



The Anchor

December 2014

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Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 30,000 seafarers annually. Please consider giving to SCI this holiday season. You may use the envelope included, or visit us at sciphiladelphia.org to give online.

A Message from Dr. Stube

On November 19, 2014 volunteers from the churches and other organizations of Philadelphia and South Jersey gathered at 10:00am to stuff ditty bags for the seafarers. Some of these volunteers have been coming to SCI to participate in this event for decades. In our lobby, tables are filled with scarves, mittens, gloves, toothpaste and brushes, combs, pencils, pens and pads of paper, and a host of other gifts that were placed into bags to be given to each seafarer who comes into our port in the next few months. On the 19th alone we packed 900 bags.

In the weeks preceding

the event, churches, schools, individuals and other organizations faithfully dropped off ditty bags at SCI that they had already prepared. A Korean Presbyterian Church will create more bags in December. We will give away upwards of 1500 bags during the holiday season. The efforts by so many and the provision of the supplies is a labor of compassion for the seafarers who arrive from so far away; the Philippines, Indonesia, Korea, India, Russia, the Ukraine, the Netherlands, Greece and a host of other countries. This kindness reflects the peace and kindness of God, demonstrated in the acts of those who respond to the

seafarers need. It is quite awesome to witness this taking place.

On December 13 at 10:00am a small group of us will board a tug boat for the Annual Santa Run during which we will take ditty bags to the ships that are in port. This has been a port tradition for decades. These red ditty bags are a symbol of our region's welcome and good will to seafarers who are so far from home. A symbol which, without the generosity of so many people, we would be unable to give. Thank you.

Every Blessing,

Peter B. Stube

The Nikol H - A Months Long Saga Comes to An End

In April, the *Nikol H* discharged its load of Cocoa Beans and during a routine Coast Guard inspection was cited with operational deficiencies and was ordered not to sail until repairs were made. It remained at the pier for a month until the Coast Guard deemed her

safe to sail. By that time however, it became clear to vendors and the pier operators that the company was no longer paying bills, and they joined together to sue the ship owners in federal court, causing the ship to be stopped in her tracks and be arrested on the Dela-

ware River

The ship, with its 23 crew members on board, became a floating prison from May to August. With the help of John Coleman of Coleman Launch, SCI was able to visit the ship to provide comfort, necessities and worship services to the men on board.



© Philadelphia Inquirer

Around this time, the story was picked up by Linda Loyd of the Philadelphia Inquirer and eventually the Associated Press. (Continued on pg. 3)

SCI Vans Make Family Reunions and Much, Much More Possible

SCI's vans cover more than 100,000 miles each year as they visit numerous ships at over 30 terminals. These miles bring us to many unique situations, from which some amazing stories, like the following, emerge.

SCI has been involved with a number of family member reunions lately.

SCI was able to help coordinate a reunion between Bobbie, a local Philadelphian and her brother, Alexander, who is a seafarer docked in Camden for the day. The last time they saw each other was 10 years ago, before Bobbie and her family moved to the U.S. from the Philippines. Bobbie's son Mark, a student at La Salle, was able to see his uncle for the first



Bobbie, Mark and Alexander

time since he was 11. Many thanks to Tom Johnson at the Balzano Marine Terminal Camden NJ for giving us access to get the family back together!

We were also able to help Constantine, a Russian seafarer, meet his 2-month old niece for the first time. Constantine's sister drove down from Connecticut and waited

several hours at the gate to see her brother. They are the only two siblings in their family and it was their first time together in five years. SCI is grateful for the cooperation of PBF Paulsboro Refinery

in helping us facilitate this get together.

Working with family members here in the United States to coordinate reunions is only a part of the work we do here at SCI, but it is one of the most rewarding parts. It's clear from the hugs, tears and laughter that these reunions mean so much to a seafarer whose career keeps them apart from loved ones. We love being a part of these moments and are so thankful to the



Constantine and his niece.

other parties in the maritime industry who help to make them possible. Contributions from donors help us keep our vans up and running, covering hun-

dreds of miles and bringing people together. We hope we have many more reunion stories to share with you soon!

