



TMTA NEWS

October 2005

Presidents Message by Ken Knull

Hi All!

We are continuing to make great progress on the website and on the Trade School fronts! The website is up and running and each paid up member should have already received their log on and password information so that you can get into the website and put in your company's specifics including a one page write up and a picture! You can change this as often as you like so don't miss putting in specials, activities, etc. to bring the public to your door.

The high school curriculum for marine trades is in process of design and there will be more about that in this newsletter as well. We will have a speaker at the October meeting who will be able to address funding aid for qualified applicants which you can take advantage of for both the certification training at RCC and for possible apprenticeship programs for the coming Landing School "hands-on" training. This should help us all do our training budgeting and get more of our work force into these classes.

I would like to thank all of the members of the board for their active support. We now even have a subcommittee looking into strategic planning for TMTA. See the article inside and more about this at the meeting.

See you on the 19th!

Ken Knull

Next Meeting: October 19, 2005 at 6:30 PM

- Pilot House Restaurant, Topping, VA. Call (804) 462-7018 to make your reservation. If there is no answer, please leave a message!
- The menu will be: Tossed Salad, Fried Chicken, Baked Flounder, Scalloped potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and a dessert
- Guest Meal Fee: \$15.00

PLEASE BE SURE TO CALL FOR RESERVATIONS AT LEAST BY THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING SO THAT THE PILOT HOUSE CAN BE READY FOR US!

Officers and Directors for 2005/06:

Officers:

President– Ken Knull Vice President– Keith Ruse
Secretary– Dianne Franck Treasurer– Martha Heric

Directors:

Eleanor Cash Janice Clark, Membership
Onna Grimm, Publicity Lynn Haynie
Don McCann Guy Sorensen

Newsletter Editor: Ken Knull (temporarily) – Someone needs to volunteer, I cannot do it all! It really isn't that big an imposition as long as you are okay on a computer and can attend board meetings. Board members write most of the articles but some editing and editorial comment is required! HELP!

Note: The October meeting, by popular demand will be Whitney Perez Regional Representative and her supervisor, Beverley Donati, Director, Division of Registered Apprenticeship, VA Dept of Labor and Industry who will address the Registered Apprenticeship program marine trades training. Also, if we have time we will hear from a new member, Ned Walton, about insurance opportunities.

Membership Certificates: Need to be picked up by Association Members at Marine Electronics of Hartfield. All members in good standing will receive a certificate to hang on their wall. If you have not received your certificate, please contact Janice Clark, Membership Chair.

Boat Tax Reform: The Board is still looking for a "champion" for this worthy project. Based on our last meeting, the membership was inclined to push for local equalization of boat taxes between our local communities based on an as yet unconfirmed report that the Hampton Roads Counties have not experienced the planned for gains in additional business after eliminating the boat tax. If anyone can confirm that this is the case, then it does take the wind from our sails to try to convince the local Commissioners of Revenue to back off on their taxes since they are such a large income base for our counties. Our best hope then becomes getting all of the local counties to use the same rate and possibly to institute a cap on large dollar boats (that generate a large potential work opportunity for each of us). More discussion will no doubt be held at the October meeting.

Virginia Boaters Survey has 188 respondents to date! It is very important that each TMTA member calls Tom Murray with VIMS at 804-684-7190 so he can distribute the Virginia Boaters Survey to your customers with boats larger than 26'. There are two ways you can get this out to your customers: 1) Send Tom Murray a list of customers names and addresses and his office will mail them a survey, cover letter and prepaid return envelope. 2) Call Tom and ask for copies of the survey and prepaid return envelopes and distribute them to your customers yourself (by mail or in person). The information collected through this survey will be a powerful way to show local governing bodies how important marine business is to this area of Virginia, perhaps helping in the effort to lower or at least equalize boat taxes for our customers in the local area. Other issues that would help grow boating in Virginia will be covered in the survey and will benefit all who own marine businesses. Get the Virginia Boaters Survey out to your customers before the end of October. Their results will make a difference!

Trade School:

High School Curriculum Update - It is interesting to observe how this process evolves from a concept to reality. The Virginia Department of Education has requested input from the school divisions throughout the Commonwealth regarding their interest in offering a marine trade's curriculum. Thus far, the four counties of the Northern Neck, in addition to Essex, Middlesex, Gloucester, Loudon, Hampton and Newport News have responded with interest.

