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# AMERICAN MARITIME OFFICER

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## New member appointed to AMO Executive Board, new West Coast and Great Lakes Representatives hired

Joe Brown, a long-time member of American Maritime Officers and Great Lakes Representative, has been appointed National Vice President, Inland Waters, by the AMO National Executive Board. Brown will complete the term of Danny Robichaux, who is now serving as AMO National Executive Vice President.

Brown sailed for three decades on the Great Lakes, with twenty years as a member of AMO. He holds an unlimited master's license and his last ship before coming ashore to work for the union was



the steamer *Wilfred Sykes*. He started work as a boarding representative on the Lakes in 2019 and was later promoted to National Assistant Vice President, Great Lakes, before accepting the post as National Vice President, Inland Waters.

Brown earned his license through the hawsepipe and holds a bachelor's degree in logistics management from Robert Morris College.

The union's National Executive Board has hired two new boarding representatives to fill vacant positions. Alex Butler is the union's West Coast Representative and Peter Kinsey is the Great Lakes Representative.

Butler is a 23-year member of AMO and has spent the past 16 years working onboard U.S. Maritime Administration

Ready Reserve Force ships *Keystone State*, *Gem State* and *Grand Canyon State*, where he last sailed as Captain on his unlimited master's license.

Butler started out with AMO on passenger ships in Hawaii and enjoyed tramping on heavy-lift ships as a Second Mate. He served in sealift missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He found working with the U.S. military in support of our troops to be deeply gratifying and has continued working in partnership with the U.S. Armed Forces throughout his career.

He graduated from California Maritime Academy in 2001 and returned to earn his master's degree in transportation and engineering management with a focus on humanitarian disaster management in 2019.

Kinsey has been a member of AMO for ten years. After graduating from high school, he sailed as a Wiper in the Gulf of Mexico, then attended Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Upon graduation in 2014, he started his career with AMO onboard the *Walter J. McCarthy Jr.*

Kinsey worked in various relief jobs on the Lakes before becoming permanent on the *M/V Buffalo*. His other permanent assignments included the *M/V Indiana Harbor*, *M/V Sam Laud*, *M/V St. Clair* and the *M/V American Integrity*. While sailing as Second Mate on the *M/V St. Clair*, he also attended graduate school and earned a master's degree in English from Southern New Hampshire University. Kinsey holds an unlimited master's license with master of towing.



Captain Samar Bannister, master on the *Training Ship Golden Bear*, and AMO West Coast Representative Alex Butler congratulate Commodore Harry Bolton, a retired AMO member of 30 years and master on the *Golden Bear* for 10 years, on his receipt of a Lifetime Achievement Award from California State University Maritime Academy in April.



Pete Kinsey and his wife Tracy talk with STAR Center Director of Training Jerry Pannell during a barbecue on the AMO Plans campus with members of the AMO National Executive Board, the AMO Plans Board of Trustees and others attending the meetings of the separate boards in March in Dania Beach, Fla.

## AMO membership drive with reduced initiation fee ends June 30

The current American Maritime Officers Membership Drive Program with a reduced initiation fee will end June 30, 2024.

The AMO initiation fee was raised on January 1, 2024 to \$6,000 pursuant to a vote by the National Executive Board, which was ratified by the membership. **However, under the terms of the Membership Drive Program for 2024, a reduced initiation fee in the amount of \$3,000 has been established.**

To qualify for the reduced initiation fee during the membership drive, applicants must meet the following conditions:

**1. Pay the reduced initiation fee of \$3,000 in full not later than June 30**

**2. Provide letters of recommendation from at least two AMO members**  
**3. Establish good standing with the union, with dues paid in full through the current quarter**

AMO applicants who do not pay the reduced initiation fee in full, establish good standing with the union, and submit the two letters of recommendation prior to June 30, 2024 will be responsible for the standard initiation fee for deep-sea and Great Lakes officers at the time they applied: \$6,000.

For more information, please contact AMO National Secretary-Treasurer Bob Rice at (954) 295-6160 or via e-mail: [brice@amo-union.org](mailto:brice@amo-union.org).

Page 12: AMO, AMOS participate in congressional Sail-In on Capitol Hill

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# Reconnecting with the U.S. maritime industry, and from there, the world

By Willie Barrere  
President

*What is AMO and what does it do?*

This is a frustrating question, especially when you're hearing it from seniors at a maritime academy or from people involved in the maritime industry.

*What is the U.S. maritime industry?*

This is also a question of great concern and is often heard from two groups of people — young people being advised of potential career and college opportunities, and the general public. I'm sure many of us have heard it before.

This information gap is not an abstract problem. We are feeling its impact every day in our working lives, and these

questions define the challenges we face in expanding our membership.

There was a sharp drop-off in interaction and outreach during the pandemic nationwide and around the world, and the maritime industry was no exception. Although many more people are now familiar with the concept of supply chains, I think not enough has been done in the time since to raise awareness about what AMO is and what we offer, and about the maritime industry as a whole.

Not enough information has been injected into the public discourse for most people to be aware of the outstanding job and career opportunities available in the maritime industry and how important the U.S. Merchant Marine is in so many ways.

If our input is the academies' output, it is clear we need to reinvest in marketing ourselves and spreading the word.

Over the past few weeks, myself and other representatives of AMO participated in the Maritime Industry Congressional Sail-In on Capitol Hill, Maritime Administration meetings on EMBARC and work-life balance, maritime academy career fairs, and the Sea-Air-Space Conference. We also hosted the Training Needs Conference at STAR Center to address how to best meet commercial and government maritime training needs now and in the years to come.

We are attending, sponsoring and/or supporting industry-related functions and linking these with visits to our contracted

companies — encouraging them to attend career fairs, recruit and also increase their outreach to the industry and the world. We are sponsoring academy scholarships and supporting organizations that span the industry — WISTA, CAMM, Women on the Water, Seafarers International House, and other organizations that support the maritime workforce.

By the end of April, I will have met with senior management at 15 of our contracted operating companies since taking office. These in-person meetings go a long way toward renewing relationships and fostering expanded interest in recruiting and retention.

There are many avenues to pursue as we seek to broaden our horizon within our industry and in the world at large. We are learning about them, reconnecting, and preparing to do more. With enough work done in the right way, we are hoping to hear a different question much more often.

*How do I become an AMO member and participate in the U.S. maritime industry?*

## AMO onboard as *Badlands Trader* conducts CONSOL with *USS Yukon*



Members of American Maritime Officers working aboard the *MT Badlands Trader* in April, here in the Far East, included Port Captain Chris Anderson, Second Mate John Dufrene Jr., Chief Mate Wayne Archer, Captain Thua Pham, Chief Engineer Chris Gill, First Assistant Engineer Michael Raymond, Second A.E. Mahlon Glidden and Third A.E. Caleb Linder. The *Badlands Trader*, which is operated in the Tanker Security Program fleet by USMMI, conducted a CONSOL operation with the *USS Yukon* at sea.

