

## AWO Holds Successful Capitol Hill Barge-In and Spring Convention

*Coast Guard Commandant Addresses Membership, New Leadership Elected*



AWO members from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C., on April 17-19, meeting with Congressional offices as part of the industry's eleventh annual Barge-In on Wednesday, April 17, participating in the Spring Convention on Thursday, April 18, and conducting Membership and Board of Directors meetings on Friday, April 19.

Participants in the Barge-In visited over 130 Congressional offices, talked with Senators, Representatives and senior staff members, and outlined the industry's legislative agenda. One of the key items discussed was the need to improve the nation's waterways infrastructure through passage of a Water Resources Development Act with a strong waterways infrastructure component. AWO members also expressed support for

a uniform, science-based national framework regulating ballast water and other vessel discharges to end the existing patchwork of conflicting, burdensome federal and state requirements with which vessel operators must currently comply. In addition to discussing these specific priorities with their elected officials, AWO members also worked to raise the profile of the tugboat, towboat and barge industry as well as that of the domestic maritime fleet, which is supported by the Jones Act.

In a press statement addressing the importance of the annual Barge-In, AWO President and CEO Tom Allegretti stated that "AWO members, every day, and without a lot of fanfare, play a tremendous role in ensuring the safe and efficient movement of the nation's critical

cargo, directly employing tens of thousands of workers while supporting hundreds of thousands more. This industry is woven into the fabric of the nation, and we want to ensure that Congress understands its importance and inherent value."

AWO members were very pleased to welcome U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Robert J. Papp, Jr., who addressed the Board and members on April 19. Admiral Papp drew inspiration from the founding fathers and their vision for what was to become the Coast Guard, from President John F. Kennedy, who wrote of strong, disciplined, venturesome men and women drawn to the sea, and from the dedication of those currently serving, to underscore the need for a greater understanding of the many vital roles the Coast Guard plays in ensuring the welfare of the nation. He praised AWO members for the close working relationship the industry

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During the April 19 Board Meeting, Incoming AWO Chairman Buckley McAllister (right) and President & CEO Tom Allegretti (left) presented outgoing Chairman Linn Peterson with a chairman's clock in appreciation of his service.

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has forged with the service and noted the similarity in the values of the Coast Guard and AWO, saying that the Coast Guard's mission is to protect those on the sea, protect the nation from threats delivered by the sea and protect the sea itself. In responding to a question about the national security benefits of the Jones Act, Admiral Papp affirmed his supported and stated that the Coast Guard would advocate for the Jones Act "everywhere we can."

AWO members also chose a new slate of association leadership, with Buckley McAllister, President, McAllister Towing, elected as Chairman of the Board and Frank Morton, Director, Turn Services, LLC elected as Vice Chairman. The members reelected President & CEO Thomas Allegretti; Secretary Vickie Hammond; and Treasurer George Foster, JB Marine Service, Inc., and approved slates of directors for each AWO region.

Before turning the gavel over to Mr. McAllister, outgoing chairman Linn Peterson, Kirby Inland Marine, LP, addressed the challenges the industry



**Meet AWO's New Leaders...**

	
<b>Buckley McAllister</b> President, McAllister Towing Chairman of the Board	<b>Frank Morton</b> Director, Turn Services, LLC Vice Chairman

faced over the past year and how AWO members came together to address the low water conditions on the Mississippi River and the devastation in the Northeast after Hurricane Sandy. "What most impressed me throughout this year was the ability of AWO members to not only rise to the challenge and address the unpredictable," Mr. Peterson stated, "but to also keep moving forward on our stated public affairs and advocacy goals."

He concluded his remarks by stating that the industry, though faced with many important issues, has a very bright future, because "being a part of this industry is much more than a job, and even much more than a career. It's a part of who we are and a reflection of what we hold dear. Collectively, we are entrusted with its continued care. And

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*Newly elected AWO Chairman Buckley McAllister, McAllister Towing, addresses the Board of Directors at its April 19 meeting.*

precisely because of that, I know that I am leaving it in very capable hands."

Acknowledging the challenges the industry and the association face, Mr. McAllister's remarks to the Board and membership focused on the industry's need to be resilient, which ultimately means that the industry needs to be prepared as well as forward-thinking. For AWO members, Mr. McAllister stated, being resilient means "not just the ability to withstand stress or bounce back from adversity, but to do each of those things and to come back stronger."

