



NAMMAC - Oakland Takes Shape

The Annual Conference of the North American Maritime Ministry Association, together with NAMMA's Annual Plenary Meeting, will take place at the Bay Bridge Holiday Inn in Emeryville, CA, September 21-24, 2003. Emeryville is adjacent to Oakland and its port, at the east foot of the San Francisco Bay Bridge.

The Conference program is entitled "A Worldwide Ministry: Biblical Dialog with Other Faiths," and opens with ecumenical worship and a keynote address from the Rt. Rev. William Swing, Episcopal Bishop of California, at 5 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21. Speakers from other faiths appear on following days, including Dr. Hamid Mavani, from the Oakland Islamic Center; Dr. Alope Chatterjee, on Hindu culture and faith; and Dr. James Chuck, on Chinese culture and religions. Three sessions on scriptural approaches to sharing among different faiths will be presented by Dr. Leann Flesher, Associate Professor of Old Testament at the American Baptist Seminary of the West.

A plenary session on port security, chaplain access issues, and shore privileges for seafarers, is planned for Monday afternoon.

Small group workshops will be presented each day in two tracks: one series of sessions for ship visitors, and a second series concentrating on fund raising and ministry development. Archbishop Terry Finlay, Anglican Bishop-Promoter for the Mission to Seafarers - Canada, will serve as moderator for the ship visitors. Fr. James Von Dreele, Executive Director of the Seamen's Church Institute - Philadelphia, will chair the sessions on fund raising and ministry development.

Chaplains, volunteers, board members and agency staff people are invited to participate. Two plenary sessions for NAMMA membership business are planned for the afternoons of Sept. 23 and 24. Discussion and voting at those sessions will be restricted to dues-paid members of NAMMA.

Conference registration cost is \$125 until August 15; \$150 after. Hotel room rate is \$89 plus tax. Partial registration for family members is available on a per-meal basis. Optional tours are offered on Sept. 25, of the Napa Valley (wine country), the Muir Woods (redwoods) and a visit to a California Mission.

For further information, conference registration and hotel reservations, log onto the NAMMA web site at www.maritimeministry.org or call the International Seafarers' Center at (510) 839-2226.

-PRM



Jack London Square, Oakland, near the site of the North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference in September.

Nominating Committee Reports

NAMMA's Nominating Committee for 2003 has been holding conference call meetings to bring their work to a successful conclusion. Their members are the Rev. Jim Lindgren, chair; the Rev. Douglas Johnson, and the Rev. Rivers Patout.

The terms of four members of the NAMMA Board complete their terms each year, out of eight Board members at large. This year, the following end their terms of two years each: the Rev. Jim Keating, the Rev. Andrew Krey, Br. Ed Munro, and Mr. John Sansone.

The Committee plans to nominate the following for the four Board seats, for a term of two years:

- The Rev. Marshall Bundren - Burns Harbor, IN
- The Rev. Jim Keating (incumbent) - Chicago, IL
- The Rev. Andrew Krey (incumbent) - New York, NY
- The Rev. Lacy Largent - Houston, TX
- The Rev. David Mesenbring - Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Mr. Floyd Squires - Seattle, WA
- The Rev. Christian Villagomez - Tampa, FL

One more nominee has been contacted, but not finalized. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the initial session of NAMMA's annual Plenary, on Sept. 22.

(Continued on p. 2)

Nominating Committee, cont.

Those nominated and those making nominations must be voting members of NAMMA (agency members or ministry members) at the time of the call to order of the first Plenary session.

Brief statements by nominees will be printed in *Waterlines* as they are received (see below). Deadline for the Summer *Waterlines* will be August 17. -PRM

The Rev. James P. Keating

Candidate for Member of the Board, two year term

I'm honored to be nominated for the Board of NAMMA for the class of 2005. I accept the nomination.

I have been since 1968 and still continue as Port Chaplain of Chicago with the Apostleship of the Sea. I am Pastor Emeritus of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, having served

as Pastor for 21 years. I have served as National Director of the Apostleship of the Sea in the US from 1972-1980 and have served as national Treasurer for the AoS since 1996. I am in my 52d year of ministry as a Roman Catholic priest.

I am a Lifetime Member of NAMMA. I truly believe in NAMMA as an organization to develop our common ministry to the seafarer. It enables us to develop our sharing with one another and to further our communication ministry for the benefit of the seafarer.

I am also involved with the land maritime community, with the Navy League, Propeller Club, and Shipmasters.