Fibria Celulose Brings New Economic Activity to the Port of Philadelphia

In early September, Dr. Stube was part of a ceremony that welcomed the Fibria Celulose, a pulp and paper company, to the port of Philadelphia. The Brazilian based company will unload 30,000 tons of cargo per month at the Tioga Marine Terminal in Philadelphia. Fibria's decision came after maritime and government officials worked for months to convince the company that Philadelphia is the place to be. The company's choice of Philadelphia brings many benefits to the region. 455 jobs were created in the region and the products will



Dr. Stube gives the Invocation at a ceremony celebrating Tioga Marine Terminal's newest tenant.

bring in millions of dollars in both state and federal taxes. With 18 to 20 ships carrying Fibria products docking in Tioga annually, there will be opportunities for backhaul cargo. Rather than the ships returning to Brazil without cargo, Pennsylvania's manufacturers will have an opportunity to ship their products to Brazil. SCI is very grateful that Fibria Celulose chose to call Philadelphia home, and we are excited to meet the seafarers who will be bringing paper pulp to our region on a regular basis!

The Nikol H - A Month's Long Saga Comes to an End

This press coverage helped us get the story out to the public and draw attention to the issue.

When the *Nikol H* finally docked at the Navy Yard, life did not get much better for the seafarers. Their 29-day parole had expired, and they were unable to obtain an extension which would allow them shore leave, so they remained stuck on board. The men needed to be able to leave the ship to get the recuperation they needed, and SCI was determined to make it happen.

Dr. Stube and the ship agent, Rodney Richards, of G.M. Richards, worked with Edward Moriarty, Assistant Port Director for Customs and Border Protection to get these men the proper documentation. In early September our efforts paid off. We were able to extend visas for the seafarers, and they were finally able to enjoy some much needed relaxation outside the confines of the ship.

The men continued working on their ship, doing repairs and maintaining the vessel as they awaited news about their future. SCI contin-

ued supporting the men through access to shore leave and weekly worship services on board. Fr. Bill Rex looked forward to his Sunday worship services with the seafarers, saying, "Whatever issues they had from the week seemed to lift off their shoulders during our time together." Finally, in late October, a buyer emerged. As of the end of October, all the men of the *Nikol H* were on their way home to see their families after a six-month ordeal.

SCI was with them every step of the way, and we are overjoyed that they finally get to continue on with their life's journeys. We received an email from the Chief Engineer shortly after his arrival home. He said, in part, "On behalf of the crew of M/V *Nikol H*, we are sending you our deepest gratitude for all the support and never ending assistance and help you've given to us especially in times of trouble. Thank you very much sir, we will not forget you...!"

With the original crew safely

back with their families, we focused our energies on supporting the new crew as they prepared the vessel, renamed the *Nicolina* under the new owners, for departure. We continued to visit several times a week and Sunday worship services continued. By mid-November, repairs were almost complete and it appeared the ship would be sailing soon. As a celebration of the end of the vessel's time in Philadelphia, SCI organized a luncheon of traditional Filipino food on board. The crew got dressed up in their formal uniform shirts, SCI staff and board members attended, and Linda Loyd even came in order to wrap up the story she had written many months ago. As of press time,

the *Nicolina* is still docked at the Navy Yard, but is slotted to leave within the next week.

We are so thankful to everyone who supported us in our mission of caring for these

seafarers during their time

in Philadelphia. We could not have done all we do without the resources provided to us by our support network. Your gifts truly keep our organization up and running. Thank you.



Dr. Stube and Fr. Rex Perform Mass Onboard

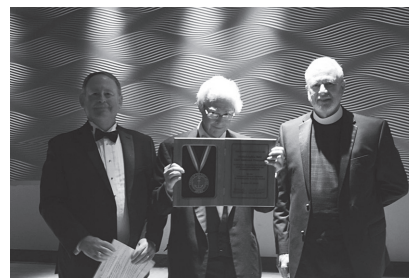


The crew at their farewell luncheon

Belt Line Railway Honored at Fall Gala

SCI's 24th Annual Gala took place on October 18th at the Camden Adventure Aquarium. The event featured music by The Jazz Sanctuary. The Philadelphia Belt-line Railway Company was honored for their commitments to serving the Maritime Community. The company operates a short but mighty

railway along Delaware Avenue that is used to transport cargo between terminals. The award was accepted by Charles (Peter) Mather III, principal. The evening was a great success and fun was had by all. A special thank you to all our attendees and sponsors!



Peter Mather accepts the award.

**A WINDOW INTO MINISTRY TO SEAFARERS
WHO KEEP COMMERCE FLOWING AND SECURE**

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After a year-
long hiatus,
The Anchor is
back! Check it
out for the
latest with
what's been
going on with
the Seamen's
Church
Institute!



Dr. Stube and seafarers enjoy a Phillies game!



New staff member Trish poses with a ship at
the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal

We're also on facebook!
We have weekly postings
of what we're up to, and
some feel
good
stories to
add to your
newsfeed.



Senior Ship visitor Mesfin celebrates 35 years
with SCI