

OBMG 2015 Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of O.B.M.G,

First, we would like to thank you for your continued interest in supporting the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates Inc. This email is just an update on some of the things OBMG members have been involved with since our first Networking Social back in June of this year, 2015.

In June, some of our members attended the Tall Ships Festival in Philadelphia, organized by the Ports of Philadelphia Marine Society. Capt. Cook was a committee member and is also a board member along with Capt. Art Sulzer. They raised in excess of \$6700 and are planning another event for 2016. A portion of the profits will go to scholarships. Capt. Cook piloted the French Tall Ship L'Hermione as well as the USCG Barque Eagle to the Tall Ship Parade and Festival at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia.



Also in June, some of the OBMG members attended the UIH Family Partners Platinum Dads Gala. UIH Family Partners, www.uihfamilypartners.org, has been empowering Men, Fathers and Families to self-sufficiency for over 150 years. Capt. Cook thanks those who attended and helped make the event a **SUCCESS!**



In July while on the Summer Sea Term as a training officer aboard the TSES Empire State, OBMG member Capt. .H. Wyche treated 12 Cultural Club Members to dinner while the ship was in Cadiz, Spain.

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In September, Capt. Cook hosted the 2nd Annual BBQ and Mentoring session for Cultural Club members at his residence in New Jersey highlighting presentations by Alumni and Maritime faculty. The presentations prompted many questions and led to numerous mentoring discussions throughout the evening. Food and fun also followed with swimming and games of Tumble Towers and Corn Hole.

PRESENTATIONS INCLUDED:

Capt. Walt Nadolny – Marine Environment

Braxton Lumford – Ship Management Systems

Amie Carter – Engineering/Licensing Careers

Capt. Eric James – Marine Pilotage

Kyron Cooper – Shipyards



Also in September, Capt. Cook attended a planning meeting at Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore for the Chesapeake Bay African American Maritime Cultural and Heritage Festival.

The Virginia's House of Hope Tug Boat Reception took place at the Downtown Club, Manhattan, New York City. Capt. Kevin Barrow, Sean Carswell and Capt. Eric James attended.

At the September Board meeting the OBMG joined forces with the **American Professional Mariners Association (APMA)**. Please go to their website, www.amERICANMARINERS.org for more information about the APMA. We will be sending out more information about our relationship with this great organization in the near future.

Lastly in September, Capt. R. Cook attended the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society Golf and Crab Feast.



In October some members attended Homecoming at SUNY Maritime College. Once again, OBMG tailgated and all that attended had a great time.



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At the rescheduled, FSMAA Alumni Ancient Mariners Golf outing OBMG members, Amie Carter, David Holman and Howard Wyche represented OBMG and had a great time chasing those white balls at Pelham Golf Course in the Bronx, NY.



At the World Maritime Day Summit – held in Maryland at the Master Mates & Pilots, Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), OBMG President, Capt. Robert Cook moderated a workshop on *“Promoting a Diverse Marine and Maritime Workforce: ”Increasing Interest in Underrepresented Communities”*

Board members Kevin Barrow, Eric James and Howard Wyche attended. They met Commodore Wilbert McKinley founder of **Lego®Ship Models for Education**. We have added his link (<http://www.teachfleet.com/>) in the links page of our website. Please visit his site and see what amazing things he does.



The Marine Society of the City of New York had its Quarterly Meeting at the Pier A Harbor House in New York and new members Capt. Robert Cook and Capt. Howard Wyche attended. We met up with an old classmate Capt. James Walker who happened to be a new member of the society as well.

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Also in October, on invitation by John Reynolds '65, Capt. Cook attended a luncheon hosted by The Union League of Philadelphia Armed Services Council honoring Admiral Michelle J Howard, Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Lastly, in October Capt. Cook and Capt. Wyche attended the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society Past President's Dinner. Capt. Cook is a board member of the Philadelphia Marine Society and Capt. Wyche is a member of the society.



In November, OBMG Board Members Capt. Robert Cook, Capt. Kevin Barrow and Capt. Eric James accompanied the President of SUNY Maritime College, Rear Admiral Michael A. Alfultis, Ph.D. to Nassau and Grand Bahama. They met with leaders in the Bahamian maritime industry, the President of the College of the Bahamas, Bahamas' Maritime Cadet Corps and Bahamian alumni.



Again, thank you for your continued interest in the Organization of Black maritime Graduates Inc. For more photos of these and other events, visit our website at www.obmg.org.