

# USMMA Parent Association

## National Newsletter February, 2009

Welcome to the first National Newsletter of the USMMA Parent Association! Many of you know by now that changes are happening quickly at Kings Point. Many of these changes were precipitated by MARAD and a new interpretation of various laws regarding several aspects of the academy. Some changes are a result of funding issues and other changes are a result of policy issues. Still other issues are affected by the economic situation and others by the changes in administration. Above all, it is important that officers of the USMMA Parent Association stay informed with accurate information so that they can inform and educate all the parents in their individual state or local chapters. Without accurate and timely communication, rumors and misinformation can easily get out of control. Additionally, items of general interest will be included and the newsletter can also serve as a source for dialogue and questions and answers about academy issues.

This National USMMA Parent Association Newsletter was created because of suggestions made by the State Presidents during the last National President's Conference in September, 2008. National Co-Chairs Mary Silva and Ann Hall, in conjunction with the Parent Association Advisory Committee have agreed this would be an effective method of communicating information to the membership that is accurate and timely. Current plans call for the National Newsletter is to be published at least three times annually, in February, June, and October, following Parent's Weekend and the National President's Conference that is held in September.

You will also notice new cooperation and unity with the USMMA Alumni Foundation Chapter President's Council. At the USMMA Parent's Association President's Conference last September, the USMMAAF reached out and invited the Parent's Association to work together with them for the betterment of the academy and to benefit our midshipmen. As you can see in this newsletter, that is now reality. The USMMAAF will be communicating through this newsletter and we will be reciprocating through communications with their membership. Additionally, you will notice all Parent's Association members are invited to attend the first national conference of the USMMAAF in Baltimore April 28-May 1 and Parent Association officers will be included on the April 30 agenda. We welcome this new cooperation wholeheartedly!

We also hope that local and state Parent Association Chapters will use this newsletter forum to communicate ideas that may include All-Academy Ball activities, All-Academy dinner functions, recruiting venues, midshipmen support activities or successful fundraising events. Questions and concerns will also be addressed in as timely a manner as possible in upcoming issues.

This newsletter will be e-mailed to all state, local and national officers of the Parent Association. It will be up to those officers to forward the entire newsletter or any information contained within, to their individual members.

The National Co-Chairs welcome submissions for the newsletter from any USMMA parent or other interested party. Please address all inquiries or submit articles via e-mail to: [rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com). It is hoped that this newsletter will inform and create a positive and open dialogue that will keep USMMA parents and midshipmen familiar with academy activities, changes, and most of all, issues affecting our midshipmen.



Photo provided by Shirley Anthony

**Officers of the USMMA Parent Association attended the annual President's Conference on campus last September and listened to new information from National Co-Chair Ann Hall, at far right.**



**WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!** Plebe candidates march in during Acceptance Day ceremonies on Parent's Weekend 2008. The National President's Conference takes place annually at USMMA in the days just before Parent's Weekend. During the President's Conference State Presidents and National officers are updated on academy information and changes taking place. Speakers usually include the Superintendent, the Academic Dean, the Chairs of various departments, Admissions Personnel, Athletic Directors and often representatives from the Alumni Foundation. Be sure and mark your calendars to attend in September 2009.

### Parent Association Loses a Good Friend

Word has been received that a well-known USMMA alumni, contributor, and good friend to the USMMA Parent's Association has passed away in Birmingham, Alabama. Harrison "Hack" Lloyd, had not stayed involved with the academy after graduating in 1943. However, following the death of his wife Peggy in 2003, Hack returned for homecoming weekend and promptly adopted the Parent Association and the Academy as his cause. He was a popular guest speaker at functions in Indiana, New York and Alabama and the octogenarian also became active again as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He also became a financial supporter of the academy and contributed to many Parent Association activities in several states. He will well be remembered for the standing ovation he received after being the featured speaker at the All-Academy Dinner in Indiana in 2004. Sympathies go to his family. He will be greatly missed.