Mr. McAllister also set up the Strategic Dialogue Session in which the Board discussed the capacity of AWO to meet the industry's growing advocacy needs. The task force, which will be led by Craig Philip, Ingram Barge Company, and Ted Tregurtha, Moran Towing Corporation, is slated to determine whether AWO has the capacity to meet increased challenges and demands in the current and anticipated legislative and regulatory environment. He offered his own insight, urging that the capacity of AWO should be increased, stating that

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“I believe that AWO is the best investment we can make to safeguard the future of our industry. We cannot shortchange our own success.”

Mr. McAllister stated his gratitude on being elected Chairman, but acknowledged that the work cannot be done by one person alone. “This is an industry of passionate leaders and dedicated professionals... Working together as a team, we can achieve much more together than we can individually. As for my role on this team, I will do my best to improve the resiliency of your trade association and industry for generations to come.”

In the President’s Report to the Board, Mr. Allegretti picked up on many of the themes brought forward by Mr. Peterson and Mr. McAllister, beginning his remarks by stating that “the judgments you will make over the course of the next twelve months will be crucial ones. They must be judgments and decisions that move us toward making AWO a better and more effective organization and assuring that

we achieve results that benefit all AWO members.”

Mr. Allegretti continued to say that “the state of AWO today remains strong, but our ability to sustain that performance is in jeopardy. If we want to perform well in all of the metrics that are important to AWO members, if we want to continue to achieve value and excellence and to be masters of our own destiny, if we want to remain a forward-thinking organization, we will need to align our capacity with our missions.”

Noting the importance of the Strategic Dialogue Session, Mr. Allegretti stated the need “to anticipate the future, to plan for it and to shape it. It is this characteristic that allows us to face a challenging future with confidence and optimism – to see daunting challenges not as barriers to success, but as opportunities for success, and opportunities for providing ever greater value to AWO members.”

The Spring Convention agenda also included meetings of the Common Issues Council, Harbor Services Sector Committee, Coastal Sector Committee,

and the Inland Dry and Inland Liquid Sector Committees. At all of these meetings, there was great interaction between the presenters and audience members, and many topics were covered at these sessions, including forthcoming Subchapter M regulations and manning requirements, the recently released 2013 VGP, efforts to promote the domestic maritime industry and counter false arguments linking the Jones Act to the rise in gasoline prices, AWO’s continued work on split sleep and crew endurance management, the TWIC card reader regulation and second trip legislation, the Maritime Labor Convention, No Discharge Zones, and barge transportation of shale gas wastewater.

“These were busy, productive days,” Mr. Allegretti stated at the conclusion of the meetings. “We greatly appreciate the time and resources AWO members devote to speaking out on behalf of the industry and participating in such meaningful dialogue.”



AWO leaders Peter Stephaich, Campbell Transportation Company; Frank Morton, Turn Services, LLC; Tom Allegretti and Buckley McAllister, McAllister Towing, listen to U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Robert J. Papp, Jr., address AWO members.



AWO MEMBER NEWS

## Rep. Bonamici Visits Foss Shipyard

On March 27, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) visited the Rainier shipyard of Foss Marine Holdings, taking a ride on the *P.J. Brix* and discussing the importance of the tugboat, towboat and barge industry to the Pacific

Northwest as well the entire nation. If your company has an item for AWO Member News, please contact Ann McCulloch at (703) 3841-9300, extension 252, or [amcculloch@vesselalliance.com](mailto:amcculloch@vesselalliance.com).



*Pictured here left to right are: Gene Henley, Foss Shipyards Director; Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR); Chris Coakley, Vice President, Government Affairs, Saltchuk Resources, Inc.; Susan Hayman, Vice President, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, Foss Marine Holdings; Tony Silva, Rainier Ship Superintendent, Foss Maritime; Ryan Mann, District Representative, Rep. Bonamici.*

## 2012 Annual Report Now Available!

AWO is very pleased to announce the availability of its 2012 *Annual Report*, which chronicles the achievements of the association as well as the industry's contributions to our nation's economy and way of life. The *Annual Report* took its inspiration from the day-to-day good work of AWO members, and with a theme of "We are AWO," it depicts the vitality of the industry, the essential contributions of our mariners, the key role we play in moving the goods of this nation, and our deeply-rooted commitment to safety leadership and environmental stewardship. Please click [here](#) to view the digital edition. If you have any questions, or if you would like to receive a printed copy of the *Annual Report*, please contact Ann McCulloch, AWO's Director – Public Affairs & Communications, at (703) 841-9300, extension 252, or via email at [amcculloch@vesselalliance.com](mailto:amcculloch@vesselalliance.com).



## MARAD Accepting Small Shipyard Grant Applications

On April 10, the Maritime Administration announced the availability of \$9.46 million in grants for capital improvement and training projects under the Small Shipyard Grant Program.

