



2024 ANNUAL REPORT





SCI

The Seamen's Church Institute
Annual Report 2024

seamenschurch.org

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Special thank you to former SCI President & Executive Director the Rev. David Rider who gifted many of his photographs for use in this and other SCI publications.



Scan here to learn more about SCI's history and legacy, or visit seamenschurch.org/mission

Mission

SCI upholds its enduring legacy of serving and protecting the personal and professional lives of mariners and seafarers with unwavering compassion and dedication. We are committed to partnering with the maritime industry to ensure dignity within the workplace, and the safety of vessel operations and maritime environments. Through our efforts, we strive to foster a safer, more respectful, and sustainable maritime community, both internationally and domestically.

Values

COMPASSION • DEPENDABILITY • INTEGRITY

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March 2025.*

Investing in SCI's mission-driven work on behalf of mariners and seafarers

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The Seamen's Church Institute is grateful to our sponsors for their support. Sustaining and Supporting Sponsors invest at the highest level to further our mission-driven work on behalf of mariners' personal, professional, and spiritual welfare. To learn more about sponsorships and their associated benefits, please visit seamenschurch.org/sponsors.

SCI IMPACT AREAS



Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is central to SCI's mission. SCI Chaplains, stationed in the Port of New York and New Jersey, as well as along the inland waterways and Gulf Coast, visit vessels to engage with seafarers and mariners wherever they are. Interacting with thousands of mariners each year, SCI Chaplains provide support in both joyful and difficult times, including celebrating maritime milestones, advocating for mariner welfare, offering compassionate assistance, and responding to emergencies.



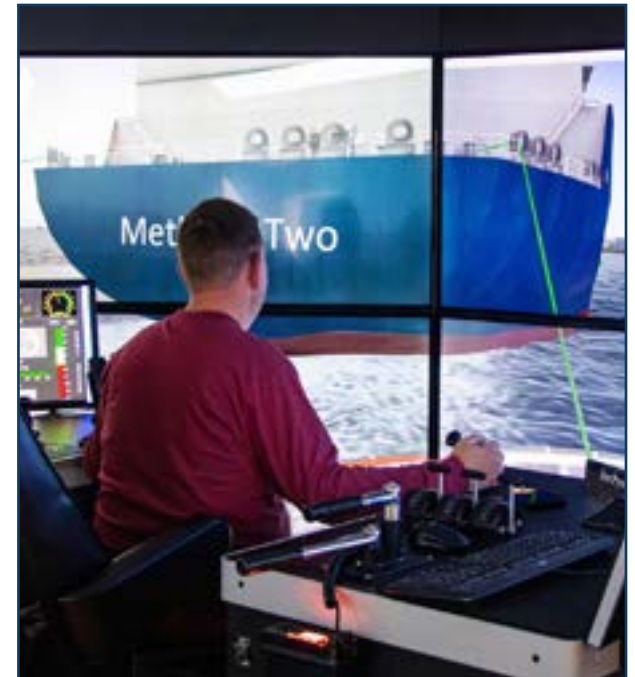
Law & Advocacy

SCI runs a full-time, free legal aid program dedicated to supporting mariners and seafarers. The Center for Mariner Advocacy offers assistance with individual cases while also working on both international and domestic levels to shape policy, promote worker safety and security within the industry, support the training of chaplains and maritime personnel, and address mariner wellness concerns, including physical and mental health.



Maritime Education

SCI's Center for Maritime Education equips inland and Gulf Coast mariners with top-tier training through expert-led instruction, advanced simulator facilities, and SCI-developed online courses approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. Furthermore, we reinforce our dedication to safe waterways, vessel design, and maritime infrastructure by conducting navigational and feasibility studies.



SUPPORTING SCI

SCI is only able to achieve its ambitious goals because of the incredible generosity of our corporate sponsors, active donors, and volunteers. We remain extremely grateful for their generous gifts in support of our mission.

Donations by check are accepted, payable to The Seamen's Church Institute.

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The Seamen's Church Institute is a
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From Our BOARD CHAIR

The Seamen's Church Institute continues to make strides in advancing the goals of our five-year, 2023–2028 Strategic Plan. This year, the Board implemented a comprehensive measurement tool to evaluate progress on the 15 strategic initiatives outlined in the plan. I am pleased to report that all are on or ahead of schedule. The plan's focus on expanding, innovating, communicating, sustaining, and optimizing our services has kept SCI at the forefront of meeting the needs of seafarers, mariners, and their support networks.

