

# Salvage Update

Promoting professionalism and improving marine casualty response in American coastal and inland waters.



August 24, 2010 ♦ Issue 6, Volume 2



## ATTEND ASA'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOVEMBER 1!

American Salvage Association's (ASA) Fall membership meeting will be held on November 1 at MITAGS outside of Baltimore, MD and will include a special luncheon to commemorate ASA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A number of government and industry guests are invited to attend.

## SALVOR IMMUNITY TO BE INCLUDED IN OPA '90 REGS CHANGE?

The DEEPWATER HORIZON / BP Spill have prompted Congress to consider a number of regulatory changes.

Upon recommendation by Ed Welch, husband to ASA staff member Patricia Welch and Legislative Director of the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) and previously a Capitol Hill staff member on the former House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, with significant input from Jim Shirley, ASA Legal Counsel, and with agreement from the ASA Leadership, letters were sent on July 2nd to Congressman Elijah Cummings, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, and to Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman, Senate Subcommittee on Science, Justice

and Commerce asking for consideration of a statutory change to OPA 90 that would clarify and include salvor immunity.

"... the professional marine salvage industry has long been concerned about the risk to salvors of being held liable for accidental oil or hazardous chemical spills that may occur during the course of their services. We believe this concern should be alleviated in order to encourage prompt and efficient response to all such casualties by those best able to provide this important environmental protection," the letters stated.

Earlier this month, the House published the final version of H.R. 3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act 5 of 2010, and, as a result of the efforts and support of Chairman Cummings, the salvage amendment is contained in Section 733 of the bill. The Senate is now expected to address its version of the Energy/Oil Pollution Bill upon return from its August recess next month and it is hoped that Senator Mikulski will support our position as well. In the meantime, compliments to Ed Welch and Jim Shirley for all of their efforts in this connection!

## MARITIME INDUSTRIES ACADEMY STARTS NEW YEAR

The Baltimore city-based Maritime Industries Academy (MIA) will kick off a new school year on August 30th. The maritime-themed high school with a military component is

home to more than 500 students in grades nine through 12.

The Academy's mission is to develop, in intellectually capable young people from diverse backgrounds and abilities, "creative minds, healthy bodies, and ethical spirits needed to contribute compassion, wisdom, and leadership to a global society. Through a time-honored military and maritime tradition of courteous interaction with others, [it] promotes honorable and disciplined behavior with emphasis on respect for self and others. [Its] multiethnic community, consisting of students, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, guardians and business partners, is committed to nurturing and maintaining an orderly environment--one based on trust and caring--to foster independence, self-reliance, and responsibility. By emphasizing student-centered, project-based maritime studies, [they] provide an environment conducive to the successful establishment of individuals who value community, commitment, and contribution in their pursuit of lifelong learning."

MIA's Governing Board has been established and Congressman Elijah E. Cummings has been elected to serve as its president. Dick Fredricks, ASA, has been elected to serve as vice president, Janet Caslow, Pride of Baltimore, Inc, will serve as secretary and Linda Bryan, Ports of America, will serve as treasurer.

Next month we will provide a report on the establishment and the leadership of the MIA Foundation Board.

If you are interested in learning more about the Academy, contact Dick Fredricks, [rfredricks@vesselalliance.com](mailto:rfredricks@vesselalliance.com).

## ASA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS SOUGHT

ASA's Membership Committee is still working to identify and bring aboard appropriate new Associate Members to the organization. Please contact ASA Membership

Chairman Matt Miller, 206/624-7850, [msmiller@glosten.com](mailto:msmiller@glosten.com) and inform him of your recommendations. Thank you!

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

- **September 23-24**, Global GreenShip Conference, Washington, DC ([www.marinelog.com](http://www.marinelog.com))
- **November 1**, ASA Fall Membership Meeting at MITAGS, Linthicum Heights, MD.

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