Photos courtesy of Captain Thua Pham



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# AMO and STAR Center celebrate first graduate of TECH Program to achieve Chief Engineer

When the American Maritime Officers Plans trustees approved the development of The Engineering Candidate Hawsepipe (TECH) Program at STAR Center in 2013, producing a merchant mariner such as Russell Pilchard IV was exactly what they had in mind.

Pilchard, a graduate of the third TECH class in 2017, recently became the first alumnus of the apprentice program to reach the rank of Chief Engineer — proving the first of its kind initiative has been a success.

The TECH Program is now in its tenth year, having paused briefly due to the pandemic. There are currently 20 apprentice engineers in the program, which so far has produced 50 U.S. Coast Guard licensed Third Assistant Unlimited/OICEW Engineers — all of whom sail with AMO. The 30-month program has established itself in meeting its goal of helping offset ongoing manpower issues particularly for senior engineering officers.

Pilchard was interviewed while sailing as Chief Engineer on the tanker *Torm Thor* in February and shared his thoughts about and experiences in the TECH Program.

## How would you describe your education, training and experience while in the program?

**Pilchard:** The education and training at STAR Center was comprehensive and covered the essential information needed to progress in the field. The ability to learn new material then immediately sail and be able to apply what I had learned in the program in real life situations was a great benefit.

## What were some of the challenges the TECH program presented and how did you overcome them?

**Pilchard:** Overall, I enjoyed the program and had no real issues. However, I can see how the nonstop pace could affect individuals. Having an end goal in mind and knowing what waits for you at the end of the program is motivation enough to keep going. I would say proper planning and ensuring some time for yourself and what you enjoy helps with this. On-board, I always blocked out times for my sea projects and allowed time for me to go to the gym. While in class, I would find time in my off hours to fish, surf, and do other things I enjoyed. Having a good bond with your classmates is crucial as well. We were a very tight class and when someone



Members of American Maritime Officers working aboard the *Torm Thor* in February included Second Assistant Engineer Marijan Strk and Chief Engineer Russell Pilchard IV, who is the first TECH Program graduate to achieve Chief Engineer. Both were members of TECH Program class 103.

was having issues, multiple people were there to pick them up and keep them going or help them study.

## How well did the program prepare you for your progression to Chief Engineer?

**Pilchard:** I believe the program

prepared me well enough that I came out with a strong foundation and was able to use what I had learned to learn more as I progressed and apply it in real life working situations. As I progressed, I just made efforts to learn new equipment and new procedures, but the foundation was there because of the TECH Program.



In 2015, Marijan Strk and Russell Pilchard IV were TECH Program apprentices, here at STAR Center in Dania Beach, Fla.

Coming out of the program honestly, I would say I was over-prepared to be a Third Assistant Engineer and excelled quickly to Second and then First A.E. The TECH Program is what you make it. It offers you the foundation you need to excel but it's up to the individual to apply that and continue wanting to learn more and do what they need to further their career.

## What were some of the benefits of this type of program?

**Pilchard:** I would say one of the biggest benefits was the intimate class size. The instructors were exceptional. I would especially like to thank instructors Sean Cannon and Jay Henderson. The other big benefit is being able to immediately apply what you have learned during the various stages of sea time.

## Describe your career path to Chief Engineer and how the TECH program prepared you for that path with AMO?

**Pilchard:** I spent most of my career on the *M/V American Liberty*, a coastwise Jones Act tanker, where I progressed to each rank. I had an exceptional Engine Department, with AMO senior engine officers who were willing to take the time out to teach me. I built a strong rapport with my department and shipmates and learned the vessel like the back of my hand. The TECH Program helps you a lot in the sense that you have the knowledge and a good amount of sea experience by the time you graduate. You should already know what your job is and what you are going to be doing and you have learned how to adapt to a shipboard living environment. If you apply all that you can gain from the program, with initiative, you can thrive.

## Do you have any advice for those who are in the TECH program or thinking about applying to the program?

**Pilchard:** I would say if you know you want a long sailing career and enjoy hands-on, "real life" situational learning with a great group of instructors and a small class size, there's no downside to the TECH Program. Just be prepared to sacrifice initially, but it's well worth it in the end. I have found my career very rewarding and have been fortunate to excel in maritime because of the TECH Program.

# Attention dynamic positioning operators certified by the Nautical Institute: Changes to DPO renewal/revalidation requirements in effect beginning January 1, 2024

## Changes to revalidation requirements – continuing professional development

From January 2024, the requirements to revalidate Dynamic Positioning Certificates will be changing.

To make sure that DP operators keep pace with the developing standards in a fast-changing industry, DPOs renewing their certificates will now be asked to demonstrate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as well as experience.

### To revalidate your Unclassed/Limited/Unlimited DP Certificate, you will need to:

- Complete the Nautical Institute Dynamic Positioning Refresher Course

Note: STAR Center will offer a five-day approved DP Revalidation/Refresher and Competency Assessment Course, which will meet the NI CPD requirement. This will include completing the NI revalidation examination. STAR Center will begin offering the DP Revalidation/Refresher and Competency Assessment Course starting in 2024. Please see STAR Center's schedule online ([www.star-center.com/schedule.html](http://www.star-center.com/schedule.html)).

OR

- Be enrolled in an NI-approved Continuing Professional Development program. Note:

There are currently two online approved CPD program options:

- IMCA/NI (<https://tinyurl.com/yc2mryue>)
- Keelson Marine (<https://www.keelsonmarineassurance.com/dpcpd>)

There is an annual subscription fee of approximately \$150/year. The individual would enroll each year and be responsible for all fees including the exam. In addition to the yearly CPD program Individuals are also required to take the NI Revalidation Exam which will be arranged directly with NI online.

To make sure all applicants have enough time to meet the requirements, the NI will be introducing the changes gradually over the next five years as follows.

If you have 150 days of DP sea time/DP activities and are due to revalidate your certificate in the following years, please see requirements below:

**2024** – NI DP Refresher course, **OR** NI Revalidation online exam **AND one year** of an NI-approved CPD program

**2025** – NI DP Refresher course, **OR** NI Revalidation online exam **AND two years** of an NI-approved CPD program

**2026** – NI DP Refresher course, **OR** NI Revalidation online exam **AND three years** of an NI-approved CPD program

**2027** – NI DP Refresher course, **OR** NI Revalidation online exam **AND four years** of an NI-approved CPD program

**2028** – NI DP Refresher course, **OR** NI Revalidation online exam **AND five years** of an NI-approved CPD program

If your certificate is due to expire in one of the years above, and you do not have all the requirements in place to revalidate your certificate before the expiry date, you will be granted an automatic 12-month extension to your existing certificate to complete the CPD requirements.