Seeing our Strategic Plan take shape through 2024 has been rewarding. Of note, SCI was the first mariner welfare organization called upon to board the M/V *Dali* in Baltimore Harbor to assist its seafarers. We also celebrated the successful completion of the \$5 million Ministry on the River Endowment Campaign, which has demonstrably enhanced our outreach and crisis response efforts for mariners on the inland waterways and Gulf Coast. Our Center for Maritime Education continued to deliver top-tier training, while the Center for Mariner Advocacy, under Director Phil Schiffelin, Esq.'s leadership, remained focused on addressing challenges faced by mariners and seafarers, both domestically and internationally.

I am also happy to share that our Board of Trustees achieved 100% financial participation in Annual Fund giving, which is a strong affirmation of their collective confidence in SCI's ability to address the growing demands of our mission, as highlighted within this Annual Report. We also extend our gratitude to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, whose generosity enables SCI to uphold its commitment to the safety, dignity, and well-being of those serving in the maritime industry.

Mark Knoy
Chair, Board of Trustees
The Seamen's Church Institute



Mark Knoy
Chair, Board of Trustees
The Seamen's Church Institute

From Our

President and Executive Director



Looking back, 2024 was a transformative year for the Seamen's Church Institute. Thanks to your ongoing support, we made significant strides with our 2023–2028 Strategic Plan, advancing several key initiatives. From crisis response to expanding our chaplaincy services, we're making a tangible impact on the lives of mariners and seafarers.

In response to an urgent request, SCI provided vital crisis response support following the allision between the M/V *Dali* and the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore Harbor. Our Chaplains made multiple visits, including deploying Tamil and Hindi-speaking Chaplains to minister to the primarily Indian crew. This rapid, culturally-sensitive response exemplified our commitment to seafarer welfare. In the offshore energy sector, we also certified several Chaplains in HUET (Helicopter Underwater Escape Training) and BOSIET (Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training), enabling them to travel via helicopter and respond to emergencies offshore.

SCI's chaplaincy efforts expanded across the U.S. in 2024. We welcomed two new Ministry on the River Chaplains in Houston and New Orleans, and appointed a new Director for our International Seafarers' Center in the

Port of New York & New Jersey. We co-hosted the 2024 North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference in Newark, NJ, where we welcomed more than 100 maritime chaplains from across North America. And this year, SCI engaged with more vessels and mariners than ever before, deepening connections and offering critical support.

On the advocacy front, SCI fought tirelessly for the rights of mariners. We advocated for the return of mobile phones and electronics for the crew of the *Dali*, whose personal devices had been seized by the FBI. Absent their phones and with the prevalence of two-factor authentication, many seafarers were unable to complete simple banking tasks like paying their mortgage, rent, or transferring money to family members back home. Our Center for Mariner Advocacy (CMA) continued to represent seafarer welfare organizations as part of the International Christian Maritime Association's delegations to the International Maritime Organization and the International Labor Organization on issues including abandonment, fair treatment of seafarers accused of crimes while at sea, and sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH).

In education and training, our Center for Maritime Education expanded course

offerings, including harbor/assist tug bridge resource management, and continued to train thousands of inland mariners at our Houston and Paducah facilities. Our new SASH training module, developed in response to industry requests, has been widely recognized.

The following pages showcase more stories and statistics that highlight SCI's ongoing mission to serve the men and women who power the maritime industry. I'm incredibly proud of my passionate and dedicated colleagues, whose commitment to SCI's mission is the heartbeat of our work. Your generous support is integral to our success. Every day, I'm reminded that the world depends on mariners, mariners depend on SCI, and SCI depends on you. Thank you!



The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt
President & Executive Director
The Seamen's Church Institute

Offices

The Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) promotes the safety, dignity, and improved working environment for those serving in North American and international maritime workplaces. Founded in 1834, SCI is a voluntary, ecumenical agency affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

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Seafarer and Mariner Services

International Seafarers' Center

In 2024, the International Seafarers' Center (ISC) saw significant increases in ship visits, seafarer transport, and shore leave access, despite ongoing challenges such as heightened anxiety among seafarers navigating high-risk regions like the Red Sea and Black Sea.

