



NEWS From -

Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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C-PORT Elects 2018 Board of Directors

C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing) held its 31st Membership Meeting on January 16, 2018 at Wyndham Grand at Harbourside Place, Jupiter, FL. Along with committee reports and industry issue discussions, the membership elected its 2018 C-PORT Board of Directors and the 2018 C-PORT Executive Board was named. "It was a year of change," commented Tina Cardone, executive director. Two board positions were vacant, one position was appointed and needed membership ratification, and one person was seeking re-election. Elected to the board were:



John Donaldson, Sentinel Marine Services/Sea Tow Sebastian-

As a native of Cape May, NJ with over 30 years of experience on the open seas, John is truly a natural-born mariner. As a recruit fresh out of high school, John dedicated four years of service to the Navy. As a Gunner's Mate Second Class aboard the USS Fahrion, John served in two Persian Gulf tours as well as three tours in Guantanamo Bay. Upon completing his naval service, John studied Marine Biology and Marine Resources Management, obtaining a dual Bachelor's Degree from Stockton State College in 1993. After graduation, John joined SeaTow/North Star Marine in Delaware Bay, where he spent 10 years as a diver and as an on-call oil spill response captain. In 2006, John moved to Naples, FL as a captain and

Director of Operations for Sea Tow Naples. In 2013, John became a partner in SeaTow Sebastian and is now owner.

John and his wife and business partner, Amy, reside in Grant, FL where they have become active, not just in SeaTow rescues, but in giving back to their community. They support various causes through charitable contributions, including their annual sponsorship of the Sebastian Exchange Club's Blue Water Open Charity Fishing Tournament, the proceeds of which benefit the prevention of child abuse. Outside of work, the couple enjoys the outdoors, being on the water and spending time with their two children. When asked why he wanted to serve on the C-PORT board, John explained he wanted to be part of the solution and help find ways to better the industry.

Anthony Noury, Hawser LLC/Sea Tow Charleston.



Anthony considers himself the luckiest man alive. He married his college sweetheart in 2001 and started a family is blessed with two beautiful children. He is privileged to live and work in the most beautiful waterfront community in the US. After earning a B.S. degree from Lander University he began a seventeen-year corporate career via several Fortune 500 companies. In 2005, he wanted to try his hand at "small business" as a career change and purchased his Sea Tow franchise. As owner/operator of Sea Tow Charleston, he works with talented and dedicated captains whom provide the commercial response to customers in the "Lowcountry" of South Carolina. In 2010, two Sea Tow Charleston captains received recognition as

recipients of C-PORT's Meritorious Service Award. His captains have also received commendation by receiving STSI's "Above and Beyond" award in 2009 and 2010 for helping boaters in grave need. He feels proud and privileged to be associated with such an outstanding group of some of the finest captains in the business.



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Richard Paul, Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL/TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral.

Rich's desire to work on the water is a dream come true. Growing up in Florida, and spending endless weekends on Little Gasperilla Island, he knew his love of the water would eventually lead to a career on the water. In 2005, Rich received his 50 ton Masters License with a Towing Endorsement. While attending the Captain school, he learned the local TowBoatU.S. company was for sale. After a 25 year career, Rich retired from Publix Supermarkets and bought TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral, where he began a new career on the water.

For the last 12 years, Rich has been very dedicated and committed on working to change the perception of the marine towing and salvage profession. We are professional business owners, not a band of pirates.



Harold "Smitty" Smith, Miller's Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook.

Harold Smith, better known in the industry as Smitty, lives in Middletown, NJ with his wife Sissy of 32 years. They have 3 grown children, with their first grandchild expected in the spring. They are lucky enough to live on an 11 acre farm where they house their horses.

Smitty has been working on boats all of his adult life and has had his USCG credential for more than 30 years. He holds a 200 ton masters license and a master of towing credential. Smitty started right out of high school working on tug boats in NY Harbor. After starting a family, the schedule was tough. Smitty went to work for the Fast Ferry industry becoming a senior Captain, and stayed there for 10 years. In 1998, he joined Millers Launch, the largest oil spill response company in NY Harbor as a supervisor. When they acquired TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook, Smitty took the management lead running the day to day operations.

Smitty brings vast amounts of experience in the towing and salvage business to C-PORT. He is a member of the American Salvage Association and has been involved with the incident command system for oil spills, as well as managing a marine assistance towing and salvage company in a busy port. Smitty feels his knowledge and understanding of the challenges we all face will help him be a positive force on the board, helping the industry to keep regulations in check.

"We have an wealth of knowledge and history leading our association", remarked Cardone. "Our board is poised to address the issues facing the marine assistance towing and salvage industry."

Announced was the 2018 C-PORT Executive Committee: Chairman, John Ward, Aquanaut Towing & Salvage/Sea Tow Pensacola-Destin; Vice-chairman, Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay; Treasurer, Jon Gridley, Lake Tow Inc./Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake; Secretary, Dale Plummer, Baltimore Marine Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Baltimore-Annapolis

The 2018 C-PORT board of directors is: Robert Butler, Big Bay Marine/TowBoatU.S. San Diego; Phil Delano, Yachting Specialties/TowBoatU.S. San Francisco Bay and Delta; John Donaldson, Sentinel Marine Services/Sea Tow Sebastian; Terry Hill, Potomac Marine Inc./TowBoatU.S. Potomac; Anthony Noury, Hawser LLC/Sea Tow Charleston; Richard Paul, Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL/TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral; Harold "Smitty" Smith, Miller's Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook

C-PORT was founded in 1986 to act as a liaison between the marine assistance industry and public agencies and organizations involved with boating safety, marine assistance, marine salvage and other marine-related operations. Our members are dedicated to providing prompt, professional and timely assistance to all boaters and to actively partner and cooperate with local law enforcement and U.S. Coast Guard. For more information, contact C-PORT at (954) 261-2012 or visit www.cport.us.