



International Propeller Club of the United States

Promoting the Maritime Industry Since 1927

A Special Newsletter: The 95th Annual Convention and Port President Meeting October 2021

A Message from International President Jim Patti



I am extremely proud to have been elected to serve as International President of the International Propeller Club of the United States. There is no organization of its kind having as diverse a membership of individuals directly and indirectly connected to the maritime industry as the International Propeller Club. This diverse membership is our greatest strength and resource, and we can and must utilize this resource to encourage young people to pursue a career in our industry and to ensure that the general public and government officials throughout the world understand the importance of a strong maritime industry to support domestic commerce and world trade, to strengthen homeland and military security, and to address issues affecting the environment.

I believe very strongly in the Propeller Club and what we and our diverse membership can offer the maritime industry. I look forward to using what I have learned in more than fifty years of employment working for the maritime industry to help assist our ports and regions, in the United States and overseas, to attract the next generation of Propeller Club members; to expand the role and influence of the Propeller Club as a voice promoting and supporting the maritime industry, and to further solidify the relationship between the individual ports and the National Headquarters as we pursue our mutual goals and objectives.

I want to express my sincere thanks to Niels Aalund, for his friendship, his support, and most importantly, for his leadership. When Niels took over as President, he never expected he would be confronting a worldwide pandemic that not only affected each and every one of us as individuals but threatened the very existence of our local ports and the International Propeller Club itself. Yet, with his typical roll-up-your-sleeves and get-it-done attitude, Niels put in place new practices, procedures, and programs that expanded the outreach and communications with our ports and regions and that ensured we would be readily available to provide whatever assistance we could. I pledge to you all that I will do everything I can to build on the foundation that Niels has given us.

It goes without saying that the President of the International Propeller Club is not a one-person job. I am thrilled therefore that I get to go forward with a skilled and dedicated leadership team, beginning with our newly elected First International Vice President and Treasurer Maria Conatser, along with our other international officers, board members, Past Presidents, and of course our Port Presidents and Regional Vice Presidents representing Propeller Club ports located throughout the world.

Finally, as I have seen and learned, it would be impossible for anyone to do this job without the help and support and tireless efforts of our Headquarters Staff: our Executive Vice President Joel Whitehead and our Associate Executive Vice President Cheryl Rothbart. Joel, as a Past International President, knows from personal experience what this job entails, and his advice and counsel, coupled with Cheryl's experience and

unequaled institutional memory, will be critically important to me as I work on your behalf.

I thank you again for this vote of confidence and I firmly believe that together, we can continue to build a stronger, more effective International Propeller Club.

Jim

A Message from Immediate Past President Niels Aalund



It's Been an Amazing Journey

As my second year as International President ends, I find it hard to find the right words to express the emotions and gratitude I have for the members of the Propeller Club. Over the last two years, I have been asked on numerous occasions "What do I like best about being your International President?" "My quick answer is always the same. "It's the people!" What a blessing it has been to serve and to get to know so many of you. From the Headquarters staff to the leaders worldwide, and to the membership at large. What a diverse and talented group of outgoing and service-oriented fellowship we have. As I look back over the pandemic, I am overwhelmed by all that we were able to accomplish and leverage together. Collectively and individually we never gave up and persevered through the most challenging times. It's been an amazing journey.

Our incoming International President, Jim Patti, is an exceptional leader. Jim has broad experience, maritime contacts, and deep devotion to the Propeller Club which will profoundly enhance our organization. I'm also excited for the incoming Board and know that with your ongoing support, we will take the Propeller Club to even greater heights!

Please get involved at your local level. Let's continue growing, volunteering, advocating everywhere, supporting our Propeller Club however and whenever we can. You can all make a difference!

Thank you,

Niels Aalund
Immediate Past International President

From the Executive Vice President

The 95th International Convention and Port Presidents Meeting was an extraordinary event. The theme of this year's conference was "*Open for Business in 2022: What Will it Look Like?*" Keynote Speakers included the 26th Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz, the Secretary-General of the IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim, and Rear Adm. Michael Ryan, Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Cyber Command.



The panel discussions we had were fabulous, and included ones on *Large Port Issues*, chaired by Mr. Chris Connor, President and CEO of the American Association of Port Authorities; *Cyber Security*, moderated by Mr. Chris Carter, Information Security Analyst at Port of Vancouver Washington; *Maritime Workforce Issues*, chaired by Mr. Dave Heindel, Chairman, Seafarers Section of the International Transport Workers Federation; and *Inland and Great Lakes Shipping Issues* moderated by Ms. Aimee Andres of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. Thanks to them and all our great panelists!

