

# Waterlines

Newsletter of the North American Maritime Ministry Association

Fall, 2002

## Message from the President

by the Rev. Jim Von Dreele



We live in unusual times, requiring us to not only do our normal ministries but also to respond to security challenges within the Maritime Industry. We see the devastating effects of crew detentions on morale and operations. We devoted a good part of our NAMMC meeting in Quebec last month to the issues of crew detentions by INS and terminal operators. In the coming

months you will receive full briefings on the issues and ways you can help to influence governmental policies to provide more humane treatment of seafarers. The NAMMA Board will be dealing with this in a vigorous way.

As I have talked to people at this and previous conferences, I have noticed a desire by many for training and help with running their centers. We have been called by God to a unique ministry to the seafarers and our port communities, yet we often feel at a loss about the practical running of a seafarer center, dealing with budgets and finances, managing staff, recruiting and developing a board, fund raising, etc. One of my goals as President is to encourage opportunities for training and consultation to strengthen our centers to carry on our ministries in a more effective way.

I extend my thanks to Ernie Elfer, who served as President for the last two years, and the outgoing Board of NAMMA. Through their efforts we finally have accomplished a needed revision of our By-laws and Constitution, adopted in Quebec. The NAMMA Plenary chose a very strong slate of officers and board members who are committed to building up over 150 port ministries in North America.

Finally, by the time you receive this newsletter, Ernie and I will have returned from attending the Filipino Seafarers' National Convention in Manila, the Philippines. This gathering dealt with issues facing Filipino seafarers worldwide and ways the Philippine government can reform its laws to protect their seafarers more effectively. The goal of the Convention was to create a *Magna Charta for Filipino Seafarers*. At the end of June, SCI-Philadelphia hosted the USA Consultative Forum, providing input for the September 27th-28th Convention. It was clear from our meeting that there are major problems the Philippine government must address for the sake of its seafarers and its economy. Once the Convention reports have been published, we will provide a link for you to download them.



NAMMA Political Action Committee leads session on port security: Pr. Andy Krey, Chair; Douglas Stevenson (standing), Fr. Rivers Patout.

## Quebec Conference Studies Port Security

The 2002 North American Maritime Ministry Conference convened in Quebec City, Canada, September 14, hosted by the officers and volunteers of La Maison du Marin. Approximately 150 maritime ministers were present, including more than 76 NAMMA members, family, and local support people. The group was welcomed by the President of La Maison du Marin, Mr. André Bellerive, and NAMMA President Ernie Elfer.

NAMMA's annual plenary meeting convened Sunday afternoon, Sept. 15. A report of the Political Action Committee received intense interest, and more time to discuss the issues surrounding port security with the PA Committee was scheduled for the next day. Fr. Jamnicky's presentation of the new constitution was begun, and a number of amendments were considered, but action on the document and the proposed bylaws could not be completed until the following day, when an amended version was passed unanimously (see article on next page).

Mr. Douglas Stevenson, Pr. Andy Krey, and Fr. Rivers Patout reported on port security issues on Monday. Mr. Stevenson offered thanks for the hospitality of the Canadian members, both for hosting the NAMMC and allowing seafarers better shore access than currently in the U.S. He dis-

(Continued on page 2)

As your new president, I look forward to the next two years as we work together to strengthen our common ministries. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a concern or question. My email address is vondreel@libertynet.org.

Faithfully yours,  
*Jim Von Dreele*

## Quebec Conference, from page 1

cussed problems with US Immigration and Naturalization Service policies and procedures since Sept. 11, 2001. He recommended NAMMA:

- Come to know the issues
- Know the strategy
- Pick our fights

The INS is in a stage of policy development; at the end of the present stage the INS will issue recommendations for policy change. At present the INS is reluctant to grant "D-1" crew visas, which allow crew without individual visas access to shore leave for one limited time entry into the US. Application for individual visas can only be made in the applicant's home country, and are preferred by the INS. Shore access for medical care can be granted as "parole," not a visa.

