



WIMs NEWSLETTER

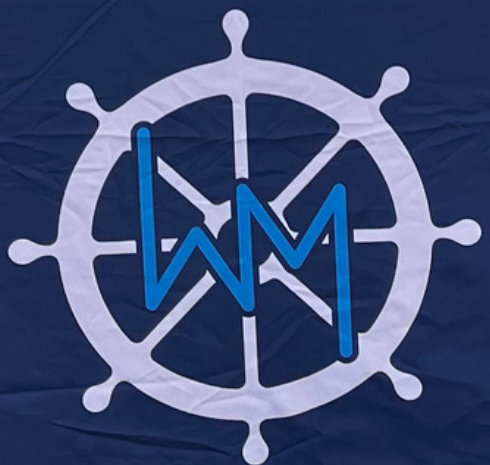
September 2023 - February 2024



Essential Skills
SCAN ME
WIMWREN 2023

Essential Skills
SCAN ME
WIMWREN 2023

Women in
Maintenance
Operations
www.WIMCO.org



Greetings,

Thank you for reviewing the WIMOs Newsletter to learn about what our organization has been up to over the last few months. WIMOs has grown to almost 1,000 members representing over 250 companies in our great industry. We are very proud of our growth and progress, and we are thrilled to share our achievements with you all.

In 2023, WIMOs achieved significant milestones. We formalized the Coastal Bend and Pacific Northwest chapters, electing their inaugural Board of Directors. Congratulations to the elected leaders for their commitment to serving their chapters and the broader community. Moreover, the West Kentucky Chapter organized the 1st Annual Karaoke Night Fundraiser in Paducah, KY, and created a wonderful night of networking and sharing their impact on the eve of the Seaman's Church Institute's River Bell Awards. We're grateful for the tremendous support we received for this fundraising event! Thank you to all who joined us!

Throughout 2023, WIMOs hosted a total of 83 in-person and virtual events across all chapters averaging 6-7 events per month for our members and supporters. A whopping 32.5% of them were dedicated to educational opportunities such as webinars, Lunch N' Learns, and operational tours. Lastly, the WIMOs Mentoring Program, launched in March 2023, has matched almost 100 people together to begin their mentor and protégé journey to further their maritime careers. We are always looking for new mentors and protégés so please visit our mentorship webpage and sign up today!

Looking ahead to 2024, we have introduced our Optional Sponsorship Menu and set four primary goals: formalize 50% of existing seed chapters, convert two of our six areas of interest into seed chapters, establish the first WIMOs Junior Chapter, and introduce two new fundraisers. The support from our members, Board of Directors, committee members, volunteers, and sponsors has been the driving force behind WIMOs' success, and we extend our deepest gratitude.

Cheers to a prosperous 2024,

Taylor Dickerson

WIMOs Executive President



WIMOS



Women in Maritime Operations

Women in Maritime Operations (WIMOs) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was established in 2017 in New Orleans, LA. Dedicated to the empowerment of women in the maritime industry, WIMOs focuses on recruiting, retaining, advancing, and promoting women through sharing knowledge and continuing education.

950+

members

12

chapters and
seed chapters

83

member events
hosted in
2023

Our Motto is simple: **Educate. Engage. Elevate.** women in their careers so they can excel and thrive. To learn more about our organization's impact, please visit our website [here](#) or by scanning the below QR code.



Locations

WIMOs is currently active in 19 different locations. The organization consists of six Formal Chapters, each with an elected Board of Directors, six "Seed" Chapters, which have two to three champions to initiate event planning and recruiting, and seven Areas of Interest, which have WIMOs members but no established leadership.

Formal Chapters

- Coastal Bend
- Houston
- Ohio Valley
- Pacific Northwest
- Southern Louisiana
- West Kentucky

"Seed" Chapters

- Hampton Roads/Norfolk
- Jacksonville, FL
- Maritime Canada
- Mobile Gulf Coast
- Northeast
- Northwest Florida

Areas of Interest

- Illinois River
- Lake Charles, LA
- Miami/Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Nigeria Maritime
- San Francisco Bay
- Tampa, FL
- Twin Cities

If you're interested in becoming a WIMOs champion in one of our "Seed" Chapter or Areas of Interest locations, please email us at WIMOsUSA@WIMOs.org. If you're interested in becoming a member, please visit our website [here](#) or scan the adjacent QR code.



How We Operate

- ◆ 100 % Women-Led
- ◆ 32 Directors on our National and Regional Boards
- ◆ 2 Part-Time Employees + 1 Intern
- ◆ 2024 Budget: Fundraisers are 42% of Income and Member Events are 65% of Expenses



February

- **26th:** West Kentucky Chapter: The Farmer's Perspective Lunch N' Learn
- **28th:** Southern Louisiana Chapter: Hiller Fire Lunch N' Learn
- **28th:** West Kentucky Chapter: Women's Self-Defense Class
- **28th:** Houston Chapter: Shooting Lessons
- **28th:** Coastal Bend Chapter: Heart Walk
- **29th:** Pacific Northwest Chapter: Know Your Worth Career Coaching

