

SAILORS' SOCIETY
SOUTHERN AFRICA

PHONE

031 301 4380
+27 31 301 4380

FAX

031 301 4380
+27 31 301 4380

113 Umbilo Rd
Durban
4001
KZN
South Africa

P O Box18148
Dalbridge
4014
KZN
South Africa

MAIL

office@saiss.co.za

WEBSITE

www.saiss.co.za

International Sailors Society Southern Africa Corporate News Brief

VICE PRESIDENTS

THE MODERATOR OF THE UNITING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.
THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

DIRECTORS

Rev. I.M. Abrahams. Rev R.M. Burgess. Mr. G.E. Charter. Mr. I. Clark. R. Adm. P. Fougstedt. Rev. D.T.Gevers.
Mr. B.W. Haley. Cpt. B. W. Hoffmann. Ms Y de Kock. Mr. J.E.A. Mussett. Rev. D. Potgieter. Ms.C. S Poswa.
Mr. R.H.Turnbull. Capt. B.R.Watt. Rev. P.R. Woods. Mr G.M.R,G. Sinclair.(UK). Mr.R,N. Adams.(UK)

Warm greetings to all!

In This Issue

Golf Day
AGM
Business plan
Farewell to Paddy

At time of writing we are in the throes of World Cup Rugby and a few weeks away from finding out who will reign supreme. We hope SA will retain the Webb Ellis Trophy but one thing is certain, we will experience stiff competition.

Speaking of reigning supreme, the vicissitudes of the global economy certainly never leave us. Interest rates, rates of inflation, currency fluctuations et al continue to be a concern. Economists are talking of being in the worst crisis since World War 2 with a recovery not being imminent.

Then there are the dire warnings of climate change and we look with interest to the discussions at COP 17 conference to be held in Durban at the end of 2011.

What is certain, great challenges lie ahead.

As always, these challenges also pertain to the ISSSA.

We are looking ahead and strategies have been put in place for the years ahead to enable the ISSSA to live up to its slogan below.

“Replacing isolation with belonging...
The seafarers’ well-being is our prime concern”



Golf day

Beachwood was once again the venue for the annual ISSSA Golf day which was held on 18 August.



This year the decision was taken to focus more on a social golf day, than one with prizes and raffles. We live in tough economic times, large companies included. The decision was welcomed and an enjoyable day was had by all.



OACL - the winning team

Incidentally, when this was mentioned at the dinner, it was applauded by several participants.

The floating trophy was presented during the course of a very pleasant informal dinner. At the end of the day GOLF was the winner!

And of course WE WILL be keeping in touch with our valued supporters.

Winner of the floating trophy was the team from OACL.



A good day on the golf course!



Durban

Retirement ; Mrs. Paddy Percival



During the course of a luncheon after the ISSSA AGM held on 11 September 2011, the International Sailors' Society of South Africa bade farewell to Chaplain Mrs. Paddy Percival at a luncheon attended by Society members as well as members of Missions in Durban and many friends.

Her parish was the Durban Container Terminal. It may be strange to refer to a container terminal as a parish, but for Paddy this was indeed so. Bearing in mind that the container terminal is the biggest in the southern hemisphere, her parish certainly covered a vast area.

For fifteen years she carried out mission work on board the gigantic vessels berthed at the Port of Durban's Container Terminal at Bayhead.

'Mama Paddy' as she was fondly called, became a well-known figure climbing up often rickety and high gangways to gain access to the vessels. This she did in the humidity of a Durban summer and in the teeth of the cold wind and rain. She carried out these duties with enthusiasm and passion to minister to seafarers.

Paddy's life reflects a myriad experiences and skills. It is difficult to believe just how much she has compacted into one life.

She didn't have a grand vision of doing work in the religious sphere, but believes she was guided by God who had a plan for her life.

Born in Johannesburg in 1937 her career included secretarial work, work as a bookkeeper for 18 years on a farm where she became involved in various tasks which included the establishment of a rural civil defence unit – for which she won a Civil Defence medal.

An appointment as GM of a school wear business brought her to Durban and when she retired in 2000 her paths crossed with the ISSSA and Rev. Millen Adams, then Principal Chaplain/National Secretary of the ISSSA who asked her to join the ecumenical team in Durban to care for seafarers in the place of a chaplain who had retired.

As Millen says - "She was an absolute star as she embraced mission work with the seafarers with a passion".



Millen and Paddy

With an increasing number of Russian ships entering the port, Paddy completed a two year Unisa Correspondence course, studying Russian. As a result she was always well received on board as she could speak a few words of Russian which was most appreciated.

Her duties were many and varied, embracing daily visits to seafarers on ships and those in hospitals where. In the course of disasters at sea, seafarers are counseled, and cared for, the society providing them with toiletries and sometimes clothing, and telephone cards to contact family at home and anything else they may require.



Rev. Boet van Schalkwyk, present CEO of the International Sailors' Society (S.A.) drew attention to Paddy's gift as a "people's person" and her rare ability to go on board and be accepted by seafarers of so many different nationalities, cultures and languages.

No wonder she became known as "Mama Paddy".

She also helped organize Chaplains' conferences and served on the Port Chaplains Committees. Latterly she represented the Seafarers Mission on the Border Control Operations Coordinating Committee.

Paddy excelled in the field of training, including specialised training in the form of first response counseling for victims of piracy. "She brought more to the various courses than mere learning the course and theory – she put the theory into practice" says Rev. van Schalkwyk

Barry Haley, left, Boet Van Schalkwyk with Paddy

Highlights during her 15 years among seafarers included were visits to Russia, the Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Latvia and Romania. .