**Harrison "Hack" Lloyd,  
USMMA 1943**

**Contact information for  
Transportation Secretary  
Ray LaHood**

Ask questions, express concerns, request financial support for the academy and our midshipmen, welcome him aboard, invite him to visit our campus or meet with you personally!

Visit the U. S. Department of Transportation website at: [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)  
 Send an e-mail to:  
[secretarysblog@dot.gov](mailto:secretarysblog@dot.gov)

Or mail a letter to:  
 U.S. Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
 Washington, DC 20590

## Alumni Foundation responds to concerns about changes at USMMA

The Alumni Foundation is pleased to provide the following information about some issues that have created concern among the Alumni and Parents:

Superintendent RADM Allen Worley and Chief of Staff Capt. Eric Wallischeck confirmed in this month's regularly scheduled meeting with the Alumni Foundation that Colors Formation is still intact and will be moved to 0730 from 0745. The move to an earlier time is required due to the expansion of the academic schedule which now has the first classes of the day beginning at 0745. There will be four periods before lunch which adds an academic period to the schedule as well as fitting in an extra lab period.

The Superintendent is well aware of the tradition and importance of Colors to the Academy and the elimination of Colors was not an issue. In addition, the Regiment will still muster for Lunch.

The Superintendent expressed his support for the Regimental Band and knows how important the Band is to the Academy and to the Alumni. The Regimental Band is recognized as a symbol of the Academy and is a very effective way of getting the name of the United States Merchant Marine Academy out into the public. Admiral Worley indicated that future Academy budgets will have a separate line item for the Band. The Academy administration is hoping to keep the Band strong well into the future and to strengthen the overall music program. However, the Band and other midshipmen activities will continue to depend upon monetary support from the Alumni Foundation for various parts of their programs and to meet unexpected and unbudgeted expenses. The Academy's ability to meet such unexpected expenses requires unrestricted donations from you.

A video of the Band marching in the Inaugural Parade was sent previously and hopefully you were able to view it. They looked great! Thank you for your continuing support.

Ivy B. Suter '78  
Chairwoman  
USMMA Alumni Foundation

## Shirley Anthony named Director

After some brief uncertainty regarding funding for the USMMA Parent Association coordinator position, Shirley Anthony has notified Parent Association officers that the new Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood (thank you!) has converted her position to Federal immediately so Shirley will be classified as a term employee, not to exceed two years, until permanently converted after 90 days so her salary is locked in place. She will now be known as the Parent Association Director and says she "hopes to still be here helping and working with the Parents Program."

## Executive Advisory Committee Formed

National Co-Chairs Mary Silva and Ann Hall, with the assistance of Parent Association Director Shirley Anthony, have formed a National Parent Association Advisory Committee.

Initially formed as a Constitution and By-Laws Committee under the current constitution, the committee was created to address changes in the National By-Laws that were mandated by MARAD and changes in funding. The committee has been holding teleconference calls throughout the past months to develop by-law changes that will be voted on at the 2009 President's Conference in September.

Included in those proposed changes will be the method of choosing a National Co-Chair which will eliminate any input from Academy officials. New membership options are being considered that will allow parents to maintain their membership status and activities for a greater length of time after their midshipmen have graduated. This is proposed especially to help states where membership is very small and losing those very active alumni parents would greatly hinder club activities. Other by-law wording is being changed as mandated by MARAD to further distance any direct academy administrative involvement in Parent Association activities. Funding changes are also being made that would keep Parent Association monies separate from the Academy, most directly affecting money collected for Parent's Weekend Activities. To assist with that situation, a tax ID number is being acquired in New York state.

Members of the Parent Association Advisory Committee are: Mary Silva and Ann Hall, current National Co-Chairs; Pete Meyers and Jerry Hajduk, past National Co-Chairs; Suzanne Graboski, Current Mid-Atlantic Chapter President; Terry Gray, former Regional Vice-President of the New England Area and President's Conference Panel Moderator 2001-2005; and Mary Jane Fuschetto, current Regional Vice-President and 2009-2011 incoming National Co-Chair. Committee members welcome suggestions and input and any member of the committee may be reached via e-mail.

