloway, Doug Stevenson, Radm. Brian Salerno



(above) Steve Galloway from Hapag-Lloyd receives the Seafarers' Salute Award.

(below) RADM. Brian Salerno receives the Joe R. Gerson Humanitarian Award on behalf of the Coast Guard.



(above) Karin and Lloyd Burghart receive congratulations for their 50th wedding anniversary, Aug. 16th.



Nash Garabedian relaxing on the harbor cruise.

The flags of our luncheon sponsors



Maritime Day events in New York City in conjunction with NAMEPA on October 23.

The two luncheons were underwritten by NAVIOS, one of the leading global brands in seaborne shipping and NAMEPA, North American Marine Environment Protection Association, which operates as a voluntary, non-profit and non-governmental organization committed to preserving the marine environment through educating seafarers.

A most interesting aspect of this year's conference was the participation of Best Buy Co., Inc. The Rev. David Wells, a chaplain with the Houston international Seafarers' Center puts it better than I could. David says, "Being Connected With A Heart"

"Let me tell you a story about the corporate business world and the ministry to seafarers. It all centers around a company called "Best Buy". Several months ago the director of the Lou Lawler Seafarers Center at the Port of Houston, Patricia Poulos, received a call from Chris Shea, Best Buy Lab Segment Manager out of Grapevine, Texas. The Best Buy store located in Baytown, Texas had noticed the high numbers of seafarers visiting and making purchases at that location. Even more of a surprise was that this was all noticed because a part-time sales person at that store, Billy Brooks, had served several of the seafarers and noticed how difficult it was for some of them to get what they wanted and needed due to language limitations, cultural differences, and the unfamiliarity of America. Billy felt sorry for these seafarers and wanted to find ways to help them more. He also told his manager at the store, Robert French, about the situation and they began to notice the large purchases made by seafarers.

"Chris wanted to know if the Seafarers Center could give them a breakdown of languages or countries of origin of the seafarers

so that Best Buy could offer information to seafarers in their native languages. He also wanted to know more about seafarers, their needs, and the work of the Seafarers Centers. Later, Ms. Poulos received a call from the Best Buy District Business Manager requesting a meeting to discuss the seafarer's needs. Since the Rev. Lacy Largent and the Rev. David Wells had helped many detained seafarers to make purchases at Best Buy, Ms. Poulos scheduled a meeting with Best Buy, herself, and the two Chaplains. At the meeting from Best Buy were Mr. Tom Christensen, from the corporate office in Minneapolis; Mr. Don Sides, District Business Manager; Mr. Billy Brooks, from the Baytown store; Mr. Brian Holmes and Mr. Ian Sobczak, from the Gulfgate store; and others.

"Best Buy wanted to know more about our ministry and how to help the seafarers with what they needed. Everyone from Best Buy was eager to learn more and wanted to find a way to make things easier for both seafarers and our ministry. They realized that we did not have wireless internet and immediately offered to donate their local people to set up our wireless internet at both centers. Since that day, we have averaged over 10 computers using our wireless services every day. Best Buy also donated a new flat screen TV and sound system to replace one of our older ones.

"As Best Buy began to focus on our ministry to seafarers, they realized that there were Seafarer Ministries all over the U.S. We invited them to join us in our North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference in Boston during August. They attended with people from their corporate office, from Houston, Philadelphia, and other port cities. Best Buy also contributed \$5,000 to the NAMMA conference. They are now establishing relationships with Seafarer Ministries all over the U.S. and Canada.

"Yesterday and today I went to Best Buy to make several thousand dollars of purchases for seafarers who could not get off their ship. As I talked with the District Business Manager, Mr. Don Sides, he asked me if he could go with me to visit a ship. I was rather surprised that he would like to learn this much about these men and this ministry. Business is about selling products, but I have realized that for Best Buy it is really about people, their needs, and making life easier for them. As I have spoken



(above from left) Michael Cicalese, Stephen Cushing, Maggie Whittingham-Lamont, Micahle Leone, Capt. Gail Kulisch, Loring Carpenter



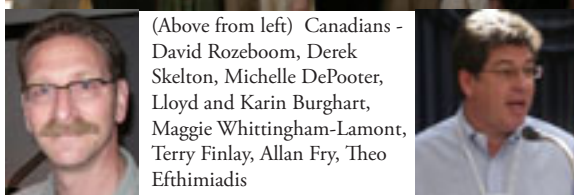
(above) Two pictures of conference attendees



(above from left) Doug Stevenson, Michelle DePooter, and Maggie Whittingham Lamont at the Plenary Meeting.