To be eligible, shipyards must be in a single geographical location, in or near a maritime community, and have under 1,200 production employees. The shipyard must also construct, repair or reconfigure vessels 40 feet in length or greater for



commercial or government use. Eligible projects include capital and related improvement projects that will be effective in fostering efficiency, competitive operations, and quality ship construction, repair and reconfiguration, as well as training projects that will be effective in fostering employee skills and enhancing productivity.

Grant applications are due on May 28. MARAD anticipates awarding grants to up to 10 small shipyards, with an average grant amount of \$1 million, no later than July 24. To read the announcement, click [here](#). For more information, please contact David Heller of MARAD at (202) 366-5737 or [david.heller@dot.gov](mailto:david.heller@dot.gov).

## Reminder: Upcoming TWIC Reader Public Meetings

As reported in the April 17 *AWO Letter*, the Coast Guard will be holding a total of four public meetings on the notice of proposed rulemaking on TWIC reader requirements. The remaining meetings will be held in Seattle on May 2 and Chicago on May 9. Both meetings will run from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information on the public meetings, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Jennifer Carpenter or Brian Vahey at (703) 841-9300, extensions 260 and 251, respectively, or via email at [jcarpenter@vesselalliance.com](mailto:jcarpenter@vesselalliance.com) or [bvahey@vesselalliance.com](mailto:bvahey@vesselalliance.com).

## Recreational Boating Season is Near:

Order Your Lifelines Brochures Now!

AWO urges recreational boaters to use special caution when operating around commercial vessels and to educate themselves on the constraints under which those vessels operate. AWO's popular brochure, entitled "Lifelines: Safety Tips That Could Save Your Life," delivers important safety tips to recreational boaters in an easy-to-read, user friendly format.



To request copies of the brochure, please email your request to Frank Leach at [fleach@vesselalliance.com](mailto:fleach@vesselalliance.com). This brochure is free; however, there is a cost for shipping. Order your brochures today!

## CTAC to Meet May 7-9

The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee will meet in Arlington, VA, next month. The full agenda for this meeting can be viewed [here](#). AWO will be monitoring notable agenda items, including:

- Implementation of requirements regarding construction and equipment of vessels that transport hazardous chemicals;
- Improving implementation of MARPOL discharge requirements;
- Harmonization of carriage requirements for biofuels;
- Recommendations on safety standards for the design of vessels that transport natural gas or use it as a fuel; and
- Recommendations on safety standards for facility vapor control systems.

AWO will also make a presentation regarding its Tank Barge Best Management Practices, which were developed in conjunction with CTAC. The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee was authorized under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. CTAC is a federal advisory committee that issues recommendations regarding marine transportation of hazardous materials to the Department of Homeland Security through the Coast Guard. For information on this upcoming meeting please contact Kevin Dowling at (202) 841-9300, extension 264 or [kdowling@vesselalliance.com](mailto:kdowling@vesselalliance.com).

## Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership National QSC Meets, Honors Dave Dickey for Contributions to Partnership

On April 16, the U.S. Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership's National Quality Steering Committee held its semiannual meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting was co-chaired by Tom Allegretti, AWO President & CEO, and RDML Joseph Servidio, Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy. Mr. Allegretti congratulated the members of the National QSC for the productive and valuable work that they have recently accomplished, including the planned expansion of the Coast Guard Academy Cadet Towing Vessel Rider Program, the final report of the Subgroup on Inland Towing Vessel Inspection and Repair Standards, new recommendations on fatigue prevention and crew endurance



management, and the development of new initiatives to reduce operational oil spills from towing vessels.

Mr. Allegretti also took the opportunity to thank David Dickey for his many contributions to the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership. Mr. Dickey, formerly of the Coast Guard's Office of Investigations and Analysis, retired in January. Mr. Dickey was a long-time contributor to the

National QSC and played a pivotal role in the Partnership's focus on what Mr. Allegretti characterized as "data-driven decision-making." "Over the years Dave has been a great partner, a tireless compiler of industry data, and a man whose commitment to safety is unassailable," Mr. Allegretti said, adding that "Dave's work is reflected

in many of the initiatives we're talking about today and many of the most important initiatives that this committee has taken on in the past."

Other highlights of the QSC discussion included the following:

### Coast Guard Academy Cadet Summer Training Program

CDR Kevin Oditt, Chief, Domestic Vessel Compliance Division, announced that the Coast Guard will be expanding the Coast Guard Academy Cadet Summer Training Program. Between May 19 and June 20, 2013, the program will station four cadet riders in Sector New Orleans; four cadets in Sector Puget Sound; two cadets in Sector St. Petersburg; and, two cadets in Sector Long Island Sound. The training program, which launched in 2012, educates cadets on the tugboat, towboat and barge industry through a week or more of shoreside and onboard training.

