 REGARDLESS OF COURSE OR SPEED, APA FINDS ITSELF IN A MEETING SITUATION!

The APA office routinely finds itself in “meeting situations” (and often in narrow channels), but this has nothing to do with Rule 14 or vessels “on reciprocal or nearly reciprocal courses.” Instead, it means that APA staff frequently participate in state, regional, national, and international meetings to advance the goals of the state pilotage system and the interests of APA-member pilots. It is vital that APA members have a voice during these meetings. As has been said, “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu!”

This Winter and Spring calendar is illustrative of the types of meetings that APA—Captain Mike Watson (President), Mr. Paul Kirchner (Executive Director-General Counsel), and Mr. Clay Diamond (Deputy Director)—generally attend throughout the year. Depending on the nature of the meeting, as well as other scheduled events, one or more staff members may attend.

At the state level, in March, APA attended the Spring meeting of the Texas State Pilots’ Association (TSPA)) in Austin, Texas. This meeting of the seven state pilot groups in Texas was a forum for the groups to share ideas and best practices, address important TSPA business, and to enjoy the company of fellow Lone Star pilots. The meeting also allowed the APA to stay attuned with issues elsewhere in the Gulf, and permitted Captain Watson to provide a report to the assembled pilots on recent APA activities and efforts.

APA has also attended, or will attend, important regional pilot meetings covering three other coasts—Atlantic, Pacific, and Great Lakes. In February, a meeting of the APA’s North Atlantic States was held in Florida at which leaders of pilot groups in states from Maine to Virginia gave reports on their respective ports, discussed issues of mutual concern, and exchanged ideas in order to facilitate improvements to state pilotage. A similar meeting of APA’s Pacific Coast States will be held in Alaska during the month of April. At these regional meetings, APA listens to the concerns of local pilot groups and provides updates on issues from the APA perspective. Finally, APA was on the “north coast” during the annual Cleveland event known as the Great Lakes Waterways Conference, a joint effort by federal and state governments and industry stakeholders to advance mutual maritime goals. The three APA-member pilot groups operating on the Great Lakes understandably play an important role in this conference.

APA also hosted a meeting of its officers in March. During this meeting, the Regional Vice Presidents, the President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the APA staff discussed national and international matters and APA business, and also exchanged reports on regional issues.

Further, APA continues to be very active internationally. For instance, APA was in full force during the February STW42 meeting at IMO headquarters in London, having representatives on both the U.S. and IMPA delegations. During this meeting, some delegations made serious attempts to advance agendas that could damage state pilotage in the U.S. Specifically, some argued to reopen the topic of international harmonization of pilotage regulation, which is inconsistent with the basic premise that pilotage is a uniquely local matter. Similarly, APA attended the March meeting of IALA’s eNavigation Committee. Attendance at these IALA events is critical in light of recent actions and decisions taken by IALA that seem well beyond IALA’s jurisdiction and expertise, including delving into pilotage matters.

The APA leadership and staff will continue to cover important meetings—both domestically and internationally—and will not miss the opportunity to represent the state piloting profession. In so doing, we may not be able to avoid “meeting situations” in narrow channels, but we will strive to keep pilots “off the menu.”

“I want to assure you that the APA will continue to do everything it takes and will go wherever the interests of APA members are at stake to ensure that nothing is done to weaken the state pilot system in this country.”

- Captain Mike Watson
APA President
2010 Biennial Convention
IMO REVALIDATES A.960(23); CONFIRMS IT FULLY ADDRESSES FUTURE NEEDS & REQUIREMENTS

APA President Captain Mike Watson (leading the IMPA Delegation) and Deputy Director Clay Diamond (on the U.S. Delegation) attended the 42nd meeting of IMO’s Subcommittee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping (STW42), which was held from January 24-28 in London.

Two agenda items, both related to IMO’s “E-Nav Strategy”, were important to pilots and the piloting profession. First, STW42 was asked to consider, in light of developing navigation technologies, how best to ensure the competence of certain personnel, including pilots.

The U.S. Delegation and APA agreed that IMO has already fully addressed pilot training through Resolution A.960(23) — Recommendations on Training and Certification and On Operational Procedures for Maritime Pilots, Other Than Deep Sea Pilots. The provisions of A.960 are sufficient to address future technological developments, including what may come out of IMO’s E-Nave initiative and there is no need for IMO to amend, supplement, or interpret the resolution. A large majority of delegations ultimately shared the APA/U.S. view.

In the end, STW42 agreed, stating that in regard to pilot training, A.960 “addressed this issue adequately” and “no further action was deemed necessary.”

