



# The Anchor

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

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

Fall 2019

## From the Executive Director

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

### CONNECTED...DISCONNECTED!

Every summer, many of the seafarer missions of North America get together for a summer conference. I am grateful for this opportunity for us to gather and share so that we take a brief step back from our daily service and check in on what we are doing, what has changed, and how we can keep improving. This year, we gathered in Charleston, South Carolina and the theme was Connected...Disconnected.



**Front Row: Volunteer Annie Thomas (center with 3 stripe shirt), Helene Pierson Executive Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, Chaplain David Reid 1<sup>st</sup> from right. Chaplain Bill Rex somewhere in the crowd.**

### TOP SIX!

We were, for the second year in a row, nominated by seafarers for the most prestigious award of the industry—ISWAN's Seafarer Centre of the Year.

### AN EVENT FOR ALL!

Inside you will find information for the Philly Ship Run/Walk 2.0. The race was a result of us wanting to provide an event that families could all come together and have a fun and, indeed, invigorating morning at our home in the Navy Yard. It only takes a couple hours out of your day. Please join us!

### DITTY BAG TIME!

While some of you bring in your ditty bag collections earlier in the year, it is almost time for collection season to ramp up so that we can provide the simple bag of necessities the seafarers need to make it through their multi-month contracts, all delivered in a festive holiday drawstring red bag. It means so much to the seafarers who are so far from home. If you always collect, thank you, if you have collected in the past, we still need you, and if you never collected, please consider doing so. Just email me at [hpierson@scphiladelphia.org](mailto:hpierson@scphiladelphia.org) and I'll get you a flyer for your church, service organization, or office collection.-

Thank you all for your support, we are grateful!

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.scphiladelphia.org](http://www.scphiladelphia.org). For gifts of stock, contact Cindy Ryan at 215-940-9900 x 104 or [cryan@scphiladelphia.org](mailto:cryan@scphiladelphia.org)

## Volunteer Profile: Al Griffiths, ship visitor/host transporter



- **Tell us how you first got involved with SCI . . .**

I became involved through David Reid, who at one time was the CEO of Novlog in Fairless Hills Pa , and I worked for him in the Traffic Department. Subsequently my career took me to Port Contractors, also in Fairless Hills, where I happened to meet David while he was performing a ship visit. We discussed his increased involvement with SCI and David asked if I would be interested in volunteering when I retired. Given the level of respect I have for David and the crucial mission of SCI I agreed to volunteer.

- **What do you most enjoy about ship visiting?**

I had in the past always had a business relationship with the vessels. As part of terminal operations we were focused on our needs with regard to ship activity. Interaction with the ships was more businesslike and at times contentious. As a volunteer with SCI I see a different side of the crew, which is more open and friendly. Also volunteering has given me more access to the crew and not just the ships officers. If you want to see how people of different faiths, countries and backgrounds can live in harmony, visit a ship.

- **Can you tell us about a ship visit that has really impacted you?**

I recently visited a car vessel that was discharging and had an encounter with the crew that was memorable. On a table located in the crew quarters there were several jars and bowls that contained coins from places they had visited. There were US coins, Euros and Australian dollars. The crew had collected these coins and asked if I would accept them as a donation. It was very heartening to see the generosity displayed by this crew, and I will always remember it.

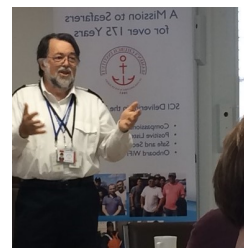
- **What do you wish other people knew about SCI?**

The reward is far greater for the person volunteering than those who are served.

- **What do you do when you aren't working or volunteering?**

When I'm not working or volunteering I spend most of my time with family. I have three grandchildren who are a big part of my life.

## SUMMER MISSION OUTREACH AND BOOK TOUR



Chaplain David Reid has been visiting churches and other interested groups to tell the story of SCI and our mission, as well as discussing his new book "EIGHT DOWN," which examines eight maritime disasters that could have been prevented by better safety awareness. Chaplain Reid reports a high level of interest and a lot of good questions, including "How can we help?"

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF PHILADELPHIA & SOUTH JERSEY  
AND THE PHILADELPHIA NAVY YARD PRESENT:

# **PHILLY SHIP RUN 2.0**



# **5K RUN**

## **1.75 MILE WALK**

**Saturday, November 2nd**  
**Philadelphia Navy Yard**  
**8 am Registration**



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

[Www.sciphiladelphia.org](http://www.sciphiladelphia.org) or

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## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Mark your calendars:**

**2019 Philly Ship Run—5K &  
Family Fun Walk**

***November 2, 2019— Philadelphia Navy Yard***



***SCI is grateful for the continued support of our mission by Western Fumigation.***