Expanding Outreach and Chaplaincy Services

Guided by its Strategic Plan, the ISC expanded its team, adding a new Chaplain, Chaplain Associates, and an intern to enhance coverage at the Port of New York and New Jersey. This growth has allowed the ISC to reach more seafarers in smaller

regional ports, including Brooklyn, the Bronx, Staten Island, Perth Amboy, and the Raritan River area.

Crisis Response and Seafarer Support

Demonstrating its commitment to crisis readiness, the ISC mobilized Chaplains and Chaplain Associates following the M/V *Dali*'s allision with the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore Harbor in March. SCI President and Executive Director, the Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, visited the crew soon after the incident, followed by a second visit from the Rev. Dr. Bill Allport, the Rev. Mary Matthews, and the Rev. Mathew Thomas two weeks later, ensuring continued support for those impacted.

Strengthening Community Engagement

Building on its Strategic Plan priorities, the ISC welcomed Matthew Morse as Director mid-year. Under his leadership, key initiatives moved forward, including:

- The launch of an annual Christmas service, with plans for further expansion in 2025.
- Progress on Essex Cement Company's sublease agreement, laying the groundwork for new tenants.
- Ongoing exploration of a partnership with RWJBarnabas to establish an Employee Health and Occupational Medicine Center.

The ISC was also honored to host the North American Maritime Ministry Association Conference and was recognized with the 2024 Port Community Partnership Award by Bi-State Motor Carriers for its valuable contributions to the port community.

With continued growth, strategic partnerships, and a strong commitment to seafarers' well-being, the ISC is poised for an impactful 2025.



SCI Chaplain James Kollin (left) and ISC Director Matthew Morse (right) meeting a seafarer



SCI Chaplain Bill Allport meeting a seafarer

Continued on the following page. ➔

Seafarer and Mariner Services continued...

Ministry on the River

In 2024, SCI's Ministry on the River (MOR) welcomed two new Chaplains, further strengthening its support network for mariners along the inland waterways and Gulf Coast region. The Rev. Geoffrey Davis, serving the Lower Mississippi River and Gulf Coast Region, and the Rev. Nancy Simpson, serving the Houston Ship Channel and Gulf Coast Region, bring valuable expertise and a deep commitment to chaplaincy and mariner care. Both have already played a vital role in outreach efforts, including ship visits, shoreside support, and incident response—notably assisting the crews and staff impacted by the M/V *Miss Peggy* incident in July and the M/V *Patrick J. Studdert* incident in December 2024. Their onboarding was guided by SCI Chaplain Associate Capt. Joy Manthey, whose extensive experience has been instrumental in integrating new team members.



SCI Chaplain Nancy Simpson

Expanding Ministry on the River's Reach & Future Growth

Fulfilling MOR's expansion goals, as outlined in SCI's Strategic Plan, remained a key priority in 2024. Under Senior Chaplain David Shirk's leadership, five new Chaplain Associates joined the SCI team, alongside the two full-time Chaplains. With the successful completion of MOR's \$5 million Endowment Campaign, an additional full-time Chaplain is set to be added in 2025, further extending SCI's presence and impact.

Enhancing Emergency Response & Mental Health Support

To strengthen emergency preparedness, Chaplains Geoffrey Davis and David Shirk, as well as Chaplain Associate Charlie Stiernberg completed emergency helicopter training (HUET and BOSIET), equipping them to respond to mariner emergencies in the offshore energy sector. Additionally, MOR Chaplains provided ASIST and SafeTALK training to inland mariner companies, promoting mental health awareness and suicide prevention within the industry.



SCI Chaplain the Rev. Geoff Davis (right) shaking hands with a mariner in Channelview, TX

With continued growth, expanded capabilities, and a steadfast commitment to mariner well-being, SCI's Ministry on the River remains dedicated to serving those who work and live on the water.

Christmas at Sea

SCI's Christmas at Sea program enjoyed another fantastic year, receiving 27,833 hand-made items (knits, crochets, and ditty bags) that were distributed by our Chaplains to seafarers and mariners in Port Newark and along U.S. inland waterways. The gifts were gratefully received by those working away

from home over the holidays, a reminder of SCI's compassion and dedication to mariners in ways both big and small. We thank our volunteers for making this special ministry possible.

