



The Anchor

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

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

Winter 2019

From the Executive Director

Helene Pierson, Executive Director

The Hammock

Blessings on the end of the year to all. By the time you receive our winter newsletter, the month of gratefulness will be ending and the giving season will be upon us. I am grateful to have entered the non-profit world after a corporate career, stumbling into one of the best of the best in serving people—a Catholic nun, Sister Margaret “Peg” Hynes, SSJ. Though our time working together was less than a year due to a tragic car accident, her legacy still lives. My favorite lesson from Sister Peg was her analogy of how, we, all of us that work in the non-profit world, are a hammock. One end of the hammock is the generosity of so many, and the other the need, and we serve our mission as the strong, supportive connection between the two.

I love the flow of our hammock, our annual service to seafarers, and recognize the hard work that was put into establishing it over many years by my predecessors and volunteers.

Every day, we serve the seafarers, striving to get to every ship that comes alongside on both the Pennsylvania and South Jersey sides. We welcome them, are there if there are any special requests or problems with which we can help, provide them free WIFI, and offer free transportation.

Throughout the year, we have special events, reach out to all of you with newsletters, and speak to parishes and youth groups to educate them about our mission which is so unique and still little known. You are all the very important generosity end of the hammock. We host the Spirit of Port luncheon and honor a special person of service. This year the luncheon will be held on March 5th, 2020 and we will honor the very worthy current Captain of the Port for the Coast Guard, Scott Anderson. In April, we will have our annual golf tournament with our generous lead sponsor, the Ports of Delaware River Philadelphia Marine Trade Association, on April 27th, 2020. Both events will be at the same location as last year, Auletto's Caterers in Deptford, NJ, and Manufacturers Country Club in Ft. Washington, PA. We will have our 3rd Philly Ship Run on November 7, 2020 in the Navy Yard. Throughout the year, parishes, organizations, and corporations collect magazines, bake cookies, and collect ditty bag items which we bring to the seafarers. Things we take for granted in our daily lives are very much appreciated by the seafarers who have many days isolated at sea. In January, some of you make meals for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, to give the ship's cook the day off. In October, the youth of the Maritime Academy Charter School send us their leftover Halloween candy for the seafarers.

Thank you all for your support, for being an incredibly strong knot on one side of the hammock, and we wish for you a joyful holiday season in return for the support you have shown for our region's seafarers.

Happy Holidays,

Helene Pierson,

Executive Director

Thanks to the US Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay, some of the SCI Staff was treated to a ride on the Cutter EAGLE during its visit to our area recently. Shown are Father Bill Rex, Executive Director Helene Pierson, & Development Director Cindy Ryan.



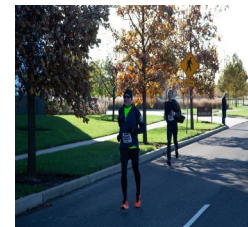
Gifts from people like you allow us to minister to 35,000 seafarers annually. Please consider a gift to SCI. You may use the envelope included or visit us online at www.sciphiladelphia.org. For gifts of stock, contact Cindy Ryan at 215-940-9900 x 104 or cryan@sciphiladelphia.org

2019 Philly Ship Run 2.0

On Saturday, November 2nd, 150 runners, walkers, volunteers, and SCI supporters were at Crescent Park in the Philadelphia Navy Yard for the Second Annual Philly Ship Run 2.0. Philly Ship Run is a 5K run and 1.75 mile walk benefiting SCI's mission to serve seafarers, whose work and sacrifice enhance our own quality of life. We are excited to say that the Run Thank you to all of our volunteers, runners, walkers, and sponsors!



Thanks to our awesome volunteers. First time volunteer Mackenzie will be graduating with a degree in non-profit management!



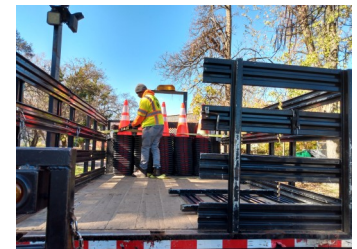
Captain Scott Anderson's first run after a broken foot last year



Thanks PhilaPort—Our newest team to join the race



Congratulations to our Medalists!



We are very grateful for the donation of cones marking our route

We are so thankful for the generosity of all of the sponsors who helped make this year's Philly Ship Run a success. A huge thank you to them all!

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And additional thanks to Chick Fil A, Work Zone Contractors, the Cureton family, and Bryn Mawr Racing Company for their support!



Crew of Shippergracht at Pier 80.
Happy to receive winter gloves & hats

A GIFT OF WARMTH

Many seafarers come from tropical climates in the developing world and are completely unprepared for our cold North Atlantic winters. Your financial donations, and items contributed to our Ditty Bag program, enable us to provide jackets, hats and scarves, and work gloves. As the weather grows colder, we are especially grateful for your dedication to SCI and to the seafarers



2 Crew of the MSC Julia R. were very excited for gloves and hats as they just came up from Miami

NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER



We are delighted to announce that Jasper DeCarlino is SCI's new Operations Manager.

Jasper has a background in the maritime industry, having worked on a tugboat for Reinauer Transportation, and management experience in the bar and restaurant industry. He joined SCI as a volunteer in April of 2018 and quickly began taking on responsibilities for visiting ships and welcoming seafarers to our area.

PRAYERS FOR FATHER JIM



Father Jim VonDreele receiving the "Distinguished Service Award" at the 2018 NAMMA Conference

Friends of SCI fondly remember Reverend Jim VonDreele, who served as our executive director for many years. Father Jim has recently been very ill and is still in the hospital. We are happy to report he is out of critical care, but please join us in sending prayers and good wishes for his continuing recovery. His daughter Sarah reports his spirits are lifted by knowing so many friends and colleagues are keeping him in their hearts. He has recently showing signs of improvement and hopefully will be able to come home in the next couple weeks.

DITTY BAG SEASON IS HERE

By the time you receive this newsletter, SCI staff and volunteers will have packed over 2,000 Ditty Bags to be delivered to seafarers in our ports throughout the month of December. These bags contain essentials such as toiletries, work gloves and warm socks, hats, and scarves, along with small treats like candy and playing cards. They are a welcome gift to seafarers who will be far away from home and family during the holidays. Seafarers tell us they are touched and appreciative of this gesture that lets them know someone cares. Thanks to all who have generously supported this project.



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

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2020 SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars:

2020 Spirit of the Port Luncheon

Honoring Captain Scott Anderson, U.S. Coast Guard

March 5, 2020—Auletto's Caterers, Deptford, NJ

2020 Golf Classic

April 27, 2020 — Manufacturers' Golf & Country Club, Fort Washington, PA

Philly Ship Run 2020

November 7, 2020 — Philadelphia's Navy Yard, Crescent Park



***Thank you for your continued Support
to our Seafarers and SCI!!***

Keep up with us on Social Media!

[Facebook.com/scphiladelphia](https://www.facebook.com/scphiladelphia)