Paddy has retired to Umdoni on the south east where she lives with her sister Joyce who has been her rock throughout her life and career. They are very happy there and intend devoting much time to their garden. Her future plans include writing a book.

Paddy has led an eventful life where the thread of God's guidance and her faith can be followed all the way from Johannesburg, to the farm, to Russia and to Kwazulu-Natal.

We wish her Gods richest blessings for her future.



Guests enjoying lunch

Farewell lunch



l- r: Pat Haley, Gwyn and Roy Turnbull and Barry Haley

Appointment : Rev. Paul Richardson

With the retirement of Chaplain Paddy Percival, we are pleased to report that Rev. Paul Richardson has been appointed to serve as a part time ISS Port chaplain in the Port of Durban in the Durban Container Terminal.

Paul is a Baptist Pastor who also specialises in Mission Work.

He studied at the Baptist Theological College and London Bible College, was a Youth Director from 1986 – 1991 and has served in the Benoni, Queenstown and Messina Baptist Churches.

Whilst serving at Messina he started a "Truckers Ministry" at Beit Bridge which has been running for 11 years. He also served in a Prisons and Illegal Immigrants ministry.

For his outstanding efforts he was awarded the 2005 Musina Local Municipality Mayor Award and was Runner Up for the "Community Builder of the Year" Award.

Paul has already completed Basic Ship ministry and On the Job training Phase 1 in Durban.

With his experience and accolades, readers will agree that Paul will be most suited to the ministry to seafarers.

It's good to welcome Paul on board as a part time ISS chaplain – and we wish him well!



Business

Annual General Meeting

Chairman Barry Haley presented the Annual Report of the ISSSA at the 60th AGM on 11 September 2011.

Prior to the meeting, attendees watched the 2011 Rugby World Cup encounter between South Africa and Wales. Fortunately the mood for the AGM was good, if not jubilant – it could so easily have been the opposite!

The meeting received reports from the Chairman, the Treasurer, Chaplains, Branches and sub committees.

The year had been successful and the business plan goals had been met. Finance remains a matter of concern and various fundraising projects are being planned as part of the strategic plan for the next 3 years.

Some excerpts follow:

Chaplaincy work

The Chairman commended Principal Chaplain, Rev. Boet van Schalkwyk for his initiative and leadership of the chaplaincy team.

Chaplains' visits are valued by the seafarers and in many cases the chaplains have become trusted friends and confidants.

The team was also commended for their work regarding piracy attacks.

International Relations

The relationship with other Sailors' Societies around the world has been strengthened resulting in the networking of chaplains in assisting sailors and their families anywhere in the world.

Services and Fundraising

Last year some 2500 parcels were distributed to sailors in the port over the Christmas period in the Share your Christmas with a Seafarer project.

The Society's Durban Branch under the leadership of Mr Roy Turnbull was commended for this task.

The Golf Day which was held in 2010 was a success under the able organisation of Capt Brian Hoffman.

Business Plan

The Board recently updated their Business Plans, emphasising goals to be achieved over the next 3 years. The CEO is responsible for implementation of the Business Plan, although every member of the Board has a responsibility to contribute towards its successful completion. The CEO submits progress reports at the monthly Board Meetings.

International Christian Maritime Association World Conference 2011

Rev. Boet van Schalkwyk attended this annual conference which was held in Hamburg this year.

He reports that the conference was attended by 263 delegates representing all the Seafarers' Missions in the ICMA family and this included the regional co-coordinators.

Boet is proud to report that one of the highlights emanated from Rev. Hennie le Grange, the General Secretary of ICMA [formally from the Chaplaincy Team in Durban] who presented an excellent paper entitled "Thinking theologically about seafarers' ministry". Hennie received a standing ovation and we congratulate him on this achievement.

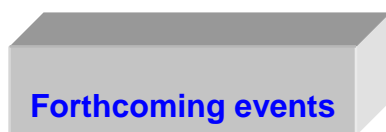
Other interesting items were the discussion of a Bill of Rights for seafarers, developments and perspectives in the shipping industry and the effects on the seafarer.

Owing to the scourge of piracy, we were able to contribute significantly to the discussion on the trauma suffered by seafarers and their families during the course of and after the piracy incidents.

135th Anniversary Celebration

The ISSSA celebrates its 135th Anniversary in 2012.

Needless to say this will be an important year in the life of the Society and planning for this occasion has commenced. We will keep readers informed.



Although the festive season is still some months away, preparations have to be put in place for various events.



Share your Christmas with a Seafarer

May we remind readers of the Share your Christmas with a Seafarer project which commences this month (September)?

Our appeal is for items such as beanies, sweets [boiled], body lotion and face cloths, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste and playing cards.

Distribution of SYCS gifts will take place the week before Christmas starting with a Carols and Gift Dedication Service at the Durban Mission on **18 December at 18h30**

Christmas Services at the Missions will take place on 25 December at 19h00.

For our Russian seafarers who celebrate Christmas a bit later, there will be a service on 8 January 2012 at 19h00.

ISS Dedication Service

This Annual service will be held on **29 January 2012 at the Frere Road Presbyterian Church (Ester Roberts Road).**

Last Word from the Chairman

There are those who have supported us in the past and will do so in the future, through the difficult times.

May I, once again, take this opportunity, through this news brief, to thank all who support our projects and constantly show interest in our work? Without your support and encouragement our work would not be possible. The seafarers, to whom we all owe so much, rely on us in so many ways and it is with your support that we can fulfil our commitment to them.

If anyone wishes to make contact with us for information or who wish to make suggestions, please contact the Sailors' Society on tel. 031 3014380 or e mail office@saiss.co.za

Best wishes and God bless

Barry Haley
National Chairman, ISSSA

New Brief compiled by Yvonne de Kock