Mary Silva: moms11@comcast.net

Ann Hall: ann\_hall42@q.com

Pete Meyers: smeyers@optonline.net

Jerry Hajduk: hajdukj@verizon.net

Terry Gray: laserocket@aol.com

Suzanne Graboski: kpmom2011@yahoo.com

Mary Jane Fuschetto: rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com

**Dates are not yet finalized for Acceptance Day and Parent's Weekend Events for 2009. Details and dates for the annual President's Conference are also not finalized. As soon as more information is known, chapter officers will be notified.**

# Admiral Worley Addresses USMMAAF

On January 7, 2009, USMMA Superintendent Rear Admiral Allen B. Worley participated in an hour and 15 minute conference call with 25 USMMAAF Chapter Presidents. Likewise noteworthy, was the participation of Chapter Presidents who are also Midshipman Parents- Captain Scott ('83) and Glenda ('85) O'Connor <Kyle '10>, Dave Gilmartin '78 <David '09>, Roger Tetrault '60 <Jamie '90>. The purpose of this call was to provide an opportunity for USMMAAF Members to address the Superintendent with questions or issues of concern. Admiral Worley likewise outlined his near-term plan for the success of Kings Point. During the call USMMAAF Chair Gary Hicks reports that Rear Admiral Worley enthusiastically presented his plan and vision of the future success of Kings Point and welcomed each question and addressed all inquiries with factual answers. The following is a transcript of the basic presentation by Admiral Worley on January 7, 2009. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Gary Hicks in supplying this information to us.



**Allen B. Worley, Rear Admiral, U.S. Maritime Service, Superintendent, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**

As you are aware we have been working with the GAO and MARAD staff to correct deficiencies in the financial and operational management of the USMMA. I believe we will have quantified the issues and corrected them procedurally by the end of March 2009. There will be some necessary budgetary corrections in FY10 to support the Academy operations with a significantly reduced level of midshipmen fees but I believe we will have those clearly outlined in time to pass them to the Sub-Committee on Appropriations staffers so that the FY10 DOT Appropriation will be basically sound. This will help to restore the confidence on Capitol Hill that the USMMA program is now being properly executed, with appropriate oversight by MARAD/DOT. If we could get about \$3M more than what is in the Senate version of the FY09 Appropriations bill then we should have the baseline in relatively good balance going into FY10.

My general view is to have the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy be the global leader for Maritime Education and Training and I plan to enforce the Academy regulations and standards for our midshipmen and staff, to maintain the quality of our graduates and the reputation for excellence of the Academy. Additionally, I plan to properly size the organization and get the right people for the mission in the correct locations, restore the facilities we currently have to 100% functionality (excellent appearance with things working as they should, no leaks and not about to fall into the ocean), upgrade our classrooms and simulators to top of the line, 21<sup>st</sup> century electronic classrooms and leading edge academic facilities, complete the dormitory upgrades to allow a 1200 midshipmen onboard head count, expand the athletic and music facilities to meet the needs of those departments, increase the number of faculty housing units on the campus, upgrade the library facilities to match the need for additional quality study spaces, group study and provide proper support for the Academic Center of Excellence and the Center for Maritime Ethics within the library. If we can get USMMA to meet this list of minimum standards/desires then we can start improving the staff working environment, above the efficient and functional levels and look to the needs for additional facilities and programs that will further enhance our position as global leader in maritime education and training.

