



MISSISSIPPI MARITIME MUSEUM

Newsletter

<http://msmaritimemuseum.org>

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SHIP'S LOG

As most of you may already know, it was my honor to serve in our country's Navy for twenty-two years and a privilege to subsequently be part of the management teams at Friede Goldman Halter and Ingalls Shipbuilding until retiring in 2012. So you can readily discern that the sea has been a significant part of my entire adult life. But, that is only one of the reasons I am proud and delighted to serve you as President of our Mississippi Maritime Museum and humbled by your allowing me this opportunity. I will do all I can to move forward on our vision to preserve and promote the maritime heritage of Jackson County and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

At sea, to reach your destination, you plot the course, continually check your position, and correct your course and heading, as necessary, to ensure you will get there. Although not at sea, this tried-and-true discipline is being followed by myself and the Mississippi Maritime Museum (MMM) Board of Directors. Among all the other work required to bring the MMM on-line, we have adopted four specific goals for this year:

- Execution of the Capital Fundraising Campaign
- Renovation of the Maritime Activity Center (MAC), (Old PHS Band Hall)
- Planning/Executing the process of securing a Museum Director/Curator and staff
- Planning for the renovation of the former PHS M&S Building into the MS Maritime Museum

Because the first goal is the subject of another article in this Newsletter, let me just say the three-phase plan for executing the Capital Fundraising Campaign is progressing, and we are excited about the outcome.

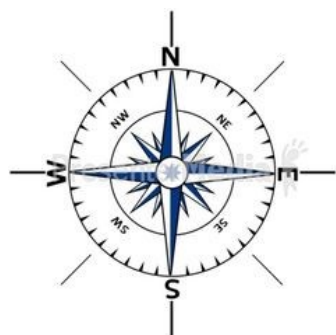
The Maritime Activity Center became an impending reality versus a vision when the contract to renovate the former Shop/Band Hall was signed, and Fletcher Construction Company was given the go-ahead to commence work in March 2016. The effort is on track to meet the expected completion in November.

With the Capital Fundraising Campaign well underway and the MAC renovation now becoming a reality, seeking a Museum director/curator and commencing the formidable task of converting the vision of a museum into an actual enjoyable, educational, inspiring entity have both begun in earnest in the capable hands of the respective Committees.

In closing, as you all know, not much in this world subsists without money...so it is with the MMM. Not soliciting donations here, but I do ask that you help increase public awareness of the Museum at any opportunity. Let your friends and acquaintances know what we're doing to improve our community and preserve the rich heritage we have here. Invite them to join; get them interested. In addition, we are in the process of implementing a Speakers' Forum whose charter will be to present the MMM story to civic and business organizations in Pascagoula and across South Mississippi. If you belong to such an organization and would like to have us make a presentation, contact me, or Dr. Jack Hoover.

Thank you for your support and giving me this opportunity. Have a great Maritime Day.

Terry Bollman, MMM President





Museum Funding Initiative

The MS Maritime Museum is now working with First Community Development Corp. (FCD) of Atlanta to complete its Feasibility Study. This will determine the next phase of our efforts to convert the old PHS Math & Science building into the MS Maritime Museum. The study first invited 45 of our local business and community leaders to help the museum refine its 5 year Strategic Plan. Now FCD has begun interviewing 75 additional community and business leaders for input while conducting its feasibility study. The study is the second phase of the museum's capital funds campaign and will be completed by August 1st.

Robert Hardy, MMM Treasurer



M/V Rhonda III

Sometimes it's good to be the boss. In 1954, Robert (Bob) I. Ingalls, Jr., having a firm renown for designing US Navy ships, designed a yacht befitting the owner of a major shipyard. At almost 96 feet in length and 21 feet I beam, Ingalls Shipbuilding Hull#591 (fitting in between the LSDs USS *Point Defiance* and USS *Spiegel Grove*), became the M/V *Rhonda III*. She was the largest post-war yacht built to that point and the most modern. One source states that she was built inside of a huge supertanker and not in the open yard. Then, when completed to near-Navy standards, she was hoisted out of the supertanker and quietly launched. With a final cost of \$500,000, M/V *Rhonda III* was completed in January, 1955. She still sails, now as the M/V *Victory*.

George Sholl, MMM Artifacts Acquisition Chair



MISSISSIPPI MARITIME MUSEUM PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE

Mississippi Maritime Museum – Membership News

In last Fall's newsletter article, we announced that decisions had been made regarding membership rules, with more details forthcoming. These rules will be enacted in a phased approach as the museum gains ground. We will first establish a baseline, allowing room for growth, and make expansions as warranted. This update shares the first phase, providing the framework, and we ask that you provide comments and suggestions that you would like considered within future developments.

Terms of Membership

Memberships shall run according to the yearly calendar, January through December. Membership drives will occur, and existing members' dues will be renewable, from November of the current calendar year through February of the next. New memberships accepted between March - October of any calendar year will be effective for the remainder of that calendar year only, and will become renewable the following January.

Dues are \$25 yearly. Until the Grand Opening of the museum proper is imminent, it will remain up to the donor to define their membership as individual or couple. Each membership will be allowed to cast one vote in such situations. Family terms will be defined at a later date.

Business memberships will be listed with the name of the owner, president, or general manager, or their written designee, as the member, also carrying one vote in such situations. As the museum's physical construction efforts progress, we will work to develop both business partner and industry supporter levels of effort.

A Lifetime Membership Program will be enacted as follows: The Board of Directors has agreed that Lifetime Memberships are considered to be 15 years of dues payments (\$375). Those who wish to attain Lifetime Membership status sooner can do so for a one-time upfront payment of \$350, or installments over 2 years of \$175 per year. No further dues payments will be required. Full voting privileges continue for the lifetime of the member. Benefits thereof after physical opening are yet-to-be-determined.

Plank Owners shall be those who have been members of the museum organization for at least 4 years prior to, and are current members at, the official Grand Opening of the museum. Anyone joining the museum within four years prior to the Grand Opening can attain Plank Owner status by paying dues equal to the number of years required to make up the four-year minimum. Plank Owners will be recognized as part of the Grand Opening festivities. Benefits thereof after physical opening are yet-to-be-determined.

Rene' Shaw, Membership Chair

MMM on Facebook

You can find maritime articles and photos on our Facebook page. Dr. Douglas Belk is our Facebook administrator and is responsible for keeping the Facebook page up to date. In addition, many articles found on our Facebook page and website are written by Mrs. Else Martin. Else is our MMM Historian and spends many hours researching and writing articles on our maritime history.



We will have a great museum! We want you to be part of it. Become a Plank Owner!

_____ E-Mail

_____ Home phone

_____ Cell

_____ State

_____ City

_____ Zip

_____ Address

_____ Name

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

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

Mississippi Maritime Museum Membership



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