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visit our website at [msmaritimemuseum.org](http://msmaritimemuseum.org)



# Museum News



## President's Message

### Ship's Log

What an exciting year 2016 has been for our Mississippi Maritime Museum! We have made significant progress to the four goals we set for the year with the most physically obvious being the completion of the **Maritime Activities Center renovation**. There is yet much work to be done to outfit and set up operations in the MAC, but meeting as your President with the Board of Directors in the MAC for the first time on Dec. 14, 2016, was personally thrilling and humbling. You can personally experience that rush of pride ... join your fellow members at the General Membership Meeting in the MAC on 17 February and enjoy firsthand our new center of operations ... the fruits of your support.

The formidable task of acquiring a **Museum Director** is progressing with initial criteria and a hiring plan having been developed with a goal of having a Director onboard by the end of 2017.

The **Capital Campaign** is in the final stages of development and will be 'kicked off' in the very near future. This campaign has received very positive support from community leaders in industry and government giving us great confidence the campaign goal will be met or exceeded. In parallel with this campaign, we are proceeding with the **Planning to transform the Math and Science Building into the Mississippi Maritime Museum**. Through the MMM Planning Committee we will be honing the vision for the museum which is essential to developing and implementing plans to acquire a museum developer / architect.

We are at a very exciting time in the birth of our Museum!! Come to the MAC Feb. 17; walk through the doors and feel the sense of accomplishment and the pride when you say to yourself "I made this happen"! Rest assured, with your continued support, we--your Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs-- will do all we can to ensure the momentum we have built continues through this coming year and beyond.

Terry L. Bollman,  
President

## General Members Meeting Announcement

The Maritime Activities Center (MAC)  
609 Dupont Avenue, Pascagoula, MS  
Friday, February 17, from 5:30-7 p.m.

## Mississippi Maritime Museum Membership

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



**Mississippi Maritime Museum**

**P. O. Box 243**

**Pascagoula, MS 39568**

<http://msmaritimemuseum.org/>

# Campaign Chairman's Report

The Capital Campaign is well under way with actual solicitations for pledges to begin early January 2017. Gary Lightfoot of First Community Development, Atlanta, is here four days per week in the campaign office located on the first floor of Hancock Bank (Main Office). Gary Lightfoot and Jeff Neufeld are running the Capital Campaign.

Jan Hardy is also in the office serving as Campaign Coordinator: (228) 218-0033 (office), (228) 623-5128 (cell), and doing an outstanding job.

A very outstanding nine minute movie is in the final stage of development, and includes interviews with many of our community leaders. The brochure, which tells our story, has gone to the printer. Both the movie and the brochure will be used during the solicitations.

The campaign Organization chart is nearing completion with many of our community leaders taking part. I have been asked to take the position

of Campaign General Chairman, which I have accepted knowing of the awesome responsibility. I will need the help of everyone to help raise the \$4,750,000 which FCD has calculated could be raised. Anyone interested in helping in the campaign please call Jan Hardy.

Spread the word regarding the many, many advantages of having a world class Maritime Museum here. With our 300-year maritime history, we have a real story to tell and to display... Also, help us get new members, as the cost is only \$25 per year for family or single membership.

Dr. Jack C. Hoover,  
General Chairman,  
Capital Campaign

# Secretary's Notes

Happy New Year!! ...'tis the season – for volunteerism!! Your MMM is growing daily, and there are 18 committees working on various aspects of its outreach and development. Several of these have vacant chairmanships, with other committee chairmen and/or board members filling in for specific events or as needed during a crunch. For 2017, the Board of Directors encourages and would very much appreciate more active involvement from our membership. Fresh outlooks and approaches are necessary to our growth as an educational and promotional entity within Pascagoula, Jackson County, and reaching out to all of Mississippi and our surrounding area. We need your insight, ideas, and enthusiasm! Please give this your utmost consideration, and when you attend the General Membership Meeting next month, speak with me or any other board member about becoming more involved in our efforts.

Rene' Shaw  
Secretary

# Treasurer's Report

After six years of planning, the first phase of the MS Maritime Museum project is approaching completion. The Maritime Activities Center has been turned over to the Board of Directors, and all costs associated with the MAC have been paid. We have one small invoice pending from Fletcher Construction and the funds are in place to clear this final invoice the day it is received... A special thank you to the Planning and Building Committees for their role in making the MAC become a reality....

Currently, we are well under way with Phase 2,

for the conversion of the old PHS Math & Science Bldg. into a world class, interactive, Maritime Museum. Included in this activity is the front end work leading up to the museum's Capital Funds campaign which will be formally announced in the near future. We are confident that the community will Get on Board this next stage of the MS Maritime Museum.

Robert Hardy,  
Treasurer

# Membership News – Rene' Shaw

Lifetime memberships are in! Seven have been accepted since our original announcement... Renewal season is in full swing, and MMM 2017 membership currently stands at 49. Last year, 2016, saw a record high of 104, yet only 37 of those have renewed so far. Yes, that means we have 10 NEW members this year! Our growth is apparent, not only with a new physical presence in town, but also in our numbers of supporters.

Our media outreach has been quite successful, with our Facebook page garnering 835 followers, as of the date of this writing. Plankownership has been another very popular subject, with several folks sending in four years' worth of dues for their 2017 renewal.

Thus, I need to remind everyone of the terms: Plank owners are those active members of (at least) the four consecutive years prior to the grand opening of the museum and are members in good standing at the time of the grand opening. Setting this date for the museum is not imminent, but a membership tracking database is in place to assist in identifying Plank Owner candidates, and determining all qualifiers at the time of opening. Should you have any remaining questions, please contact me through our Facebook page, or bring them to me at the upcoming General Membership Meeting.

# Local Ship in the News!



by George Sholl, Artifact/Acquisition

Usually when a Jackson County built Navy ship is in the news, it's a destroyer or cruiser built at Ingalls, but recently another locally produced ship was the center of attention.

The USNS *Bowditch* was conducting research off the Philippine coast when a submersible drone it was controlling was captured by the Chinese Navy. Thankfully, the situation will be peacefully resolved, but it brings to light a very interesting category of U.S. Navy ships.

USNS designates United States Naval Ships, which are owned by the U.S. Navy and operated by Military Sealift Command for the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO). They have civilian crews and conduct oceanography research including marine acoustics, marine geology geophysics, and gravimetric and magnetic surveying.

VT Halter has produced several entire classes of research ships for the U.S. Navy with names associated

with maritime explorers and scientists. USNS *Bowditch* was built by VT Halter in 1994 as one of seven *Pathfinder*-class survey ships. USNS *Bowditch* is the fourth Navy ship to bear the name honoring Nathaniel Bowditch who was born in Salem, Mass.,

March 26, 1773. An astronomer and navigator, he published the first edition of *The New American Practical Navigator* in 1802 and authored numerous other scientific works.

You can distinguish these ships from commissioned Navy ships (USS) by their paint schemes. USNS vessels are often painted a bright white and have distinctive blue and gold stripes on their stacks.

