



Letter from the President

by the Rev. Jim Von Dreele



By now you have received the invitation for ICMA's World Conference to held in New Orleans this summer. I want to strongly encourage your participation in this event. For many this event will be a one time, unique op-

portunity to be with our fellow brothers and sisters in maritime ministry from around the world. We have a lot to share with each other and you will get to meet some fascinating people doing this same work in vastly different circumstances. The commitment of financial and time resources will be well worth it for the sake of your ministry.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the report on NAMMA Visioning Process. The Board at its meeting this past January adopted this report and we look forward to implementing the goals. Your comments from the last NAMMA conference were very helpful to the visioning committee's planning work and much of this is reflected in the final draft. The next step will be to flesh out the recommendations and put them in a proposal format for your consideration at the NAMMA conference prior to the ICMA gathering in New Orleans. We will then begin the process of seeking funds to implement this plan.

Finally, I want to encourage you to be active in your local Port Security Committees. While we face many uncertainties regarding port security, these committees offer many opportunities to engage the port community with your ministry. We can bring distinctive perspectives and resources to this much needed task of protecting our ports. If you find something that works in your port, please share it with us. Peter Michaelson will be happy to spread it around NAMMA via email.

Jim Von Dreele

NAMMA Plenary Takes Shape

The NAMMA Plenary Conference will take place at the New Orleans Downtown Doubletree Inn, July 26-17, 2004, beginning at 1300 hours each day. Details and a registration form are enclosed with this issue of *Waterlines*. All registrations and hotel reservations should be addressed to the Rev. Chris Garrett, Conference Treasurer. The NAMMA Board will meet Sunday, July 25, at 1300 hours at the NAMMA Conference site. Denominational meetings will also be scheduled before and after the NAMMA and ICMA conferences, also using the mornings of July 26 and 27. Port Ministries International, the Southern Baptist denominational association, will meet at the Garden District Hotel, a distance north-west of the Doubletree.

The NAMMA Plenary will conduct Officer and Board elections, hear reports of projects and committees, and consider the report of the Visioning Committee. (See "Visioning Comes Clearer," page 3.)

Deadlines for resolutions and amendments to the Constitution and the Bylaws are spelled out on page 4. —PRM



ICMA World Conference News

The Local Committee for the ICMA World Conference in New Orleans, July 28-August 2, 2004, met with officers from NAMMA and ICMA to develop plans and procedures, in New Orleans, Feb. 12-15. At that time, the resignation of Deacon Ernie Elfer as Coordinator of the conference was accepted, and the Rev. Philip Vandercook was appointed Chair of the Local Committee. Phil is Executive Director of Global Maritime Ministries in New Orleans. Other members of the Committee are the Rev. Chris Garrett, who assists Phil at GMI; the Rev. Heinz Neumann, Chaplain of the German Seamen's Mission in New Orleans; Mr. Horace George, Asst. Chaplain at GSM, Deacon Ernie Elfer, Apostleship of the Sea Chaplain for New Orleans; the Rev. Dr. Jürgen

(Continued on page 2)

NAMMA Committees

The NAMMA Board, at their January meeting, heard reports and plans from the following committees, listed with their chairs:

- Visioning The Rev. Jim Von Dreele
- Constitution & Bylaws The Rev. John Jamnicky
- Finance The Rev. Jim Lindgren
- Fundraising Canon Peter Larom
- Sea Sunday Mrs. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont
- Political Action Mr. Douglas Stevenson
- New Orleans 2004 The Rev. Philip Vandercook
- School Liaison The Rev. Rivers Patout
- Training & Consultation The Rev. Jim Von Dreele
- Membership/Credentials Mrs. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont
- Nominating: The Rev. Rivers Patout

NAMMA

North American Maritime Ministry Association

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

www.maritimeministry.org

President The Rev. 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

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NAMMA Constitutional Deadlines Loom

Proposed Amendments to the NAMMA Constitution must be "sent to the secretary" by April 26, 2004, to be considered at the NAMMA Plenary, July 26, 2004, in New Orleans. It must be endorsed by 15 voting members of NAMMA in good standing (who have paid their dues for 2004).

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be "provided to the secretary" by May 27, 2004, for consideration July 26.

Any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws must be sent to NAMMA members by June 11. The report of the Nominating Committee must be sent to members by June 27.

