



MISSISSIPPI MARITIME MUSEUM E-NEWS

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE

On behalf of the Mississippi Maritime Museum (MMM) Board of Directors I am extremely excited to announce two major accomplishments that have occurred since the June Newsletter.

The Board of Directors has voted to move forward with Phase 3 of relocating the museum to a more desirable and visible location. In August we signed a contract with the Gautier family to purchase the old Ice House off Highway 90. This not only gives us a better location to build a state of the art Maritime museum, but also saves one of Pascagoula's oldest landmarks. In addition we plan to establish a small visitor center for the City of Pascagoula in the museum lobby. Thanks go to Robert Hardy who has led the charge with developing plans to relocate the museum.

In addition, I am proud to announce that we have hired a museum Director, Ms. Lorren West. Her first Director's Report will tell you more. Thanks go to the Search Committee, chaired by Terry Bollman, for their diligence in finding our new Museum Director.

I hope every one of our members is safe, and healthy. Please remember to keep your distance, wear those face masks and wash your hands frequently.

Perry Thompson, President

DIRECTORS REPORT

Ahoy friends,

It is from the heart I write you as the Mississippi Maritime Museum's executive director. I am honored and humbled to assume the helm of this fantastic Mississippi maritime organization. The Mississippi Gulf and Pascagoula are

centered in shipbuilding and rich maritime history. I am committed to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to understand and appreciate Mississippi's Gulf Coast and Pascagoula's maritime heritage and sea connection.

My maritime museum education and operational professional experience includes significant tenure with Mystic Seaport Maritime Museum (Mystic, CT), Mashantucket Indian Museum and Research Center (Ledyard, CT) and Gulf Quest Maritime Museum (Mobile, AL). I was delighted to gain invaluable applied museum management experience within museum operations. For example, visitor services, membership programs, staffing, event and retail management, grant inclusions, fundraising, tourist group tours, exhibit planning and best of all Seamanship and the lore of our seas. Also, I enjoyed tenure as college president for a period of 20 years focused on standards of excellence pertaining to student-educational success, community outreach, and expansion and building new campuses, finance, creating and implementing educational programming and institutional effectiveness within strategy planning achievements. My maritime and educational operational experience will allow me to partner with our dedicated Board of Directors to develop and implement maritime educational programs, exhibitions, collections, events, fundraising initiatives and most importantly, partnering with our local communities safeguarding the museum's strategic direction to fulfill our maritime mission to preserve and promote the Gulf Coast's unique maritime heritage.

Our maritime team is currently focused on real estate museum development, exhibit creations, educational

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MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve, educate, promote and exhibit Mississippi's maritime history for the present and future generations.

programming, enhancing public relations, local events, and both our GET ON BOARD capital and membership campaigns. Our planning and implementation of the Mississippi Maritime Museum will play an important role for Pascagoula and surrounding communities.

The maritime museum will have a significant impact on local economic development and travel/tourism.

I look forward to our progress as we sail into this great adventure with our compass set for a boundless Mississippi maritime adventure. Please feel free to email me (mstmuseum@gmail.com) with any thoughts or questions.

Warm regards,

Lorren West
Executive Director, Mississippi Maritime Museum

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

Phase 3 of the MMM Strategic Plan called for the final placement of the Museum on a high visibility location on Hwy 90. In August, 2020 MMM President, Perry Thompson, signed the contract to acquire the Old Pascagoula Ice House adjacent to Hwy 90 and Pascagoula St. for \$600,000, and funds are now being generated to finalize this agreement.

The Get on Board! Capital Campaign has collected \$91,000 in 2020, year to date. Total Pledges thus far represent \$657,000, with an additional \$37,000 to be invoiced this month. \$500,000 in potential pledges has been identified in the pipeline at this time.

Total other Non Pledge Revenues have produced \$1,350,000 from the State and a \$200,000 commitment from Jackson County of which \$80,000 has been collected thus far for a total of \$1.5 million. A 5-year Foundation Grant of \$250,000 was received in 2016

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for Operations Expenses. Total targeted Revenue Objectives from all sources have been set and identified at \$9.5 Million for Total targeted Revenue Objectives from all sources have been set and identified at \$9.5 Million for 2020-2023 as of October 1, 2020. Of this amount, we have received tentative commitments for \$1.6 million to date.

Robert Hardy, Campaign Chairperson



Possible future home of the Mississippi Maritime Museum at the site of the old Pascagoula Ice House on the corner of Hwy 90 and North Pascagoula St.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Currently our database contains 147 Memberships. (137) are active for 2020, with (20) Lifetime. There are still a 10 or so 2019 Memberships not yet renewed, but there is still time. If you are unsure of your status, send an email to mstmuseum@gmail.com to inquire. Dues are payable by sending a check to MMM, P.O. Box 243, Pascagoula, MS, 39568; or visit our website – msmaritimemuseum.com and click on the membership tab.

Rene' Shaw, Membership Chairperson

The ships picture on the cover is the USS Pascagoula which was built by the Dierks-Blodgett Shipbuilding Company in Pascagoula, Mississippi, as a World War I cargo ship.



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