



The Marine Assistance Industry Journal

A Quarterly Newsletter - Conference Edition— Volume 49- February 2023

C-PORT held its 36th Conference and Membership Meeting on January 16-18, 2023 at the Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, LA.

Pre-conference meetings:

The **2023 U.S. Coast Guard and C-PORT Partnership Meeting** was held on Monday morning, January 16, 2023. The C-PORT Board of Directors were honored to welcome RADM Wayne R. Arguin, Jr, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, CAPT Mathew Fine, Chief, Office of Shore Forces, Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Deputy Chief, Office of Boat Forces, and LT Eduardo “Eddie” Oropeza, Commanding Officer, CG Station Miami Beach to the meeting. Representing the C-PORT CG subcommittee was Jeff Dziezdic, JDZ Marine, Mystic, CT.

Discussions covered a number of diverse subjects from implementation of subchapter M, credentialing, command centers and i911, and partnerships.



LT Oropeza remarked, “Partnership is great. Relationship is better.” Communication between assistance towing operators and their local CG Station is paramount to the success of the relationship.

Continuing with that discussion, CAPT Fine commented that in-person bi-annual sector meetings should be back to pre-Covid times. C-PORT committed to working with our members and Coast Guard to assure these valuable meetings are taking place.

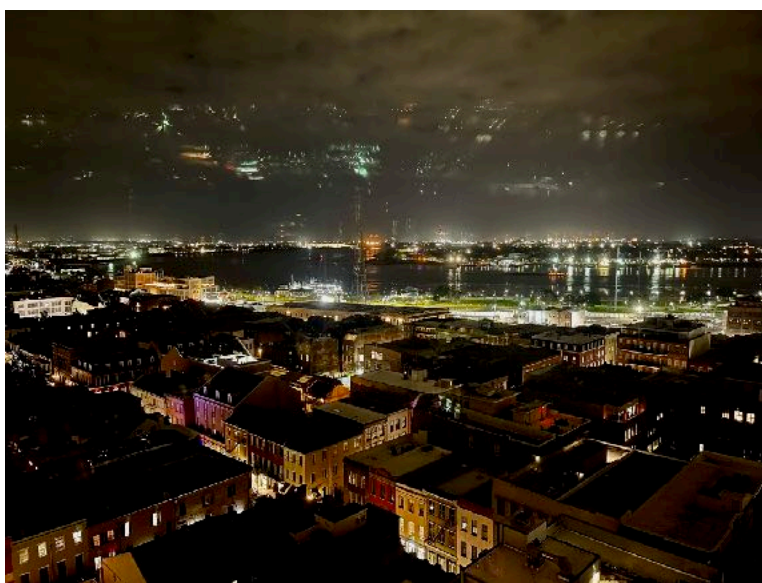
One of the highlighted discussions was the Mariner Credentialing Program (MCP) Transformation. This is a massive IT undertaking with all mariners files being digitized and online processes and procedures being

created to help streamline the credentialing process. The importance of this transformation can not be understated and C-PORT will do its part to help.

C-PORT Board of Directors held its annual Insurance Partners meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023. Travelers Ocean Marine underwrites the C-PORT program with Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage acting as the administrators. Charlie Pugliese, Travelers national practice leader and long time friend of the industry, noted that it has been over 20 years since Travelers stepped up to work with C-PORT in creating an industry specific product that would stand up to the rigors of marine insurance and industry ebbs and flows. Joining the conversation was Mike Burke, Travelers field practice leader, and new to the C-PORT program group from Travelers, Nicole Fox, account executive officer and Scott O’Connor, managing director. Linda Wagner, assistant vice president and marine program manager, and Jay Frechette, vice president and marine risk solutions group at Starkweather & Shepley presented the yearly program report to the board. Discussions continued regarding the financial health and stability of the program under Travelers, and developing the program for future growth.

Welcome to the C-PORT Conference:

The 36th C-PORT Conference kicked off with a Welcome Reception on Monday evening, January 16, 2023, at the Riverview Room at Hotel Monteleone. The reception was sponsored by Travelers Insurance and Starkweather & Shepley. Friends gathered to catch up and welcomed the new members to C-PORT. It was a relaxed time to laugh and share stories with colleagues, Coast Guard partners, and industry supporters. Guests enjoyed an open bar, artisan cheese display, and a superb view of the Mississippi River. A great time was had by all!