Last Tuesday, October 8th, Ken Knull and Don McCann participated with representatives from the Office of Career and Technical Education Services, and Ed Sherman from ABYC, in order to conduct a review of entry level occupational tasks appropriate to our industry. While the discussion was rather tedious, (four hours worth), the results were fruitful. The panel was able to distil the initial offering of 1400 hours to a more manageable 730 hours. The curriculum will be based upon those components relevant to ABYC standards, and Ed seemed comfortable with

offering a journeyman certificate upon completion. The remaining subject matter will be incorporated into a post secondary curriculum, which has yet to be established.

The next meeting is scheduled for early December in which school representatives will work with those from the industry in order to expand the topics into a more presentable lesson plan. The goal is to offer this curriculum in the fall of 2006.

Strategic Planning: by Martha Heric and Don McCann - **We Need Your Help!**

Your board of directors has been working diligently to position the organization to maximize its benefits and services for our members. Some of the activities include the revision of the web page, creation of an annual budget and aggressive pursuit of educational venues. As a part of any governing process, it is important to periodically revisit the organization's mission statement and its goals and objectives. While our current functions serve as a solid foundation, as a matter of course, we need to examine how to improve our visibility, better serve the boating public, and expand our businesses and profitability. So, we need your input as to what you believe the goals and objective for the organization should be and how you feel we should proceed. We will have more information on the effort at the next regular membership meeting on October 19th at 6:30.

TMTA Member – by Guy Sorensen - **CHESAPEAKE MARINE TRAINING INSTITUTE, INC.**, announced that the high school maritime vocational training program they were instrumental in getting started has entered its second school year with eleven high school seniors enrolled from two county school systems.

There are seven students from Gloucester and four from Mathews enrolled in the program. All of the students who complete the 200 hours of instruction time, pass all of the required tests, physical and drug screening will receive a merchant marine document (MMD) as Able Seaman. Additionally, they will obtain both high school and college credits, the same as any dual enrollment program.

Titled MAR 150, the program is a result of the combined efforts of Chesapeake Marine Training Institute, Inc. (CMTI), the Tug FELL'S POINT Foundation, Mathews High School, Gloucester High School and Rappahannock Community College. The program has been named a model vocational program in the Virginia Community College System. "We have been a long time supporter of establishing a successful marine vocational training program within our local high schools for sea-going careers and are very proud of the success of our efforts to date" said Capt. Guy Sorensen, CMTI's president.

Moran Towing Corporation donated the 3,000 horsepower tug OXNARD, which was completely rebuilt in 1982. She is the former PHILLIP TURECAMO. The tug was donated to the FELL'S POINT Foundation following a catastrophic failure of its 16-251F ALCO main engine. She was towed from Savannah, GA to Mathews, VA to begin her new life as a training platform, replacing the original vessel FELL'S POINT which had to be replaced due to structural problems. FELL'S POINT's main engine, a 16-251B ALCO, will replace the engine in OXNARD to get her back in operation. In the mean time the students will train onboard the OXNARD using all of her auxiliary systems under the experienced guidance of Capt. "Chip" Kinsey, instructor and founder of the Tug FELL'S POINT foundation. Students will provide most of the labor required to restore the tug to an operational status, learning many skills as seaman in the process.

Operational expenses, including the engine change-out, fall to the FELL'S POINT Foundation. We are grateful to those who have made contributions in both time and money to assist this effort. FELL'S POINT Foundation is a 501-C-3 and contributions are tax deductible. For

additional information or to make a contribution, please contact Capt Chip Kinsey, Tug FELL'S POINT Foundation, PO Box 274, Port Haywood, VA 23138, phone 804-725-0505 or Chesapeake Marine Training Institute, Inc., at 804-642-0123.

Meeting Meal Policy – From the Treasurer, Martha Heric

Thank you for bearing with me while I figure this job out. As a part of the membership, one dinner at each of the regular meetings is paid for. Beyond the first person, all additional people attending either as another person from the same company or a guest is \$15 per person.

To eliminate any confusion, I'll work up a sign in sheet that we can pass around that will note the company's name, the included dinner and all guests associated with the member. Thanks, see you on the 19th!

New Members- WELCOME: **Mid-Atlantic Insurance Specialists, Inc.**

Ned Walton has over 25 years experience in the insurance business and all his adult life he has spent as much of his free time as possible on the water. He obtained a captain's license in 1987 and has worked on charter boats for these same 25 years, and co-owned a charter boat out of Hatteras, N.C. for 4 years. His career path has brought him to represent Mid-Atlantic Insurance Specialists because of their marine insurance division that has experience, expertise and markets for all types of marine risks. Ned is looking forward to a close association with TMTA and welcomes any opportunities to help the Association and its members in anyway he can.