I see the academy as a two phased environment to produce the graduate we desire; we have the pedagogical area which is the academic (classroom) program of instruction (including the sea term) and then we have the milieu, consisting of the regimental, athletic, band, ethical, and social/spiritual aspects of the Academy. Our impact on the character and intellect (whole person) of our midshipmen is dependent on the appropriate balance of the milieu with the pedagogy. We must have the appropriate personnel in place to form these critical environments and achieve the desired balance. I am working with the Dean, the COS, Commandant, Asst. Sup. for Administration, Athletics Director, Chaplain, Band Director, and others to get the right balance for the Academy. There is much work to be done but it is a worthy challenge and not an insurmountable task.

Allen B. Worley  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Maritime Service  
Superintendent, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

## USMMA AF



### Chapter Presidents Council

## USMMAAF - Chapter Presidents Council

C/O 42 Idlewild Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Tel: 410-420-0080 E-mail: [CPC@kpchesapeake.com](mailto:CPC@kpchesapeake.com)

Web: <http://www.kpchesapeake.com/usmmaaf-cpc.html>

Saturday February 21, 2009

Greetings USMMA Parents Association Members!

I appreciate the opportunity to introduce our organization to the Parents of OUR Midshipmen. Yes, the members of the USMMA Alumni Foundation – Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) take ownership and pride in OUR Midshipmen – those young Men and Women to whom we provide Mission Support. Your sons and daughters will complete a rigorous 4 year education and join the ranks of our esteemed Alumni, providing Mission Support to “their” Midshipmen. I am pleased to introduce our membership of (currently) 50 Chapter Presidents from across the globe, representing near 17,000 active Kings Point Alumni. Our Mission is as follows:

***“The Chapters shall exist to serve, assist and perpetuate the United States Merchant Marine Academy, its Regiment of Midshipmen, faculty, staff, alumni and the United States Merchant Marine. It shall foster and encourage the development of the Academy and the Merchant Marine, and shall enhance the prestige thereof by acquisition, preservation and dissemination of information pertaining to their history, activities, methods and objectives, and shall render moral support and material aid thereunto.”***

Ref: USMMAAF Alumni Chapters ByLaws ARTICLE II. - PURPOSE AND POWERS—The four key tenets of this mission: (1) Mission Support of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; (2) Mission Support of the Regiment of Midshipmen; (3) Mission Support of the Alumni; (4) Mission Support of the U.S. Merchant Marine- vital to America’s economic and defense security.

Our organization is democratically operated, with regional administration. Our Member Chapters work together in support of our Mission beneficiaries, as previously noted. The CPC is eager to maximize the synergy of a relationship with the USMMA Parents Association. We should capitalize on every opportunity to work together on a National and Chapter level. Communication is the key to our relationship success. I commit the CPC to open communication with the Parents Association and will make every personal effort to insure this success. I invite the Co-Chairmen of the USMMA Parents Association to provide an article for each edition of our ***KP Alumni News***. This publication provides timely information about our Mission Support Activities as well as information on all manner of subjects of importance to our Alumni, Parents and our Midshipmen. This publication receives wide distribution, and all those receiving same are encouraged to forward the information to others who may have an interest.

I also extend an invitation to all USMMA Parents Association Members to attend and support the **USMMA Alumni Foundation Spring Meeting in Baltimore on April 30, 2009 to May 1, 2009**. The Parents Association will be included as an Agenda Topic for the CPC Meeting on Thursday April 30, 2009. I have provided a registration link as well as a brief outline of the Spring Meeting Schedule. (See meeting schedule on page 6 of this newsletter.)

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your publication! On behalf of the Chapter Presidents Council, I look forward to a productive and enjoyable working relationship!