36th C-PORT Conference General Sessions

Conference sessions began on Tuesday, January 17 with a continental breakfast buffet featuring fresh fruit, muffins and pastries, and biscuit and croissant sandwiches, sponsored by Biscayne Towing & Salvage. Vendor booths were open and attendees started the day with coffee and breakfast while visiting the exhibits.

Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT chairman welcomed the group to the 36th C-PORT conference and membership meeting and was joined by Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director with a quick look back to the beginnings of the industry and the association that represents them. We were fortunate to have a video address from C-PORT founding member, John Andrews, founder and owner of Safe/Sea. John took us through the early days of the association and the industry, speaking of his time with the other founders on Capitol Hill fighting for the survival of the newly created industry. Tina and Phil continued the history lesson starting with the 1982 Grace Commission through today.



1987 – C-PORT
Organizational Meeting

Self-governing 501c6 nonprofit
business association

Board of Directors:
Neil Shrock, Chairman
John Andrews, Vice Chairman
Bill Braillard, Secretary/Treasurer



U.S. Coast Guard Partner Relationship Evolved







- US Coast Guard
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- 1999
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)- 2010



Additional Partner Relationships Developed

- NASBLA (National Association of Boating Law Administrators)
 - Memorandum of Understanding 2012 and 2021
 - BOSAR for Commercial Assistance
- Coast Guard Advisory Committees
 - NTSAC
 - NMERPAC
- Maritime Community
 - MLA
 - AFRAS



Staying true to our roots.



C-PORT presented its U.S. Coast Guard panel discussion on Tuesday morning. The session was opened by Rear Admiral Wayne R. Arguin, Jr. RADM Arguin serves as the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, and is responsible for the development of national policy, standards, and programs promoting Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Stewardship. The admiral spoke to issues of concern in the industry today, from vessel inspections to credentialing.



CAPT Mathew Fine, Chief, Office of Shore Forces spoke on behalf of Shore Forces and SAR. In his current assignment, Captain Fine is responsible for identifying and filling capability gaps across the Shore Forces Enterprise. This includes Coast Guard Sectors, Vessel Traffic Services (VTS), Aids to Navigation Units and Small boat Stations. He noted that the Coast Guard is also experiencing personnel shortages like the rest of us. New technologies such as i911 and RapidSOS are helping, but local partnerships and communication with C-PORT members has never been more important.

CAPT Fine provided remarks prepared by the Office of Search and Rescue who were unable to attend. With many new operators in the audience, SAR reminded the group of their mission: Minimize the loss of life, injury, property damage or loss, by rendering aid to persons in distress and property in the maritime environment. Cooperation and engagement are the backbone of the relationship with industry providers, and the national MOU and C-PORT participation sets the stage.

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Preserving the legacy,
and Promoting the
future of the Marine
Assistance Industry.**



- The Safe/Sea Crew



Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler, Deputy Chief, Office of Boat Forces, and LT Eduardo “Eddie” Oropeza, Commanding Officer, CG Station Miami Beach shared the stage. The Office of Boat Forces enables mission performance in support of the strategic goals of the Coast Guard, providing human capital and capabilities necessary to effectively operate boats to meet Coast Guard mission requirements. Mr. Wheeler explained that the Boat Forces System includes stations, ANTs, marine safety units, sectors, security and response teams, strike teams, cutters, and more. As a retired Chief Warrant Officer, Jeff remembered the early days of the assistance industry and the growing pains as both groups grew and created this partnership.



LT Oropeza, as Commanding Officer, is responsible for search and rescue, protection of one of the largest cruise ship terminal, and the interdiction of illegal flow of narcotics and undocumented non-citizens in the South Florida area of responsibility. He is the Coast Guard liaison to the NASBLA BOAT Advisory Board. LT Oropeza echoed that Coast Guard is experiencing staffing shortages, and called upon the industry to build relationships with their local stations. He reminded everyone that the time to first meet your partners is not at 2 AM during an emergency, and encouraged the membership to visit their local stations and introduce themselves.