(above from left) AOS Attendees: Carol Waud, Glenn and Pat Teske, Pat Nemece, Rivers Patout, Myrna Tordillo, Anthony Ornelas, Derek Skelton



(Above from left) Canadians - David Rozeboom, Derek Skelton, Michelle DePooter, Lloyd and Karin Burghart, Maggie Whittingham-Lamont, Terry Finlay, Allan Fry, Theo Efthimiadis

with many Best Buy employees, they even feel that the company is that way for them. What a great company and business which is also a ministry.

"All of this started because of one part-time sales clerk who had a heart and concern for foreign seafarers. (I might add that this clerk has now been given a full-time job created especially for him.) This one small observation immediately got the attention of the corporate office and Mr. Tom Christensen who will not let this issue of Seafarers Ministry go. And now, the District Business Manager, Mr. Don Sides, wants to visit a ship. Local store workers all know me when I walk in to help seafarers. "Being connected" has many meanings, but Best Buy has taught me that while it may be partly about money, it is really about caring for people and serving others."

This year's conference, with its harbor cruise and lobster dinner is now history. If you missed out, you can plan to join us for next year's conference, NAMMAC 09, which will be held in Houston, Texas, on June 9-11, 2009. **Please note the early date.**

(below) Boston's Port Tribute to AoS Fr. Philip LaPlate on his 88th birthday. He was on our harbor cruise.



(far Left) Michael Cicalese ((near left) Brad Berman

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From My Porthole By Lloyd Burghart

As I listened to a sermon recently, I heard the minister say a phrase that reminded me of what Rev. Hennie La Grange, ICMA's General Secretary, said last year when we met in Buffalo. The phrase I heard was "God finds us where we are." Last year, Hennie told us that when he first went aboard ships he thought he was bringing God to the seafarers, but when he got on board he found out that God was already there.

What struck me anew was the idea that searching and finding people, even lost people, is really God's work. He's been doing it ever since sin entered the world. That's amazing, since so many people don't want to found. What's even more amazing is that he allows us to share in his work of discovery.

Since God is already there that makes the work that we do as chaplains ever so much easier. It isn't what we do, rather it is recognizing and acknowledging what God has already been doing or has already done. Our role is to see God at work (to look for evidence of his presence), and as we make ourselves available to seafarers and help them to also see God at work. My difficulty is that so often I think God's work depends on me. Or I think that what I have to say is vitally important; something the person I'm talking to can't live without.

I really know better. I understand that God sought me out long before I was even born. I know that while I was still a sinner Christ died for my sins, yet somehow, I seem to think that I have something to do with making this happen, if not for myself, then for someone else. I have to keep reminding myself (or listening when someone else says it) that it is God who seeks us out; God who finds us; God who brings us back to himself; God who has already been at work before I showed up on the scene. It's not about me; it's about Him and what He has done and is still doing.

At least that's how I see it from my porthole.

New Items to Check Out

www.itfseafarers.org A new website for seafarers. . . a one stop shop for seafarers with information on rights, pay, health and safety and includes features such as : a Ship Look-up tool; a Crew Talk discussion forum; interactive polls; trade union contact details; and an ITF Inspector's blog.

www.he-alert.org shows an issue of the international maritime human element bulletin, Alert! #18. This issue has at its core the mantra, "look after your people ...and they will look after you", and contains a valuable reminder to shipping company management that it is they who hold the keys to the employment of well motivated, highly skilled and productive people. It's the key component to making a positive difference aboard ship. We hope it is of interest, and please feel free to contact us if you require any additional information, images, etc.

This is no TWIC; It's a Treat!

NAMMA has recently received a \$50,000 ITF grant to reimburse NAMMA members for one-half (\$66.25) of the purchase cost for individual TWIC cards! These reimbursements will be available until the end of December 2009.