In two matters of Club business, we presented the 2021 International Propeller Club Awards and elected our 2021-2022 Officers and Board of Directors. You can read about our award winners and new leaders below.

Thanks all, Joel

Joel Whitehead
Executive Vice President
(703) 389-1510
joel@propellerclubhq.com

2021 International Propeller Club Awards



International Propeller Club Member of the Year Mr. Dimitris Fafalios, Propeller Club of Piraeus, Greece

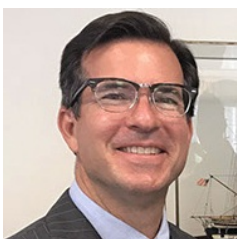
Mr. Dimitris Fafalios is President of Fafalios Shipping SA, a traditional, family-run bulk carrier shipping company that traces its roots back to the 1860s. He is currently serving his second term as Chairman of The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (Intercargo). He also chairs the Bulk Carrier Panel of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the Maritime Safety and Marine Environment Protection Committee of the Union of Greek Shipowners (UGS). He also holds senior positions on committees of ABS and DNV-GL Class

Societies and has represented the Hellenic Republic of Greece at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Throughout his career, Mr. Fafalios has worked closely with many of the major classifications' societies and international shipping organizations to develop and implement rules for crew and ship safety. Seafarers' safety and the environment have been at the forefront of his efforts throughout the years. As Chairman of Intercargo, he has consistently strived to promote these values. His achievements and initiatives at Intercargo have been impressive in advancing the goals of the Association, namely the commitment to safety, operational quality, and the protection of the marine environment. He also was a leader in the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in emphasizing the dramatic plight of the crews aboard vessels and the severe problems associated with crew changes. In this last respect, Intercargo participates actively in the development of global solutions through the IMO.

When the award was announced, Mr. Fafalios remarked, "I am very honored and humbled to be named the International Propeller Club Member of the Year. As a member, and having served on the Board of the Propeller Club Port of Piraeus, I have come to appreciate its vibrant membership, which combines the wonderful international reach of the Club with the Piraeus and Hellenic entrepreneurial spirit. The Club both unites and supports good causes. My warmest thanks and appreciation to the President, the Board of Governors, and the members. Wishing you all God's strength and good health."

Mr. Fafalios is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a lifetime member of the Propeller Club of Piraeus. Mr. Fafalios is a highly respected member of the Greek and international shipping community, and in 2020 he was named in Lloyd's List's 100 most influential people in global shipping.



International Propeller Club Maritime Person of the Year Mr. Eric Roger Dawicki

The Maritime Person of the Year award for 2021 was bestowed upon Mr. Eric Roger Dawicki of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Mr. Dawicki has served as the President and CEO of the Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI) since 1995. He also serves as the President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Dominica International Maritime Registry. During

his tenure at Northeast Maritime Institute, Mr. Dawicki was responsible for overseeing its growth from an exam preparation facility to a full-service maritime education and training institution, providing quality education to mariners at all levels. As a prominent maritime leader following the attacks of 9/11, Mr. Dawicki served a full term as a member of the United States Maritime Security Advisory Committee under both the Bush and Obama Administrations. On an international level, since 1996, he has participated in numerous U.S. delegations to the IMO and served on multiple committee and subcommittee meetings. Mr. Dawicki has also been a member of the Board of Governors and an Executive Governor of the IMO's World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden.



**International Propeller Club Port of the Year
Mr. Costis J. Frangoulis
President, Propeller Club of Piraeus, Greece**

The International Propeller Club's Port of the Year award was presented to the Propeller Club of Piraeus, Greece. This award recognizes the most outstanding Port, or Chapter, among the International Propeller Club's 70 Ports worldwide. In August, the Port of Piraeus completed a 15-month interactive, online program of psychological support and empowerment for seafarers. This was a program funded by the Club, and it provided counseling to crew members on ships under Greek ownership. The Propeller Club of Piraeus also signed the Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change. This initiative aims to alleviate the seafarer crisis by facilitating crew changes and repatriation. Despite the significant challenges posed by Covid-19, the Club was recognized for an astounding 80% growth in membership within the last year. At the same time, the Port's annual philanthropic program grew by 48% offering 14 scholarships and receiving a record 23 donations. The Propeller Club of Piraeus is led by Mr. Costis J. Frangoulis, President of the Board of Governors.