Summer Sea Term

For the fourth consecutive summer, SCI Chaplains participated in the State University of New York Maritime College's Summer Sea Term, this year aboard the newly-commissioned T/S *Empire State VII*. The team, led by SCI President and Executive Director the Rev. Mark Nestlehurst and including Chaplain Associates the Rev. Anne Reed, the Rev. Charlie Stiernberg, M.D., and the Rev. Jay Geisler, provided spiritual care, counseling, and services such as Eucharist, daily prayer, and a burial at sea. Despite itinerary changes caused by mechanical issues, their efforts underscored SCI's dedication to supporting cadets and furthering its mission within the maritime community.

SCI and the Container Ship *Dali*: Our Response and Support

By the Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, *President and Executive Director, The Seamen's Church Institute*

“BALTIMORE KEY BRIDGE COLLAPSES AFTER SHIP COLLISION” (CNN)

This and similar headlines greeted us as we awoke on the morning of March 26. Within 48 hours, our industry partners reached out to the Seamen's Church Institute to ask what SCI could do to support the seafarers aboard the M/V *Dali*, now trapped under

the superstructure of the Key Bridge. Amid ongoing investigations by the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Transportation Safety Board, access to the *Dali* was extremely limited. Yet, within a week of the collision, SCI was cleared to board the ship to provide support for the 21 seafarers still aboard the vessel. And so, on a stormy morning we boarded the launch and were ferried out to the *Dali* along with the surveyors and attorneys who were part of the investigation.

Boarding via the rope pilot ladder, SCI was the first seafarer welfare organization to meet with the crew and to offer crisis support through one-on-one and small group meetings with the Indian and Sri Lankan seafarers. After a full day aboard, and with a strong sense that the seafarers were well cared for by the ship's operator, we returned home to plan a more extensive follow-up visit and to brief the local seafarer welfare organizations of the state of the crew and the situation aboard the ship.

In the world of global shipping, crises happen. What is unknown is when and where these events will occur. SCI has consistently demonstrated its readiness, dispatching its Chaplains, trained in Critical Incident Stress Management, to provide much-needed support and assistance in such situations. These deployments range from pirate attacks off the Somali coast, a ship sinking in the Atlantic, onboard fatalities near Yokohama, capsized workboats in the Gulf or on the Western rivers, and, in this most recent case, a fatal bridge collision in Baltimore Harbor.

After assessing the situation, what the crew of the *Dali* seemed to need most were maritime chaplains who spoke their native language,



Mark Nestlehutt visiting the seafarers aboard the M/V *Dali* shortly after the collision.

Hindi and Tamil. Fortunately, SCI has two trained Chaplain Associates who speak these languages and serve at SCI's International Seafarers' Center in Port Newark. Along with a third SCI Chaplain, this team mobilized for a follow-up visit. But then there was a new wrinkle.

On Monday, April 15, the FBI issued a statement to the media that FBI agents were "presently aboard the cargo ship *Dali* conducting court-authorized law enforcement activity." SCI's team was told to standby. After a two-day FBI investigation aboard the ship, SCI was green-lighted and the team of three boarded the early morning launch, carrying new SIM cards (for mobile phones) and other items for the crew of the *Dali*. The second visit could not have been more impactful or appreciated. After meeting with the Master, the crew showed up quickly and were eager to speak to our Chaplains in Hindi, Malayalam, and Tamil, the dialects of India where most of the crew call home.

While the ship was well-provisioned, there was concern over the uncertainty of their situation. An anticipated month-long sail to

their next port, was now a yet-to-be-defined extended stay in Baltimore. Our Chaplains learned from the seafarers that their mobile phones and computers had been taken by the FBI as part of its investigation, meaning they had lost their contact numbers, WeChat, and WhatsApp applications to connect with family and friends, increasing the crew's sense of isolation. However, herein lies another strength of our organization. Working through SCI's Center for Mariner Advocacy, we contacted the appropriate U.S. Coast Guard authorities to advocate for the seafarers, and to ascertain if and when their phones would be returned by the FBI. By the following day, the ship's operator had provided six new mobile phones for the crew's use, with the understanding that the seafarers' original phones eventually would be returned to them.

