American Merchant Marine Library Association

Providing Sea-Going Libraries Since 1921

A United Seamen’s Service Affiliate

AMMLA “Book Delivery” to U.S. prepositioning crews, USS Diego Garcia.
AMMLA’S MISSION

Founded in 1921, the American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA) is the only organization chartered to provide “seagoing libraries” to the American Merchant Marine, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, and seafarers of allied nations.

The life of a seafarer is one of hard work, long hours, and separation from friends and family. While modern technology has improved conditions on shipboard and put an end to voyages lasting months or years, boredom, fatigue, and isolation are still very much a part of life at sea. Since containerization, ships operate with smaller crews and may spend only a few hours in port, leaving seafarers little time for recreation or to catch up on current events. Books and magazines from AMMLA offer seafarers a diversion from daily routine and a connection to life ashore.

As a non-profit, non-sectarian library service, the mission of the “Public Library of the High Seas” is to meet the educational, recreational, and self-help needs of seafarers by offering a full-range library service on a wide array of subjects. AMMLA libraries cater to the interests and needs of all seafarers. In this way, we help them to combat the loneliness of the seagoing life, to enjoy their time off duty and to expand their educational horizons.
Established as the “Public Library of the High Seas” in 1921, AMMLA grew out of work done by the American Library Association (ALA) during World War I, when, like the military, the American Merchant Marine expanded in response to needs of the Allied war effort. The ALA provided a number of military and civilian groups with library services, and extended the service to vessels under the control of the United States Shipping Board. By the time ALA discontinued the service in 1920, some half million books had been placed on nearly 3,000 vessels.

When the war ended, the ALA asked Alice S. Howard, who had administered the Social Service Bureau of the United States Shipping Board, to continue these seagoing library services for American merchant vessels. Already a leader in the campaign on behalf of seafarers, Mrs. Howard’s efforts led the New York State Board of regents to give AMMLA its library charter in 1921.

In 1973, AMMLA became an affiliate of United Seamen’s Service (USS), a non-profit social welfare agency for seafarers with port centers located across the globe. With support from USS, AMMLA has expanded its library service to provide publications for international seafarers as well as U.S. mariners.
Thus, for 94 years, AMMLA has provided a unique and necessary service to those who spend their lives at sea. Our libraries made wartime more tolerable for seafarers serving as the fourth arm of defense during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. More recently, seafarers supporting U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

Today, AMMLA is the only remaining public library service chartered to provide libraries to American flag merchant ships. Reading is an important part of a seafarer’s life. The books provided by AMMLA serve both to entertain and to educate. Most importantly, the books help break the monotony and loneliness of long voyages which are part of this important and difficult profession.

SEAFARERS AND BOOKS
WHAT IS A “SEAGOING LIBRARY?”

The American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA), as Public Library of the High Seas, provides seafarers on board ships with books, paperbacks and magazines of interest and educational significance. Each library is like a “care package” and typically includes a range of selections, from biography to science fiction, spy thrillers to westerns, and magazines from National Geographic to Popular Mechanic. As you can imagine, there are as many literary interests as there are seafarers on board each ship; and AMMLA aims to reach across this diversity to cater to the individual preferences of its entire audience.
SHIP SERVICE

“Seagoing Libraries” are distributed to the ships through port branches in New York/New Jersey, Port Arthur, Texas and at United Seamen’s Service (USS) centers worldwide.

Since 1981, in addition to the services of its port branches, AMMLA has operated a direct library service. Libraries are mailed to ship management companies for distribution directly to the ships and through the fleet post office (FPO).

COLLECTIONS: AMMLA’S LIFEBLOOD

AMMLA is wholly dependent upon public and publisher contributions for its books, magazines and operating funds. Because of the invisibility of seafarers in our daily life and geographical scattering of their families throughout the U.S., special effort is needed to make the recreational and educational needs of our seagoing men and women known to the American public.