This year the Plenary will only span two days, July 26-27. Since Bylaw 5. calls for two days' gap between nominations and elections, the Plenary will consider modifying this Bylaw, reducing the required gap from two days to one for this year only, to complete elections before the ICMA World Conference begins. Passage will require a simple majority.

ICMA World Conference News, cont. from p. 1

Kanz, Interim General Secretary of ICMA; the Rev. Sakari Lehmuskallio, Chair of ICMA; and the Rev. Dr. Peter Michaelson, Executive Secretary of NAMMA. It was accepted that the Committee will guide all decisions concerning the conference, and also that Deacon Elfer will continue to be the key person organizing special events.

Members of the Norwegian Seamen's Mission, the Greek Orthodox Port Chaplaincy, and other ecumenical figures are being enlisted in the work of the Committee. Anyone willing to help may call Phil Vandercook at (504) 433-0915.

The Committee developed an alternative proposal for the site of the World Conference in early March, which was accepted by NAMMA officers during the week of March 14. The new site will be the New Orleans Downtown Doubletree Inn, located at the end of Canal Street. The new site is close to the French Quarter, worship centers, special event sites, and other attractions of New Orleans.

Reasons for the move include a more convenient location, free use of most of the meeting spaces needed, and more comfortable accommodations expected by many North Americans. Fees, payment addresses, and dates for the conference will remain unchanged.

Invitations, contact numbers, and other information is included in the invitation sent to all members of NAMMA in mid-January. The invitation may also be downloaded from the ICMA web page, www.icma.as. -PRM

Visioning Becomes Clearer



The NAMMA Board deliberates on the report of the Visioning Committee in Philadelphia, Jan. 17. Left to Right: The Rev. Jim Von Dreele, President; the Rev. Aias de Souza, VP; Mrs. Maggie Whittingham-Lamont, Recording Secretary; Jack Bernstein, Counsel; the Rev. Jim Lindgren, Treas.; the Rev. John Jamnicky; the Rev. Bob Loy. Top of head showing is the Rev. Christian Villagomez. The following plan incorporates their decisions.

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 mariners and all others in the maritime community. NAMMA is open to inter-religious cooperation and dialog.

Proposed Vision Statement

This mission requires a strong network to bind together the various port ministries and chaplains in North America and to strengthen the effectiveness of their ministries. We have identified five crucial areas for the development of a strategic plan:

1. Educate the public and promote maritime ministry locally and nationally.
2. Advocate for mariners' needs and rights locally, nationally and internationally.
3. Enhance the professional skills of those working in maritime ministry.
4. Provide sufficient sources of income to support the ongoing work of NAMMA and its new initiatives.
5. Encourage and deepen the mutual respect and cooperation among both chaplains and mariners in differing religious traditions.

Proposed Goals & Strategies

GOAL #1 NAMMA shall promote maritime ministry locally and nationally to ports, maritime businesses, churches, civic group, political entities and the public-at-large.

Strategy #1 - **Maintain a database of mariner service statistics for publication to the wider public.**

Strategy #2 - **Develop a Port Ministry Brochure which explains what we do in this ministry and which can be used by local centers in their promotional efforts.**

Strategy #3 - **Develop a Maritime Ministry Press Kit with articles from around NAMMA and suggestions for**

working with the press.

Strategy #4 - **Develop a consultant corps to assist local centers.**

Strategy #5 - **Organize display booths at major maritime business conventions each year.**

Strategy #6 - **Advertise in and submit articles to the major maritime trade journal**

Strategy #7 - **Develop a clear description of the meaning and work of maritime ministry**

GOAL #2 NAMMA shall promote advocacy for the maritime workforce locally, nationally and internationally.

Strategy #1 - **Perform an annual survey of mariner services and issues throughout the NAMMA network.**

Strategy #2 - **Work with other groups (such as the Center for Seafarers' Rights, ICMA, government agencies and non-governmental agencies) to advocate for the rights and needs of mariners.**

Strategy #3 - **Regularly educate NAMMA members about current issues.**

Strategy #4 - **Further develop the "voice" of NAMMA nationally and internationally.**

GOAL #3 NAMMA shall provide for the professional growth of chaplains through organized training opportunities.

