CAPTAIN JORGE VISO
ELECTED APA PRESIDENT

On October 25, at the 2016 Biennial Convention of the American Pilots’ Association (APA), Captain Jorge J. Viso of the Tampa Bay Pilots was elected President of the APA. Captain Viso succeeds Captain Peter McIsaac, who served as President since the July 23, 2015 passing of Captain Michael Watson. Captain Viso will begin serving his four-year term on January 1, 2017.

“I am tremendously honored that my peers and fellow professional maritime pilots around the country have placed their trust in me to lead our national association. I am proud that APA-member pilots play a vital role in ensuring the safe, efficient and environmentally friendly movement of maritime commerce in this country.”

Captain Viso continued, “I am committed to working closely with the APA Officers and our staff in Washington, as well as with our partners in government and industry to vigorously represent the interests of pilots and to advance the highest compulsory pilotage standards.”

Captain Viso, after serving an enlistment in the U.S. Coast Guard, entered the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at King’s Point and graduated in 1985. He has served as a pilot in the ports of Tampa Bay, Florida since 1990. Prior to becoming a State-license pilot, he sailed on chemical, product and crude oil tankers. He has long been involved in the leadership of the APA, having served as Vice President for the South Atlantic States and Chairman of the APA Navigation and Technology Committee. He has also served as Chairman of the Tampa Bay Pilots’ Association and as President of the Florida State Pilots’ Association.

In addition to various leadership positions held within national, state and local pilots’ associations, Captain Viso served as Vice Chairman of the Florida Board of Pilot Commissioners, Executive Board Member of the Harbor Safety and Security Committee of Tampa Bay, and as an instructor at the Maritime Institute of Training and Graduate Studies, as well as at the Maritime Pilot’s Institute (MPI).

Captain Viso is the recipient of numerous awards, including the U.S. Coast Guard Public Service Commendation, the U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Merit, and the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

Captain Viso was born in Illinois and raised in Miami, Florida. He and his wife, Ana Maria, have three children, Alexandra, Jorge, Jr. and Daniella.

Much more on the APA Convention is included in the remainder of this edition of ON STATION.
MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE HOLDS 97TH SESSION

The International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Maritime Safety Committee met for its 97th Session (MSC97) from November 21-25 at IMO Headquarters. APA’s Executive Director-General Counsel, Mr. Paul Kirchner, served on the U.S. Delegation. During the meeting MSC97 adopted key amendments to IMO treaties and agreements, including:

♦ SOLAS – regulations governing damage and stability; protection against noise; firefighting; damage control drills; and cargo ship survey.
♦ STCW Convention and Code – regulations adding new mandatory training requirements for masters and deck officers on ships operating in Polar Waters; and an extension of emergency training for personnel on passenger ships.
♦ International Code on Intact Stability (IS Code) – regulations relating to ships engaged in anchoring operations; and to ships engaged in lifting and towing operations.

In a matter of particular significance to pilots, MSC97 approved an MSC circular on the revised unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3 on Pilot transfer arrangements. This circular clarifies that SOLAS regulation V/23.3.3.1 prescribes an operational instruction that limits the climb to not more than 9 meters on a single ladder regardless of the trim or list of the ship. It also clarifies that a 15° list allowance does not apply when a combined arrangement of "an accommodation ladder used in conjunction with the pilot ladder" is used for "safe and convenient access to, and egress from, the ship."

The 23rd IMPA Congress was held in Seoul, South Korea from September 25 - 30. The Congress was attended by hundreds of pilots from around the world, including more than a dozen U.S. pilots. Among the American pilots in attendance were APA President, Captain Peter McIsaac, APA President-elect, Captain Jorge Viso, APA Senior Vice President, Captain Eric Nielsen, and APA Vice President, Captain Steve Hathorn.

Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the IMO, gave the Keynote Address, and Captain Simon Pelletier gave a detailed report on the state of pilotage around the world during his IMPA President’s Address. During the Congress there was also an emotional tribute to the late Captain Mike Watson, immediate past President of both IMPA and APA.

There were also numerous substantive issues covered during the IMPA Congress, including an Industry Session on Trends Impacting Global Shipping and a Technical Session on Recent Developments in e-Navigation, which featured presentations by APA NAVTECH Chairman, Captain Jorge Viso, and Executive Director/General Counsel, Paul Kirchner.

Captain McIsaac participated in a panel discussing the "Challenges of New and Larger Ships." In addition, during a session on pilot personal safety, Captain Anne McIntyre of the Columbia River Pilots discussed Fatigue Risk Management. The Congress’ business sessions concluded with a discussion on Steering Gear Failures and Ship Accidents.
HOUSE PASSES BILL FOR GPS BACKUP SYSTEM

In late September the House passed legislation to require a system to provide backup for the Global Positioning System (GPS) in the event it is degraded or destroyed. The bill, co-sponsored by Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R–Ca) and Ranking Member, John Garamendi (D–Ca), passed unanimously.