2021-2022 Officers and Board of Directors



Jim Patti – International President

Throughout his more than 50 years working for the maritime industry, Mr. Patti has played an active leadership role in all major legislative efforts affecting the operation of U.S.-flag vessels in the foreign and domestic trades and the employment of American mariners. He began working in the maritime industry in Washington, DC, at the Transportation Institute. He joined the Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID) in 1980 and became President of MIRAID in 1985, a position he still holds today. Mr. Patti is also Chairman of USA Maritime, the leading coalition representing U.S.-flag shipping companies operating U.S.-flag vessels in America's foreign trades and the maritime unions which provide the licensed and unlicensed crews for these vessels and their related maritime associations. In addition, he is currently a Member of the Board of the United Seamen's Service. Mr. Patti, a long-time member of the International Propeller Club, earlier served as the President of the Propeller Club of Washington, DC, and was a recipient of the International Propeller Club's prestigious Maritime Person of the Year award. He most recently served as the International Propeller Club's First Vice President. Mr. Patti is a graduate of George Washington University and the Catholic University Columbus School of Law.



Maria Conatser – 1st Vice President and Treasurer

Ms. Conatser has 26 years in the maritime industry serving in various financial, planning, and analytical roles with Ingram Barge Company. She most recently served as Treasurer, International Propeller Club, and has been active in the Propeller Club Port of Nashville for over 15 years. During her tenure at the Propeller Club Port of Nashville, she has served as

President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Ms. Conatser also serves on the YWCA's Finance Committee in Nashville/Davidson County. She is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and has an MBA from Belmont University.



Philippe DE GAUW – 2nd Vice President

Philippe de Gauw started his career as an officer in the Merchant Marine and after many years at sea, he focused on logistics and supply chain challenges within the corporate world. Ten years later, he had a change in the course of his career when he started his own company, Logis-Consult LTD, offering multinational companies his expertise in supply chain management and IT. He is also a guest professor at the Antwerp Maritime Academy.

Besides his professional career, he first became a member of the Propeller Club in 1997. Currently, he is Vice President of the IPC-Port of Algeciras, 2nd Vice President and member of the Board of Directors, and leadership team of the International Propeller Club.



Costis J. Frangoulis – 3rd Vice President

Costis J. Frangoulis is a Greek entrepreneur born in Athens, Greece, and a father of two daughters, Elli and Athena. He holds a B. A. from the University of Richmond, U.K in Economics and Business Administration since 1988. He is the Founder, President, and CEO of Franman Group which he formed in May 1991. For almost 3 decades, Franman has provided a wide range of services to the shipping

industry, focused on shipbuilding equipment, spare parts, ship repairs and service, maritime security, cyber security, and consulting. In the year 1996, he founded Imperium Shipmanagement SA which managed and owned 5 handy-size bulk carriers. After a decade and while the Dry Cargo market was booming, he decided to exit the market by taking advantage of the very high asset values at the time. Mr. Frangoulis is also the President of the International Propeller Club, Port of Piraeus, an Ambassador of the Sailors' Society in Greece, a non-executive member of the board of Sfakianakis Group and a member of the Advisory Board of the Academic Maritime Sector of the BCA College.



Maryanne Richards - Vice President, Student Ports

Maryanne Richards is the Director of Career Services at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, in Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts. In that capacity, she works with students in shore-side majors and employers from many industries. She also serves as the faculty advisor for Mass Maritime's Student Propeller Club. As Vice President, Student Ports she manages and promotes the Student Port Program worldwide. She attended

Boston College where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, and Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts where she earned a master's degree in education.



Candy Nigretto – Vice President, Women's Propeller Club

Candy is the Vice President of the Women's Propeller Club of the United States and also serves as the Regional Vice President for the Pacific Coast Region of the Propeller Club. Candy retired in 2019 after working for the Port of Tacoma for 22 years. Previously she worked for SeaLand Services for five years and Tacoma Boatbuilding Company for 18 years. She is currently the Executive Director of the Tacoma Propeller Club, where she has been a member since 1987 and was President in 1997. She was awarded the Pierce County Maritime

Person of the Year award by her local club in 2005 and was The Propeller Club of the United States 2005 Maritime Person of the Year. Candy has attended every International Propeller Club Convention since 1989 and has been part of the Organizing Committee for two international conventions hosted by the Port of Tacoma.