The Rev. David Mesenbring

Candidate for Member of the Board, two year term

NAMMA is challenged by the ecumenical imperative that all Christians struggle with, and that I think Christ's mission depends upon. Secondly, our life together within NAMMA is both challenged and blessed by the diversity present in a membership that varies in size from "all volunteer" missions, to agencies that have multi-million dollar budgets. 12 years ago, I was the only employee Seafarers' House could afford.

By God's grace and our port's growth, we've since become one of the busiest maritime missions anywhere with a large, multi-cultural staff of employees and volunteers.

I pray for a NAMMA board that can find blessing among the unique diversities with which it has been endowed by our creative God.

The Rev. Lacy Largent

Candidate for Member of the Board, two year term

I am an Episcopal priest, and have served in hospital chaplaincy (1 year), parish ministry (10 years), camp and conference center ministry (3 years), and now, port chaplaincy (1+ years). Prior to seminary, I served as a clinical social worker in mental health settings for 10 years. My social work background has been a great asset to my ordained ministry in each of the settings I have served.

I would bring to NAMMA the "newcomer perspective," in that I am new to port ministry itself and new to the related professional associations. I would like to be involved in the supportive aspect of fostering relationships among those who serve in port ministry for the purpose of orientation, training, networking, visioning, and helping port chaplains stay on the cutting edge of our ministry of hospitality, service, and advocacy.

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
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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

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ICMA Report

ICMA is NAMMA's international affiliate, bringing together most of the worldwide port chaplaincy organizations and services. As a founding member of ICMA, NAMMA holds a seat on ICMA's Executive Committee. Like the other members of the Executive Committee, NAMMA is represented by our executive staff person, Dr. Michaelson.

On April 28, the Rev. Berend van Dijken submitted his resignation as General Secretary of the International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA), effective Sept. 1. Pr. van Dijken has accepted a position as hospital chaplain under the auspices of the Dutch Reformed Church. His responsibilities will be taken on an interim basis, by the Rev. Dr. Jürgen Kanz, from October 1, 2003 through the ICMA World Conference of August, 2004. Dr. Kanz has recently retired as General Secretary of the Deutsches Seemannsmission (German Seafarers' Mission), but has agreed to postpone his retirement to help ICMA through this transition.

ICMA began a "Development Study" in 2001 whose purpose was to define the role and function of the organization. The study is scheduled to come to a close in 2003; its conclusions, together with direct input from ICMA's Executive Committee, will determine her priorities and staffing following 2004. The study has gathered data from most of the members of ICMA, including NAMMA.

On a more routine front, the Executive Committee held their spring meeting March 30-31 in Geneva, Switzerland. Geneva was chosen in order to meet with officials of the World Council of Churches (WCC), who had been one of the founding organizations of ICMA, but had since become separated. A morning of discussions was held with the two groups together, resulting in an agreement to develop a collaborative relationship between ICMA and the WCC, more specifically their Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

The business of the Executive Committee included accepting the resignation of Mr. Cees Huurman, Honorary Treasurer of ICMA and the executive representing the Nederlandse Zeemanscentrale (Netherlands' Seafarers' Ministry). The Committee also welcomed the Rev. Jean Smith as a guest of the Committee representing the Seamen's Church Institute of NY/NJ, a new member of ICMA. The Rev. Dr. Peter Michaelson, representing NAMMA, was elected Honorary Treasurer to succeed Mr. Huurman; Dr. Kanz was congratulated on his retirement as Secretary General of the Deutsches Seemannsmission; he announced his successor, Pr. Hero Feenders. The Rev. Gerard Tronche, Director of the Apostleship of the Sea, also will retire in 2003; his successor has not been announced. The Rev. Canon Bill Christianson was elected Vice-Chairman of ICMA to replace Dr. Kanz.

Reports were heard on many topics. Briefly:

- A ministry start attempted in Bataan will close shortly; a new ministry in Bitung will open.
- Several regions of ICMA wish to hold regional conferences such as are held in North America. These include



The Rev. Sakari Lehmuskallio, President of ICMA and General Secretary of the Finnish Seamen's Church; and the Rev. Dr. Jürgen Kanz, incoming ICMA Interim General Secretary and retired GS of the Deutsches Seemannsmission. Picture was taken at the Executive Committee meeting in Geneva, April 30.

West Africa, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean, and Oceania. Conferences are scheduled for the Mediterranean in Piraeus, Oct. 16-19; for the Baltic in Schiffartstok in May, 2005.

