

SETWAC Port Welfare Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

ATTENDING: (18 Participants)

Fr. Sinclair Oubre (Chairman)
Doreen Badeaux (Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center)
Terrie Looney (AgriLife Extension Sea Grant)
Alvin Adams (USCG Auxiliary & PAISC)
Larry Kelley (Chairman (SETWAC) & Port of Port Arthur)
Buddy Hicks (Seabulk Towing)
Tammy Domingue (PAISC)
Mike Thomas (Seabulk Towing)
Tim Updike (MARAD)
Scott Floyd (Seafarers Center of Beaumont)
Charlene Narcisse (PAISC)
Capt. Mark Taylor (Sabine Pilots)
Jonathan Church (MSU-Port Arthur)
Stephen Mills (Sabine Pass LNG)
Scott LaBurn (USCG)
Bruce Guyote (CBP)
Gary Gardner (Sunoco Logistics)
Craig Hayes (USCG Station Sabine)

The meeting was convened at 11:30 a.m. The Sabine-Neches Navigation District hosted the meeting in their board room, and kindly provided lunch for the subcommittee participants. The business meeting began at 12 noon. Items addressed were:

1. Background on the history of the Seafarer Welfare Subcommittee, and the goal to gather before each SETWAC Work Group meeting;
2. Introduction of new director at the Seafarers Center of Beaumont, Scott Floyd;
3. Report on recent Seafarer Welfare incidents: *M/V Isis*, *M/V Mystic Striker*, *M/V Endless*;
4. Report on Maritime High School initiative, and efforts to recruit next generation of maritime personnel;
5. Report on *2014 Seamen's Church Institute Seafarers Shore Leave Report* (<http://www.seamenschurch.org/article/2014-seafarer-shore-leave-survey>);
6. Report on International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network (ISWAN) Port Welfare Committee Initiative & survey (Google: International Port Welfare Partnership Pilot Project Overview);
7. Report on the status of the Beaumont and Port Arthur seafarers' centers;
8. Input from each stakeholder.

Highpoints of this meeting were:

1. Bruce Guyote, of Customs & Board Protection, gave an in depth explanation of CBP's work, the challenges they face, and CBP's perspective regarding seafarers, access to shore leave, and other issues that interface with seafarer welfare.
2. Large attendance from a cross section of the Sabine-Neches waterway maritime community;
3. The chairman of the committee set a goal to call Seafarer Welfare Subcommittee meetings approximately one week before the SETWAC Work Group Meeting.
4. (Post Meetings Policy) The Port Arthur International Seafarers Center has established a policy for Ebola quarantined ships: The center will provide ditty bags with basic toiletries and individual phone cards/SIM cards for the quarantined crewmembers.

Submitted by,
Fr. Sinclair Oubre, J.C.L., MNI
Committee Chairman