MAILING RATES AND TAX DEDUCTIONS

Books may be mailed to AMMLA Headquarters at 104 Broadway, Ground Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07306. The U.S. Postal Service makes it easier to donate books by allowing them to be mailed by the pound as Media Mail. All packages must be clearly labeled MEDIA MAIL to qualify.

For book donations, AMMLA will issue a receipt for the number of books received to validate the tax-deductible contribution. The donor determines the value of the gift.

AMMLA book collection, USS Bremerhaven.
AMMLA WORLDWIDE SERVICE

AMMLA services have evolved over the years to adapt to the changing needs of seafarers. AMMLA became an affiliate of United Seamen’s Service (USS) in 1973. This affiliation enabled AMMLA to greatly expand its operations by distributing its seagoing libraries through the port centers which USS operates worldwide. With the support of USS, AMMLA now provides publications for seafarers from a whole host of nationalities as well as U.S. mariners. Further, AMMLA continues to develop programs to meet the educational and recreational needs of seafarers in today’s maritime industry. As the trend toward globalization continues, USS and AMMLA take up the challenge of serving a diverse mix of mariners with programs that go beyond the agencies’ traditional mission of service to U.S.-flag ships.

USS CENTERS DIRECTORS – DEDICATED TO SERVICE

When American and foreign flag vessels call the ports of Bremerhaven, Casablanca, Diego Garcia, Okinawa, Busan and Yokohama, our Center Directors are there to meet them with a book shipment of new reading materials. The Library is exchanged for the books the seafarers have read on their long voyage, and those books are then passed on to other ships along with reading materials donated by our supporters. All USS Directors share a commitment to improve the daily life of seafarers.

Seafarers relaxing and talking books, USS Yokohama.
USS-AMMLA LIBRARY SERVICES

USS/AMMLA services for American seafarers transporting supplies in support of U.S. Forces in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and around the world

Since 1921, the American Merchant Marine Library Association (AMMLA) has supplied “seagoing libraries” to American Merchant Marines, the U. S. Navy and Coast Guard, and to seafarers of allied nations. As a non-profit, non-sectarian library service, AMMLA’S primary objective is to meet the educational, recreational and self-help needs of seafarers by offering a library service on a wide array of subjects.

In 2015, USS/AMMLA distributed more than 18,000 books through its USS Centers, AMMLA representatives in New York/New Jersey and Port Arthur, Texas, and to US Merchant vessels transporting supplies to U.S. Forces. The following is a list of USNS, Ready Reserve Fleet, MSC time chartered vessels and U.S. flag vessels that received AMMLA libraries in 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seagoing Library</th>
<th>Vessel Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cape Decision</td>
<td>Maersk Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Diamond</td>
<td>Maersk Atlanta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Domingo</td>
<td>Maersk Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Douglas</td>
<td>Maersk Columbus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Ducato</td>
<td>Maersk Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Edmont</td>
<td>Maersk Hartford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Henry</td>
<td>Maersk Idaho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Horn</td>
<td>Maersk Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Hudson</td>
<td>Maersk Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Inscription</td>
<td>Maersk Kingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Isabel</td>
<td>Maersk Kinloss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Island</td>
<td>Maersk Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Kennedy</td>
<td>Maersk Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Knox</td>
<td>Maersk Pittsburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>Maersk Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Mohican</td>
<td>Maersk Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Race</td>
<td>Maersk Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Ray</td>
<td>Maersk Wyoming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Rise</td>
<td>NOAA Thomas Jefferson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MV Courage
MV Edgar B. Speer
MV Edwin Gott
MV Endurance
MV Freedom
MV Great Republic
MV Honor
MV Independence II
MV Integrity
MV Liberty
MV Midnight Sun
MV North Star
MV Ocean Atlas
MV Ocean Titan
MV Pacific Collector
MV Patriot
MV Presque Isle
MV Roger Blough
MV Wheeler
APL Agate
APL Belgium
APL China
APL Coral
APL Cyprine
APL Guam
APL Japan
APL Korea
APL Pearl
APL Philippines
APL President Adams
APL President Jackson
APL President Polk
APL President Truman
APL Singapore
APL Thailand