- The ICSW (International Commission on Seafarers' Welfare, a non-religious seafarer service organization) will hold a seminary on their work in Veracruz, Oct. 6-8, 2003.
- ICMA members are beginning to prepare for the World Conference in New Orleans, July 28- August 2, 2004. A trend was reported that Chinese seafarers are increasing in number. The Conference should address this. It was suggested that industry representatives be invited to present a forum on maritime trends and changes.
- Martina Platte, who directs the Seafarer Ministry Training in Hong Kong, is writing a handbook for seafarer ministry.
- Dr. Erol Kahveci, researcher on staff of the Institute for Maritime Studies at Cardiff University, presented his evaluation of the Sailing Chaplains' Program and a proposal for a new phase of the ministry. The proposal was approved by the Executive Committee for funding by outside agencies.

Plans for the ICMA World Conference – New Orleans 2004 were reviewed. Formal invitations should go out in early summer (this year). Registrations should be completed by early October, 2003. Arrangements for industry and ministry displays on the grounds of the Conference should be allowed for; industry concerns may be charged a fee for space. The ICMA Standing Committee (all the officers: Lehmuskallio, Christianson, Michaelson) must approve allocation of subsidies from ITF funding in Dec. 2003 or January 2004. Member societies must allocate expenses in their budgets for 2004.

The Program Committee for New Orleans 2004 will meet Thursday morning, Sept. 25, following the NAMMAC in Oakland.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Helsinki, Oct. 3; the Annual General Meeting will be October 4, 2003.

–PRM

Visioning Committee Meets

NAMMA's Visioning Committee met May 6-7 in Washington, D.C., to consider feedback received from the NAMMA Board at their winter meeting, and to take their plans to the next step of development. Attending were the Revs. Jim Von Dreele, Canon Peter Larom, Sinclair Oubre, John Jamnicky, Lloyd Burghart, Bill Hempel, and Peter Michaelson. They focused on five areas of concern:

1. Educating the public about port chaplaincy and developing support, including funding, for existing and new ministries.
2. Advocacy for maritime people.
3. Evangelizing and Pastoral Care.
4. Raising professional standards among chaplains and educating members of NAMMA.
5. "Practical concerns" – Increasing funding for the work of NAMMA.

A full report of the ideas developed is scheduled for the Summer issue of *Waterlines*, in preparation for the Fall Board Meeting and the Annual Plenary in Oakland. The Board will report to the Plenary, with time for members to break into small work groups to respond to ideas presented. These will then be collected, and also will be reported to the Plenary by the different work groups insofar as time allows. —PRM



Bessie Steer RIP

Mrs. Elizabeth ("Bessie") Steere passed away Dec. 13, 2002, in Lindsay, ON.

Bessie and her husband, Andy, accepted a call to revive the Seamen's Mission in Quebec City in 1942. They developed and expanded the operation for 35 years, when Andy died in 1978. After that time Bessie continued to serve the Mission as a volunteer until 1999, fifty-seven years in all. Bessie was a member of NAMMA, an honorary member of BISS, and a Life Member of La Maison du Marin – Quebec.

Charlotte Smith, RIP

May 6, 2003, in Hampton, VA. Contact Col. Donald Smith (ret.), Norfolk Seamen's Friend Society, 757-851-3489.

Houston Seafarer Ministry Training, Class of 2003



L to R: Deacon Richard Roberts, Vancouver, BC; Deacon Derek Sescon, Pickering, ON; (standing) Ms. Pat Nemeč, Houston staff; (back to camera) Ms. Janet Henderson, Corpus Christi; Ms. Carol Waud, Seattle; The Rev. Rivers Patout, Houston faculty; Sr. Domenic Garcia, Houston student; (not visible) The Rev. Lacy Largent, Houston student; The Rev. James Leone, Brooklyn, NY; The Rev. Ben Stewart, Houston staff; The Rev. David Wells, Houston staff; The Rev. Michelle de Pooter, Montreal, PQ; The Rev. John Fitzgerald, Baltimore; The Rev. Alberto Sescon, Detroit; (not in picture) The Rev. Kuriakose Cheeran, Philadelphia.



Californians of the NAMMAC planning committee report at Quebec City: L to R: the Rev. Douglas Siden, the Rev. Paul Devine, the Rev. Jim Lindgren, Capt. Tae Sog Yang. Mr Bob Middleton was not present; Mr. Sam Sause is not pictured.

Preach in San Francisco

Clergy visiting the San Francisco Bay area for the Oakland Conference in September are encouraged to visit area congregations to witness and preach about maritime ministry. Denominational representatives have been alerted to the presence of maritime ministers and will arrange invitations to area pulpits and altars as appropriate, if contacted.

