CMM is pleased to announce the election of executive committee member and treasurer, Doug Walker, as the museum’s new chairman after the recent retirement of Dirk Lohan.

As a seasoned wealth management advisor and expert fundraiser, Doug’s leadership will guide the museum to financial sustainability. Having served as the museum’s treasurer for the past five years, Doug has implemented successful cost-saving measures and has cultivated new income sources.

“As I take on this new role, I offer my sincere appreciation to Dirk Lohan, who’s leadership has brought us to where we are today,” says Doug. “Dirk oversaw the creation of our beautifully-designed Bridgeport museum, establishing CMM as a vital Chicago institution.”

Since 1982, Doug has supported Youth Guidance, the oldest non-profit social service agency in Chicago, in various officer positions including president and treasurer. With Youth Guidance, he oversaw budget growth from $880,000 in 1982 to $27,000,000 in 2019. Doug has also served on numerous committees for the Union League Club of Chicago including admissions, finance and art.

In his professional life, Doug is the founder and president of Stewart Adair Shumate, an asset management firm with an exceptional record in public and private equity, investing in mature and profitable companies with leading market brands.

Dirk Lohan will remain on CMM’s Board of Directors. Jerry Thomas was elected as the new treasurer and David Metzger will continue as secretary.
Throughout the Chicago Maritime Society/Museum’s many reiterations since its founding in 1982, no other volunteer has done more to keep the museum afloat over the years than Trigg Waller.

In the Society’s early days, the theatrical lighting designer accepted a job to help build out a new museum on Chicago’s North Pier in 1988. With a life-long interest in power and sail boating, Trigg relished the idea of promoting the story of Chicago’s origins and growth through the city’s waterways.

“I remember answering an ad in the Chicago Tribune for an exhibit manager,” says Waller. “I have always been interested in maritime history, so I went down to North Pier and met the museum’s first president, Phil Elmes. He was a great visionary, and together, with a lot of help from people like Ralph Frese, Ted Karamanski, Dave Truitt and Tom and Chris Kastle, we built out the museum.”

The North Pier location operated for four years until the burden of heavy rent caused it to close. Since those early days, Trigg has worn many hats, including exhibit designer, board member and president.

Over the years, CMM has relied on Trigg’s expertise in lighting and exhibit presentation from his experience with Chicago’s top museums such as the Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago History Museum and the Shedd Aquarium.

Along with his exhibit expertise, Trigg says hard labor has been key in the success of the museum’s collection.

“Much of my work for the museum over the years has been heaving lifting. Building and moving exhibits is labor intensive. But as a result, I have a good institutional knowledge of our museum’s large and varied collection of maritime artifacts.”

As president of the museum, from 2000 to 2005, Trigg literally kept the society afloat during a particularly income-challenged time, by deciding to sell an antique dart boat that was not germane to the Chicago collection. The sale netted the society $25,000. That financial close-call, led to the first strategic plan for the museum, on which future leaders would build.

Trigg was also a key player in the 2016 move from the Helix Building to Bridgeport. He oversaw all facets of the collections move and designed and installed the museum’s unique lighting.

Today, in addition to his real job as a senior lighting designer at Morlights, Trigg serves on the museum’s operations board. His exhibit knowledge and expertise are indispensable resources, as he continues to mine the local landscape for intriguing and relevant maritime artifacts.

If you love Chicago’s maritime history, join Trigg and other volunteers to help us tell our story. We need docents, data experts, event hosts and so much more. Please call us at 773-376-1982 if you would like to volunteer or go to our website at www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org.

Trigg Waller with 11th Ward Alderman Patrick Thompson at CMM 2016 Opening Celebration

Volunteer of the Month

Trigg Waller Key Player in CMM’s Collections and Exhibits

Over the years, CMM has relied on Trigg’s expertise in lighting and exhibit presentation from his experience with Chicago’s top museums such as the Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago History Museum and the Shedd Aquarium.
CMM’s Model Ship Building

Winner of the CMM Holiday Party Raffle, member Richard Martin enjoyed the Ship-In-A-Bottle-Class with CMM master model builder Glenn Braun.

The shipbuilding classes are eight-weeks long. Two session choices – afternoon or evenings – available at the CMM. Prices are $320 for members and $350 for non-members. Non-members enjoy an automatic CMM membership with the sign up.

For more information, check out the Education page on our https://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/model-building.html or call us at 773-376-1982.

Voyage through History
Gala set for April 30

Please save the date for CMM’s first gala benefit. Our special events committee is busy working on Voyage through History, which will take place on Thursday, April 30 at Columbia Yacht Club. Our keynote speaker is around-the-world sailor and native Chicagoan, Bill Pinkney. A festive fundraiser, the event will support CMM’s expansion efforts through ticket sales, auctions, and advertising. More details to come.

Creating 3D Images of Artifacts

Photogrammetry is the science of acquiring reliable information about objects though photographs. On January 18th and 19th CMM staff, board members and volunteers participated in an Introduction to Photogrammetry course provided by the Nautical Archaeology Society. Participants gained an understanding of the principles of photogrammetry, utilized the features of Agisoft Metashape to produce 3D images and applied these skills to record the Chicago Maritime Museum’s collection.

This image of the Menominee dugout on display in the museum was exported from a 3D model created by merging 71 photographs.
Philanthropy in the 2020s: Sixteen Predictions

What does the next decade hold in store for the world of philanthropy? IP David Callahan looks into a crystal ball to offer a set of predictions about giving in the 2020s.


Viking Cruise Line Heading for Great Lakes

Switzerland-based Viking, which built its name plying the rivers of Europe, is extending its reach into North America in 2022 with voyages exploring the largest surface of fresh water in the world. Read more here:

New Interactive Map Highlights Great Lakes Shipwrecks

The cold, fresh waters of the Great Lakes are literally littered with shipwrecks – pieces of history capturing chapters of a time when transport by water was as important as transport by land. Now, thanks to the recently launched Michigan Shipwrecks StoryMap, it’s easy to learn about the mystery and tragedy surrounding these ships. Read more here:

https://www.uppermichiganssource.com/content/news/New-interactive-map-highlights-Great-Lakes-shipwrecks-and-their-lore-566940881.html?fbclid=IwAR0i4QDCY3avUnT8Vmo-YWVgMDk265JG9kg-8feX232ObRMIhO26FZLOLUzI

Chicago More Vulnerable to Climate Change than Coastal Cities

“Now that we have an understanding of the ways in which the lakes have become out of whack due to human intervention, we have a responsibility to treat them with the respect they’re due,” says Dan Egan, author of Death and Life of the Great Lakes. Read more here:

Making your way to the Chicago Maritime Museum!

MARITIME EVENT CALENDAR

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

http://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events/month/

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area to Mary Ann O’Rourke at maorourke@ameritech.net.

We hope you’ve enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please forward it to maorourke@ameritech.net.