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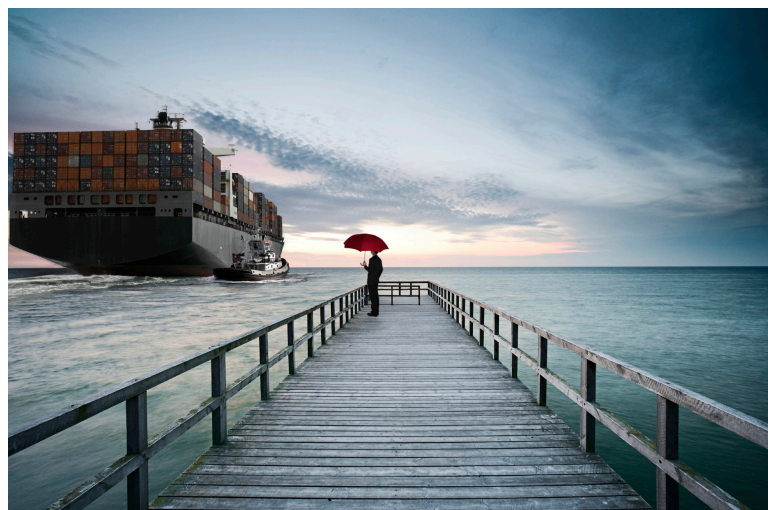
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Celebrations and Lunch:

In keeping with the flavors of New Orleans, a “Best of the Fest Po-Boys” Lunch buffet was served. Attendees feasted on soup, salads, and a variety of Po Boys. Compass Marine sponsored the luncheon and C-PORT honored anniversary members, and presented awards and prizes.

- The Mentor Award is presented to a first time conference attendee. They receive a 2-night hotel stay during the C-PORT conference and registration. This year’s winner was Logan Thomas, South Fork Marine. C-PORT thanks Chris Shaffner, Towboat One, for sponsoring this year’s recipient.
- Traveler Prizes were awarded to Pip and Holly Bauerlein, Clear Lake TX, for traveling the shortest distance to reach the conference. Phil Delano, San Francisco CA, traveled the farthest.
- Conference Enthusiast Award goes to the member who attended the most conferences in the past 10 years. There were 6 finalists, with Dale Plummer, Baltimore Marine Recovery winning the prize. He received a preferred room upgrade.
- The Welcome Back Award is presented to the member who attends two consecutive conferences. With names drawn, Todd and Dominique Dillman, Marine Towing & Salvage received a welcome gift upon their arrival at the hotel.

C-PORT recognized membership anniversaries.

5 year members; joined 2018:

Pip and Holly Bauerlein- Clear Lake Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Clear Lake
 Mike Fitzpatrick- Fitzco Marine Group, TowBoatU.S. Table Rock Lake
 Brandon Meshey- Upper Bay Towing & Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. Chesapeake City
 Sean Morley- Key West Harbor Services, TowBoatU.S. Key West
 Brandy and Daniel Whitby- Get Em Gone Towing, TowBoatU.S. Lake Oconee
 Justin Wilde- Western Regional Marine, TowBoatU.S. Needles

10 year members; joined 2013:

Bernie Bacon- Port of Oswego Authority, TowBoatU.S. Oswego
 George Bruton- Long Bay Towing, TowBoatU.S. Southport
 Durand and Katy Carmany- Volunteer Marine, TowBoatU.S. Lake Norris
 Bryan Coggeshall- Coggeshall’s Marine Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Grand Strand
 Derek DeBord- Lake Response, TowBoatU.S. Lake Norman
 Nick DeGenaro – Coastal Towing & Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. Venice
 George Farrell- Yonkers Marine Service, TowBoatU.S. Yonkers
 Kirk Fonte- Pebble Isle Marina, TowBoatU.S. New Johnsonville
 Chad Gilliland- Backwater Marine Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Lake Martin
 Jack Kelly- Towboat Philadelphia, TowBoatU.S. Philadelphia
 David Ludwick- Dependable Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Steinhatchee
 Dan Miller- Ocean Point Marina, TowBoatU.S. Boothbay Harbor
 Richard Moore- Tenn-Tom Towing, TowBoatU.S. Pickwick Lake
 Larry Phillips- Electric Harbor Marina, TowBoatU.S. Fox Lake
 Shaun Pitman- Southwest Marine Resources, TowBoatU.S. San Pedro
 Kyle and Jessica Potts- Reliable Marine Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Charlotte Harbor
 Paul Rosell- Hatteras Marine Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Hatteras
 Wayne Smith- Towboat Lake George, TowBoatU.S. Lake George NY
 John Stevens – Shamrock Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Charlevoix
 Paul Thomas- Bosun Salvage & Towing, TowBoatU.S. Vancouver
 Kevin Trevor- Twin View Enterprises, TowBoatU.S. Wallenapaupack

Anniversary members, continued.

