

MAY 2015

# MISSISSIPPI MARITIME MUSEUM Newsletter

<http://msmaritimemuseum.org>



## ...Message from the President

The first months of 2015 have seen a surge in momentum. The General Membership Meeting on February 20th was a great success with a crowd of approximately 150 excited attendees. Senator Trent Lott, our guest speaker was the spark that ignited the fire. Mrs. Kathy Keene was presented a table in honor of our past president, Pat Keene. This special table was made from the wood of the "Hasty Oak" and topped

with soapstone salvaged from tables from the old PHS Math/Science Hall. I am still hearing very favorable comments, and we are still getting new members.

Your Board and Executive Committee are working very hard to develop a world class museum, meeting every two weeks on a Wednesday at Charter Bank. The Executive committee meets every 2 weeks on the alternate weeks that the board does not meet. There are 15 committees that generate plenty of work for everyone and meet monthly. **If you have suggestions or would like to work** on a certain committee, **please contact Perry Thompson at 219-1294** or me at 769-1388.

We are very fortunate to have several new outstanding committee members: Rene Shaw as Membership and Donor Recognition Chairman; and Dr. Chris Wiggins as Museum Exhibits and Museum Events Chairman. Dr. Douglas Belk handles our website, Facebook, Twitter and works with Anne Pitre, the Publicity Chair.

With great assistance from our local Mississippi legislators, we have received \$250,000 from the Mississippi Bond Funds with another \$250,000 recently approved by the 2015 Mississippi Legislature which should be received late this fall. In collaboration with NOAA Fisheries Pascagoula laboratories, a \$12,000 grant from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has been obtained. The NOAA funds will be used to exhibit NOAA Fishery vessels built in Jackson County. In addition, we have received \$250,000 from a private foundation to be awarded incrementally over five years.

On April 20th several members of the Executive Committee met with the Pascagoula Mayor, City Manager and City Attorney. The Executive Committee requested the City administration consider a budget over a three year period to support the Mississippi Maritime Museum. On April 21st our Vice President Terry Bollman, made a MMM presentation to the Pascagoula City Council. The purpose of both of these meetings was to provide an update on the museum progress and request City of Pascagoula support for the museum vision.

Some people and businesses are wanting to donate items for the museum. If you have an artifact that you would like to donate to the Museum, please contact George Sholl at 769-3240. We do not want to lose these donations and until the Band Hall is completed we will be leasing a small climate controlled storage building to safely house donations.

If you know of anyone interested in our great maritime history and want to be a part of developing a world-class maritime museum, please call 228-235-9236.

Let us sell everyone on the merits of a world-class Mississippi Maritime Museum with all of its educational opportunities.

**"DAMN THE TORPEDOS, FULL SPEED AHEAD", Jack C Hoover, MD, President, MMM**

### NEW Membership Chairman

Another native has joined our efforts. **Rene' (Stegall) Shaw** is our new Membership Chairman. She and her husband, Randy, live in Pascagoula, and have a combined family of five adult children and six grandchildren, with #7 on the way! As a fifth generation (at least) Jackson County resident, she has many relatives, past and present, involved in various maritime-related pursuits. Rene' has lived on both the east and west coasts of the U.S., and spent 19 years working on the government side of local military shipbuilding and support efforts. She holds an MBA and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from The University of Southern Mississippi. "I'm very excited to be 'on board' with the Mississippi Maritime Museum! I'm pleased to be a part of such a massive effort as this, and look forward to helping build its most basic foundation – membership. Currently, I'm reviewing documentation and assessing where we are, membership-wise. It's time to ramp-up enthusiasm for this project, and get more folks involved." Look for announcements in future issues on membership drive events, sponsorship opportunities, and more!



Mississippi Maritime Museum General Membership Meeting on Feb. 20, 2015 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The Honored Guest Speaker was Senator Trent Lott. Pictured here with the Senator is Jack Hoover M.D., President of MMM, Mrs. Kathy Keene, widow of past president Pat Keene, and Robert Hardy, MMM Treasurer.



With the recent funding received from the State of Mississippi it is now time to start planning and creating the first phase of the Museum. Museum committees are composed of volunteer members of the community with experience in construction, maintenance and restoration of historical structures.

**Museum Building facilities & Committee Progress**

“PHASE ONE” objectives are to write a “RFP” (Request for Proposal), develop a bid package for distribution, and select an architect and contractor for the renovation of the old high school band hall. This RFP will specify design parameters required to accommodate the needs of the museum within the requirements of Mississippi historical structures.

The general needs of the Museum in this beginning development is a conference room for community participation, an area with environmental control to store artifacts, a small office, and restrooms. The RFP will provide candidates for the architect award with the best design for the renovation. The best design will be judged by the committee and will include the most efficient use of light and best utilization of the monetary budget. The plan is to complete the RFP, award the contract, and start construction in the Fall of this year.

In conjunction with the “Phase One” of the renovation of the band hall, the Audubon Society suggested a well-defined “Nature Path” be established along the length of the bayou that runs along the Western boundary of the Museum property. The path would include at least two small observation platforms, along with interpretive signage. The development of this project will be in collaboration with the Audubon Society and volunteers, directed by Mark LaSalle. Submitted by Robert Smith

COMMISSIONING  
JUNE 1, 1961  
OF  
**USS SCULPIN**  
SS(N)590

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IN THE DEEP SOUTH  
AND  
EIGHTEENTH IN  
THE U. S. NAVY'S  
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that were built in the Deep South.  
*USS Sculpin* <sup>TO</sup> SS(N) 590  
*USS Snook* SS(N) 592  
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**Mississippi Maritime Museum Membership**

**\$25 per membership — to be renewed annually. Mail to:**

**Mississippi Maritime Museum, P. O. Box 243, Pascagoula, MS 39568**



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*We will have a great museum! We want you to be part of it.*