Only INS district directors can now give visa waivers.

USCG have new authority to order armed guards at the gangways of detained vessels, at the owners' expense. This has given owners incentive to seek crew list visas.

The ICMA delegation to the IMO has succeeded in pro-

posing an international seafarers' ID card which could be recognized as a visa for shore leave purposes. This may be adopted in June, 2003 by the ILO.

The US Congress has a bill on maritime security in conference committee at present.

NAMMA members need to support a policy of seeing seafarers as allies of the US enforcement people rather than as potential terrorists. The maritime industry depends on crews for security checks, distinguishing crews from other people on board, and for reporting of security lapses.

Mr. Stevenson requested data sent to him on ships and crews detained, including identities and reasons for detention in detail (not just that they don't have visas).

He recommended chaplains get involved locally with propeller clubs and industry groups concerned about security; to take opportunities to educate local INS and USCG personnel about needed policies and procedures. He also recommended NAMMA members write their Congress people at the right time; at present elimination of crew list visas is proposed but not adopted. Obviously US port security measures will affect Canadian ports also.

Fr. Rivers Patout reported on port security developments in Houston which succeeded in allowing chaplain access at all facilities (except Exxon). He recommended:

- Call every docking facility to determine security chiefs at each. The Coast Guard assistance may be sought.
- Invite port officials, USCG, and security chiefs to a conference on port security.
- Negotiate reasonable policies and access.

Election of NAMMA officers for their term of two years, and four board members, also for two years, was held on the last day of the Conference. A complete slate of new officers was elected, re-electing only Recording Secretary Maggie Whittingham-Lamont. The new officers and board members are listed in the box to the left.

Mr. John Sansone, reporting for the International Transport Workers' Federation, announced that the Crew Link program, to enable seafarers to place calls from the high seas, has not been implemented because shipowners had not provided shipboard terminals. A new approach is planned which would decrease the cost to ship owners. Mr. Sansone also announced a phaseout of ITF grants for local seafarer centers.

—PRM

### NAMMA

#### North American Maritime Ministry Association

*Supporting Seaport Ministry in the U.S., Canada and the*

*Caribbean*

www.maritimeministry.org

President Fr. Jim Von Dreele, Philadelphia  
 Vice presidents The Rev. Aias de Souza, Mobile  
 Chaplain Alice Thomas, Newport News  
 Secretary Mrs. Maggie Whittingham Lamont, Halifax  
 Treasurer The Rev. Jim Lindgren, Oakland

Board Members The Rev. Lloyd Burghart, Montreal  
 The Rev. David Hurty, Oakland  
 The Rev. Jim Keating, Chicago  
 The Rev. Andy Krey, New York  
 The Rev. Ted Mall, Illinois  
 Br. Ed Munro, Baltimore  
 The Rev. Rivers Patout, Houston  
 Mr. John Sansone, Washington, DC

#### Denominational Representatives:

The Rev. Bill Hempel, LAMM (Lutheran)  
 The Rev. Canon Peter Larom, MSNAC (Anglican/Episc.)  
 The Rev. Bob Loy, PMI (Southern Baptist)  
 The Rev. John Jamnicky, AOS (Roman Catholic)

Past president Deacon Ernie Elfer, Jr., New Orleans  
 Counsel Mr. Jack Bernstein, Esq., Philadelphia  
 Executive Secretary The Rev. Peter Michaelson, RI

Office: 3257 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886  
 (401) 739-5257; Fax (401) 739-5257  
 peter.michaelson@ecunet.org

## Prayers and Announcements

Deadline for submitting applications for the Seafarer Ministry Training at Houston, Feb. 3-14, 2003, is Dec. 1. Call Fr. Rivers Patout or Fr. Raul Marterior at (713) 672-0511. Scholarship money is available for AOS chaplains, and reduced rates are available for others.

The five Filipino seafarers imprisoned in Egypt since 1982 have been freed. Two others from a later arrest are still imprisoned. Contact Karen Lai for details.