SCI continued to work with the various Baltimore-based seafarer organizations to provide for the crew of the *Dali*. While SCI was focused on the *Dali*'s crew, Baltimore's local chaplains attended to the seafarers on the other vessels stuck in the port waiting for the channel to reopen, which took months.

What was it that the crew of the *Dali* wanted most—other than the return of their mobile phones? Namely, items that reminded them of home such as Indian-language periodicals and newspapers, Indian snack foods, toiletries, and ongoing support and vessel visits. Over the next several weeks, SCI's team continued to advocate through the U.S. Coast Guard for the return of the crew's personal electronic devices by the Department of Justice, while also coordinating with the local seafarer organizations with offers to assist in ongoing support.

Whenever and Wherever Needed

Our service in Baltimore showed our mission in action. SCI's commitment to crisis response reflects our strategic objectives, demonstrating a dedication to providing effective and compassionate support for mariners and seafarers, no matter where in the world they may face challenging circumstances.

It's what we do.





SCI and the Container Ship Dali continued...

A Visit to the *Dali*

By SCI Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Bill Allport

From the SCI Quarterly Activity Report, June 2024

It was still dark as rain fell on the International Seafarer Center parking lot at 4 AM. I was waiting for the Revs. Mathew Thomas and Mary Matthews, two of our dedicated Chaplain Associates. This visit necessitated much coordination, involving countless phone calls, emails, and conversations with shipping company representatives in order to align calendars to ensure maximum availability for all involved.

We were heading to meet the crew of the M/V *Dali*, three weeks after the Key Bridge accident in Baltimore on March 26. The crew had been detained onboard since the incident. For the Indian and Sri Lankan crew members, we hoped to provide a sense of care and reassurance by bringing Chaplain Associates fluent in Hindi, Tamil, and other dialects. Our visit aimed to offer comfort and a listening ear in a familiar language.

The Rev. Mathew Thomas climbing aboard the Dali



Upon arriving at Vane Brothers, we boarded the *Wil-Kate*, a boat typically used for supply deliveries. After a 30-minute ride, we arrived at the port side of the *Dali*, which offered a manageable seven-foot climb up a pilot ladder (significantly shorter than the 40-foot climb on the starboard side). When we got inside, the crew and on-board salvage team were incredibly accommodating, facilitating our movement and access.

From the first interaction, the *Dali* crew's faces brightened at the sight of the Revs. Mathew and Mary. They walked the hallways, galley, and messroom, all the while engaging with the crew, who visibly appreciated having someone compassionate and familiar with their language on board. The captain gathered the crew in the messroom, inviting them to speak with us as they wished. For the next four hours, the Revs. Matthew and Mary stayed on the accommodation deck, mingling with crew members in the mess rooms, kitchen, and galley. It was plain that their presence provided much-needed spiritual and emotional comfort. An oiler remarked, "It's like having my auntie or uncle here. Thank you."

While the Revs. Mathew and Mary engaged with seafarers on the B Deck, I moved around



(L-R) SCI Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Bill Allport, the Rev. Mary Matthews, and the Rev. Mathew Thomas

the ship, talking with crew members as they worked. On the open deck, I spoke with those shifting containers, and in the captain's quarters, I listened to the captain's concerns about the prolonged detention and its impact on his health and family life. Conversations with the chief engineer and the salvage team revealed their emotional struggles, particularly after witnessing the tragedy of the bridge collapse.

A significant concern for the crew was the recent FBI seizure of personal electronic devices, which hindered their ability to contact families. In one situation, the Bosun was unable to reach his wife for their

25th wedding anniversary, so we tried calling a remembered number on my phone. To his immense joy, he connected with his wife, reassuring her of his safety. We left them in privacy to share their love and greetings.

As we departed the *Dali* and navigated the afternoon traffic on Interstate 95, I reflected on the day. I am profoundly thankful to the Revs. Mathew Thomas and Mary Matthews for their dedication in joining me, and grateful to all those who helped organize this visit, which paved the way for the necessary ongoing support of the *Dali*'s crew from local maritime ministries and the Baltimore community.

Center for Mariner Advocacy

Advancing Mariner Advocacy in 2024

The Center for Mariner Advocacy (CMA), and its Director, Phil Schifflin, made significant progress in advancing the welfare of seafarers and mariners through advocacy in 2024. While the Director's role rarely involves boarding vessels, CMA's mission mirrors the efforts of SCI's chaplaincy in its commitment to supporting mariners and addressing their needs both domestically and internationally.