March

- **13th:** Coastal Bend Chapter: WIMOs Wine 101 Class
- **14th:** Southern Louisiana Chapter: Shooting Lessons
- **19th:** Southern Louisiana Chapter: Stone Fuel Lunch N' Learn
- **21st:** 3rd Annual WIMOs Clay Shoot Fundraiser in Houston, TX. This event is open to men and women in the industry!
- **28th:** West Kentucky Chapter: Self-Defense Class

April

- **23rd:** WIMOs Webinar Leadership Series
- **25th:** Coastal Bend Chapter: Ship Channel Tour
- **25th:** West Kentucky Chapter: Marquette Decking 101 Lunch N' Learn

May

- **TBD:** Recruiting Events in Tampa, FL and Miami, FL
- **8th:** Coastal Bend Chapter: Private Tour of Aransas Marine Terminal
- **9th:** WIMOs Webinar: A Day in the Life of a Protected Species Observer
- **29th-31st:** WIMOs will attend IMX! More details to come.

June

- **12th:** Coastal Bend Chapter: Floral Workshop at CC Seafarer's Center

July

- **17th:** WIMOs Webinar Leadership Series
- **19th:** Coastal Bend Chapter: WIMOs at the Ball Park - CC Hooks

October

- **2nd:** 3rd Annual WIMOs Golf Tournament Fundraiser in New Orleans, LA. This event is open to men and women in the industry!

Updated event information can be found under the ["Events" tab](#) on our website

WIMOs Events Recap

September 2023 - January 2024

Houston Chapter

- Texas Adopt A Beach Clean-Up
- Breakbulk Americas: Women’s Breakfast + Member Walk Around
- Two Golf Lessons at Top Golf
- Women's Self-Defense Class
- Lunch N' Learn at Advario Texas City
- Greater Houston Port Bureau for Women in Maritime
- Volunteering at the Women's Home
- Putt-Putt in Pajamas Holiday Party



Southern Louisiana Chapter

- 5th Annual WIMOWeen Fundraiser
- 2nd Annual WIMOs Golf Tournament Fundraiser
- The Propeller Club 89th Annual Maritime Gala
- Work Boat Show: Member Happy Hour + Walk Around
- Charcuterie Workshop
- Wreath Making Workshop
- 2024 Kick-Off Meeting
- Pelicans Game with Maritime Partners



West Kentucky Chapter

- 1st Annual Karaoke Night Fundraiser
- Ship Yard Tours Lunch N' Learn
- Ghost Tour
- Empower HER Luncheon
- Barre Class



Ohio Valley Chapter

- Networking Dinner Before the Clean-Up
- Living Lands and Waters River Clean-Up
- River Works Discovery Volunteering
- Dress for Success Donations
- Business and Dining Etiquette Class



Pacific Northwest Chapter

- Town Hall Meeting
- Ladies Poker Night

"Seed" Chapters

- Hampton Roads/Norfolk Meeting

Coastal Bend Chapter

- History of Admiralty Law Lunch N' Learn
- Professional Headshots
- Bludworth Shipyard Tour
- This One's For The Gals Donations



WIMOs National

- Town Hall Meeting
- Yacht Club Harbormaster Webinar
- Leadership Webinar Series



Maria Conatser: The First Woman to Lead the International Propeller Club

By April-Hope Wareham



“People don’t really think about maritime,” says Maria Conatser. “It’s really behind the scenes, [but it transports] 90% of the goods worldwide – it’s really far-reaching and quite important.” Maria’s love and deep understanding of the maritime industry is complemented by her curious nature and diverse background.

Maria is now the first female President of the International Propeller Club, but she was not always involved in maritime. She grew up living in different parts of Europe as her father was in the US Air Force and her mother was from the Netherlands. The family eventually landed in the rolling blue hills of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Maria graduated with an accounting degree from Western Kentucky University in 1988. She had originally started out majoring in computer science but decided she didn’t want to program full-time. However, due to this experience, Maria was able to bring a unique data analytics mindset to her accounting work. She initially worked at Fruit of the Loom headquarters and then for Sullivan Graphics, a printing company in Nashville when she was recruited by Ingram as an analyst in 1995.

A little over a year into Maria's time at Ingram, the company supported her in working part-time so she could spend time with her young son. After nearly five years of that flexible work arrangement, Maria went back full-time with the company. Maria's passion for programming and visualizing data for use in financial analysis, business intelligence, and company insight made her an irreplaceable part of Ingram's team.

As a lifelong learner, Maria is curious about everything from AI to the industry where she works. To learn more about the maritime industry, she started attending Propeller Club meetings around 2004. The Propeller Club further drove her passion for enhancing the maritime industry, and she became the Nashville area club President from 2010-2012. In 2014, Maria attended her first International Propeller Club Conference in Louisville, where she was introduced to the greater Ohio Valley Region of clubs in addition to clubs from all over the world. With broadened horizons, Maria became the Regional Vice President for the Ohio Valley region. In 2019, Niels Aalund (then the incoming International President and Executive VP of the West Gulf Maritime Association) shoulder-tapped her to become International Treasurer. Maria also found a mentor in Joel Whitehead, a past International Propeller Club President. Over the next four years, both encouraged her to continue to move up in the organization and to utilize her strong passion for the maritime industry.