Charlotte Smith, Norfolk, VA, was honored by AOSUSA last May. Charlotte is living with Lou Gehrig's disease. Chaplain Bill Peterson of Beaumont recently discovered he suffers from a partial heart blockage.

NAMMA is seeking a new logo. Please send ideas and drawings to the Warwick office.



André Bellerive, President of La Maison du Marin, and Mrs. Anne Chapman, Vice President, welcome NAMMC participants.

## Thank You From Quebec Hosts

We would just like to express our thanks and best wishes to all who attended the Conference. We did not expect such a good turnout, in view of the events of last September, and we are very grateful for their support without which the conference would have been a complete flop. We will be mailing shortly the comments of the attendees to the hosts of next year's conference. Hoping to see you all again at Oakland in 2003.

Best Wishes, Graham Reynolds

## Unanimous Vote for New Constitution

A new constitution and set of bylaws for the NAMMA were adopted unanimously by voice vote at its second day of deliberation, by the Annual Plenary Meeting of the association. Passage followed several hours of debate of some seventeen amendments and suggested modifications to the amendments of the document. Widespread jubilation accompanied final passage, presided over by Bylaws Committee Chair Fr. John Jamnicky, and NAMMA President Deacon Ernie Elfer, Jr. The effort capped some six years of committee work and consultation among members of NAMMA.

The greatest change between the new and old organizational documents was to put them in regular form, addressing normal constitutional and procedural concerns of the association.

Greatest changes made in the proposed documents, published in the Summer, 2002, *Waterlines*, involved addition of one word, "justice," to the Mission Statement, Article II; and insertion of a new Section 5. added to Article VII, establishing a nominating committee. Three other proposed amendments to the Mission Statement were defeated by the membership. Attempts to restore the vote in the Board of Directors to the Denominational Representatives were also voted down.

The new text of the NAMMA Mission Statement, Article II, reads:

NAMMA is an ecumenical Christian association of individuals and organizations in maritime ministry. NAMMA assists with spiritual, moral, **justice**, and physical concerns of seafarers and all others in the maritime community. NAMMA is open to interreligious cooperation and dialog.

The text for the Nominating Committee, added as Article VII, Section 5:

The board of directors shall appoint a nominating committee of three people. At least one shall be a member of the board of NAMMA and at least one shall not be a member of the board. The intent of the nominating committee shall be to nominate at least two candidates for each vacant office of NAMMA and each vacant seat on the board of directors. The nominating committee shall make every attempt to find candidates who will balance the geographic, gender, racial and denominational membership of the officers and board. All nominees of the nominating committee, having consented to their nomination, will be submitted to the NAMMA membership at least one month before the date of election. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of a general meeting of the association.

The full text of the new corporate documents may be downloaded from the NAMMA web site or ordered from the NAMMA office by e-mail or on paper.

—PRM

## New NAMMA Directory Slated - Ads Needed

NAMMA will produce a directory of chaplains and agencies in January, 2003, similar to the one published last January. Entries will be expanded to include all chaplains and agencies with current contact information known to us. Members of NAMMA will be designated. This edition of the directory will use the same format, 5 1/2"x 8 1/2", like last year, but it will likely extend to about 40 pages. The Rev. Ted Mall, of Mall Publishing, has offered to donate the printing of the directory; however, as you know, NAMMA is anticipating a deficit of up to \$10,000 for the current year, including this year's share of back dues owed to ICMA. For

this reason, advertisements are invited from NAMMA members to help offset the deficit.

Advertisements may be placed inside the covers, at the bottom of directory pages, and on the back cover. Suggested donations and sizes for possible ads (funds in U.S. dollars):

1/4 page (2"x4 1/2") or calling card size	\$25
1/2 page (3 3/4"x 4 1/2")	50
Whole page (7 1/2" x 4 1/2")	100
Back cover	250

If you are interested in an advertisement, please send your camera-ready copy with a check to "NAMMA," to the address on page 2, by Christmas. If you have questions, please call or e-mail.