Strengthening International Standards

In February, CMA participated in meetings at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) to address evolving mariner needs. Key efforts included updates to training standards for emerging technologies, sustainable fuels, and measures to prevent harassment and bullying, including sexual assault and sexual harassment. CMA's advocacy contributed to the approval of critical draft training standards. Additionally, in April, CMA worked with the IMO Legal Committee to draft guidelines on the fair treatment of

mariners accused of crimes, scheduled for review later in the year.

Advocacy During Crises

Throughout 2024, CMA actively engaged in biweekly meetings focusing on the crises in Ukraine and the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden regions. These discussions ensured that the voices and concerns of mariners impacted by geopolitical instability were prioritized in international forums.

Promoting Safer Working Environments

In May, CMA led a panel discussion in New Orleans on the Safer Seas Act, aimed at preventing harassment and bullying within the domestic inland marine industry. Phil also facilitated training sessions for U.S. Coast Guard personnel, equipping them to address welfare challenges faced by seafarers.

Advancing Mariner Wellness

CMA facilitated monthly Mariner Wellness Steering Committee meetings, focusing on improving the physical and mental health of inland maritime workers. At the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association annual meeting in August, Phil moderated a panel

to share committee progress and gather industry feedback. Collaborations with Yale University also advanced research on wellness strategies, targeting actionable solutions for mariners.

Supporting Individual Mariners

CMA continued its dedication to individual mariners, addressing cases of seafarers in distress. Notably, in one case, foreign crews living in substandard conditions aboard Gulf Coast vessels received overdue wages and improved living conditions through coordination with the International Transport Workers' Federation and the U.S. Coast Guard. CMA also fielded various cases involving individual mariners, ensuring personalized support.

Future-Focused Efforts

CMA contributed to drafting amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, aimed at enhancing shore leave policies for mariners. These proposed changes, supported by seafarers, shipowners, and governments, will be reviewed at the ILO's Special Tripartite Committee meeting in April 2025, where Phil will continue to advocate for SCI's mission and priorities.

IMPACT REPORTS

CMA CASE BREAKDOWN	2024
Abandonment/Repatriation	7
Criminal Detention	3
Illness/Injury	4
Immigration	10
Living Conditions	10
Pay Issues/Unemployment Contract	10
Piracy	3
Ship Safety	3
Shore Leave/Facilities Access	8
Unclassified	3
TOTAL	61



Phil Schifflin, Esq., Director of SCI's Center for Mariner Advocacy, speaks with a mariner.

Center for Maritime Education

In 2024, the Center for Maritime Education (CME) surpassed its training goals, achieving a combined utilization of 81.5 weeks across its Paducah and Houston locations, exceeding the target of 40 weeks per location. New programs, such as Forward Bridge Training for car carriers, were introduced, while existing offerings were customized and expanded to better serve client needs.

Operational Challenges and Solutions

Despite these successes, CME faced challenges during the year. Instructor turnover impacted training capacity, necessitating continuous recruitment efforts. At the Houston location, the impending lease expiration created operational uncertainties, prompting strategic discussions with the Port Authority of Houston. Additionally, weather events, including a May derecho and Hurricane Beryl in July, posed logistical difficulties.

CME has been steadily addressing these issues, and in 2025 CME will implement a tuition increase to offset rising costs and ensure program sustainability. The organization is also undergoing restructuring to improve workload balance and operational efficiency. Plans to hire dedicated simulator

operators aim to enhance the quality of training by allowing instructors to focus exclusively on teaching.

Feasibility Studies

2024 was a strong year for CME, marked by twenty-four simulator days dedicated feasibility studies focused on berth, dredge profile, passing vessel, and tug needs analyses. In addition to feasibility projects, CME continued to expand and diversify its training offerings, providing programs for ship pilots, basic and advanced ship-assist harbor

tugs, and integrated training with ship pilots and tug masters. The team also facilitated specialized training sessions for mooring masters and emergency response teams, further broadening its impact.

Additionally, CME continued to explore multiple feasibility study opportunities, with some project decisions expected in 2025. CME will also continue its partnership with the Maritime Simulation and Resource Centre in Quebec City to advance efforts in acquiring and testing highly-detailed simulator towboat models.



e-Learning

CME's e-Learning division also expanded in 2024, creating custom content for clients, launching a well-received SASH (Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment) training module for the inland marine industry and developing content for ARTCo's New Orleans stevedoring operations. To support further growth in this area, an additional Learning Management System administrator will be hired in 2025.





