



NEWS From -

Conference of Professional Operators
for Response Towing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2018

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C-PORT Elects 2019 Board of Directors

C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing) held its 32nd Membership Meeting on November 12, 2018 at Wyndham Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, FL. Along with committee reports and industry issue discussions, the membership elected its 2019 C-PORT board of directors and name the 2019 C-PORT executive board.

Appointed to the executive board for 2019 were Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay, chairman; John Donaldson, Sentinel Marine Services/Sea Tow Sebastian, vice-chairman; Jon Gridley, Lake Tow Inc./Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake, treasurer; and Harold "Smitty" Smith, Miller's Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook, secretary.

In announcing the 2019 C-PORT board of directors, Tina Cardone, executive director remarked, "These are talented, visionary people. The mission of our association is well served by this group of industry leaders." Serving on the board are:

Robert Butler, Big Bay Marine/TowBoatU.S. San Diego
John Donaldson, Sentinel Marine Services/Sea Tow Sebastian
Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine/TowBoatU.S. Port Clinton
Jon Gridley, Lake Tow Inc./Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake
Terry Hill, Potomac Marine Inc./TowBoatU.S. Potomac
Phil LeBlanc, Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay
Anthony Noury, Hawser LLC/Sea Tow Charleston
Richard Paul, Marine Towing & Salvage of SWFL/TowBoatU.S. Cape Coral
Dale Plummer, Baltimore Marine Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Baltimore
Harold "Smitty" Smith, Miller's Towing & Salvage/TowBoatU.S. Sandy Hook
John Ward, Aquanaut Towing & Salvage/Sea Tow Pensacola-Destin.

Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine/TowBoatU.S. Port Clinton, was elected to the board for the first time. Dunfee began his career in the towing and salvage industry in 1992, when he was hired by one of the C-PORT founders, Neil Shrock. Shrock hired Dunfee to be a deckhand and dispatcher at Boater's Emergency Service in Marblehead, OH. Growing up boating on Lake Erie, Dunfee said it was gratifying and exciting to have a job helping boaters in distress during high school and college summer breaks. After graduating from college, Dunfee had the opportunity to purchase Boater's Emergency Service in 2001. In 2005, he purchased two additional local towing firms creating Rescue Marine as a TowBoatU.S. towing company.

In the past twenty-six years, Dunfee has seen many exciting changes and many threats to the marine assistance towing and salvage industry. "This industry has faced great challenges with potentially grave consequences," commented Dunfee. "Thankfully C-PORT addressed these challenges and allowed for the birth and unimaginable growth of the towing and salvage industry. I am honored to serve on the C-PORT board of directors representing the industry in which I take a great deal of pride."

Re-elected to the board were Jon Gridley, Lake Tow Inc./Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake and John Ward, Aquanaut Towing & Salvage/Sea Tow Pensacola-Destin.

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.