—PRM



*The Rev. Berend van Dijken, General Secretary of ICMA, and Deacon Ricardo Roderigues, AOS Director for Barcelona, confer in front of the Barcelona Seafarer Club.*

## ICMA Report

The International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA) is NAMMA's worldwide affiliate. ICMA's members are worldwide maritime ministry agencies, such as the Apostleship of the Sea; and regional ministry associations, such as NAMMA. ICMA is governed by its Executive Committee, which meets twice per year, and its Annual General Meeting, which meets once. The members of the Executive Committee are the staff executives of the six original members of ICMA: NAMMA, The Ministry to Seafarers, International Sailors' Society, Nordic Council, German Seafarers' Mission, Apostleship of the Sea, and as an addition, the Netherlands Seafarers' Mission. NAMMA is represented by her executive secretary, Dr. Peter Michaelson.

ICMA's General Secretary, the Rev. Berend van Dijken, was formerly Chaplain of the Port of Rotterdam. ICMA's activities include coordinating the activities of the various members, holding a world conference every four years, providing basic Seafarers' Ministry Training in parts of the world not served by existing chaplains' schools, and representing her members in various world venues.

Douglas Stevenson is vice-chair of ICMA's delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and assists that group to redefine international standards for treating seafarers. The IMO is an arm of the United Nations. ICMA is also represented in the Secretariat of the ICSW, the International Commission on Seafarers' Welfare. The ICSW is ICMA's non-religious counterpart for assisting with concerns of seafarers.

ICMA's last Executive Committee meeting was in Barcelona, April 21-22, 2002. The next meeting will be November 9, 2002 in Southampton, UK; the Annual General Meeting will be Nov. 10.

Some of ICMA's activities:

Seafarers' Ministry Training, held in Helsinki and Hong Kong in 2001.

Sailing Chaplains Program. ICMA received a grant to experiment with chaplains sailing on merchant marine vessels as regular crew, generally without seafarer duties. The sailing chaplains all sailed out of European ports. The grant is now expended

## NAMMA Plans for 2003

President Jim Von Dreele and Executive Secretary Peter Michaelson met the second week in October to develop plans for the coming year. Some of the discussion:

- NAMMA Directory will be expanded to all seaport ministries with current information in our database. Database will be expanded to include all listings provided by AOS, PMI, Mission to Seafarers, and LAMM, in US, Canada, Central America and the Caribbean. Web site listings will be expanded in the same way. E-mail links, addresses and phone numbers will be included.
- A survey of how local ports support seafarer centers around the country has been requested. Peter will consult to develop objectives and plans.
- **Visioning Process.** A visioning committee is being formed. Jim will serve as chair and Peter will provide staff support. The committee will meet Dec. 13-14 in New York.
- **Audit.** An audit will be conducted before Dave Hurty transfers the books to Jim Lindgren in Oakland.
- **Directory.** An offer to design a color cover for the directory and to donate the production of the directory free is accepted gratefully. Peter will sell ads for the directory notwithstanding.
- **ITF Overtures.** There has been little encouragement to pursue any ITF funding. Peter will ask for training funds to help students who need it, to attend the Houston School in February 2003. He will request this be incorporated with ICMA's proposal to the ITF, after the next ICMA Executive meeting in November.

### Tentative Committees:

Bylaws	Finance
Donor development (Fundraising)	
Sea Sunday	Political Action
Globalization	Oakland 2003
New Orleans 2004	School Liaison
Training & Consultation	Membership/Credentials
Nominating (pending Board approval)	
(Chairs will be announced after acceptance and appointment.)	

Other special committees are disbanded until further action.

—PRM

and the program is under evaluation and planning for the future. It is on the agenda for Southampton.

Development Study. The function and mission of ICMA is undergoing a study conducted by the Grubb Institute of the UK, funded by the ITF Seafarers' Trust.

Regional Development. NAMMA and the Nordic Council are the only "grass roots" members of ICMA. To support chaplains in other parts of the world, ICMA is supporting development of regional associations, such as for the Mediterranean, parts of Africa, and so forth. Two new regional coordinators were elected by their new regional associations and employed in their positions during 2001.