- If you have between 30-150 days sea time: You must complete the NI Dynamic Positioning Refresher Course

- If you have less than 30 days sea time: You must complete the NI Dynamic Positioning Revalidation Course

## IMPLEMENTATION OF CPD SCHEME

Table 1: Revalidation Matrix

### 1 Jan 2024:

A DPO/DPVM with 150 days DP sea time who is applying for revalidation will have to sit the NI Revalidation Course on line exam and complete a minimum of one year of the NI-approved CPD program or complete the NI DP Refresher Course. Those who do not meet all the new requirements will be given 12 months to do so, after which they can reapply for revalidation.

### 1 Jan 2025:

A DPO/DPVM with 150 days DP sea time who is applying for revalidation will have to sit the NI Revalidation Course online exam and complete a minimum of two years of the NI-approved CPD program or complete the NI DP Refresher Course. Those who do not meet all the new requirements will be given 12 months to do so, after which they can reapply for revalidation.

### 1 Jan 2026:

A DPO/DPVM with 150 days DP sea time who is applying for revalidation will have to sit the NI Revalidation Course online exam and complete a minimum of three years of the NI-approved CPD program or complete the NI DP Refresher Course. Those who do not meet all the new requirements will be given 12 months to do so, after which they can reapply for revalidation.

### 1 Jan 2027:

A DPO/DPVM with 150 days DP sea time who is applying for revalidation will have to sit the NI Revalidation Course online exam and complete a minimum of four years of the NI-approved CPD program or complete the NI DP Refresher Course. Those who do not meet all the new requirements will be given 12 months to do so, after which they can reapply for revalidation.

### 1 Jan 2028:

A DPO/DPVM with 150 days DP sea time who is applying for revalidation will have to sit the NI Revalidation Course on line exam and complete a minimum of five years of the NI-approved CPD program or complete the NI DP Refresher Course. Those who do not meet all the new requirements will be given 12 months to do so, after which they can reapply for revalidation.

All information may be found on the NI Alexis (<https://tinyurl.com/3rh2tk6h>).

The above information is also available on the STAR Center website ([www.star-center.com/info/dp\\_reval\\_refresh.html](http://www.star-center.com/info/dp_reval_refresh.html)).

## AMO aboard Ready Reserve Force fast sealift ships *Antares* and *Denebola*



American Maritime Officers members working aboard the Ready Reserve Force ships *Antares* and *Denebola*, here in Norfolk, Va. in March, included Chief Engineer Robert Bailey (*Denebola*), Second Assistant Engineer Tim Price (*Antares*), Third Mate Dexter Turija (*Denebola*), Chief Engineer Mark Sorochynskij (*Antares*), First A.E. Jon Bowley (*Denebola*), First A.E. Gary Wierzbicel (*Antares*) and Chief Mate Michael Rawlins (*Denebola*).

# Senator Debbie Stabenow receives Lifetime Achievement Award from Great Lakes Maritime Task Force

On Wednesday, April 10, the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force (GLMTF) recognized the significant contributions Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow has made throughout her congressional career to the protection of the Great Lakes Navigation System and American jobs, and her support for U.S.-flag Great Lakes shipping.

Senator Stabenow, who co-chairs the bipartisan Senate Great Lakes Task Force, has been the driving force behind the protection of our largest freshwater resource and the maritime highway that supports U.S. jobs through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), which was first authored in 2010 and has since received \$3.8 billion in funding.

The GLRI has been a major success, with funds provided for over 6,800 projects throughout the region protecting the Great Lakes and its waterways against its greatest threats, and addressing problems that impact public health and safety.

“Our U.S. sailors, port, shipyard, and manufacturing employees depend on the Great Lakes and their connecting waterways for the raw material supply chain to support good paying jobs, and their families live here too. Senator Stabenow’s work for over a decade has proved to be a game changer, ensuring our fresh waters are restored and protected for generations to come,” stated Jim Weakley, Vice President of the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force and President of the Lake Carriers’ Association.



Representing American Maritime Officers as a member of the Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, AMO National Vice President, Government Relations, Christian Spain congratulates Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) on her receipt of the task force’s Lifetime Achievement Award for her strong support of U.S.-flag shipping and the Great Lakes Navigation System.

Senator Stabenow has been a critical champion for arguably the most important North American infrastructure project in several years with the construction of a large new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigational lock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Nearly all domestically produced high strength steel is made with iron ore

that transits the current large lock, the Poe, built in 1969. A study conducted by the Department of Homeland Security concluded that a six-month unscheduled outage of the Poe Lock would result in 11 million jobs lost and a \$1.1 trillion economic impact. Recognizing the vital national economic importance and the reality that

it is an aging single point of failure for North American manufacturing, Senator Stabenow tirelessly advocated for funding authorization and continued efficient funding of the estimated \$3.2 billion mega project securing large annual appropriations to keep the project on track.

The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force is grateful for Senator Stabenow’s service to our county, the Great Lakes Region, and the State of Michigan. Senator Stabenow is truly a champion for the Great Lakes watershed and the healthy marine transportation system it supports.

The presentation of the award was made at Senator Stabenow’s Washington, D.C. office surrounded by many thankful Great Lakes Maritime Task Force members.

### About Great Lakes Maritime Task Force

The Great Lakes Maritime Task Force, with nearly 80 members, is the largest coalition to speak for the Great Lakes Navigation System. Advocating for domestic and international shipping, its members represent labor and management from U.S.-flag vessel operators, shipboard and longshore unions, port authorities, cargo shippers, terminal operators, shipyards, and other Great Lakes interests. The Great Lakes commercial maritime industry supports more than 147,000 American jobs in eight Great Lakes states and generates more than \$36 billion in economic activity.



## AMO aboard steamer *Arthur M. Anderson*

**At left:** Members of American Maritime Officers working aboard the *Arthur M. Anderson* in April included First Mate Ken Senff, here monitoring the loading of stone in Calcite, Mich.

**At right:** AMO members working aboard the *Arthur M. Anderson* in April included Third Assistant Engineers Karl Guentenberg and Leo Winterich.