SCI BY THE NUMBERS

	2023	2024
Seafarers visited on board ships	10,179	14,029
Vessels visited in Port of New York and New Jersey	1,770	2,301
Seafarers, truckers, and port workers hosted at the International Seafarers' Center	24,307	24,594
Seafarers transported by SCI vans	11,691	15,179
New CMA Cases*	39	61*
Mariners trained at CME-Paducah	652 mariners/13 companies	603 mariners/17 companies
Mariners trained at CME-Houston	610 mariners/22 companies	644 mariners/16 companies
Mariners trained through e-Learning	10,928 users/39 companies	9,968 mariners/39 companies
Maritime workers assisted by SCI Chaplains on the inland rivers	1,544	2,672
Visits to vessels on the inland rivers	347	701
Christmas at Sea: Total handmade gifts	30,184	27,833

*See full CMA case breakdown on p. 19

SCI Events 2024

Maritime Training Benefit Luncheon

Houston, TX • April 17, 2024

The Seamen's Church Institute hosted the annual Maritime Training Benefit Luncheon on April 17, 2024, at Hilton Americas in Houston, Texas, bringing together Inland and Gulf Maritime leaders. This year's event was chaired by Austin Golding, President and CEO of Golding Barge Line, and Clark Todd, President and CEO of Blessey Marine Services. The Luncheon honored Gary Osorno, President and CEO of AccuTrans, with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, while Captain Pete Ciaramitaro, Director of Vessel Operations for Southern Devall, received the Outstanding Trainer Award.

The 2024 Luncheon drew 260 attendees and raised \$266,000 to support mariner training and other vital SCI initiatives. Newly-hired Houston-based SCI Chaplain, the Rev. Nancy Simpson, delivered the opening benediction, and Director Captain Stephen Polk, MNI, provided an update on SCI's Center for Maritime Education.

*2024 MTBL Outstanding
Trainer Award recipient
Captain Pete Ciaramitaro,
Director of Vessel Operations,
Rivers, Southern Devall*



*ABOVE: 2024 MTBL
Lifetime Achievement
Award recipient Gary
Osorno, President and CEO
AccuTrans*



Silver Bell Awards Dinner

New York, NY • June 13, 2024

On June 13, 2024, the Seamen's Church Institute hosted its 46th Annual Silver Bell Awards Dinner in New York, celebrating leaders in the maritime industry. The Silver Bell Award was presented to John C. Hadjipateras, Chairman, CEO, and President of Dorian LPG Ltd., while Bethann Rooney, Director of the Port Department at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, received the Distinguished Service Award.

The event opened with a parade of vessels on the Hudson River, blessed by clergy, which was followed by a formal dinner program. Highlights included a performance by the Port Authority Police Department Pipes & Drums, the United States Coast Guard Sector New York Color Guard, and musical contributions from the Trinity Church Choir.

The dinner welcomed 530 guests and raised \$764,000 to support SCI's mission of assisting international seafarers and domestic mariners.



2024 Silver Bell Award

ABOVE: John C. Hadjipateras, Chairman, CEO, and President of Dorian LPG Ltd, received the 2024 Silver Bell Award. He is joined on stage by Silver Bell event co-chair Jack Noonan (left—Binnacle Maritime, LLC), the Rev. Mark Nestlehutt (center—SCI President and Executive Director), and Silver Bell co-chair Buckley McAllister (right—Chairman and CEO, McAllister Towing).

2024 Distinguished Service Award

Bethann Rooney, Director, Port Department at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, received the 2024 Distinguished Service Award. She is joined by the Rev. Mark Nestlehutt (left—SCI President and Executive Director).



Parade of Boats along the Hudson River.

River Bell Awards Luncheon

Paducah, KY • December 5, 2024

On December 5, the Seamen's Church Institute hosted its 24th Annual River Bell Awards Luncheon in Paducah, KY, bringing together nearly 600 maritime industry professionals. The event raised almost \$500,000 to support SCI's core mission areas, including mariner training, advocacy, chaplaincy, and crisis support.

