PSMHS TAKES OVER YOUTH MARITIME TRAINING ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

The Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society (PSMHS) has taken over the highly regarded maritime education programs offered for the past 18 years by the Youth Maritime Training Association (YMTA). This is a major expansion of PSMHS’s efforts to educate students and the public about the region’s rich maritime heritage and the economic importance of maritime industry.

Following four months of meetings with YMTA and review by a PSMHS committee, on October 29 the Youth Maritime Training Association’s board unanimously approved the transfer of the organization’s programs and assets to the Society. As part of a significant mission expansion, the PSMHS board unanimously voted on November 13 to accept the YMTA transfer.

YMTA was originally founded by Norm Manly, a retired Foss human resources manager, in 1996. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries scientist, Gary Stauffer has led the organization since 2006. “The PSMHS Board believes that becoming involved in maritime career education is a key to encouraging future generations to also help preserve maritime history,” said John Hough, PSMHS president. “YMTA deserves much credit for developing this outstanding program and we are pleased to be able to continue it.”

Faced with the challenges of an aging workforce along with filling existing and new job openings, the region’s maritime industry supports youth education initiatives, including the YMTA. To gain the industry’s support, YMTA has:

• promoted maritime career opportunity awareness for elementary, middle and high school students,
• awarded scholarships to students and grants to teachers and schools to support maritime programs, and
• participated in high school and other career fairs to increase student interest in maritime employment.

These programs have been offered throughout the Puget Sound area, including: Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Port Townsend, Oak Harbor, and other communities on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. Stauffer, retiring YMTA president, estimates that more than 10,000 students have become aware of maritime career opportunities through various Youth Maritime Training Association-sponsored activities. Through the years, YMTA has

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**TAKING OVER YMTA**

received enough financial support from the maritime industry to award 57 student scholarships – totaling $112,000 – which have contributed to the successful placement of these students in maritime-related careers. Among these students are: Nevin Garcia, a 2012 graduate of the California Maritime Academy graduate and current Foss Maritime employee; Lauren Gasadahl, a 2013 California Maritime Academy graduate who is now working for Alaska Tankers as a 3rd mate; and Troy Joey, a 2014 graduate of the Tongue Point Job Corps Center seamanship program and current Foss employee.

While the official transfer of YMTA’s programs and assets to PSMHS will take place on December 31, 2014, Stauffer and his volunteer YMTA board members have offered to work with PSMHS for at least one year to ensure a smooth transition. “We are very pleased to add the YMTA maritime career education program to our 65+ year effort to preserve and promote the maritime history of the Puget Sound region and also to help meet crucial industry needs” said Hough. “This proven program will enhance and extend our efforts at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) and allow us to bring our full, compelling story to students, teachers, parents and other new audiences.”

For more information on YMTA, please visit www.ymta.net. You can also like YMTA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/youthmaritimetrainingassociation or follow @YMTA_WA on Twitter.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

James Karl Larsen

Jim “Swede” Larsen passed away on Friday, Sept 19, 2014 after a short battle with cancer. Jim never married or had children, but leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews who often looked up to him as a father.

Jim was born in 1933 in Seattle to Lars Larsen and Jeanie Rae Anderson. He lived in West Seattle and later Queen Anne. Jim enlisted in the Navy right out of high school and served in the Korean War aboard the vessel Frank E. Evan DD754. After his time in the Navy, Jim worked odd jobs until 1956, when he became a Merchant Marine and sailed the world’s oceans for over 30 years. After his retirement, he spent most of his time helping people. He was a well-respected man and brought joy to many people. He was a great uncle and friend to all who knew him. He will be missed by all.

Donald “Buz” Dana

PSMHS member Buzz Dana passed away peacefully, with family members by his side at his home in Renton, WA on Sunday, October 26th after a 2 year bout with cancer. Buzz was born August 22nd, 1943 in Seattle, the first of four children to Eugene R. and Charlotte A. Dana, and grew up in Seattle, Bellingham, and Issaquah. During his time at Issaquah High School, Buzz met his sweetheart and one true love, Patricia A. Paterson whom he married in the spring of 1964. Pat gave him 50 wonderful years of marriage and was by his side during his final moments. Whether you needed a helping hand or a wise and honest piece of advice, Buzz was the man everyone called upon. He loved to work, whether it was at his 44 year elevator career, building his and Pat’s original home on Lake Washington, wood working, boat building or anything around the house, he was more than involved with both sleeves rolled infinitely up.

John Jack C. Rottler

Long Seattle resident and longtime PSMHS member John “Jack” Clarence Rottler passed away at his home on October 26th, 2014 at the age of 89. He attended Stevens Elementary, Garfield High School, and the University of Washington. Jack had a lifelong passion for boating from his early childhood. He began his work career as a partner in Puget Sound Marina, followed by joining Bryant’s Marina. After Bryant’s Marina Jack established the Northwest Instrument Company, which serviced the crabbing vessels that fished the burgeoning Alaska King Crab fishery in 1960s and 70s. Jack was a very active member at Seattle Yacht Club and Queen City Yacht. He owned many boats over the years and took them exploring in East Coast, West Coast, and Alaskan waters. When the weather became turbulent Jack was often given the helm to get the boat through the rough and stormy seas.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS UPDATES**

At the close of 2014, we say goodbye to our current board president, John Hough and thank him for his two years of service.

We now welcome the incoming president – Frank Immel, Marketing Manager at Global Diving and Salvage.

We also welcome incoming board member Michael Inman, Vice President of Safety and Environmental Management Systems at Holland America Line.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2014**

We would like to thank the current members listed below who renewed their memberships in October and welcome the new members listed in bold.

**Admiral Level**
David Booth, Black Ball Transport
Roger Ottenbach
Clint Miller
Alicia Barnes, Curatorial & Administrative Manager

**Commodore Level**
Richard Barnecut
Virginia Randolph
Johnnie & Janice Ridgway

**Captain Level**
Michael Burns
Don K. Johnson
Janice Ridgway

**Navigator Level**
Walt Brady & Rosemary Dale
Christian Parker
Earl Ecklund, Jr.
James Karl Larsen

**Boatswain Level**
Elizabeth & Clint Miller
Jack Nicholson
Kenneth Reis
Roberta Roberts
Judie Romeo
John Lebend
Donald Loken

**Contact PSMHS**

**PSMHS 2014**

**Board of Governors**

John Hough
President
Frank Immel
1st Vice-President
Pat Hartle
2nd Vice-President
Lisl Rose
Secretary
Janice Ridgway
Treasurer

Janet Nunnelsa
Nathaniel Howe
Tom Kane
John Lockwood
Jim Meckley
Clist Miller
John Ottenbach
John Werehouse
Leanne Garfield Ex-officio

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**Newsletter Deadline**

The December newsletter deadline is Friday, December 5th. Please send content via US Mail, or email to newsletter@pugetmaritime.org.