# Applications for Merchant Mariner Credential renewal should be submitted eight months prior to expiration; key considerations when filling out form CG-719B

By Christian Spain  
Vice President, Government Relations

AMO's Government Relations office in Washington, D.C. may be able to assist members who are having issues with the National Maritime Center when renewing or upgrading a Merchant Mariner Credential, adding certifications and endorsements, or renewing a Medical Certificate. However, in the first quarter of 2024, the number of members contacting Alaina Basciano and I for assistance has significantly increased. The majority of these issues are the result of renewal applications not being submitted in a timely manner and/or neglecting to properly fill out the application.

**Applications for MMC renewal should be submitted as you enter the eight-month window prior to expiration, even if you are on a ship. Due to relief delays, waiting until you get home to submit your application is not advisable. Medical Certificate renewals should be submitted six to eight months prior to expiration, depending on the length of your rotation.**

MMC renewals are accepted up to eight months prior to their expiration date. License creep for renewal applications is no longer an issue due to the ability to post-date the credential. Renewals submitted prior to the expiration of a current MMC will result in a renewed MMC dated one day after the expiration of the current MMC unless early issuance is requested, as may be the case when upgrading/renewing or adding an endorsement. This option can be selected on the bottom of Page 3 on the CG-719B form under Section II beginning: "FOR RENEWAL TRANSACTIONS ONLY ..."

As a reminder, all engineering and deck officers who require STCW certification on their Merchant Mariner Credential in order to sail are required to complete U.S. Coast Guard approved Basic Training and Advanced Firefighting Revalidation courses, as well as 360 days of sea service, and to include proof of course completion in their application package when submitting documents to the Coast Guard for MMC renewal, or for an upgrade including a renewal. This came into effect in January 2017 as laid out in STCW 2010.

All Coast Guard Regional Exam Centers accept CG-719B applications via email. The National Maritime Center only accepts Medical Certificate applications (CG-719K) electronically via [MEDAIP@uscg.mil](mailto:MEDAIP@uscg.mil). Submitting documents through the Coast Guard's established electronic system is the best way to ensure that your interactions with any REC and the NMC can be tracked and documented.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Currently, there is no automated response from the MEDAIP email address notifying you that your MEDICAL application has been received.

MMC Renewal – Continued on Page 7

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
 U.S. Coast Guard  
 APPLICATION FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL (FORM CG-719B)

OMB No. 1625-0040  
 Exp. Date: 03/31/2021

**Section I: Applicant Information**

1. Legal Name: Last First Name Middle Name Suffix (Jr., Sr., III) Alias(es) or Maiden Name(s) if applicable

2a. SSN (for Original only) 2b. Reference Number (if applicable) 2c. Alien Registration Number (ARN) (if applicable) 3. Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

4. Citizenship 5a. Place of Birth (City) 5b. State 5c. Country 5d. Color of Eyes 5e. Color of Hair

**Applicant Address and Contact Information (Please indicate best method(s) of contact by checking the appropriate box(es)).**

6a. Home Address (PO Box NOT acceptable)

Street Address City State Zip Code 6c. Primary Phone Number

6d. E-mail Address

6b. Delivery/Mailing Address, if different (PO Box acceptable)

Street Address City State Zip Code 6e. Alternate Phone Number

6f. Other

**Next of Kin/Emergency Contact (Please indicate best method(s) of contact by checking the appropriate box(es).) (Optional)**

7a. Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code Same address as above 7b. Relationship (Optional)

Name Street Address City State Zip Code 7c. Primary Phone Number (Optional)

7d. Alternate Phone Number (Optional)

7e. E-mail Address (Optional)

**Section II: Requested Coast Guard Credential(s) Credential or Endorsement Type(s) Requested:**

Endorsement Category	Transaction Type (Check all that apply: See instructions for definitions and additional requirements for the transaction below)					
	Original	Renewal	Duplicate	Raise of Grade, New Endorsement or Increase in Scope	Certificate of Registry	Document of Continuity
Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Qualified Rating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STCW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entry Level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**PLEASE SEE NOTE (1) BELOW**

**PLEASE SEE NOTE (2) BELOW REGARDING FILLING OUT THIS BOX**

**PLEASE SEE NOTE (3) BELOW REGARDING USE OF THIS CHECK BOX**

FOR RENEWAL TRANSACTIONS ONLY: I request to waive the post-dating feature and to have my merchant mariner credential (MMC) issued immediately. I decline having its issuance coincide with the expiration date of my current credential.

CG-719B (04/17)  Page 3 of 5

## NOTES TO CG-719B PAGE 3:

**NOTE (1):** You must select everything the U.S. Coast Guard will need to include on your renewed Merchant Mariner Credential. When renewing, you MUST select Officer, Qualified Rating AND STCW in order to receive ALL of your previous endorsements/credentials on your MMC. If you miss one of these boxes, the Coast Guard will NOT automatically include that item on your MMC.

**NOTE (2):** You must list EVERYTHING that currently appears or needs to appear (such as new endorsements) on your credential. Separate your listing into two categories: DOMESTIC and INTERNATIONAL (STCW). **For example:**

- **DOMESTIC:** Master, Unlimited Upon Oceans; Mate (Pilot) of Towing; Tankerman PIC (DL); Lifeboatman, etc.
- **INTERNATIONAL (STCW):** OICNW, RFPNW, AB-Deck, Survival Craft, Fast Rescue Boat, Medical PIC, Advanced Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations, VPDSO, GMDSS Operator, Basic Training, etc.

**NOTE (3):** Only check this box if you are adding an endorsement and/or upgrading as part of the renewal process. By checking this box, your credential will be issued more rapidly with an immediate effective date. If you do not check this box, your credential will be post-dated one day after the expiration of your current MMC to prevent license creep.

# Application deadline is June 3 for upcoming 2024 TECH Program class at STAR Center

The Engineering Candidate Hawsepipe (TECH) Program is a comprehensive training program for those who want to pursue a career as a seagoing marine engineering officer onboard vessels operated under contract with American Maritime Officers.

The deadline for applications for the next TECH Program class is noon on June 3. The class will commence in September 2024. Interested personnel should complete the application process and submit it on the STAR Center website.

[www.star-center.com/techprogram/techprogram.html](http://www.star-center.com/techprogram/techprogram.html)

In conjunction with STAR Center, AMO – the largest union of U.S. Merchant Marine officers – is offering this program with the purpose of providing selected candidates with the opportunity to proceed on a marine engineering career path and help fill the projected shortage of marine engineers. The program targets those with an interest in the Merchant Marine and mentors them during intense training onboard ship and ashore.

The TECH Program is in its tenth year, having paused briefly during the pandemic. There are currently 20 apprentice engineers in the program, which so far has produced 50 third assistant unlimited/OICEW engineers – all of whom sail with AMO.