The General Secretary's employment contract expires April 1, 2003, and is under review.

ICMA publishes directories of chaplaincies worldwide. A new one is in process, and should be available early in 2003. These are intended for distribution to seafarers by chaplains.

The Annual General Meeting approves applications for ICMA membership. On the agenda for Nov. 10 is the application of Seamen's Church Institute – NY/NJ.

ICMA World Conference – New Orleans 2004.

—PRM

## Please Write Washington

The United States is significantly restricting shore leave opportunities for many foreign, and in some cases, domestic ship's crews. There is a need for maintaining security and for reasonable security measures that are calculated to improve security without unfairly burdening seafarers and chaplains. From the data that we have received, the most common reason for denying shore leave is seafarers do not possess valid crew visas (D-1 visas). (Please keep sending me data on shore leave denials in your port). One way to improve security and also improve opportunities for shore leave is to make sure that seafarers are properly identified and that their ID cards become accepted as a substitute for a visa.

It would be very useful if NAMMA members in the US would inform their representatives in Congress of their views on shore leave and seafarers' identification cards. One vehicle for doing this is in the current Port & Maritime Security Act of 2002 (S.1214), specifically the provisions relating to seafarer identity cards. Both the House and the Senate passed different versions of maritime security bills earlier this year, and they have worked since then in a conference committee to reconcile the two pieces of legislation. After much debate and delay, it appears that Congress will pass the legislation before the end of the year. We want our legislators to protect the rights of seafarers, particularly regarding shore leave. We want the legislation to allow for a waiver of the visa requirement if a seafarer possesses an internationally accepted identity document. The United States has initiated discussions in the International Maritime Organization and the International Labor Organization toward creating an international seafarer identity document, and we hope that U.S. legislation will recognize and work in conjunction with it.

Below is the list of members of the House & Senate conference committee members. You may also wish to address your letter to your Senators and Representatives.

Letters may be addressed:

To a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

To a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Members of the Conference Committee:

1. Rep. Don Young, (R-AK)
2. Rep. Howard Coble, (R-NC-6)
3. Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo (R-NJ-2)
4. Rep. James L. Oberstar (D-MN-8)
5. Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL-3)
6. Rep. William M. Thomas, (R-CA-21)
7. Rep. Philip M. Crane, (R-IL-8)
8. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, (D-NY-15)
9. Sen. John McCain, (R-AZ)
10. Sen. Ted Stevens, (R-AK)
11. Sen. Trent Lott, (R-MS)
12. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, (R-TX)
13. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, (R-ME)
14. Sen. Gordon H. Smith, (R-OR)

—Douglas B. Stevenson, *Center for Seafarers' Rights*

## Letter from Rio

October 5, 2002

To our sisters and brothers, people of the sea, from the participants at the XXI Apostleship of the Sea Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

We thank the maritime community of Rio de Janeiro for its wonderful welcome.

Cordial greetings! You have been in our hearts, minds and prayers as we have reflected and deliberated over the aspects of globalization as it affects the people of the sea. We are aware that globalization can bring new jobs and opportunities; it can also bring new forms of colonization and exploitation of the people of the sea.

We hope that this first international gathering of the Apostleship of the Sea in a Latin American country will give impetus to addressing concerns and needs in areas where Apostolatus Maris has not yet shown its full potential.

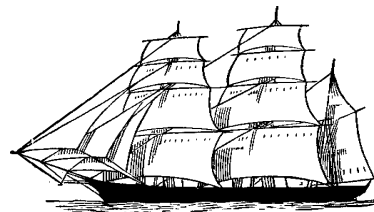
As a congress, we have rededicated ourselves to being a welcoming heart for the seafarers in cooperation with other organizations and agencies in ports around the world.

As a congress, we have rededicated ourselves to cooperating with wives and families of seafarers and fishers to being about justice and better human conditions for the families, not only for individuals.