Secondly, STW42 was asked whether IMO’s training model should change from the traditional “navigating navigator” (i.e., a hands-on, fully engaged mariner on the bridge) to a so-called “monitoring navigator” (i.e., a passive individual on the ship whose primary focus is monitoring electronic equipment). APA’s view on this question, which came to be shared by most delegations, was that the “monitoring navigator” model should be rejected as it would lead to fewer and less qualified mariners on ships, more shore-side involvement in ship operations, and to decreased navigational safety. STW42 concluded that the “navigating navigator” was the preferred model, adding “the navigators’ own skills would remain essential for the safe navigation of the ship.”

These troubling issues, which were ultimately resolved favorably, emphasize the importance of APA remaining fully engaged at IMO meetings and continuing to work with the USCG and U.S. delegations to the IMO.

IMPA PUBLISHES RESULTS OF 2010 SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The International Maritime Pilots’ Association (IMPA) recently published the results of its 2010 “Safety Campaign” survey. The survey was in response to a request to IMPA by the IMO Safety of Navigation Subcommittee for an indication of whether pilot boarding arrangements were improving or declining. The purpose of the survey, which took place in the Fall of 2010, was to provide a snapshot of the quality of boarding equipment and facilities offered to pilots during embarkation and disembarkation from vessels.

The 2010 survey showed a 13.54% rate of defect in pilot transfer arrangements. While this defect rate is still far too high, it does confirm a downward trend shown in previous safety surveys (22% in 2002 and 17% in 2007). It is hoped that recently adopted changes to SOLAS regulations governing pilot transfer arrangements will facilitate a further decline in defect rates.

A copy of the full IMPA report is available at: http://www.impahq.org/news_files/IMPA_final_lo.pdf
As the republicans regain control of the House of Representatives for the first time since 2006, a familiar face returns as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation (CG&MT) — Rep. Frank LoBiondo (D-2nd/NJ). Mr. LoBiondo, whose district includes much of coastal New Jersey, was chairman of the subcommittee until the democrats took control of the House in 2006. LoBiondo is a proponent of maritime transportation and understands the importance of state pilotage.

Rep. Rick Larsen (D-2nd/WA) is the new Ranking Member of CG&MT. Larsen’s district also has a maritime flavor and he too recognizes the value of state pilotage to safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly maritime transportation.

CG&MT is important to APA and the piloting profession since this body oversees laws related to the Coast Guard, shipping and all aspects of maritime transportation. Any new federal legislation with the potential to impact professional mariners, including APA-member pilots, would likely originate with CG&MT. In addition, this subcommittee is comprised of members who represent port and coastal districts. All members of CG&MT are shown below.

Unlike in the House of Representatives, there wasn’t the drama of a new party taking over the majority in the Senate for the 112th Congress. However, there were some changes on an important subcommittee. Alaska Senator Mark Begich, first elected in 2008, has been named Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard (OAF&CG), while Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine remains the ranking minority member of this subcommittee.

Like its House counterpart, CG&MT, OAF&CG is of great interest to professional maritime pilots. This subcommittee is responsible for overseeing the Coast Guard as the agency goes about its maritime safety, security, and environmental protection missions. This includes overseeing Senate efforts on the USCG Authorization Act, which can impact state pilots. The subcommittee is also responsible for legislation and oversight of matters that impact oceans and coasts, including oversight of NOAA, coastal zone management, marine mammals, weather and atmospheric activities, marine navigation, and polar ocean policy.

A list of OAF&CG members is provided below.

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112th Congress - House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation

**Republicans**
- Frank LoBiondo (R-2nd/NJ), Chairman
- Jeff Landry (R-3rd/LA), Vice Chairman
- Don Young (R-At Large/AK)
- Howard Coble (R-6th/NC)
- Andy Harris (R-1st/MD)
- Frank Guinta (R-1st/NH)
- Chip Cravaack (R-8th/MN)
- Blake Farenthold (R-27th/TX)

**Democrats**
- Rick Larsen (D-2nd/WA), Ranking Member
- Corrine Brown (D-3rd/FL)
- Tim Bishop (D-1st/NY)
- Mazie Hirono (D-2nd/HI)
- Michael Michaud (D-2nd/ME)

112th Congress - Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

**Democrats**
- Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK), Chairman
- Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
- Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)
- Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
- Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL)
- Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
- Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

**Republicans**
- Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Ranking Member
- Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)
- Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)
APA OFFICERS HOLD WINTER MEETING IN WASHINGTON

Captain Mike Watson, President of the American Pilots’ Association, convened a meeting of the Association’s officers (Regional Vice Presidents and the Secretary-Treasurer) along with APA executive staff on Wednesday, February 2 in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss national and international matters, APA priorities and objectives, and to facilitate an exchange of reports by APA Vice Presidents on regional issues related to the piloting profession. The meeting was held in the board room of the APA’s home office in the Nation’s capital.