Strategy #1 - **Create an advanced training curriculum to address such concerns as: critical event stress training, center management, fund development, port security, communications, etc.**

Strategy #2 - **Provide for consultation services for ongoing training support.**

Strategy #3 - **Create certification standards.**

Strategy #4 - **Create an education and training committee.**

Strategy #5 - **Encourage locally organized regional training events.**

Strategy #6 - **Develop a funding mechanism and grant proposal process to support this goal.**

GOAL #4 NAMMA shall look for new sources of income to provide for its ongoing operations and assist the new initiatives in this strategic plan.

Strategy #1 - **Create a 3-year Development Plan.**

- **Obtain funding to assist in this strategy.**

- **Engage the services of a professional development consultant.**

- **Develop a "case statement" which reflects the needs listed in goals 1-3.**

- **Create a baseline proposal for all funding requests.**

- **Develop database for possible fund sources.**

- **Develop a major gifts strategy.**

GOAL #5 NAMMA shall encourage mutual respect and cooperation among both chaplains and mariners in their differing religious traditions.

Strategy #1 - **Each NAMMA conference will include a component on the spiritual needs of mariners and how chaplains may interact with people of differing religious traditions and vocations.**

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ICMA Report

The Rev. Dr. Jürgen Kanz, Interim General Secretary of the International Christian Maritime Association, has been busy since taking up his duties on October 1, 2003. While the future is not clear, his tenure has now been extended until the end of August of 2005.

Dr. Kanz meanwhile has been working to keep ICMA's programs and information moving. He has been working with Dr. Michaelson and the new Local Committee in New Orleans on the World Conference, managed the distribution of the new edition of the ICMA Directory, collection of dues from ICMA members, and with program leaders to develop their plans and budgets. The Rev. Dr. Peter Michaelson, Executive Secretary of NAMMA, serves as ICMA's Honorary Treasurer (means it is a voluntary position, not paid). Dr. Kanz has been assisting him to finish the reorganization of ICMA's finances and drawing together financial reports for 2003 as well as a new budget for 2004. If all programs are successful, ICMA's total expenditures for 2004 will exceed 173,000 British Pounds, or \$278,000 US Dollars. This does not include most of the budget of the World Conference, which is NAMMA's responsibility, nor a proposed new phase of the Sailing Chaplains Program.

The Sailing Chaplains Program trains and places port chaplains on merchant ships as seafarers, for a period of three months, for the purpose of providing spiritual care at sea. Other ICMA programs include basic Seafarer Ministry Training, Crisis Preparedness Training, and work with the International Labor Organization and International Maritime Organization on conventions affecting employment of mariners.

The Executive Committee met in Bremen, Germany, March 26-27 to consider these programs and ICMA finances. Their major agenda item, however, was a report of the Development Committee, appointed to consider ICMA's long range future. Their report was issued with a warning that its recommendations are not unanimously approved. The Report spelled out two major areas of concern: "networking" and leadership.

The Report, Executive Committee discussion, and the commissioned study which preceded them, addressed the need for stronger connection among ICMA members and particularly more effective and more frequent interaction among the members not participating in Executive Committee meetings. The EC meets two or three times per year, usually in Europe, since most of the members are from there. The EC is comprised of the executive staff of the seven founding members of ICMA, including the members making the major donations supporting the ICMA budget. One other major donor generally attends as a guest. Otherwise, regional meetings are held around the world not so frequently, except for NAMMA. World Conferences have been held every five



The ICMA Executive Committee welcomes new members: The Rev. Hero Feenders, General Secretary of the German Seamen's Mission; the Rev. Jacques Harel, Director of Apostolatus Maris worldwide; and Capt. Piet van Berge, representing the Netherlands' Seafarers' Mission. EC members are the executive staff of founding members of ICMA.

years in recent decades. Sentiment clearly calls for regional meetings at least every other year in every region, annually if possible; and reform of the EC to include a more representational group plus one which enables communication with ICMA committees.

The EC is divided on the issue of leadership. Some members suggest the ICMA executive should only perform the networking functions, leaving representation of ICMA at regional and international gatherings to staff and executives of the member agencies. Others suggest a strong leader is necessary to facilitate regional conferences, provide support for ICMA program activities, and to "show the face of ICMA" in international committees and other groups.

Members of the EC were asked to submit their suggestions for bringing these ideas together for presentation at the ICMA Annual General Meeting before the World Conference in New Orleans, July 28. These will be assembled and sent out to members late in the spring. Each member of ICMA is allowed one representative at the ICMA AGM. —PRM



Banqueters at NAMMAC 2003: The Revs. David Mulholland, Roald Kverndal, Mr. Barry Binsky, Pr. Markku Pelanne, Mrs. Karen Lai.