15 year members; joined 2008:

Roger Slade- Marine Assist of Port Hadlock, TowBoatU.S. Port Hadlock

20 year members – Joined 2003:

Kevin Freestone- Lower Keys Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Big Pine Key

Clayton Tieman- American Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. Tampa Bay

Members honored that evening during the C-PORT Awards Banquet Gala included:

25 year members – Joined 1998:

Charlie Chapman– JLK Marine, TowBoatU.S. Cobb Island

Terry Hill- Potomac Marine, TowBoatU.S. Potomac

30 year members – Joined 1993:

Cory Offutt- Biscayne Towing & Salvage, TowBoatU.S. Miami

Mac McLean- Undertow Marine, TowBoatU.S. Pensacola

35 year members – Joined 1988:

Danny Cavaluzzi- Pro Marine, TowBoatU.S. City Island

Criquet Codeluppi- Cleveland Marine Towing, TowBoatU.S. Cleveland

On Tuesday afternoon, **C-PORT unveiled its latest risk management industry best practice**, “Risk Management

of Salvage: Is it Go or No-go?”. This course was unlike any presented to date, using a panel discussion with audience participation in evaluating three salvage case scenarios. Participants issued grades of A+ for the presentation. C-PORT thanks Kevin Collins, Offshore Marine Towing, and Harold “Smitty” Smith, Miller’s Towing & Salvage, for their help in making this course a valuable and insightful session. The course will be available online at the C-PORT website soon.



C-PORT Thanks the Break and Prize Sponsors from the 36th Conference and Membership Meeting:

Marine Towing & Salvage of SW Florida Cape Coral FL

Miller’s Towing & Salvage Sandy Hook NJ

Reynolds Towing and Marine Service Bayshore NY

Yachting Specialties San Francisco CA

CMTAA [Chesapeake Marine Towing and Assistance Association

Pro Marine City Island NY

C-PORT convened its 36th Business Meeting on Tuesday afternoon, January 17, 2023. Tina Cardone, C-PORT executive director, gave the Government Affairs committee report.

A number of task statements were issued to the Coast Guard Advisory Committees that directly influence regulations pertaining to the assistance towing industry. C-PORT is an active participant with two of those advisory committees, NMERPAC, National Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee, and NTSAC, National Towing Safety Advisory Committee. These committees provide CG valuable industry perspective and insight for consideration as they improve processes and policies and create regulations.

Issues and tasks for the committees include, mariner workforce issues and modernizing the credentialing process. Both committees are tasked with versions of these issues, and C-PORT is providing input on behalf of its members.

Mariner Workforce Issues: NMERPAC is asked to recommend methods to address the shortages. Discussions to date have included booths at job fairs and maritime options for consideration in schools. The goal is to get more people interested in this work and to make it attainable.

Mariner Credentialing Program (MCP) Transformation: Development of a comprehensive IT system that replaces the aging database. It is part of a larger multi-pronged transformation effort coordinated over multiple years to achieve its goal. NMERPAC is tasked to provide recommendations to CG throughout this transformation process. Discussion has included everything from the application process, creating an interactive online process, to individual mariner logins and portals.

Towing Vessel Industry Forecast: NTSAC was tasked with reporting on anticipated challenges expected to impact the towing industry. This was a comprehensive report and was broken into 5 categories: Infrastructure; Crewing; Regulatory; Operating Costs; and Security. Items identified that speak directly to the assistance towing industry included:

Availability and Maintaining Crew:

- Shift in work life balance
- Generational shift
- Experienced hires versus number retiring including those lost during Covid (physically and who left the industry)
- Credentialing issues
- Drug testing policies in particular use of marijuana; recommendation to move from a test that measures use to a test that measures impairment.

Regulatory concerns:

- Emissions- tier 4 engines for retrofits in older vessels.
- States pre-emption of Federal regulations creating a patchwork of rules.