In order to receive your reimbursement, you must be a NAMMA Member (Ministry, Associate, or Lifetime) or working as an employee or volunteer ship visitor for an agency which is a member of NAMMA. This means the reimbursement for one-half of the cost of obtaining the TWIC is available for everyone who obtains a TWIC card as long as the agency for which you work is a NAMMA Agency member. If your agency is not a NAMMA member or you are not an individual member, you will not be able to receive this reimbursement.

How to get your reimbursement: If you are an individual member, simply send to me either a photocopy of your receipt of payment or a photocopy of the TWIC card itself. I will verify your membership with our payment records and authorize the treasurer to make and mail the payment check directly to you. If you are an authorized person (director or manager) at a NAMMA Agency Member, it would be easiest for us if you could collect all of the information for current TWIC cardholders and send the photocopies in bulk together with a statement from you showing that all of those in this bulk request are actually working for your agency. Upon receipt of this list and photocopies, I will ask the treasurer to issue a single check to the agency and you can then distribute the reimbursements locally. Additional requests can be made by agency members for new TWIC holders throughout the grant period.

If you are not presently an individual member or agency member of NAMMA you may join at any time. The only time during the year that time is of the essence is between January 1 and March 31. All memberships, except for lifetime members, are renewable on January 1 and must be in by March 31 if you wish to be able to be at the annual meeting. The March 31 date has nothing to do with TWIC reimbursement.

Please note that if you have already received a reimbursement for your TWIC card from AoS-USA, you will not be eligible for an additional reimbursement from NAMMA. All requests from AoS members will be verified with Doreen Badeaux.

NAMMA wishes to thank the ITF Seafarers' Trust for making this grant available to NAMMA members. This grant will help our United States agencies and members meet this addition and necessary cost of doing ministry. Thank you, Seafarers' Trust, and thank you members, for your patience.

Actions from the Plenary Sessions of NAMMA

- **Constitutional Amendments:** After considerable discussion on motion the membership decided to table the recommendations pending a determination among NAMMA itself about what it wants to be, and that a committee be set up to send out a questionnaire to the membership to get a feeling of what is NAMMA. The current committee of Andy Krey, Dick Beuthel and Philip Vandercook was expanded by the addition of Carol Waud, Doug Stevenson, and Peter Michaelson.
- **Elections:** All of the incumbent officers were returned for another two year term. Marge Lindstrom was elected to a one year term on the board. The remaining board positions required several ballots before a full slate was elected to serve for the next two years. Those elected at large are: Nash Garabedian, Phil Vandercook, Marshal Bundren, and Tom Falkenthal. We also wish thank those who allowed their names to stand for election: Anthony Ornelas, Aias de Souza, Bill Hempel. A special thanks to those who served on the board for the past two years and whose term is now up: Clint Padgitt, Rivers Patout, and Derek Skelton. Andy Moore was elected last year for two years, but was unable to serve. Marge Lindstrom was elected to complete his term.
- Bill Fleming, Arthur Lane of Peabody and Lane, Bill Crawford, Charles Ligon, Jim Keating, Pat Gallagher, Vince Patrizi, and Marynell Davis were remembered in prayer in a time of memoriam.
- ICMA has requested input from all of its regions on re-evaluating and restating its vision and mission. Andy Krey, Peter Michaelson and Lloyd Burghart were appointed to this committee.
- David Hurty was granted a Lifetime membership by the Board of Directors.

Upcoming Events

(For detailed and up-to-date information, check NAMMA website.)

World Maritime Day	Oct. 23, 2008	New York City
ICMA	Oct. 27-29, 2008	Hong Kong
Regional Coordinators Meeting	Oct. 27	
Consultative Forum	Oct. 28	
Annual General Meeting	Oct. 29 am	
Executive Committee Meeting	Oct. 29 pm	
Houston Maritime Chaplaincy Training	February 8-20, 2009	Houston, TX
SecurePort 09 (date and place unknown)		
NAMMA Winter Board Meeting	February 17 and 18, 2009	Houston, TX
CMA Convention	March, 2009	Stamford, CT
Yacht Race	May, 2009	(wait for further informtion)
National Maritime Day	May, 2009	(wait for further informtion)
NAMMAC 09	June 9-11, 2009	Houston, TX



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