### Towing Vessel Bridging Program

Patrick Lee, Coast Guard Domestic Vessel Compliance Division, and Jennifer Carpenter, AWO Senior Vice President-National Advocacy, presented the revised Report of the Subgroup on Inland Towing Vessel Inspection and Repair Standards, established under the auspices of Bridging and Implementation Team Working Group #5 in 2011. Mr. Lee described the final report as demonstrating the "remarkable commonality" between the Coast Guard and industry vision for good marine practice for inland towing vessel inspection and repair standards. The National QSC approved the report



*RDML Joseph Servidlo and Tom Allegretti thank Dave Dickey for his many years of outstanding contributions to the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership. Dave is joined by his wife, Ronnie.*

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## Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership National QSC Meets, Honors Dave Dickey for Contributions to Partnership

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and concurred with the Coast Guard's plan to task the Towing Safety Advisory Committee with reviewing and validating the Subgroup's recommendations before proceeding to develop headquarters guidance on the subject.

Mr. Lee also reported that since the inception of the TVBP four years ago, the Coast Guard has conducted more than 5,600 industry-initiated exams and issued more than 4,200 decals to towing vessels. Mr. Lee reported that since Phase II of the Bridging Program began in July 2012, the Coast Guard has conducted almost 70 prioritized exams. Mr. Lee noted that 80 to 85 percent of the prioritized exams have resulted in a Captain of the Port order to hold the vessel until deficiencies can be addressed.

### Crew Endurance Management

Ms. Carpenter and CAPT John Mauger, Chief of the Office of Design and Engineering Standards, updated the QSC on the work of a Coast Guard-AWO subgroup to develop a proposed path forward on fatigue and crew endurance management. They recommended a three-pronged approach: 1) require a fatigue and crew endurance management program as part of a Safety Management System, including the forthcoming Subchapter M regulations and the AWO Responsible Carrier Program; 2) define the essential elements of a fatigue and crew endurance management program; and 3) establish performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of the program. National QSC members supported this approach and

encouraged Ms. Carpenter and CAPT Mauger to continue on this path.

### Safety Statistics

Tim Farley, Deputy Chief of the Office of Investigations and Casualty Analysis, and LCDR Mike Simbulan announced that their office would continue to track and provide towing industry safety metrics for the National QSC annually. Mr. Farley noted that while it was the Coast Guard's intention to continue to present statistics on crew fatalities, oil spills, and vessel casualties, they welcomed industry input on new information for the Coast Guard to track and report.

Additionally, the QSC approved the recommendation from AWO Interregion Safety Committee Chairman Jason Adams, Ingram Barge Company, to develop a Quality Action Team on Preventing Operational Oil Spills from Towing Vessels. The Coast Guard and AWO will work to develop a draft charter and membership list for this QAT to be approved at the next National QSC meeting this summer.

Since 1995, the National QSC has met twice a year to lead the development of safety and environmental improvements and foster candid, constructive dialogue between the leadership of AWO and the Coast Guard's marine safety program.

The next meeting of the National QSC is scheduled for July 31, 2013. For more information, please contact Jennifer Carpenter or Brian Vahey at (703) 841-9300, extensions 260 or 251, respectively, or via email at [jcarpenter@vesselalliance.com](mailto:jcarpenter@vesselalliance.com) or [bvahey@vesselalliance.com](mailto:bvahey@vesselalliance.com).

## Coast Guard-ASME to Host Workshop on Marine Technology and Standards

On April 19, the U.S. Coast Guard announced that it is coordinating with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to sponsor a two-day public workshop on marine technology and standards. ASME is a standards-setting organization with wide-ranging volunteer committee membership, which includes Coast Guard supported personnel who serve as members of various ASME committees in support of the Coast Guard's maritime safety and environmental protection missions.

The workshop will cover topics pertaining to equipment and materials, compressed and liquefied natural gas technology, offshore marine technology, and regulatory and classification society issues. The workshop is an opportunity for the public to provide expertise on technical matters affecting the marine industry, to leverage new technologies, and to improve future policymaking, standards development, and rulemaking.

The workshop will be held July 24-25 in Arlington, VA. For more information, click [here](#) or contact LCDR Kenneth Hettler, Coast Guard, at (202) 372-1367, or Mr. Joseph S. Brzuszkiewicz, ASME, at (212) 591-8533.