As the President of the International Propeller Club, Maria is responsible for the organization's nearly 100-year history enhancing the well-being of the maritime industry and mariners worldwide. The group initially began with the Propeller Club of the Port of New York in 1923. As news of the club spread to other port cities, Propeller Clubs were formed in Boston, New Orleans, New York, and at Yale University. The Propeller Club of the United States was established as a national and international organization in 1927. Since then, the organization has grown to have ports in 24 states (plus Washington D.C.) and 7 countries.

Maria's favorite part of the maritime industry is being able to connect with and meet others from all walks of life all over the world. The 2022 international conference was in Piraeus, Greece, which hosts the largest Propeller Club chapter in the world.

Aside from the delicious food and beautiful Athens sites, Maria's takeaways from the conference were vast. Peter Economides, an international shipping brand strategist, set the focus around the idea that "shipping is shopping". The ubiquity of shipping and the international cooperation needed to put food on tables and goods in shops is never as apparent as when you are in a room of people from all over the world who make that happen. Maria also got to work in-person with the current President of the Piraeus chapter, who is due to become the first non-US International President in two years when Maria's term is up.

What is it like working with people from different countries on a regular basis? "Being in an international organization," says Maria, "means you sometimes have to agree to disagree. But there are so many things we agree on – those are the things we focus on." The "Zoom culture" has helped, too – over the past few years people from different cultures have come together to talk, work, and collaborate. This has helped break down barriers.

Now, says Maria, we have to get more people working in all aspects of maritime from the Coast Guard to logistics to professional aspects to working on the boats. The Propeller Club is committed to bringing young people into the industry, fulfilling a longstanding tradition of passion in the maritime industry.

Maria's advice is simple: always seek to add value and commit to being a lifelong learner. "Always seek to learn new skills. The earlier you step out of your comfort zone, the better off you will be." That can be learning new things, taking on new responsibilities, or simply attending an industry event as an introvert. Push your boundaries and surround yourself with people who will lift you up and encourage you in these pursuits.

WIMOS PROMOTIONS AND RECOGNITION

Angelica Brooks, Graduated from Columbia University with an M.S. in Strategic Communication

Ann Marie Poninski, Promoted to Director, Measurement and Loss Control – Governance/Process at Phillips 66

Caitlyn Peyton, Promoted to Senior Analyst at Marquette Transportation

Citlalli Martinez, Promoted to Distribution Coordinator of MTBV Ethane at Enterprise Products

Challis Cross, Promoted to Chief Operating Officer at Ohio River Company Transportation

Dheepa Loganathan, Promoted to Sr. VQSE Manager at Marquette River Division

Hallie Pendleton, Promoted to General Manager at Greenwave Transportation

Lina Garcia Martin, Promoted to Business Development Manager at ORION

Melina Ramseur, New position as Marketing Representative at AmSpec

Mercedes Gonzalez, Promoted to Operations Analyst at Port of Corpus Christi

Patricia Moreno-Arispe, Graduated from the University of The Incarnate Word with a B.S. in Human Resource Management

Rachel Duncan, Promoted to Mariner Engagement Specialist at Marquette River Division

Renee Sullivan, Promoted to Accounts Payable Specialist II at Marquette Transportation

Taylor Mayfield, Appointed to the Board of Directors for Corpus Christi Youth Odyssey

Tracy Myrick, New position as Ticketing Specialist at TowWorks

CONGRATULATIONS!



We are proud to announce AH was re-elected to serve 5 more years as WIMOs Executive Secretary!

April-Hope 'AH' Wareham
Regional Continuous Improvement Lead
Cargill

WIMOs members named Top 20 Women in Maritime by Marine Log

Claudelle Vallette
Jamie Halter
Jeanne Ferrer
Kate Fossati
Kimberly Theriot-Smith
Patricia Moreno-Arispe
Taylor Dickerson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIMOs Mentoring Program

- ◆ Launched in March 2023
- ◆ Matched nearly 100 mentors and protégés together
- ◆ Instated a resource library and feedback surveys
- ◆ Accepting mentor and protégé applications
- ◆ Seeking a Director for the WIMOs Mentoring Program

WIMOs Committees

INTERESTED IN JOINING A COMMITTEE? Contact your local Chapter.

Educate

- Plan educational events
- Support future scholarship program
- Promote the WIMOs Mentoring Program and participate in the committee

Engage

- Plan social and recruiting events
- Supply organizational information to potential members and companies

Elevate

- Aid with fundraising events
- Establish partnership with other non-profit organizations within chapter's region and plan joint events

The WIMOs Store has new merchandise!

Spend \$75 and get free shipping



www.wimos.org/WIMOsStore

WIMOs Association
Educate. Engage. Elevate.

ANNUAL DUES + SPONSORSHIP MENU

Support WIMOs by becoming a Corporate Member Company or an Annual Sponsor!
www.wimos.org/sponsorships

JANUARY 2024

Text or email us photos and videos from industry and WIMOs events

Save us as a contact by scanning the QR code



✉ Photos@wimos.org

📞 504-208-2098

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