The legislation would require the Coast Guard to develop a GPS backup, utilizing the existing LO-RAN infrastructure. This system, called eLORAN, would serve as a ground-based electronic position, navigation and timing system that would supplement and backup GPS for military and civilian use. The eLORAN system would broadcast enhanced long-range signals from 19 towers around the country, each with approximately a 1,000-mile range providing overlapping fields that could be used by an aircraft or ship to determine its location.

“Americans rely on navigation and timing signals from our space-based GPS systems every day,” said Congressman Garamendi. “Disruption of GPS signals would have drastic consequences, but we still don’t have a reliable backup system in case of failure or sabotage. This legislation would require the Coast Guard to develop a reliable ground-based backup system within the next 3 years. This would drastically improve our economic and our national security.”

DHS IG SLAMS TSA’S TWIC BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Department of Homeland Security Inspector General recently released a report criticizing the reliability of background checks for workers under the TWIC program. Among other things, the IG report found that ineffective fraud detection, inadequate guidance, missing quality controls, and insufficient planning for recurrent vetting reduced the reliability of TSA’s background check process. This report follows a 2011 and 2013 audit by the Government Accountability Office that also identified weaknesses with TSA’s TWIC background checks.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (D–Fla), the ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee, said, “TSA has known for years that there were problems and... these weaknesses have opened up our ports to potential security threats. These gaps must be closed immediately to secure our ports and maritime facilities.”

The full IG Report is available at: www.oig.dhs.gov/assets/Mgmt/2016/OIG-16-128-Sep16.pdf

PILOTS IN PARADISE: A ROUSING SUCCESS!

This year’s Convention, sponsored by Pacific Coast Region, was held from October 25-28 in Maui. The APA Golf Outing was again the unofficial kick-off for the Convention (see page 6 for more on this event), but the business sessions began on October 25 with the Attorneys’ Meeting. This meeting was followed by four days of Hawaiian tradition, impressive guest speakers, reports from all States and Districts and other pilot business, including a meeting of the Navigation and Technology Committee. Below is a brief overview of the proceedings.

Attorneys’ Meeting

The Attorneys’ Meeting, which was attended by 20 attorneys from around the country, along with 100 pilots, was chaired by APA Executive Director-General Counsel, Paul Kirchner. Among the legal issues discussed were (1) impact of a recent Supreme Court decision on state action immunity from federal anti-trust laws; (2) recent USCG legal interpretations for casualty reporting requirements; (3) PPUs and federal subpoena authority; (4) scope of criminal culpability under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; (5) enforceability of subpoenas on foreign nationals; (6) a federal court holding regarding liability for a pilot association’s independent negligent acts or omissions; and (7) State compulsory pilotage requirements for foreign naval vessels. An “Attorneys Only” luncheon followed, during which lively discussion took place and “lessons learned” were shared.

Business Sessions

The Convention meetings opened with a traditional Hawaiian prayer known as “A Pule.” This was followed by the presentation of an APA Resolution honoring the life and service of Captain Michael (Continued on page 4)
Watson. The Hawaii Governor’s office then presented APA President Captain Peter McIsaac with a Proclamation declaring “American Pilots’ Association Week.” After these presentations, Convention attendees were given an update on National Maritime Center activities by its Commanding Officer, Captain Kirsten Martin. Rear Admiral Vincent Atkins, Commander of the USCG’s 14th District then gave an overview of regional operations, but made a point of stressing the valuable partnership State pilots have with the USCG and the key role pilots play in the safe movement of maritime commerce.

Attendees next heard from two Hawaii elected officials: State Senator Roz Baker and U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. During her remarks, Rep. Gabbard praised the value of pilotage, saying, “A compulsory pilotage requirement is among the most effective mechanism available to State governments to protect environmentally sensitive waters and facilitate safe waterborne commerce.”

Captain McIsaac then gave an update on regional, national and international issues in his President’s Report. The election, during which Captain Jorge Viso of the Tampa Bay Pilots was elected APA President, was then held. Captain Whit Smith was also reelected Secretary Treasurer.

Throughout the week, the Trustees gave reports on their State or District, providing updates on operational, political and business matters. The Secretary Treasurer also provided a budget and finance report.

The NAVTECH Committee meeting was held on October 26, chaired by Captain Jorge Viso and assisted by Bill Cairns (APA Navigation Technology Director). An updated best practices on Portable Pilot Units (PPUs) was agreed at the NAVTECH meeting and was adopted unanimously by the APA Trustees the next day. The new PPU best practices are available on the APA website.