SS Antares
SS Cason J. Callaway
SS Denebola
SS John G. Munson
SS Philip R. Clark
SS Pollux
SS Regulus
SS Seakay Spirit
SS Flickertail State
SS Gopher State

USNS 1st LT. Jack Lummus
USNS 1st LT. Baldomero Lopez
USNS 2nd LT. John P. Bobo
USNS Effective
USNS Impeccable
USNS Invincible
USNS Maj. Stephen W. Pless
USNS PFC Dewayne T. Williams
USNS PFC Eugene A. Obregon
USNS SGT Mate J. Kocak
USNS SGT William R. Button
USNS Sisler
USNS Roy W. Wheat
AMMLA’S Dedicated Friends

To make libraries available, AMMLA depends upon financial contributions and donations from many dedicated friends of seafarers. Shipping companies, crews, maritime unions, publishers, the general public, and United Seamen’s Service contribute to AMMLA. In 2015 AMMLA financial and/or book contributions were received from the following:

- American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier
- American Maritime Officers
- American Maritime Officers Service
- American Merchant Marine Veterans – NJ
- Richard Berger
- Rich Berkowitz
- District #1 – MEBA
- John L. DeGurse, Jr.
- Enrico Esopa
- Harry Finnegan
- Phillip W.J. Fisher
- Gerald Gordon
- Dolores Green
- Fred Harris
- James Herron
- Kathleen A. Hunt
- International Shipholding Corp.
- International Organization Of Masters, Mates, & Pilots, ILA, AFL-CIO
- JK Group / Lawrence Livermore Lab
- Howard Jones
- Robert Kaufman
- Keystone Shipping Company
- Friedrich Krueger
- Janice Ledebur
- Marine Society of the City of New York
- Matson Foundation
- Alan & Kathy Mendelsohn
- Edward Morgan
- F. Anthony Naccarato
- National Defense Transportation Association
- National Society, Daughters of the American Colonists
- National Society, U.S. Daughters of 1812
- Operation Paperback
- Operation Pass Along
- Pacific Gulf Marine
- Eileen Horan-Reilly
- Harvey Rubenstein
- Scarsdale Women’s Club
- Seafarers International Union
- Sealift
- Philip & Janet Shapiro Family Foundation
- Bill Snead
- SS Philip R. Clark
- Totem Ocean Trailer Express
- TOTE Services
- USMMA Bland Memorial Library
- Barbara Spector Yeninas
### AMMLA Statement of Support, Revenues and Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
#### Year ended at December 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>All Funds</th>
<th>Restricted</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Support, Ocean and Inland Crews</td>
<td>$9,285</td>
<td>$9,285</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized Loss on Investments</td>
<td>(2,013)</td>
<td>(2,194)</td>
<td>181</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$7,900</td>
<td>(1,568)</td>
<td>$9,468</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnishing Literature to Vessels and Portside Libraries</td>
<td>$23,432</td>
<td></td>
<td>$23,432</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$31,180</td>
<td>$31,180</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>($23,280)</td>
<td>($1,568)</td>
<td>($21,712)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets (Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>Beginning of Year</td>
<td>($75,428)</td>
<td>$64,195</td>
<td>($139,623)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets (Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>($98,708)</td>
<td>$62,627</td>
<td>($161,335)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Senior Government Liaison Representatives**

MG Susan A. Davidson, USA, Commander, Military Surface Deployment & Distribution Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL

RADM Thomas K. Shannon, USN, Commander, Military Sealift Command, Norfolk, VA

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C. James Patti, Maritime Institute for Research &
Industrial Development, Washington, DC
William D. Potts*, New York, NY
Philip Shapiro, Liberty Maritime Corporation,
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National Human Services Assembly
International Seafarers’ Welfare and Assistance Network
Global Impact, Combined Federal Campaign
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