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the 2025 Conference possible!**

PLATINUM



MASTER MARINERS



MEETING BREAKS



Captain Kevin Coulombe

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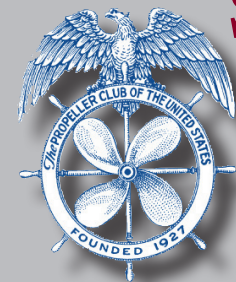
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**The Plight of the Shipmaster and
the U.S. Merchant Marine**

**2025 Annual General Meeting and
Professional Development Conference**

Dania, FL April 30 - May 2, 2025



AMO STARCenter 2 W Dixie Hwy, Dania Beach, FL 33004

Welcome Note 2025

Welcome to American Maritime Officers “AMO” STAR Center and the 85th Council of American Master Mariners (CAMM) Annual General Meeting and Professional Development Conference.

We again held our events immediately after the Apostleship of the Sea conference. We would like to provide an opportunity for members of both organizations to attend each event.

I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support. The American Maritime Officers Union has been one of our generous sponsors for several years. We appreciate the opportunity to visit their facility and hold our annual conference. Special thanks to all CAMM members involved in arranging this event. This program will provide a list of planned outings, times, and the agenda for the PDC.

Our Professional Development Conference will feature various representatives from AMO, NTSB, Port Everglades Pilots, Texas Maritime Academy and other sectors of the maritime industry.

During our Annual Meeting we will conduct our annual review of CAMM and develop a plan for the future of our organization.

Spouses and Guests are invited to attend the programs that are described in the Events Section of the program. The Thursday event will feature a tour of the STAR center simulator followed by lunch. Thursday afternoon will feature a waterway tour of Ft. Lauderdale. The Friday event will feature a self-guided tour of the Flamingo Gardens in Davie, FL.

On Wednesday evening, the American Maritime Officers Union will be sponsoring a barbecue at their facility. On Thursday evening, members of the Apostleship of the Sea will join us at GG’s Waterfront restaurant in Hollywood, Florida. GG’s waterfront describes itself as “A Waterfront Experience Like No Other”.

I hope you enjoy our events and your visit to the “Sunshine State”.

Captain Joe Hartnett
National President

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, April 29

- 1600 - 1730 Registration Near Check in Desk
 - 1730 – 2100 Meet and Great BBQ Anchor Fountain - Pool Area
- Food and Drinks Curtsy of AMO

Thursday, May 1

- 0700 - 0800 Breakfast at Star Center Mess Deck (Included with room)
 - 0800 Professional Development(PDC) at Star Center Room 217
- Guest Outing
- 0845 - 1330 Tour of Flamingo Gardens Ft. Lauderdale with Lunch Please Be Lobby at 0845

Friday, May 2

- 0700 - 0800 Breakfast at Star Center Mess Deck (Included with room)
 - 0800 -1530 Annual General Meeting (AGM): At Star Center Room 217
- Guest Outing(s) - 2 Outings
- 0900 –1030 Tour of Ship Simulator
 - 1130– 1215 Lunch at Star Center Mess Deck (Included with room)
 - 1230– 1530 Please be in the Lobby by 1230
- Tour the “Venice of America
- By water aborad the Carrie B
- paddlewheeler Boarding time 1245 –
- 1530 Departs 1300 Return (approximately)

Thursday Night CAMM Dinner
Please be in the Lobby at 1730

- 1800 - 1900 Reception at G&G - Open Bar

- 1900 -2130 A Culinary Odyssey
At the G&G Waterfront Restaurant
CAMM Dinner – Guest
Sea Stories
Raffle Drawing



Professional Development Conference
Plight of the Shipmaster and
the US Merchant Marine



Fr. Sinclair K. Oubre, CAMM Chaplain

Update on mental health and the welfare of the Merchant Marine. Review of the current events impeding the Merchant Marine and AOS meeting. Fr. Sinclair is a priest of the Diocese of Beaumont. A native of Port Arthur, he is currently the Diocesan Director of the Stella Maris, Permanent Diaconate Formation, Program Director, and Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orange, TX. He is also the Executive Director and Port Chaplain of the Port Arthur International Seafarers’ Center, and Chaplain to the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, as well as the co-founder of the Catholic Labor Network. He is a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine with credentials for AB Ltd and 100 T Near Coast Master. He is a member of the Seafarers International Union and serves as the secretary for the Nautical Institute - Gulf Houston Branch. Since 2019, he has sailed as AB on parts of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy cruises.



