

# STEAMSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING

Official notice is hereby given to all members that the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held in-person & online via Zoom at SSHSA's Ship History Center  
2500 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886

on **Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 10:00 am Eastern Time.** *CDR Andrew Coggins, Secretary*

# BALLOT

Each member is requested to cast their ballot for new Board Members to take office in October 2026. Six Board Members are being elected to serve three-year terms, and three are being elected to serve one-year terms. The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates. No nominations by petition were received this year. You may write in other members' names if you choose. The names of all present Board Members may be found on page four of the Summer 2026 issue #338 of *PowerShips* magazine.

\* indicates present director or officer on the ballot below.

### NOMINEES FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS:

☐ **Dr. Andrew Coggins\*** - Blacksburg, VA.

Current SSHSA National Secretary, Andrew is an internationally known cruise industry analyst based in New York. He is a retired U.S. Navy Commander with over 23 years of service on 7 ships. He has spoken at numerous conferences, and given interviews on issues and trends in the cruise and travel industries. He is also an active member of SKAL International, the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), and other international travel and tourism marketing and networking organizations. He currently teaches courses in cruise industry management at Pace University.

☐ **Mr. Patrick Dacey\*** – Glen Gardner, NJ.

Current SSHSA National President, Pat retired as a Lieutenant of County Detectives after spending 30 years in law enforcement. He earned an undergraduate degree from Jersey City State College and a master's degree in human resources, design and training from Seton Hall. His civilian career includes background in criminal investigations, narcotics, community outreach, training and counterterrorism. He also retired from the Army Reserves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He's had a lifelong interest in ships and joined SSHSA in 1976 as a student member. A veteran of 90+ voyages & crossings, he's also vice-chairman & past chairman of the World Ship Society, Port of New York Branch.

☐ **Mr. Barry Eager** – Berlin, MA.

Barry is a retired public-school teacher. He's also a local historian. He is involved in activities in the Town of Berlin, MA, a member of the cemetery commission and the historical commission, and specializes in collecting music and songs having to do with steamboats. He has a particular interest in coastal and inland steamers. He's been an active SSHSA member since 1973 and is a Life member. Barry is a longtime volunteer, having served on SSHSA's Board of Directors from 1977-85; 1996-2004; 2006-15; 2016 to 2025. He's also served as an officer, as National Secretary 1989-2006, 2013-15 and a Vice President, serving from 2016 to 2025. His *PowerShips* Heard on the Fantail column is found on the last page of each issue.

☐ **Mr. William Miller\*** – Secaucus, NJ.

Bill was born in Hoboken and served as a public school teacher before retiring to travel and write full-time. He has authored hundreds of maritime articles and published nearly 100 books. He was chairman of the World Ship Society's Port of New York Branch from 1970 to 1976, deputy director of the New York Harbor Festival Foundation from 1979 to 1982, historian at the Museum of the American Merchant Marine in 1979, and creator of a course entitled "The Ocean Liner" at the New School of Social Research in Manhattan in 1981. He also created the passenger ship database for Ellis Island Museum and appeared in the video *SS United States: Lady in Waiting*. A documentary about his life, *Mr. Ocean Liner*, premiered aboard RMS *Queen Mary 2*, in 2010. His feature article, *Lives of the Liners*, appears in each issue of *PowerShips* magazine.

☐ **Ms. Darshell Silva\*** - West Warwick, RI.

Darshell is a Library and Media Specialist and Education Technology Consultant for various organizations. She holds a Master of Library and Information Studies degree, a School Library Media Specialist Certification, both from the University of Rhode Island, Blended Learning Certificate from Roger Williams University, and a Computer Science Teaching Certification. Darshell teaches information literacy, computer science, and maker education, among other duties. She has served on many educational organization boards as well as won numerous awards for her excellence in education. She comes from a long line of Cape Verdean stevedores and has worked with SSHSA to incorporate ship history project based learning lessons in her classroom.

☐ **CAPT Eric Takakjian\*** – Fairhaven, MA.