The Luncheon honored several individuals and organizations for their contributions to the maritime community. Robert M. Blocker of American Commercial Barge Line received the 2024 River Bell Award. The River Legend Award was presented to Charles A. Haun Jr. of Parker Towing Company, and the Distinguished Service Award went to Matt Woodruff of Kirby Corporation. The event also recognized two crews for lifesaving actions: the crew of Canal Barge Company's M/V *Hallie M. Merrick* and Blessey Marine's M/V *Capt. Rodney Adams*. Our sincere thanks to the attendees, sponsors, and donors for their generous support of our mission.



2024 River Bell Award

ABOVE: (L-R) Mike Ellis, SCI Board of Trustees; Robert M. (Bob) Blocker, SVP, Dry Cargo Division, American Commercial Barge Line; The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, President and Executive Director, The Seamen's Church Institute.

2024 River Legend Award

BELOW: (L-R) Alison Phillips, Director of Communications, Parker Towing Company; Charles A. Haun Jr., Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Parker Towing Company; The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, President and Executive Director, The Seamen's Church Institute.



2024 River Bell Distinguished Service Award

BELOW: (L-R) John Roberts, President and CEO, Ingram Barge Company; Matt Woodruff, Vice President of Public & Government Affairs, Kirby Corporation and recipient of the 2024 River Bell Distinguished Service Award; The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, President and Executive Director, The Seamen's Church Institute.



2024 River Bell Lifesaving Award

ABOVE: The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, President and Executive Director of The Seamen's Church Institute (right), with the crew of Canal Barge Company's M/V Hallie M. Merrick, recipients of the 2024 River Bell Lifesaving Award.

2024 River Bell Lifesaving Award

BELOW: Mary McCarthy (left), Director of Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility at Moran Towing Corporation, and The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, President and Executive Director of The Seamen's Church Institute (right), with the crew of Blessey Marine's M/V Capt. Rodney Adams (center), recipients of the 2024 River Bell Lifesaving Award.





2024 Financial Summary

Unaudited †



Operating support, revenue, and operational draw from investments

	2024	2023
Program service revenue:		
• Maritime education and training	\$ 3,494,000	\$ 3,183,000
• International Seafarers' Center	\$ 64,000	\$ 61,000
Contributions and grants	\$ 2,462,000	\$ 3,080,000
Special event income	\$ 1,566,000	\$ 1,939,000
Investment income, net	\$ 4,244,000	\$ 403,000
Other income	\$ 26,000	\$ 3,000
Operational draw from investments	\$ 1,786,000	\$ 1,590,000
TOTAL	\$ 13,642,000	\$ 10,259,000

Expenses excluding depreciation

	2024	2023
Program services:		
• Center for Maritime Education	\$ 3,232,000	\$ 2,711,000
• Port Newark Seafarers' services	\$ 1,123,000	\$ 946,000
• Programmatic outreach	\$ 525,000	\$ 502,000
• Center for Mariner Advocacy	\$ 290,000	\$ 294,000
Total program services	\$ 5,170,000	\$ 4,453,000
Supporting services:		
• Management and general	\$ 1,658,000	\$ 1,519,000
• Fundraising and communication	\$ 1,606,000	\$ 1,811,000
Total supporting services	\$ 3,264,000	\$ 3,330,000
TOTAL	\$ 8,434,000	\$ 7,783,000

Net Surplus

	2024	2023
Total operating support, revenue, and operational draw from investments	\$ 13,642,000	\$ 10,259,000
Total expenses excluding depreciation	\$ 8,434,000	\$ 7,783,000
TOTAL NET SURPLUS	\$ \$5,208,000	\$ \$2,476,000

† Audited financials available as of June 2025.

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Christmas at Sea

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE



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News and information regarding the Seamen's Church Institute can be accessed on several communications channels. Two issues of our print magazine, *The Lookout*, are published annually in the spring and fall. Two shorter print newsletters, titled *The Knit Before Christmas*, are published annually in the winter and summer months, focusing on our *Christmas at Sea* initiatives. *The Masthead* is SCI's digital online newsletter, published monthly, offering information within our mission areas. To subscribe to any of these publications, please visit seamenschurch.org/subscribe.

Much of our news and information is posted on our website: seamenschurch.org/news. And, for real-time updates, follow us on any of these social media platforms listed below.



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