Pat Patrick - Secretary

Pat Patrick graduated from the University of South Alabama and from Tulane Law School in 1984, where he served as Articles Editor for the Tulane Law Review. Prior to the formation of Patrick Miller LLC, he was a partner in a large New Orleans law firm. Pat's practice focuses on insurance, tort, indemnity, workers' compensation, and maritime issues. He has handled environmental and toxic tort cases regarding both property damage and personal injury aspects. He handles cases at all levels of the state and federal court systems. He is a registered lobbyist in Louisiana. He has handled matters before agencies such as the United States Customs Service, United States and Louisiana Departments of Labor, the United States Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, the Louisiana Insurance Commission, the Louisiana Commission on Public Ethics, all gaming regulatory agencies in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the Louisiana Department of Public Health. Pat is a member of numerous professional organizations including the Defense Research Institute, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and Association of Average Adjusters of the United States. He is past president of the New Orleans Port of the Propeller Club of the United States and is a Board member of the International Propeller Club of the United States. Pat is a frequent lecturer and writer on legal education topics, primarily involving insurance, workers' compensation, maritime law, and trial practice.

International Officers and Board of Directors for 2021-2022

International Officers

International President Jim Patti, PC Washington, DC
First Vice President Maria Conatser, PC Nashville
2nd Vice President (International) Philippe de Gauw, PC Algeciras
3rd Vice President Costis J. Frangoulis, PC Piraeus
VP Student Ports Maryanne Richards, PC Boston
VP Women's Propeller Club Candy Nigretto, PC Tacoma
Secretary Pat Patrick, PC New Orleans
Treasurer Maria Conatser, PC Nashville

Regional Vice Presidents

North Atlantic (US) Bill Van Voorhis, PC Portland, ME
Mid-Atlantic (US) Charlie Atkinson, PC Baltimore
Southeast (US) Liz Miller, PC Jacksonville
Western Gulf (US) Robert Hawn, PC Houston
Ohio Valley (US) Andrew Lutrell, PC Nashville
Great Lakes (US) Janet Wisner, PC Detroit
Pacific Coast (US) Candy Nigretto, PC Tacoma
North and Central Europe Annick Scott, PC Nantes-St. Nazaire
Southern Europe Michalis Dalacouras, PC Piraeus
Turkey and Middle East Koray Arikan, PC Istanbul
Western Europe Michel Derraouzi, PC Casablanca
Iberian Region Gerhard Tiedemann, PC Bilbao

At Large Directors

Terms expiring 2022
Liz Miller, PC Jacksonville
Peter Lehman, PC Savannah

Terms Expiring 2023
Andrea Hough, PC Houston
Mark Valenti, PC Tampa

Terms expiring 2024

Lynn Vadelund, PC Tampa
Thompson Lykes, PC Miami

Appointed Ex Officio Directors

Terms expiring 2022

Connor Helm, PC New York
Bill Kuzmick, PC Tampa

Terms Expiring 2023

George Xiradakis, PC Piraeus
Richard Tremayne, PC Mobile

Terms Expiring 2024

Chris Johnsen, PC Washington DC
Jim Henry, PC Washington DC

Executive Committee Members-at-large

Tim Shusta, PC Tampa
Niels Aalund, PC Houston

Past President Committee

Voting Members 2022

Bob Fry, PC Houston
Sonny Smith, PC Paducah

Ex-Officio Members

Rockney Nigretto
Frank Baptista
Jerome Joseph
Andrew Knight
Frank Courtenay
Wade Weatherington
Joseph Cox
Ken Wheeler
Rick Schiappacasse
Joel Whitehead
Niels Aalund

Thanks to these Ports who Supported our 95th Annual Convention!

The Port of Baltimore

The Port of Charleston

The Port of Evansville

The Port of Jacksonville

The Port of Miami

The Port of Mobile

The Port of Nashville

The Port of New Orleans

The Port of Paducah

The Port of Piraeus
The Port of Port Canaveral
The Port of Port Manatee
The Port of Tacoma
The Port of Tampa
The Port of Washington DC

Don't Forget - the 96th Annual Convention and Port Presidents Meeting will be in Piraeus, Greece from 20-22 September 2022!

Upcoming Events

- Salute to Congress, May 4, 2022
- 96th International Propeller Club Conference, September 20-22, 2022 in Piraeus, Greece!
- 97th International Propeller Club Conference (2023) in Charleston, SC, Date to be announced.

IPC Headquarters Staff



Joel Whitehead
Executive Vice President
joel@propellerclubhq.com
(703) 389-1510



Cheryl Rothbart
Associate Exec. Director
cheryl@propellerclubhq.com
(703) 304-5717