Around the Ports



Graduates of the Houston School, Feb. 20, 2004: Front: The Rev. Richard Uche Adiukwu, Mrs. Dahlia Mecnas, the Rev. Nizzi Digan, Mr. Ernie Mecnas, the Rev. Jim Boyd, Mr. Ted Coates; Back Row: Mr. Alex Sanchez, Jr., the Rev. Henry Hernando, Mr. Ricardo Olivares, Mr. Jon Szelagowski, the Rev.. Mike Scalora, the Rev. Jack Garvey.



Gulf Coast Conference attendees finish their tour of Port Manatee, Florida. Showing are: the Rev. Rivers Patout, Ms. Patricia Nemece, the Rev. Jim Keating, barely visible - the Rev. Jerry Key, the Rev. David Wells, Chaplain Marshall Bundren, the Rev. Ray Briggs. In the "last pew" nearly out of view are the Rev. & Mrs. Robert Loy. The Conference was hosted by the port ministries of Port Manatee and Tampa, Chaplains Jerry Key, Ray Briggs, Christian Villagomez, and Deacon & Mrs. Maximo Montayre.



Bob Middleton puzzles about Crisis Ministry at training offered by the Episcopal Alliance of Maritime Ministries April 1-2 in New York City. 15 chaplains attended (including one Baptist). (More on Crisis Training next issue.)

Meeting Dates and Info

- Port Ministries International, July 25-27, Garden Dist. Hotel, New Orleans.
- NAMMA Board, Sunday, July 25, 1 p.m., Doubletree Inn, New Orleans.
- NAMMAC 2004, July 26-27, 2004, New Orleans.
- ICMA Annual General Meeting, July 28, Doubletree Inn, New Orleans.
- ICMA World Conference 2004, July 28-Aug. 2, 2004, New Orleans, LA.
- ICMA Executive Committee, Aug. 3, New Orleans, and Oct. 8-9, Rotterdam.
- Houston School, Feb. 13-25, 2005.
- Gulf Coast Conf., Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Gulfport, MS.

From the Secretary's Desk

by Executive Secretary Peter Michaelson



As you may understand from the other articles in this issue of *Waterlines*, your NAMMA leaders have been busy. The projects underway include the World Conference in New Orleans in July, a redesign of ICMA, financial reorganization of ICMA, routine collection of NAMMA dues, the Houston School, representation with the ILO, IMO, and local port security committees, official recognition of the Association of Episcopal Maritime Ministries by the Episcopal Church USA, the Gulf Coast Conference, implementation of NAMMA's plans for the next few years including the first steps of getting NAMMA's visioning plan funded. You will find a list of committees and their key people elsewhere in this issue – please be in touch with them about your concerns and questions.

Aside from the business I am continually impressed with the depth of faith of our members and their confidence in God's ability to work through us "earthen vessels" to accomplish remarkable things. This lends solidity to optimism which is not so well supported by the conditions of the world around us. The US and Canadian economies are not good

enough to make fund raising easy or even possible in some instances, and elsewhere it is worse; government is not always supportive of port chaplaincies; and many churches where we look for support, are still often blind to port ministry.

Those conditions are not the sum of the story. The story begins and ends for us with Jesus, of course. As we head into our annual re-living of the Jesus story we keep our eyes on that resurrection we know comes after whatever pain and death Jesus suffers – or in Him, whatever struggles we endure in our small way. And of course the good news follows Jesus on his path of pain in any case – that's why we call that awful day, "Good Friday."

Not only are your mistakes, regrets, guilts, fears and angers left behind at the foot of the cross, mine are too. If we allow each other the salvation of that sacrifice on the cross, if we allow ourselves to let go of our tattered baggage, if we are willing to look beyond our comfortable, habitual assumptions and feelings – Christ sets us free and leads us into a more worthy set of relationships.

Since we know this we can have confidence that whatever else happens, we will make new friends, we will renew stale friendships, and we will find a capacity for ministry we may not have hoped for.

That's what your ministry and mine is about – finding God's grace among those we care about and care for. And we know, because we keep finding those small resurrections, that God is alive and well at sea, in our ports, and in our hearts.

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