C-PORT Government Affairs/
Legislative Committee

- Legislative- Monitor and Action
- USCG Advisory Committees
- ABC- American Boating Congress
- CBC- California Boating Congress
- NASBLA- National Association of Boating Law Administrators
 - BOAT Advisory Board
- ASA- American Salvage Association

C-PORT attended the NASBLA, National Association of Boating Law Administrators, conference in Manchester, MA in September. Phil LeBlanc, C-PORT Chairman and Tina Cardone, executive director presented the C-PORT position paper on crafting “Slow Down” laws to the NASBLA membership. The assistance towing industry is under federal admiralty jurisdiction. We support safety and wanted to find a way to help states craft state laws that wouldn’t conflict with federal law and create unintended consequences for the industry. C-PORT offered this position paper as a way to work with the states to achieve those goals.

Terry Hill, Potomac Marine and past C-PORT Chairman, continues his work on with NENA, National Emergency Number Association, in creating policies and procedures for 911 call centers to use when dealing with a maritime call. The committee disbanded during Covid and was reestablished late in 2022.

C-PORT follows numerous legislative actions throughout the year, and are ready to act on any and all issues that may be challenges or opportunities for the industry. We also represented the membership at a number of advocacy events throughout 2022. These included California Boating Congress, Sacramento CA, American Boating Congress, Washington DC, and American Salvage Association annual meeting, New Orleans LA.

Programs and Education and Membership Committee reports were given by Phil LeBlanc. C-PORT strives to bring programs and education to the membership promote professionalism and good business practices.

Marine Assistance Company Operations Guideline was reviewed with an eye to making the template easier for C-PORT members to use and updated recommendations for implementation is sent with the guidance document.

Risk Management Course Library continues to grow. The last edition was Operational Risk Management- The Human Factors, conducted in cooperation with USCG Office of Boat Forces. A new best practices module was presented during the conference and will be available online in the near future.

C-PORT held a BOSAR course in Marblehead OH during April. It was hosted by Jake Dunfee at Rescue Marine. This course is taken directly from the USCG Boat Forces training manual and certified by NASBLA as part of their national standard of training. Thanks to Dunfee’s partner relationship with his Coast Guard Station, the participants were able to run patterns and work directly with CG during the training.



C-PORT announced its 37th Conference and Membership Meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, FL. Everyone was asked to save the date as planning gets underway. More information on registration, exhibitor and sponsor opportunities, and hotel reservations is forthcoming!

The Maritime Law Association (MLA) held its spring meetings in New York City in May. Tina Cardone represents C-PORT as an MLA member and is on the MLA Salvage Committee. Two cases involving the assistance towing industry were discussed. One involved a salvor’s responsibility to be diligent when executing a contract and the other dealt with salvage versus towing.

The Ft Lauderdale Mariners Club Marine Insurance Seminar was held in Ft Lauderdale in October. Tina Cardone is a past skipper of the club and attended with Phil. LeBlanc and Chris Shaffner. Over 500 marine insurance and attorney professionals attended including representatives from our industry. Sessions of interest included Jones Act crew claims and crew shortages and untrained personnel.

Association For Rescue At Sea, AFRAS, Awards Ceremony was held in Washington DC in November. Phil LeBlanc and Tina Cardone received invitations to attend and represent C-PORT. We were honored to have AFRAS acknowledge Greg Giggi, Allwater Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. Charleston, the C-PORT AFRAS 2021 award recipient, from the podium in front of the distinguished guests.

C-PORT encouraged member support of the BoatU.S. Foundation’s campaign to be awarded substantial funds from NOAA for distribution and use on debris cleanup on our coasts. We supported BoatU.S. Government Affairs asking for reasonable protections for the North Atlantic Right Whale population. Currently C-PORT is collaborating with BoatU.S. Public Affairs to provide reasonable messaging regarding the potential for unintended consequences of the crash software found on iPhones and through a number of apps.

The C-PORT Mentor Program launched in 2022. These topic specific, virtual sessions have been well received by new members and old members alike. They are held the second Tuesday of the month and are casual, roundtable style discussions with a facilitator and then open questions and answers. Salvage reports, disaster prep, equipment tips, training, have all been topics. C-PORT looks forward to continuing this valuable member benefit.