Captain Rob Jones, Divisional Chief, National Transportation Safety Board – Office of Marine Safety

Role of NTSB, How BRM Contributed to Recent Incidents Captain Jones is the Deputy Chief of Investigations with the Office of Marine Safety and works out of the National Transportation Safety Board’s headquarters office in Washington, DC. He received a BS in Nautical Science from the Maine Maritime Academy at Castine, ME in 1980. Upon graduation he sailed break bulk and container ships with several companies out of New York. In 1982, he joined the Transoceanic Cable Ship Company and advanced to Unlimited Master in 1990 where he was responsible for the installation and repair of undersea fiber optic cable systems around the world. Captain Jones retired sailing and joined the Safety Board in March of 2003. He has led numerous investigations, and he oversees 12 investigators and their participation in approximately 60 major marine investigations per year.



Captain Willie Barrere, American Maritime Officer National President

The State of Maritime Education, AMO Operations, and Current Efforts to Bridge Workforce Shortage Captain Willie Barrer is the son of a U.S. Army colonel and attended high school in the Panama Canal Zone which inspired him to pursue a maritime career. He attended U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and upon graduation, he worked at the academy and then sailed as an AB with Military Sealift Command prior to being hired with the AMO. He earned his Unlimited Master’s License at age 27 and started sailing as Captain at age 29. In all, he spent 32 years at sea with AMO – 27 of those as Captain, primarily aboard Crowley and Maersk ships. In 2016, he came ashore to work as the AMO West Coast representative. In 2012, he stepped in to the Executive Vice President position with AMO and was then elected executive vice president in December 2022. In 2024, he was elected AMO National President.



Captain Sam Stephenson, J.D., Port Everglades Pilot, Lecturer SUNY

Legal Aspects of Bridge Resource Management During Pilotage Captain Stephenson is a USCG Unlimited Master and Senior Harbor Pilot in Port Everglades (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). He is a lead instructor at Resolve Maritime Academy, teaching COLREGS, Bridge Resource Management, Ship Handling, Regulatory and Legal Issues of Piloting. He served on the Navigational Safety Advisory Council in DC, is the Past-President of the Florida Harbor Pilots Association, andcurrently Co-Managing Pilot for Port Everglades Pilots Association. Prior to becoming a harbor pilot, he served as Commandant of Cadets at Texas A&M Maritime Academy and Captain of the US Training Ship Texas Clipper II.



Captain Augusta “Gussie” D. Roth and Texas Maritime Cadets

Staying Connected in the Maritime Community and Education Captain Roth holds a USCG Master Unlimited, Oceans with various STCW endorsements. She graduated from the Texas A&M Maritime Academy with a BS in Marine Transportation, Phoenix University with an MBA, and Walden University with a Ph.D in Business Administration focusing in Leadership. She sailed as Mooring Master Assistant and started her Mooring Master training before shifting to Master aboard a lube oil delivery boat, and then transition back into lightering as a Lightering Support Vessel Mate/Master. She continued to work aboard commercial vessels until 2008. She joined Texas A&M University at Galveston in 2000 as a lecturer and advancing to become the first female Maritime Transportation Department Head in 2012. She was appointed as the Director of the Office of Continuing Education and College of Marine Science & Maritime Studies in 2023. She oversees continuing education programs and teaches courses on maritime operations, navigation, ship handling, seamanship, communications, and sea terms. She works with the International Maritime Organization’s Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, and USCG and Maritime Administration regulatory requirements and training of merchant marine officers.



Rear Admiral Jim Watson, (Ret.), CAMM Member 3300-H

Promoting the US Merchant Marines RADM James Watson is currently an independent consultant providing business development services to maritime clients. He is also a co-author of Zero Point Four and a founding member of Maritime Accelerator for Resilience. He held the position of Senior Vice President of American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) Global Government Services, where he was responsible for the government market sector across the four ABS divisions. He served as President and COO for the Americas Division where he was responsible for all operations of ABS in the Western Hemisphere. Prior to joining ABS, he served as Director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement at the US Department of Interior, providing regulatory oversight for energy exploration and production on the US Outer Continental Shelf. He also served as the USCG Director of Prevention Policy for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship, which included commercial vessel safety and security, ports and cargo safety and security and maritime investigations. He earned a BS in Marine Engineering from USCGA in 1978. He received his MS in Naval Architecture and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1985. Watson earned an additional MS in Strategic Studies at the National Defense University in 2001.