Bill Cairns gave an update on eNavigation at IMO, IALA, RTCM and several eNavigation conferences. NAVTECH viewed a short video describing the European Sea Traffic Management project and its shore-centric views on route exchange. Paul Kirchner described his presentation at the IMPA Congress contrasting good and bad (i.e., “extreme”) eNavigation initiatives and concepts. The selection and use of PPUs on Ultra Large Container Vessels were described for several ports around the country. The Committee also considered AIS AtoNs, including some of the issues that arise when AIS targets are displayed on radar platforms with GPS smoothing and gyro error affecting the proper display.

For more on this well-attended and successful convention, see photos on this and following pages.
MEMORIES FROM THE 2016 APA BIENNIAL CONVENTION
1. Captain Peter McIsaac gives the President’s Report; 2. (Left to right) Captain Sam Stephenson, Captain George Quick and Captain Tim Ferrie; 3. Captains Beth Christman (Maryland), Carolyn Kurtz (Tampa), Casey Clayton (NOBRA) and Alison Buckler (Maryland) 4. Vice President (Louisiana), Captain Steve Hathorn; 5. Captain Kirsten Martin, NMC Commanding Officer; 6. IMPA President, Captain Simon Pelletier; 7. Captain Rick Schoenlank, NJ Sandy Hook Pilots; 8. Captain Ed Marmol, Linda Stykr, and Captain David Grobschmit, Puget Sound Pilots; 9. Paul Kirchner (Left), Executive Director-General Counsel; 10. APA President-elect, Captain Jorge Viso, talks with Captain Richard Stover (Boston Pilots); 11. Convention Sponsors; 12. Captain Crayton Walters (Charleston) and Captain Tom Rutter (Virginia); 13. Captain Kip Carlson (San Francisco Bar Pilots); 14. Captain Eric Nielsen (APA Senior Vice President); 15. Captains John DeCruz (NY Sandy Hook) and John Boyce (Great Lakes); 16. Captain Walter Gautier (Pascagoula); and 17. The newly elected President and Officers of the American Pilots’ Association.
APA NEWS
PILOTS RAISE FUNDS FOR DAVE LYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

During the 2016 Biennial Convention, pilots pulled together to raise a significant sum of money for the Dave Lyman Memorial Scholarship Fund. Captain Lyman, a Hawaii Pilot, was killed in the line of duty on January 29th, 2006.

Captain Lyman was a champion of supporting and encouraging Hawaii’s youth to enter the maritime industry. To honor his memory, his family set up a scholarship to send Hawaii students to the California Maritime Academy.

The APA Received the following letter from Captain Ed Enos of the Hawaii Pilots.

November 25, 2016

Aloha!

I’m writing on behalf of all the family, friends, & board members of the DAVE LYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND to acknowledge the incredibly generous and numerous donations made to our endowment, during the APA’s 2016 Biennial Convention held on Maui. I would like to extend a heartfelt “mahalo” to all the APA members that attended and participated in the raffle ticket sales that raised funds used in our scholarship program. You all so graciously helped our effort to provide tuition assistance to young local men & women of Hawaii who have proven financial needs to further their education. This will support them as they embark on the path leading them into our maritime industry.

In addition to the great success of the convention itself hosted by the western regional groups, it was as expected, a fantastic social gathering of friends and associates from all across the US. I know Captain Dave “Kawika” Lyman was there in spirit. And he was rightfully proud of you all. The thoughtful consideration by everyone resulted in raising $14,000 in five days. Excellent!

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Captain Pete McIsaac for initiating this fundraising effort during the convention. If not for his well-conceived idea early in the planning stages this year, we wouldn’t have enjoyed the opportunity to receive such donations.

Also, to Captain Kip Carlson, who through his powers of “gentle persuasion” truly made our fundraising effort all the success that it was. Kip and Kawika were earlaring friends from way back when and have quite a history together. So for Kip I’m certain it was a labor of love.

A special mahalo to Captain Sinclair Brown who assisted Kip Carlson as the Hawaii Pilots Association representative in coordinating the fundraising effort. Finally, to Rebekah Kim, our Dispatcher who was the “hands on” member of our team on Maui doing all the work handling ticket sales. A big MAHALO to you all!

ELECTIONS, SELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The following associations announced new officers:

- Hawaii Pilots: Captain Tom Heberle (President), Captain Sinclair Brown (First Vice President), Captain Steve Baker (2nd Vice President), Captain Chris Wilson (Secretary), and Captain Tom Collins (Treasurer).
- Columbia River Pilots: Captain Rick Gill (President), Captain Jon Aschoff (Vice President), and Captain Tim Harris (Treasurer).
- Southeast Alaska Pilots Association: Captain Paul Merrill (President), Captain Kathy Flury (Vice President), Captain Frank Didier (Secretary), Captain Barry Olver (Director), Captain Rich Preston (Director), Captain Ed Sinclair (Director) and Captain Michael Tamney (Director).
- New Orleans Baton Rouge Pilots: Captain Steve Hathorn (President), Captain Louis Wattigney, Jr. and Captain Steve Wall (Secretary Treasurer).