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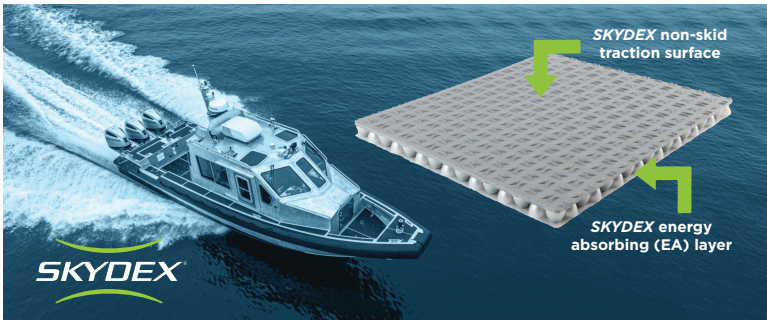
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The Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing, C-PORT, held its Membership Meeting on January 17, 2023, during the 36th C-PORT Conference. The meeting was held at the Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, LA. Along with committee reports and industry issue discussions, the membership elected its 2023 C-PORT board of directors.



Reelected to the board was Phil LeBlanc of Safe/Sea, TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay. Growing up on Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay, Phil has been a boater his entire life. He spent each summer cruising the waters around New England under both power and sail. In 1998, at the age of 18, he obtained his captain's license and began working for Safe/Sea to put himself through the University of Rhode Island. What began as college job, following his passion of being on the water has culminated in a career spanning two decades.

Phil is now co-owner of the business he began working for over 20 years ago. He has served on various C-PORT committees over the years and is currently C-PORT's chairman. He holds a 100-Ton Master for Near Coastal Waters with Commercial Assistance Towing and Radar Endorsements. He is a US Powerboat and Sailing, and NASBLA NICP credentialed instructor, as well as a specialty instructor for the US Department of Defense.



Newly elected to serve on the C-PORT board of directors is Richard Lenardson of Great Lakes Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. St Joseph. Rich started GLMS as an addition to Great Lakes Towing Road Service. In 2008, Rich and his wife Jessica started their first marine port, Saint Joseph MI. The company has expanded to cover waters in 5 states from 16 listed TowBoatU.S. ports.

While the marine and land services are now separate entities, Rich has learned much from his lifelong experience with road towing and wants to use those lessons to help grow the marine assistance industry. He is a strong advocate for safety and training programs and hopes to bring his insight and experience to the board and to the C-PORT membership.

Tina Cardone, executive director remarked, "C-PORT continues to represent the professional marine assistance companies throughout the nation. These individuals bring decades of experience and vision to the board, each with their own unique perspective."

Since the member vote, the board of directors met to elect its executive committee. Serving on the 2023 C-PORT board of directors and executive committee are:

Phil LeBlanc, Safe/Sea, TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay; Chairman

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

Chris Day, Marine Demolition & Spill Response, TowBoatU.S. Lake Allatoona; Treasurer

Jake Dunfee, Rescue Marine, TowBoatU.S. Port Clinton; Secretary

Richard Lenardson, Great Lake Marine Services, TowBoatU.S. St Joseph

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

Terry Hill, Potomac Marine, TowBoatU.S. Potomac; regional director, president of Chesapeake Marine Towing & Assistance Association

Are you a C-PORT member interested in serving on a C-PORT committee? Interested in serving on the C-PORT board of directors? Email Tina Cardone, executive director, at tcardone@cport.us. Include your interests for committee work to be added, and if interested in a future board seat, send a brief biography and your reasons for wanting to serve. Your interest will be forwarded to the C-PORT Nominating Committee.

Salvage Day at the Conference was sponsored by Safe Sea. It began with a continental breakfast buffet of fresh fruit, bagels, and pastries and time to visit with the conference vendors. The salvage sessions were divided into three topics.



The first session was Admiralty attorney, John Fulweiler, Esq., debating the subject of Wreck Removal and Salvage. He discussed the concerns facing salvors when confronted with a casualty, and provided insight on how to distinguish when a damaged vessel is best handled as wreck removal. Following that session, Kevin Collins, Offshore Marine Towing, took the lead during the capsized vessel demonstration.