But most of all, we are going to dedicate ourselves deeply to be promoters and animators of solidarity and respect for human dignity and fundamental rights in this globalized world. This dedication, which is pastoral also, extends a deep respect and love for the people of all cultures, other religions and the environment.

In conclusion, we dedicate our lives and hearts to you that we may be one people of the sea in joy and pain, in celebration and suffering, so encompassed in the love of God.

*Provided by Fr. Rivers Patout*



### Meeting Dates and Info

NAMMA Winter Board Meeting, 5 p.m. Jan. 18-5 p.m. Jan. 19, 2003, Baltimore. Host: Deacon Ed Munro.  
Houston SMT, Feb. 3-14, 2003.  
Gulf Coast Conference, March 9-11, 2003, Beaumont, TX.  
AOSUSA Annual Meeting, April 1-4, 2003, King's Point, NY.  
NAMMC 2003, September 21-24, Oakland, CA.  
ICMA 2004, July 28-Aug. 2, 2004, New Orleans, LA.

## From the Secretary's Desk

by Executive Secretary Peter Michaelson



NAMMA's new constitution includes a brief mission statement: **NAMMA is an ecumenical Christian association of individuals and organizations in maritime ministry. NAMMA assists with spiritual, moral,**

**justice, and physical concerns of seafarers and all others in the maritime community. NAMMA is open to inter-religious cooperation and dialog.**

This was hammered out by many people, both in the Bylaws Committee and beyond. Perhaps the only remaining disagreement in NAMMA about it, results from tension between evangelism and mutual respect of traditions. If we must have a tension among us, that is a good one to have, since Christ commands us to do both.

Further, the mission statement will now serve us as a foundation for building up our support network among ministers and agencies, and for developing NAMMA as one of the supports Jesus provides for us in the network. We need to do this intentionally, for two reasons:

- Often we miss what God has in mind for us because we are too concentrated on what we have "always" done, or always wanted done. A little prayer, dialog, and reflection makes it easier to hear God's word.
- NAMMA is too richly diverse to agree easily on what should be done. A thorough planning process makes it easier to make sure everyone's priority and needs are considered.

For those reasons, NAMMA's new president, Jim Von Dreele, and I have agreed to begin a "visioning" process, intended to lead us to a common priority about who and

what God and we want NAMMA to be in the next 3-5 years. In the next few weeks, God willing, a medium sized committee will meet to begin to get some of the cards on the table. Their ideas will be considered by the Board at their winter meeting in January. Depending on their decision, further prayer, consultation, publicity and reflection will involve as many members of NAMMA as possible, and other people of the sea as appropriate. The long range plans for NAMMA will surely be on the agenda of the Annual Plenary Meeting in September, 2003. However, that will not be the end. This is a process that will go on until God brings in the Kingdom.

Some of the decisions will not have to wait to take effect, such as our expansion of the NAMMA directory to include all the maritime chaplains we know about. (NAMMA members will be highlighted.) And some will take some time to implement.

Personally I do not foresee adding staff or increasing expenditures - unless a clear agreement is reached to intensify NAMMA's role in providing ministry. There are many ports and communities of sea people who have no chaplain or little by way of support services. NAMMA already serves a facilitating role in alerting ministry providers to such opportunities, and to help them get started where possible. It may be helpful for NAMMA to consider taking a more direct role in such new ministries, seeking funding, directing ministry design, and directing chaplains in ministry startups. Another option would be to provide help for chaplains to recruit and train volunteers to expand the effectiveness of their ministries. Perhaps less likely would be a decision to expand NAMMA's role representing the needs of seafarers, cruise ship staffs, and fishers in legislative bodies in the US and Canada.

However, NAMMA will not be able to do everything at once; it is important for all our members to weigh into the decisions. Don't be shy! ###

**North American Maritime Ministry Association**  
3257 Post Road  
Warwick, RI 02886  
U.S.A.

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Warwick, RI 02886 Permit No. 791
--

**Return Service Requested**