WATSON JOINS CANADIAN PILOT GROUP FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Corporation of Lower Saint Lawrence Pilots (CLSLP), a member of the Canadian Maritime Pilots’ Association (CMPA) and one of the oldest pilots groups in North America, celebrated its 150th anniversary on February 19 in Quebec City. Captain Mike Watson was invited not only because of his position as President of IMPA but also, because of the close relationship American pilots enjoy with their Canadian counterparts, as APA President.

The event also served as an occasion to honor recently retired Captain Michel Pouliot, long-time President of IMPA and the CMPA, and Honorary Life Member of the American Pilots’ Association.

SAVE THE DATE COMING UP

2012 IMPA CONGRESS TAKING SHAPE: TO BE HELD IN LONDON

The 21st International Maritime Pilots’ Association Congress will be held in London from September 24-28, 2012. This Congress will be hosted by the United Kingdom Maritime Pilots’ Association (UKMPA). APA member pilots are encouraged to attend this gathering of the world’s professional maritime pilots. For more on the IMPA Congress, please visit: http://www.impa2012.com.

CANADIAN MARITIME PILOTS ASSOCIATION TO HOLD NEXT CONGRESS IN HALIFAX

Building on the success of the first two meetings of the CMPA Congress (Quebec City in 2005 and Vancouver in 2008), the 3rd meeting will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 5-9, 2011. CMPA President, Captain Simon Pelletier, has extended an invitation for all APA member pilots to attend this important meeting. For more information, go to http://cmpacongress2011.com.
USCG MAY MISS CONGRESSIONAL DEADLINE TO CONVENE NEW MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

After hearing strong criticism from the maritime sector, including specific critiques by the APA, over the U.S. Coast Guard’s handling of merchant mariner physical examinations, Congressional oversight committees took some action to attempt to improve the situation.

Specifically, in the 2010 Coast Guard Authorization Act (Pub. Law 111-281), which passed on October 15, 2010, Congress directed that the USCG establish the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee or “MMMAC”. According to the legislation, this new federal advisory committee is intended to advise, consult with, report to, and make recommendations to the Coast Guard on matters relating to the medical evaluation process and physical examinations of merchant mariners.

The legislation directed the USCG to convene the first meeting of the MMMAC by April 15, 2011. The APA has learned from USCG sources, however, that there is a significant possibility that the agency will not meet this Congressionally mandated deadline. Further, even when the MMMAC does convene, APA has concerns over its structure. Of the 14 Committee members, only four are permitted to be mariners, with the remaining ten committee members being “health-care professionals.”

APA will watch the MMMAC closely and will participate fully as it goes about developing recommendations on the USCG’s physical examination program.

UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE NMC

⇒ Procedures for authorizing third parties, such as spouses or business managers, to handle details of mariner credential applications, are now available at: www.uscg.mil/nmc/announcements/merchant_mariner_third_party_authorization.pdf

⇒ The NMC updated its Top 5 Medical Conditions that “can delay your application for credentials or cause the application to be denied.” According to the NMC, these top five reasons are:
   1. Cardiac Disease
   2. Diabetes
   3. Psychiatric Disorders
   4. Sleep Apnea
   5. Chronic Use of Narcotics/Benzodiazepines

For more on the NMC’s “Top 5”, see: www.uscg.mil/nmc/medical_top_5.asp.

ADVISORY BOARD WARNS U.S. DANGEROUSLY DEPENDENT ON GPS

On the eve of a Congressionally-mandated deadline of April 15 for the USCG to explain to oversight committees why a single, domestic system is not needed as a back-up for GPS, a federal advisory committee of experts warns the U.S. is “critically dependent on GPS.” The National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Advisory Board, established by NASA, warned in a Winter 2010 report that GPS is becoming increasingly susceptible to both deliberate and inadvertent interference and recommended that a GPS back-up, such as enhanced LORAN or “eLORAN” be put in place.

However, the USCG does not support eLORAN and, after years of trying, was able to terminate the LORAN signal altogether on October 1, 2010. Critics of the USCG’s decision to terminate the LORAN-C system, including APA, argued that LORAN-C is still valuable to the maritime community as the foundation for eLORAN. The USCG has publicly stated that it does not share the view that LORAN-C should be upgraded to serve as a GPS backup or even that a GPS backup is needed.

ANNUAL GREAT LAKES WATERWAYS CONFERENCE MEETS IN CLEVELAND

The inaugural meeting of the “Great Lakes Waterways Conference” (formerly the USCG’s Marine Community Days) was held in Cleveland on February 16-17. This event, a joint effort between the USCG, the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. States and Canadian Provinces that border the Great Lakes, and various maritime transportation interests, is intended to allow high-level discussion between government and the private sector on Great Lakes marine transportation matters.