Visiting churches represents a valuable way to educate the wider Church on the mission opportunities and needs of port ministry. Such occasions commonly result in adding support people both for local chaplains and for visiting ones.

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Anyone: The Rev. Peter Michaelson 401-359-5257
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Stories Shared at Gulf Coast Conference 2003



The Rev. Sinclair Oubre, of Pt. Arthur, TX, tells the story of Shwe Aung, the Burmese seaman to his left, at the Gulf Coast Conference in Beaumont, TX, March 9-11. Mr. Aung is the newly appointed ITF Inspector for the Houston sector. Others in the background, L to R: Lou and Roy Carroll, Gulfport; The Rev. Charles Corey, Gulfport; and Ms. Doreen Badeaux, Beaumont.

"The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."

- attributed to Mark Twain

Meeting Dates and Info

Port Ministries International Conf., July 17-19, Mobile, AL.

NAMMA Board, Sat., Sept. 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Bay Bridge Holiday Inn, Emeryville, CA.

LAMM Annual Meeting, Sun., Sept. 21, Oakland Int. Seafarers' Center, 1300 hours.

NAMMAC 2003, September 21-24, Emeryville, CA. LAMM Board, Sept. 24., Emeryville.

AoS-USA, Sept. 25, Emeryville.

ICMA Exec. Cmte., Oct. 4, 2003, Helsinki.

ICMA Annual General Meeting, Oct. 5., Helsinki.

NAMMAC 2004, July 26-27, 2004, New Orleans

ICMA World Conference 2004, July 28-Aug. 2, 2004, New Orleans, LA.

From the Secretary's Desk

by Executive Secretary Peter Michaelson



Sometimes our attitudes and skills for working together are inadequate. Cooperation in the ministry of Christ is what NAMMA is all about. In any case working in harmony with others is an essential part of following Christ.

Cooperation is also "good business" in the secular sense; the Church has no monopoly on it. However neither does a cooperative spirit monopolize our ministries. There are a number of human impulses which can drain the love of God from what we share.

God gave us a vision of a perfectly cooperative ministry, in Jesus's prayer to the Father in John 17. He painted a picture of unity of spirit in God's love as the goal and path of his disciples. He compared what he wanted for his followers, with the unity he and the Father enjoy: "I pray that they may be one as you and I are one."

This does not say that we should all be the same. In Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12, the apostle Paul worked out some of the diversity of God's people. Paul liked to make lists and he made several of different ministries (spiritual gifts), some of them quite long. He did not expect his lists to confine God's action to what Paul had already seen – he just gave examples, quite exciting ones.

We're all different and we're supposed to work together in intimate unity. Sounds like the the Tower of Babel, the original failure of unity. However the day of Pentecost and

the gift of the Holy Spirit has overcome that, if we allow the Spirit to overcome our fractiousness, so that the new vision of Jesus opens up for us.

To come to fullness of participation in God's unity we must lay down some of the impulses of separatism, ego, resentment from the past, and the urge to dominate and control. Paul said Christ is the head of the Church, which means the head of the Church is not Episcopal, Baptist, Roman Catholic, or Lutheran. Sorry. No one but Jesus is the head. The rest of us are Christ's assistants.

One of my favorite theologians, Charles Taylor, reflected on what it was like to assist Jesus. He explored the practice of appointing "shepherds" for groups of ; and a debate emerged about the authority of the shepherds. Charles pointed out there is one good shepherd, Jesus. With tongue in his cheek, he suggested the rest of us are more like sheepdogs than shepherds. The sheepdog image can do a lot for us.

As the Holy Father pointed out in his encyclical, *Et Unum Sint*, faithful believers of all the Churches are included in Christ's flock. Within the flock we have Episcopal sheepdogs, Baptist sheepdogs, Roman Catholic sheepdogs, and many other varieties among the breed of the ordained. It is silly, or worse, for us sheepdogs when we split off our own portion of the flock to keep them in separation from the rest. I suspect it's even illusory when we do our best to "enroll" members of the flock in one section of it or another. Not only sheep, but Christian people cross denominational lines with ease and regularity in spite of many efforts to prevent this.

I do not mean the sheepdog image to be insulting, and I'm sure Dr. Taylor didn't either. I do mean for us to take a lesson of humility from the "sheepdog" model. Our differences in funding, history, apostolic commission or unforgiven damages will not support the idea of one or some of us dominating others. Like sheepdogs of a large flock, we do have leaders, and their function is to keep us together and out of danger. ###

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