

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center

Two Industry Members Share Their Reasons for Volunteering with the Center



Mike Derby, General Manager of North Atlantic Operations and Logistics for the Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, and Mike Flanagan, Chesapeake Bay Pilot, discuss the important role the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center fulfills in making visiting crew members feel welcome and appreciated when their cargo ships dock at the Port of Baltimore.

Even though both Mikes are busy with their careers and families, they discuss why they are committed to providing

hospitality to the many seafarers who arrive in Baltimore. Both serve on the Board of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center and Mike Flanagan is also an active volunteer ship visitor.

The two Mikes point out how various security restrictions impact the seafarers when they arrive in port. Because of tight U.S. visa regulations, seafarers without visas cannot leave their ships. Center volunteers visit the ships and talk with the crews to make them feel welcome and appreciated. Volunteers also bring cell phones so that the seafarers can contact their families.

Seafarers with visas, who can leave their ships, must be escorted from the ship to the street because of heightened security regulations. Center volunteers escort them and take the seafarers shopping. Mike Flanagan mentioned how appreciative crew members are when they are taken shopping or to the Inner Harbor and nearby museums. Crew members are able to enjoy a meal away from their ship and have an opportunity to "stretch their legs" which they might not otherwise.

For more information on how you can volunteer or provide financial support, please contact Mary Davisson, Director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center.

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center
1430 Wallace Street, Baltimore MD 21230

410.685.1240 (phone) | 410.685.1241 (fax)
eMail: baltseafarers@aol.com
<http://www.baltimoreseafarers.org>