The Presidents of each Great Lakes pilotage district (Captain Roger Paulus—District 1 and also APA Vice President for the Great Lakes; Captain Danny Gallagher—District 2; and Captain Don Willecke—District 3), were a prominent part of the meeting. Deputy Director, Clay Diamond, also attended the meeting for APA.

DON’T FORGET THE APA PAC FUND

Send your voluntary contribution to:
APA Political Action Committee
499 South Capitol St., SW
Washington, DC 20003

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APA NEWS & INFO

MARYLAND PILOTs RECEIVE
USCG CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

On January 21, 2011, a pilot and an apprentice pilot with the Association of Maryland Pilots received Certificates of Merit from the USCG for their assistance in rescuing two mariners in distress on the Chesapeake Bay.

Captain Randall Bourgeois and Captain Adam Lucas (apprentice pilot) were honored by USCG Sector Baltimore for their vital role in locating the vessel in distress and vectoring the USCG rescue unit to the foundering vessel. Both men’s citation read, “your direct involvement in this incident helped ensure the safe return of two persons and their vessel back to port.”

APA-AUTHORED ARTICLE
PUBLISHED IN PRESTIGIOUS
MARITIME LAW JOURNAL

APA’s Executive Director-General Counsel, Paul Kirchner, and Deputy Director, Clay Diamond, have co-authored an article on the history, development, and current state of the regulation of piloting in America. The article, Unique Institutions, Indispensable Cogs, and Hoary Figures: Understanding Pilotage Regulation in the United States, was published in Volume 23 of the University of San Francisco Maritime Law Journal. The article is available at www.americanpilots.org on the front page under “links to items of interest.”

BISCAYNE BAY PILOTS
CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

The Biscayne Bay Pilots Association is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding. To commemorate the occasion, the association has published a history book, authored by Captain Andrew D. Melick, chronicling their role in the events that led to the establishment of Miami as a port town at the turn of the 20th century and the evolution of the city, its seaport, and the pilots’ association ever since. The book is titled, A Century of Service: A History of the Biscayne Bay Pilots.

WATSON ARTICLE IN
USCG MAGAZINE

APA President, Captain Mike Watson, has an article in the upcoming edition of Proceedings Magazine, a quarterly publication of the USCG’s Marine Safety and Security Council. The title of the article is “The Role of the Pilot.”

The article highlights the historical, legal and policy guidance governing how a pilot carries out his or her duties, including reference to the APA’s official statement on the role and responsibility of pilots, and stresses how important it is to the overall navigational safety of a vessel that the master, bridge crew, and other vessel interests have an understanding of, and respect for, the role and responsibilities of the pilot.

The article is scheduled for publication in April and will be available at http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings.

ELECTIONS, SELECTIONS,
APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

◆ The Pascagoula Bar Pilots Association announced that the 2011-2013 slate of officers are Captain Robert T. Baker (President), Captain Frederick A. Lundy (Vice President), Captain Walter W. Gautier (Secretary/Treasurer), and Captain Robert T. Baker (APA State Trustee).
◆ New officers for the Boston Harbor Pilots are Captain Martin McCabe (President), Captain Richard Stover (Vice President), Captain Frank Morton (Secretary), Captain Robert McCabe (Treasurer), Captain Mike Peddle (Executive Committee), Captain Dirk Coffman (Executive Committee), and Captain Frank Morton (Executive Committee).
◆ The New Jersey-Sandy Hook Pilots recently announced its election results for 2011. Officers are as follows: Captain A.W. McGovern (President), Captain R.J. Schoenlank (Vice President), Captain J.C. Oldmixon (Secretary) and Captain J. Britton (Treasurer & Finance Chairman).
◆ The 2011 election results for the New York-Sandy Hook Pilots are: Captain H.W. Mahlmann (President), Captain D.M. Wheeler (Vice President), Captain W.S. Winter (Secretary) and Captain D.M. Fendt (Treasurer & Finance Chairman).
◆ Captain William E. Lowe III (Pilots’ Association for the Bay and River Delaware) was recently elected as Chairman of the Delaware River Bay Authority (DRBA). Among other responsibilities, the DRBA operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, ferry services, and regional airports.
◆ Captain Whit Smith was reelected President of the Charleston Pilots for the 29th time. Captain Chris Thornton was reelected as APA Trustee.
◆ The Portland Pilots have reelected Captain Susan Clark as the group’s President.
◆ Captain Robert Heitmeier (NOBRA Pilots) was recently appointed chairman of the Board of Examiners of the New Orleans/Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots for the Mississippi River.