The TECH program will take approximately two years to complete and alternates between classroom training and sea phases. Upon successful completion of the program, the individual commences career employment as a marine engineer with AMO.

The TECH program is sponsored by the AMO Plans and is also approved for veterans' benefits. Please use the link at left for full information on the program.

## MONTHLY AMO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Regular monthly membership meetings for American Maritime Officers will be held on the first Wednesday of every month except in the months of January, June, July and September, when the membership meeting will be held on the second Wednesday. Meetings will be held at AMO National Headquarters and will begin at 1 p.m. local time. The next meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

**May 1, June 12, July 10**

## MMC Renewal

Continued from Page 6

You will only be notified when it is under review. As this can take some time, it is advised that you follow the guidelines above and **SUBMIT EARLY**.

The Coast Guard's guidance on submitting MMC applications (CG-719B) to RECs only, and for submitting Medical Certificate applications (CG-719K) directly to NMC, is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/54u6kc9f>.

It is highly advised you ensure the correct boxes are checked in Section II of your CG-719B form prior to submission. Checking too many options is just as bad as not checking enough. Incorrectly filling out this section of the form is the number one issue we are seeing with members and will inevitably cause delays in your application and possible errors in your new MMC. Please reach out to Captain Kathleen Friel or Captain Bob Silva if you have ANY questions regarding how you should complete this form. Please take two minutes to look at the renderings of the CG-719B form here to help avoid issuance of a renewed MMC with errors. **DO NOT SUBMIT MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS IF YOU NOTICE AN ERROR OR ARE EXPERIENCING DELAYS.**

It is also advised you include scans of your current MMC and TWIC as PDF files.

Please ensure you plan ahead. The Basic Training and Advanced Firefighting Revalidation courses required for STCW renewal can be taken any time during the five years prior to your MMC renewal. The STAR Center course schedule for AMO members is available on pages 8-10 of this edition.

If you have any questions, please email me at [cspain@amo-union.org](mailto:cspain@amo-union.org) or call me at 202-658-8887.

### NOTE TO CG-719B PAGE 4:

**DO NOT CHECK THE BOX (1. TWIC) if you possess a current and valid TWIC. Please read the entire text of the entry (1. TWIC) for clarification.**

**PLEASE SEE NOTE AT LEFT BELOW**      DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY      OMB No. 1625-0040  
U.S. Coast Guard      Exp. Date: 03/31/2021  
**APPLICATION FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL (FORM CG-719B)**

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**Section III: Safety and Suitability**

**1. TWIC (Transportation Worker's Identification Credential) EXEMPTION STATEMENT** - I have previously applied for a TWIC with TSA and I am exempt from holding a valid TWIC under Coast Guard Policy Letter 11-15. I understand that a name based safety and suitability check could significantly delay the processing of my Merchant Mariner Credential Application.

**2. Criminal Record (Convictions and Drug Use):** If you answer Yes to ANY of the questions below you must disclose the information regarding the conviction. You may complete the optional form CG-719C for each question marked "Yes".

a) Have you ever been a user of/or addicted to a dangerous drug, including marijuana, within the last 10 years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
b) Have you ever been convicted of violating a dangerous drug law of the United States, District of Columbia, or any state, or territory of the United States?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
c) Have you ever been convicted by any court-including military court - for an offense other than a minor traffic violation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
d) Have you ever been convicted of a traffic infraction arising in a connection with a fatal traffic accident, reckless driving or racing on a highway or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of, or impaired by, alcohol or a controlled substance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
e) Have you ever had your driver's license revoked or suspended for refusing to submit to an alcohol or drug test?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
f) Have you had a drug test with a result other than negative within the last 10-years?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**3. National Driver Registry (NDR) Consent (Mandatory for Original, Renewal, or new Officer Endorsement):** I authorize the National Driver Registry to furnish the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) information pertaining to my driving record. This consent constitutes authorization for a single access to the information contained in the NDR to verify information provided in this application. **NOTE: Not required for Document of Continuity applicants.**  
I understand the USCG will make the information received from the NDR available to me for review and written comment prior to disapproving my application or taking any action against my Merchant Mariner's Credential. Authority: 46 U.S.C. 710(g), 46 U.S.C. 7302(c), and 46 U.S.C. 7505.

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**Section IV: Mariner's Consent/Certification**

**1. Mariner Outreach System (Optional):** I consent to voluntary participation in the Mariner Outreach System to be used by the Maritime Administration (MARAD) in the event of a national emergency or seafair crisis. In such an emergency, MARAD would disseminate my contact information to an appropriate maritime employment office to determine my availability for possible employment on a seafair vessel. Once consent is given, it remains effective until revoked either by subsequent application or by sending a signed notice of revocation to the U.S. Coast Guard National Maritime Center, 100 Forbes Dr., Martinsburg, WV 25404. For more information, please visit <https://mos.marad.dot.gov/>.

Yes, I would like to participate       No thanks, I do not wish to participate at this time

**2. FOR CONTINUITY RENEWAL ONLY**  
I understand that a Document of Continuity is not valid for use in accordance with 46 CFR 10.227 and aware of the requirements to obtain an MMC. STCW endorsements may not be placed in continuity per 46 CFR 10.227.

**3. CONSENT:** I am under 18 years of age and a notarized statement of parental/guardian consent is attached.

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**4. Certification**

**My signature below attests that:**

- All information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand an application determined to be fraudulent may result in the denial of my application for one year from the date of submission, even if the fraudulent information was not by itself cause for denial or prosecution.
- I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully and honestly, according to my best skill and judgment, and without concealment and reservation, perform all the duties required of me by the laws of the United States. I will faithfully and honestly carry out the lawful orders of my superior officers aboard a vessel.

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**5. Applicant's Signature**

Signature of Applicant <b>X</b> _____	Date (MM/DD/YYYY) _____
Signature of individual authorized to administer the Oath. This is required only once for a mariner. <b>X</b> _____	Date (MM/DD/YYYY) _____
Name of individual authorized to administer the Oath: _____	

CG-719B (04/17)       Printed Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_      Page 4 of 5

## AMO Safety and Education Plan – Simulation, Training, Assessment & Research (STAR) Center

(954) 920-3222 / (800) 942-3220 – 2 West Dixie Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004