Eric has been an SSHSA member for nearly 30 years, & was elected to the SSHSA Board for three-year terms in 2016 & 2019. He's a professional mariner who's been sailing ships and oceangoing tugboats around the world since 1978. He's currently employed by The Vane Brothers Company as captain aboard an oceangoing tugboat. He and his wife Lori both served in the U.S. Coast Guard and formerly owned and operated the research vessel *QUEST*, conducting oceanographic and shipwreck research in the Northeast United States & outer continental shelf waters. An avid diver and researcher, CAPT Takakjian has conducted extensive historical research on New England shipwrecks, resulting in the location of more than 80 previously undiscovered shipwrecks.

**NOMINEES FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS:**

☐ **Ms. Jennifer Sellitti\*** - Millstone Township, NJ.

Jennifer Sellitti is the Managing Member of Atlantic Wreck Salvage (AWS) and the captain of the company's dive vessel, *Tenacious*. She leads dive expeditions, conducts historical research on both active and prospective projects, and directs the team's public education efforts on the importance of shipwreck discovery and responsible salvage. She is the creator of All Aboard!, a program aimed at delivering shipwreck-related content to schools and community organizations in an effort to educate the public about the importance of maritime history. A diver and U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain, Jennifer is an associate member of the Boston Sea Rovers and a trustee of the New Jersey Maritime Museum. When not at sea, she practices criminal defense law.

☐ **Mr. Mark Sprang\*** – Bowling Green, OH.

Mark Peter Sprang is a seasoned archivist with a strong academic background in history and information management, currently contributing to archival scholarship and practice at Bowling Green State University. His career spans public and private sector archival work, and he remains active in professional archival organizations. Sprang is active in the Society of American Archivists and serves on the South Carolina Archival Association board. He is currently the Archivist for the Historical Collections of the Great Lakes at Bowling Green State University, where he works in the Jerome Library. His career in archival work includes Electronic Records Archivist at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Post-Graduate Fellow at the Detroit Historical Society and General Motors Media Archive Intern at Allied Vaughn.

☐ **Mr. Wayne Yanda\*** – Anamosa, IA.

Wayne Yanda's interest in ships began in grade school with a weathered paperback copy of Walter Lord's *A Night to Remember*. That led to reading everything he could lay his hands on regarding the *Titanic*, and soon, other ships, focusing more and more on American liners. In 2017, he merged his interest in ocean liners with art and launched MuralsontheHighSeas.com, which documents the murals and sculpture installed on American liners built between 1927-1962. It is a topic he writes and presents on with some regularity. He is also part of the Ocean Modern Advanced Research Group, a collective of scholars and experts from Europe and North America. He's served on the board for several nonprofit organizations, and is currently on the board of SSHSA's Southern California Chapter (SoCal) and Editor of the *Ocean Times*, SoCal's quarterly journal, since 2023.

Nominating Committee:     CAPT Jimmy Zatwarnicki, Mr. Mark Nemergut and Mrs. Jordan Ventura

---

---

**PROXY**

I do hereby appoint & designate below, any one of the following members to serve as my agent & proxy at SSHSA’s annual meeting on October 11, 2026, on such business as may lawfully come before the meeting:

☐ Mr. Nick Langhart            ☐ CAPT Terry Tilton            ☐ Ms. Kate Vescera            ☐ other\_\_\_\_\_

And especially I authorize & instruct such proxy to cast my vote for SSHSA Board of Directors as marked on this ballot. This proxy is revocable at my will, and may be modified by letter addressed to the Secretary of SSHSA.

Member’s name\_\_\_\_\_ Member’s signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.</b> You may cast your ballot in one of three ways:</p> <p>1) <b>Vote by mail</b>, MARK THE BALLOT (top), MARK and SIGN THE PROXY (just above), and send to:<br/>SSHSA Chief Teller, 2500 Post Road, Warwick, RI 02886.</p> <p>2) <b>Vote in person</b>, if you attend the Annual Meeting. RETAIN THIS BALLOT and BRING IT WITH YOU. If you vote in person, do not fill out or sign the proxy.</p> <p>3) <b>Vote electronically</b>. Use the secure form online via <a href="http://www.sshsa.org">www.sshsa.org</a> to cast your vote, or you must fill out this ballot and proxy with signature, then scan the completed document and email it to <a href="mailto:info@sshsa.org">info@sshsa.org</a>. You also may fax the completed document to SSHSA at 401-463-3572.</p> <p><b>Unless attending in person, SSHSA must receive all ballots by October 10, 2026. Thank you.</b></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|