Sincerely,

**Gary**

Gary G. Hicks '76  
Chairman

## USMMAAF Meeting Schedule, Baltimore

### **Note: Parent Association members are invited to attend.**

The USMMAAF Spring Meeting 2009, April 30, Thursday through May 1, Friday, will be hosted by the USMMAAF KP Chesapeake Chapter at the Conference Center at the Maritime Institute, 692 Maritime Boulevard, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-1952; Ph: Toll Free (866)-629-3196 | Fax: 410/859-2893; Web: <http://www.ccmitt.org>

*A USMMA-AF "TELL AMERICA" Program Event. "Tell America About Kings Point and the U.S. Merchant Marine!"*

*A cooperative forum for the USMMA Alumni Foundation, our Alumni, and the Maritime Industry.  
All are invited, all are welcome!*

[Click link for details](#) ➡

USMMAAF Spring Mtg Registration 043009

<http://kpchesapeake.com/USMMAAF%20CPC/USMMAAF%20Spring%20Mtg%20Registration%20043009.doc>

**Apr 28, 2009** Tue (Baltimore, MD) USMMAAF Spring Meeting Guest Arrivals – The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute (CCMIT)

**Apr 29, 2009** Wed (Baltimore, MD) USMMAAF Spring Meeting – 8:00Am to 5:00PM Trip to Washington, D.C. for Capitol Hill visits 6:00PM – 8:30PM CPC hosts a "Welcome Barbecue" @ CCMIT for early arrivals.....Price: \$ 35.00. ALL are welcome to an informal gathering, featuring Chef Kevin's "BBQ specialties"! (unlimited buffet)

**Apr 30, 2009** Thu (Baltimore, MD) USMMAAF Spring Meeting 8:00Am to 5:00PM USMMAAF Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) Meeting @ CCMIT;  
12:00PM Luncheon Program, Speaker: Captain Stephen M. Carmel (KP '79) – SR Vice President, Maritime Services, Maersk Line LTD; Topic: Marine Industry Challenges – A Commentary on U.S. Maritime Policies  
5:00PM – 5:45PM MITAGS Simulator Technology Center Tour (Optional – RSVP Required – NO CHARGE)  
5:30PM Reception & Dinner Program & Speaker - The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute featuring: "Business Development - Card Exchange - Networking Opportunity!" 30 Table-top Exhibits Speaker: Robert Magee (KP '69) – Chairman & CEO, American Shipping Group, Inc.; Topic: U.S. Flag Shipping Outlook – 2009 and Beyond

**May 1, 2009** Fri (Baltimore, MD) USMMAAF Spring Meeting 8:00Am to 5:00PM USMMAAF Board of Directors Meeting @ CCMIT  
12:00PM Luncheon Program. Speaker: Shashi N. Kumar, Ph.D., Master Mariner, Academic Dean/Assistant Superintendent for Academic Affairs, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Topic: USMMA Academic Program – Preparing our Professional Mariners for Future Challenges  
5:30PM Maritime Industry & USMMA Alumni Dinner Gala Program - The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute featuring: Reception

tion 🎵, Maritime Art Exhibit, Museum Tour & Speaker. Ship Passage Raffle Drawing! Speaker: Rear Admiral Allen B. Worley, U.S. Maritime Service Superintendent – United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York; Topic: USMMA – Preparing our Maritime Industry Leaders



Photo provided by Shirley Anthony  
**Parent Association Chapter Presidents are addressed by various department chairs from the academy during the annual President's Conference, September, 2008.**

## New era of cooperation continues with alumni groups

National Co-Chairs Mary Silva and Ann Hall sent the following information:

"In our efforts to work more closely with USMMA Alumni Foundation and USMMA Alumni, and to keep you informed, we are submitting the attached note to the USMMA Alumni Foundation Chapter Presidents Council for publication in their newsletter. You will start receiving these newsletters immediately and we encourage you to read them and participate in all activities. Please be on the lookout for these newsletters and our own which will be published shortly. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us."

Hello from USMMA National Parents Association,

Because of changes in 2008 we are in the process of rewriting our by-laws as suggested by MARAD. As an association separate from the Academy we recognize the need for closer communication between Alumni and Parents in achieving our shared goals. Our purpose as an association will remain the same: to promote and support the Academy, its goals, programs and objectives, its Regiment of Midshipmen, faculty, staff and alumni.