### General Courses

Advanced Fire Fighting	5 Days	12 August	28 October						
Advanced Fire Fighting Refresher	2 Days	7 October							
Basic Safety Training – All 4 modules must be completed within 12 months: Personal Safety Techniques (Monday/Tuesday – 1.5 days), Personal Safety & Social Responsibility (Tuesday PM – half-day), Elementary First Aid (Wednesday – 1 day), Fire Fighting & Fire Prevention (Thursday/Friday – 2 days) – not required if Combined Basic and Advanced Fire Fighting completed within 12 months.	5 Days	7 October							
Basic Safety Training – Refresher – required for STCW renewal for those without 360 days of sea service in 5 years	3 Days	9 October							
Basic Training and Advanced Fire Fighting Revalidation (Required for STCW renewal) – required for those with 360 days sea service in five years	2 Days	20 May	10, 24 June	8, 29 July	5, 26 August	12, 23, 30 September	17 October	4, 18 November	
Chemical Safety – Advanced	5 Days	30 Sept.							
Combined Basic & Advanced Low Flash Point Fuel Operations (IGF Code/LNG Fuel) Course	5 Days	10 June	19 August	28 October					
Confined Space Entry	3 Days	1 July	6 November						
Environmental Awareness (includes Oily Water Separator)	3 Days	11 November							
Fast Rescue Boat	4 Days	4 June	27 August	17 September	15 October				
GMDSS – Requires after-hour homework	10 Days	15 July	7 October						
Leadership & Management (required by ALL management level Deck and Engine officers by 1 January 2017)	5 Days	20 May	24 June	8 July	16 Sept.	21 October			
LNG Tankerman PIC – available online	8 Days	10 July							
LNG Simulator Training – Enrollment priority in the LNG simulator course is given to qualified member candidates for employment and/or observation opportunities with AMO contracted LNG companies. In all cases successful completion of the LNG PNC classroom course is prerequisite.	5 Days	22 July							
Proficiency in Survival Craft (Lifeboat)	4 Days	28 May	30 July	30 September					
Proficiency in Survival Craft (Lifeboat) REFRESHER	1 Day	12 October							
Safety Officer Course (also see online schedule)	2 Days	4 July	15 October	4 November					
Tankerman PIC DL – Classroom (also see online schedule)	5 Days	7 October							
Tankerman PIC DL – Simulator	10 Days	17 June	8 July	12 August	16 September	21 October	11 November		
Train the Trainer – requires after hours homework	5 Days	13 May	12 August	21 October					
Vessel/Company Security Officer – Includes Anti-Piracy (also see online schedule)	3 Days	24 April	26 June	9 Sept.					
<b>Deck Courses</b>									
Advanced Bridge Resource Management	5 Days	13 May	28 October						
Advanced Shiphandling for Masters/Senior Deck Officers – (no equivalency) must have sailed as Chief Mate Unlimited	5 Days	24 June	26 August	14 October					
Advanced Shiphandling for 3rd Mates – 60 days seetime equivalency for 3rd Mates	10 Days	29 April	3 June	15 July	9 September	7 October	4 November		
Advanced and Emergency Shiphandling – First Class Pilots, Great Lakes	5 Days	Please Call							
Basic Meteorology	5 Days	28 October							
Dynamic Positioning – Induction (Basic)	5 Days	8 July	16 Sept.	11 November					
Dynamic Positioning – Simulator (Advanced)	5 Days	19 August							
Dynamic Positioning – REVALIDATION / REFRESHER and Competency Assessment (Please specify Revalidation or Refresher on course application)	5 Days	10 June	12 August	14 October					
ECDIS	5 Days	19 August							
Electronic Navigation and Watchkeeping (ECDIS) Refresher	3 Days	12 June	25 September	20 Nov.					
High Risk and Emergency Shiphandling for Masters (Must have completed Advanced Shiphandling for Masters and sailed as Master)	5 Days	29 July	23 September	18 November					
Navigational Watchkeeping Standardization & Assessment Program	5 Days	20 May	29 July	16 Sept.	4 November				
TOAR (Towing Officer Assessment Record) – Third Mate (Unlimited or Great Lakes) or 1600T Master License required AND OICNW required	5 Days	26 August							
Tug Training – ASD Assist	5 Days	Please Call							



**AMO members and applicants are asked to register for courses as far in advance as possible, and to submit a course application even if the preferred course/start date has a wait list**

**AMO members and applicants are asked to submit an application for course registration as far in advance of the course's start date as possible for all courses. Applications received less than 60 days in advance of a course's start date are more difficult to accommodate. AMO members and applicants are also asked to submit an application for their preferred course and start date even if there is a wait list. STAR Center is sometimes able to accommodate those who are on a course wait list.**



**Deck Upgrade – STCW 2010 – Management Level (NVIC 10-14)** – Completion of both required and optional courses listed below will include all Task Assessments required by NVIC 10-14, providing ECDIS, GMDSS and ARPA have been previously completed. See STAR Center's website for full details: <http://www.STAR-Center.com/STCW2010-deck.upgrade.html>.

Upgrade: Shiphandling at the Management Level (includes SAR)	10 Days	3, 17 June	15 July	12 August	30 Sept.	21 October	4 Nov.		
Upgrade: Advanced Meteorology – Requires after-hours homework	5 Days	13 May	24 June	15 July	30 Sept.	4 Nov.			
Advanced Stability (also see online schedule on page 10)	5 Days	29 July	26 August	16 Sept.	28 October				
Management of Medical Care (also see online schedule on page 10)	Half-Day	5 June	31 July	13 Sept.	20 Nov.				
Leadership & Management (also see online schedule on page 10)	5 Days	20 May	24 June	8 July	16 Sept.	21 October			
Advanced Cargo – Optional for task sign-off (also see online schedule on page 10)	5 Days	13 May	22 July	19 August	23 Sept.	21 October			
Marine Propulsion Plants – Optional for task sign-off	5 Days	20 May	3 June	8 July	23 Sept.	28 October			
Advanced Celestial – Optional for task sign-off	5 Days	22 July	9 Sept.						
Advanced Navigation – Optional for task sign-off	5 Days	20 May	8 July	26 August	14 October				

**Engineering Courses**

Electrical and Instrumentation Troubleshooting (Professional Development)	5 Days	22 July							
Control Systems Troubleshooting (Professional Development)	5 Days	29 July							
Diesel Endorsement (Crossover)	4 Weeks	7 October							
Engine Room Resource Management (Simulator)	5 Days	4 November							
Engine Operations Training and Assessment Program	5 Days	20 May	26 August						
Gas Turbine Endorsement	2 Weeks	11 November							
Marine High Voltage Safety Course (Simulator)	5 Days	29 July	4 November						
Hydraulics / Pneumatics (Professional Development)	5 Days	10 June	9 September						
Machine Shop 1 (Professional Development)	5 Days	10 June	23 September						
Machine Shop 2 (must complete Machine Shop 1)	5 Days	17 June	30 September						
Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) (Does not include EPA Universal)	5 Days	5 August	7 October	11 November					
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning	5 Days	17 June	16 September						
Steam Endorsement	4 Weeks	Please Call							
Welding 1 – Professional Development	5 Days	8 July	9 September	11 November					
Welding 2 (must complete Welding 1 prior to enrolling)	5 Days	15 July	16 September	18 November					