Finally, Mr. Fulweiler facilitated a panel discussion on how to present a salvage report for payment. Tina

Cardone and Phil LeBlanc provided comment as the panel went through a salvage report, highlighting the critical sections that are to be included.

The C-PORT Reception and Awards Banquet Gala was sponsored by TowBoatU.S. Guests met in the Royal Salon for cocktails and discovered they had to collect beads to find their way to the banquet hall. Entrees of stuffed redfish and grilled sirloin were served, while the bar remained open.

Rob Butler was honored at the banquet for his years of service on the C-PORT board of directors. Rob stepped off the board this year, having reached his term limit. Rob was given a standing ovation and gifted with his favorite cigars to mark the occasion. Rob will remain an integral part of the C-PORT mission.

Weaving through the crowd was James Divine, palm reader, mystic, and bringer of joy. James dazzled the guests with his talents. James provides private readings, in person and online, for anyone interested in pursuing the hidden messages palmistry reveals. <https://www.thedivinehand.com/index.html>



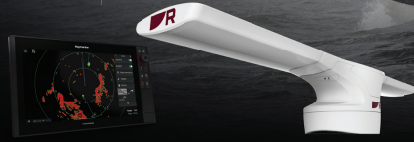


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OXE Outboards are built with commercial users in mind, for those who require high durability, units that are easy to service and require minimal maintenance yet deliver maximal range. Ranging from 125hp (603Nm (445 ft-lb) to 300hp (945Nm (696 ft-lb)), the OXE Diesel provides fuel savings and emission reductions previously unheard of, impacting the journey towards a more sustainable and ecologically positive marine environment, without compromising on reliability, power, and control.



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Risk Management Training Courses are available on the C-PORT website, <https://cport.us>. The program centers on these concepts:

- Risk: “possibility of loss or injury”
- Risk Management: “The identification, analysis, assessment, control, and avoidance, minimization, or elimination of unacceptable risks.

C-PORT is committed to encouraging its member’s growth and development through education and is dedicated to providing good business practices throughout its membership. With the increase in accidents and economic pressures facing our industry, many companies have lost sight of the importance of training and proper risk management skills. Our mission is to provide our members with programs that will enable their growth and development into the future, while minimizing the impact of looming USCG regulation in response to Congressional directive and safety records.

Contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012 with any questions regarding this program. Captain and crew special pricing is available.

Marine Assistance Company Operations Guideline, exclusively for C-PORT company members. These guidelines promote safe operations and provide regulatory guidance. C-PORT company members may obtain access to this document at the C-PORT website, <https://cport.us> or contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012.

Insurance Program for Marine Assistance Companies - Administered by Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, Inc. - Designed and underwritten by Travelers for organizations dedicated to marine assistance and towing. This Program offers an extensive portfolio of quality insurance products and services to address a wide range of marine exposures. -800-788-8225; lwagner@starshep.com.

ACAPT- Accredited for Commercial Assistance and Professional Towing- The ACAPT program provides best practices guidance for the marine assistance towing and salvage industry. Participants are highlighted as having taken the initiative to meet or exceed their own company qualifications against industry best practice criteria and government regulations. Visit the C-PORT website at <https://cport.us> or contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012 with any questions regarding this program.

BOSAR for Commercial Assistance- Created through the support of NASBLA’s BOAT program and the USCG Office of Boat Forces, is designed for the marine assistance operator, providing reinforcement of knowledge gained by virtue of their captain's license and experience. It also enhances their ability to work as a true partner with local agencies and the US Coast Guard. This course is open to any marine assistance company who wants to host the training. Instructors and course materials are provided by C-PORT. Contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012 if you have an interest in hosting a class.

Mentor Program, exclusively for C-PORT company members. Virtual roundtable discussions with guest speakers. Second Tuesday of the month. Information is emailed to all company members prior to the sessions. If you are a member and not receiving these emails, contact Tina Cardone at tcardone@cport.us or 954-261-2012.



C-PORT was founded in 1985 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. Its mission is to represent, promote, protect, and defend its member companies through communication, relationship development, and education. 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. They are professionals, dedicated to the growth and development of their respective businesses and committed to furthering the advancement of our waterways and the boating community. For more information, contact C-PORT at (954) 261-2012 or visit <https://cport.us>.

C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing)
4251 NE 27th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064

C-PORT is a 501(c)(6) organization.