We look forward to working with your USMMAAF Chapter Presidents Council and are encouraging our Regional Vice Presidents and State Chapter Presidents to freely and frequently communicate with all Alumni Chapter Presidents.

Please feel free to contact us: Mary Silva [moms11@comcast.net](mailto:moms11@comcast.net)  
Ann Hall [ann\\_hall42@q.com](mailto:ann_hall42@q.com)  
USMMA National Parents Association, National Co-Chairs



# More Moms at sea . . .



After seven years of shameless begging, Colorado USMMA Mom, Mary Jane Fuschetto, (Ana, USMMA '11 and Angelina '01,) finally got permission in September from officials of Exxon-Mobil and SeaRiver to sail roundtrip from Anacortes, Washington to Valdez, Alaska, aboard her daughter Angelina's ship, the SeaRiver Sierra. Angelina, a 2001 USMMA grad, sails as Chief Mate aboard the 1,000 foot S/R Sierra, a double-hull crude oil tanker with a crew of 25.

Receiving permission just days before the trip, Fuschetto had to fax stacks of legal waivers to Houston and meet the ship in Anacortes. However, simply boarding the ship became a

memorable and dangerous experience. Although Fuschetto was listed as a supernumerary crew member, legal technicalities prevented her from simply driving onto the ship from the dock. Instead, at 2 a.m., in a driving and frigid rain, as the Sierra moved away from the dock, Fuschetto boarded a moving launch that kept pace with the Sierra as Fuschetto reached across the dark to climb a 90 foot vertical ladder that stretched up the side of the ship to the main deck where crew members waved flashlights.

The crew welcomed the first-ever "Mommy" to sail aboard the Sierra with a cabin sign reading, "Chief Mate's Mommy" and a hard hat with the same designation. A private officer's cabin was also provided on the top deck next to the Captain and Chief Mate's cabins. Steel-toed boots, safety goggles and a survival suit were also provided. Safety training followed and "Mommy" learned survival suits are hard to put on and even harder to take off, fire gear weighs a lot, emergency medical stretchers are hard to get out of, ten decks of stairs are hard to climb in a 15 degree roll and high seas washing over the deck on a daily basis is not a cause for panic. However, Fuschetto surprised crew members by sleeping soundly through high seas and not becoming seasick during the voyage. During the 16 day trip Fuschetto participated in radio calls to the Coast Guard, learned how to chart, learned all about galley cooking methods, was allowed to manually drive the ship for about 20 minutes (under very careful supervision,) was taught how to open and close cargo valves and pumps, was given complete tours of all areas of the ship, including the engine room, the cargo control room and all the outside decks, and spent a lot of time on the bridge sitting in the captain's chair watching Angelina work. One day in high seas, she was enlisted to help crew members remove loose life rings from the main deck to keep them from washing overboard. (See photo at right.)

Crew members said they enjoyed having a "Mommy" on board ship. "She came with a suitcase of homemade cookies. The men cleaned up their language and were much more polite while she was on board, and the food was better because the cooks were trying to impress her," one anonymous crew member said. "The ship was even cleaner and we all laughed a lot more when she was around."

"The best part of the trip was watching my daughter work," Fuschetto said. "I was astonished at the intensity and long hours, the lack of sleep, the responsibility she had. I was impressed that much older crew members came to her for advice and looked to her to solve problems. It was obvious that USMMA had provided all the knowledge she needed to do her job well."

While the trip included a three hour stay on Alaskan soil in Valdez, by far the highlight of the trip was simply being on the Sierra and watching the awesome responsibility that USMMA grads have when they sail. That point was clearly emphasized one night at 2 a.m. as Angelina carefully guided the Sierra through the darkness past the buoy marking the spot where the Exxon-Valdez ran aground.



**S/R Sierra Chief Mate Angelina Fuschetto (USMMA '01) and Mom Mary Jane with the Sierra in the background. Below, Angelina gives steering instructions.**