**Engine Upgrade – STCW 2010 – Management Level (NVIC 15-14)** – Completion of both required and optional courses listed below will include all Task Assessments required by NVIC 15-14. See STAR Center's website for full details: <https://www.star-center.com/stcw2010-engine.upgrade.html>

Leadership & Managerial Skills (G500 as amended) – REQUIRED	5 Days	20 May	24 June	8 July	16 Sept.	21 October			
ERM (E050 as amended) – REQUIRED (unless previously taken for gap closing or original license) Note: if your current OICEW endorsement does not have a limitation, you should not require this for upgrade.	5 Days	29 July	4 November						
Upgrade: Electrical, Electronics & Control Engineering (Management Level) (E133 as amended) (UPGRADE with tasks) Required unless previously taken for gap closing or original license	5 Days	13 May	15 July	14 October					
STCW Upgrade Task Assessment – General: This class is required by all propulsion types (Motor, Gas and Steam) Licensed engineers – OPTIONAL: Tasks can be signed off onboard	5 Days	22 July	28 October						

**Medical Courses**

Elementary First Aid – Prerequisite for MCP within preceding 6 months	1 Day	11 June	23 July	17 September	29 October				
Medical Care Provider – Prerequisite for MPIC within preceding 6 months. Please fax EFA certificate when registering	3 Days	12 June	24 July	18 September	30 October				
Medical PIC – Please FAX MCP certificate when registering	5 Days	13 May	17 June	29 July	23 Sept.	4 November			
Urinalysis Collector Training	1 Day	20 May	24 June	5 August	30 Sept.	11 November			
Screening Test Technician – QEDs a.m./Alco Mate 7000 p.m.	Half-Day	21 May	25 June	6 August	1 October	12 November			

**Self-Study, CDs and Online Courses**

Anti-Terrorism Level 1 – Online	Qualified Assessor – Online
DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation Training – Online	Vessel General Permit EPA – On campus in conjunction with other classes

## AMO members and applicants can **register online** for STAR Center courses

**STAR Center is no longer accepting paper course registration applications by FAX, nor scanned paper applications by email. AMO members and applicants will need to register for courses on the STAR Center website. With a phone, scan the QR code to open a link to the online course registration form, or in the address bar of a Web browser, enter the following URL: [www.star-center.com/forms/reg.mbr.live.html](http://www.star-center.com/forms/reg.mbr.live.html)**



**Military Sealift Command Training Program** – The core MSC courses noted below are required for initial MSC employment. Other MSC courses listed are only required as assigned duties require.

CORE Basic CBR Defense – Refresher required every 5 years	1 Day	16 May	20 June	18 July	22 August	27 Sept.	24 October	15 Nov.	
CORE Damage Control – Refresher required every 5 years	1 Day	15 May	19 June	17 July	21 August	25 Sept.	23 Oct.	14 Nov.	
CORE Helicopter Fire Fighting – Refresher required every 5 years	1 Day	14 May	18 June	16 July	20 August	26 Sept.	22 Oct.	13 Nov.	
CORE Marine Environmental Program (with CBRD) – Refresher required every 5 years	Half-Day	16 May	20 June	18 July	22 August	27 Sept.	24 October	15 Nov.	
MSC Readiness Refresher – Must have completed full CBRD & DC once in career	2 Days	13 May	17 June	15 July	19 August	3, 21 Oct.	12 Nov.		
MSC ATO Level II – Required every 3 years by Master once during career (unless designated ATO)	5 Days	8 July							
MSC CBRD Officer – Required every five years and successful completion of the annual refresher/indoctrination training is a prerequisite	5 Days	5 August	18 November						
MSC Watchstander – BASIC – once in career, SST graduates are grandfathered	1 Day		15 July	16 Sept.	21 October				
MSC Watchstander – ADVANCED – annual requirement for all SRF members	1 Day	24 May	7, 14, 28 June	12, 16 July	2, 9, 23, 30 August	13, 17, 27 Sept.	11, 18, 22 October	8, 22 November	
MSC Ship Reaction Force – Required every three years for SRF members and must have Basic and a valid Advanced Watchkeeping and a valid Small Arms	3 Days	15 May	17 July	18 Sept.	23 October				
Small Arms – Initial & Sustainment (Refresher) Training – Open to members & applicants eligible for employment through AMO (w/in 1 year) or MSC on MARAD contracted vessels.	4 Days	20 May	3, 10, 24 June	8, 29 July	5, 19, 26 August	9, 23, 30 September	7, 14, 28 October	4, 18 November	

**Radar Courses**

Radar Recertification	1 Day	Please Call							
Electronic Navigation and Watchkeeping (ECDIS) Refresher	3 Days	12 June	20 November						
ARPA	4 Days	Please Call							
Radar Recertification & ARPA	5 Days	Please Call							
Original Radar Observer Unlimited	5 Days	Please Call							

**ONLINE Blended Management Level Upgrade Classes (Deck and Engine)** – STAR Center is offering the following courses ONLINE. WHERE SHOWN, FULLY ONLINE CLASSES INCLUDE ALL ASSESSMENTS AND TRAVEL TO STAR CENTER IS NOT REQUIRED. By USCG approval requirements, Practical Exercises and Competency Assessments for blended courses will have to be taken at STAR Center. This will be scheduled in a comprehensive 5-day session.

Leadership and Management (Deck and Engine) – FULLY ONLINE	5 Days	20 May	8 July						
Advanced Navigation (Deck) – FULLY ONLINE	3 Days	14 October							
Marine Propulsion Plant (Deck) – FULLY ONLINE	3 Days	28 October							
Advanced Stability (Deck) FULLY ONLINE	5 Days	26 August							
Advanced Cargo (Deck) FULLY ONLINE	5 Days	19 August							
Advanced Celestial (Deck) Blended Assessment at STAR Center	4 Days	5 August							
Upgrade: Electrical, Electronics, & Control Engineering (Engine) – FULLY ONLINE	5 Days	15 July							
Combined Basic and Advanced Low Flash Point Fuel Operations – FULLY ONLINE	5 Days	28 October							
LNG Tankerman PIC – FULLY ONLINE	8 Days	Please Call							
Tankerman PIC DL – Classroom – FULLY ONLINE	5 Days	Please Call							
Safety Officer Seminar – FULLY ONLINE	2 Days	15 October							
Management of Medical Care – FULLY ONLINE	Half-Day	20 November							

**Assessments (at STAR Center) DECK and ENGINE**

Advanced Celestial (Deck)	2 Days	12 June							
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**NOTICE:** AMO members planning to attend STAR Center in Dania Beach, Florida – either to prepare for license upgrading or to undergo specialty training—are asked to call the school to confirm course schedule and space availability in advance.

**NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AS TO STUDENTS:** The Simulation, Training, Assessment and Research Center (STAR), established under the auspices of the American Maritime Officers Safety and Education Plan, admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin or sex to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Center. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin or sex in administration of its educational policies, admission policies and other programs administered by the Center.



# DIRECTORY

## AMO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

DANIA BEACH, FL 33004-4109  
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 FAX: (954) 367-1066

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**Robert Rice, National Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Mobile: (954) 295-6160 / brice@amo-union.org**

**Daniel Robichaux, National Executive Vice President**  
**Mobile: (985) 201-5462 / drobichaux@amo-union.org**

**Jeff Richards, National Vice President, Deep Sea**  
**Mobile: (954) 270-2694 / jrichards@amo-union.org**

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 (800) 362-0513 Extension 1060 / Mobile: (954) 298-7635

**Member Services: (800) 362-0513 Extension 1050**  
**memberservices@amo-union.org**  
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 jclemons@amo-union.org  
 (800) 362-0513 Extension 6003

**Joseph T. Brown, National Vice President, Inland Waters**  
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 jbrown@amo-union.org  
 (800) 362-0513 Extension 6007

**Peter Kinsey, Great Lakes Representative**  
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Michelle Moffitt, Dispatcher  
 mmoffitt@amo-union.org  
 (800) 362-0513 Extension 6005  
 Mobile: (419) 481-3470

## STAR CENTER

STUDENT SERVICES/LODGING AND COURSE INFORMATION  
 2 West Dixie Highway  
 Dania Beach, FL 33004-4312  
 (954) 920-3222 Extension 201  
 (800) 942-3220 Extension 201  
 register@star-center.com  
 Course Attendance Confirmation: (800) 942-3220 Extension 200  
 24 Hours: (954) 920-3222 Extension 7999

## SERVICES

AMO MEMBERS & APPLICANTS: UPDATE CREDENTIALS, DOCUMENTS, TRAINING RECORDS  
 Secure File Upload:  
<https://www.amo-union.org>  
**Select LOGIN/MEMBER LOGIN to access Member Portal**  
 Questions: (800) 362-0513 Extension 1050  
 E-mail: memberservices@amo-union.org

**AMO Coast Guard Legal Aid Program**  
 Michael Reny  
**Mobile: (419) 346-1485**  
 (419) 243-1105  
 (888) 853-4662  
 MikeReny@BEX.NET  
 FAX: (419) 243-8953

AMO PLANS  
 2 West Dixie Highway  
 Dania Beach, FL 33004  
 (800) 348-6515  
 FAX: (954) 922-7539

MEDICAL CLINIC  
 2 West Dixie Highway  
 Dania Beach, FL 33004  
 (954) 927-5213

## AMO PLANS CONTACT INFORMATION

AMO Plans normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern.

**Phone: (800) 348-6515**

To request a connection with a specific person, dial "0" for the operator.

Medical Customer Service: extension 12

Retirement Services – Pension, 401(k), MPB, and Defined Contribution: extension 14

Vacation: extension 15

E-mail – Medical Plan: amomedical@amoplans.com

E-mail – Vacation Plan: amovacation@amoplans.com

E-mail – 401(k) Plan: amo401k@amoplans.com

E-mail – Retirement Services: amopension@amoplans.com

FAX – Retirement Services: (954) 922-7539

FAX – Medical Plan: (954) 920-9482

FAX – Vacation Plan: (954) 926-7274

# AMO, AMOS participate in Sail-In on Capitol Hill; Congressman Wittman receives Leadership Award

More than 120 maritime labor and industry leaders – including members of the USA Maritime coalition, union officials, company executives, and association leaders and representatives – participated in the 12th Maritime Industry Congressional Sail-In on April 10. The Sail-In, which also included representatives from the American Maritime Partnership and the domestic shipping industry, the State Maritime Academies, the USMMA Alumni Foundation, and related maritime associations and organizations, provided the participants with the opportunity to meet with more than 125 congressional offices to discuss the importance of the U.S.-flag Merchant Marine to our nation's economic, military and homeland security.

As the only event of its kind that brings together a unified maritime industry, the participants, speaking with one voice, emphasized the importance to our nation of having the U.S.-flag shipping industry and the cadre of American merchant mariners needed to counter China's control over the ocean shipping supply chain, and to provide the commercial sealift readiness capability needed by the Department of Defense to support American troops deployed overseas.

Attending the Sail-In were American Maritime Officers National President Captain Willie Barrere; AMO National Vice



Meeting with Congressman Mike Bost (R-IL), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, during the Sail-In were AMOS Legislative Consultant Brenda Otterson, TOTE Services Vice President of Marine Services Ben Christian, AMO National President Willie Barrere and Mark Remijan, USMMA Foundation.



Meeting with Katrina Butler (right), Defense Fellow for Senator John Boozman (R-AK), during the Sail-In were Bryant Gardner, Liberty Maritime/Winston & Strawn; Kim Cooper, North American Millers' Association; APL Director of Government Trade Karen Mendala; GLDD Vice President of Government Relations Richard Balzano; and AMO National Assistant Vice President, Government Relations, Alaina Basciano.

President, Government Relations, Christian Spain; AMO National Assistant Vice President, Government Relations, Alaina Basciano; and American Maritime Officers Service Legislative Consultant Brenda Otterson.

During the event, USA Maritime presented the Maritime Leadership Award to Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA) in recognition of his support for the U.S.-flag fleet operating in U.S. domestic and international trades. As noted by USA Maritime Chair Chris Johnsen when presenting the award to Congressman Wittman, "the U.S.-flag deep sea fleet and its cadre of American mariners have no better friend and stronger supporter than Congressman Rob Wittman."



Congratulating Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA) on his receipt of the USA Maritime Leadership Award were AMO National President Willie Barrere and Seafarers International Union Executive Vice President Augie Tellez.



## Principal owners of Maritime Partners visit USMMI ships

Onboard the *Pohang Pioneer* in the Far East in April were Chief Engineer James Cook, Chief Mate William Harris, Maritime Partners CEO Bick Brooks, Captain Jerry Smith, and Maritime Partners President Austin Sperry. The principals of Maritime Partners, owner of USMMI, visited the *Pohang Pioneer*, as well as the *Yosemite Trader*. The company is encouraged with USMMI's future and committed to the expansion of the U.S.-flag fleet.