



The Anchor

Seamen's Church
Institute
of Philadelphia and South Jersey

Spring 2019

A window into the ministry to seafarers who keep global commerce flowing

From the Executive Director

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

Ah! Spring is here again. We always try to draw it in faster with our first event of the year honoring a bright light of our regional ports.

For the 2019 Spirit of the Port Luncheon, the very deserving Robert A. Herb was chosen to receive the prestigious award for his extraordinary dedication and generosity serving the regional ports above and beyond his already very busy profession as an agent. Upon receiving the award, Rob thanked many colleagues that he has worked with over the years, Rob's humble nature is part of his strength of character, and truth be told, he did not want to receive the honor. Thankfully, he is also gracious, and accepted on behalf of all workers in the port who are truly the spirit of the port. Rob believes in standing up for his principles and never rubber stamping anything, and we, who enjoy his service on our Board of Directors, can attest to that truth! We appreciate him for requiring us to really think through issues and make the best choice for the good of the missions he serves. Turn the page to read more about Rob and the event, and also visit website of the Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay at maritimedelriv.com and look for The Beacon under their publications tab.



This month we were pleasantly surprised to learn by email that the Coast Guard published final rules on Seafarers' Access to Maritime Facilities on Monday, April 1, 2019. This rule has been a long time in the making and basically ensures that seafarers who are able to take a few hours shore leave while in U.S. ports have free accessibility to get from the ship to the gate, especially via free transportation. In the U.S., for the most part, this has been the practice for quite some time, especially with our strong support of the seafarers in the port. But making it official for those who sacrifice so much for us, while ensuring no one takes advantage of them, is something to celebrate. Many other countries around the world adopted similar rules quite some time ago.

As always, thank you for your interest and support of SCI's mission. And, please review the list of ways you can help on p. 3.

With Sincerity,

Helene Pierson

Executive Director

Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 35,000 seafarers annually. Please consider a gift to SCI. You may use the envelope included or visit us online at www.sciphiladelphia.org. For gifts of stock, contact 215-940-9900 or hpierson@sciphiladelphia.org

Volunteer Profile: Nancy Green

We call her Nikki, and we are so grateful that she serves with us.

- **What exactly do you do as an SCI volunteer?**

I mostly work on communications: Face Book, the Website, and our electronic newsletter, "What's New at SCI?"

Because of technology I can do this from wherever I am, which is ideal because Philadelphia is only my second home. When I'm in the area I try to come in to the office at least one day a week to see what else I can do to help.



- **Can you tell me how you first got involved with SCI?**

Years ago, I had the chance to travel a few times on cargo ships, so I have a little bit of insight into life at sea.

When I found out about the work SCI does for seafarers it seemed like the perfect place for me to volunteer.

Helene Pierson and Christine Polit did a great job of figuring out how I might help.

- **What do you most enjoy about your work at SCI?**

Being part of a small, dedicated team. My SCI colleagues are creative, generous, and fun to be around.

Also at my age, I'm pretty far out of my comfort zone with social media and some of the technology I'm using. I like that challenge!

- **What do you wish other people knew about SCI?**

I wish everybody could see the patience and courage that seafarers bring to their everyday lives.

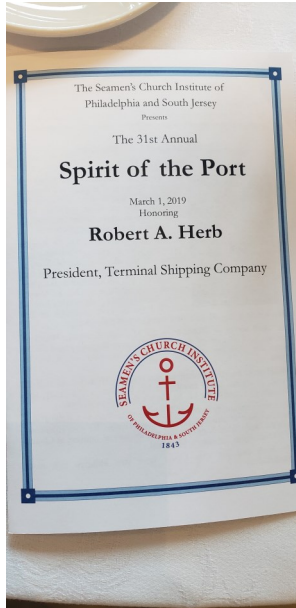
They can be so vulnerable, and they are deeply appreciative when SCI reaches out to them.

- **What do you do when you aren't visiting ships with SCI?**

The nice thing about being retired is I'm still busy -- with family and friends, travel, reading, music, and other interests -- but now I get to choose what I do and when.

My SCI work adds a special dimension to my life.

2019 Spirit of the Port Award Luncheon



It was a great crowd at a great venue, Auletto's in Deptford, NJ. The Maritime Community came out to strongly support the selection of Rob Herb for this year's Spirit of the Port Award. It was wonderful that Rob's family could attend in force— Claire, Michael, Leigh Ann, Justin, Gabrielle, Chase and Dillon!

How you can help SCI!

Monetary donations are always appreciated, of course! Did you know that you can also help us serve our mission by:

- ⇒ **Volunteering as a host transporter**
- ⇒ **Volunteering to staff events**
- ⇒ **Organizing a ditty bag collection**
- ⇒ **Knitting scarves**
- ⇒ **Baking cookies**
- ⇒ **Cooking a meal for a ship to give the cook a break**
- ⇒ **Donating magazines**

Email hpierson@sciphiladelphia.org if you are interested in helping in one of these ways that suits you best! Thanks to EVERYONE that already helps year in and year out!

**Seamen's Church Institute of
Philadelphia and South Jersey**

1113 Admiral Peary Way,
2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19112

Phone: 215-940-9900
Email: hpierson@sciphiladelphia.org
Website: sciphiladelphia.org



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monday

april 29th
2019

Manufacturers' Golf & Country Club

511 Dreshertown Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034

Registration and Lunch beginning at 11:00 am

Golf Shotgun Start at Noon

One Hour Open Bar Reception beginning at 5:30pm

Dinner and Awards Ceremony to follow