

Flagship Niagara League

2016

Annual

Report



Unlock the Past, Sail into the Future

Our Mission



The Flagship Niagara League is a 501 c-3, non-profit educational associate organization of the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission chartered to facilitate citizen participation and operation of the U.S. Brig *Niagara* and its homeport, the Erie Maritime Museum.



The Erie Maritime Museum and the U.S. Brig *Niagara* educate the public regarding the region's maritime heritage, The War of 1812 in Lake Erie including the building of Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet, and the experience of the U.S. Brig *Niagara* under sail. The Erie Maritime Museum and the U.S. Brig *Niagara* are administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and are actively supported by the Flagship Niagara League, which is a non-profit community based organization.



Staff & Crew

Erie Maritime Museum

Senior Captain U.S. Brig Niagara/ Site Administrator | Walter Rybka
Museum Administrative Assistant | Ilona Montefiori
Exhibits, Research & Curatorial | Linda Bolla

Flagship Niagara League

Executive Director | E. Shawn Waskiewicz
Marketing & Special Events Manager | Cristy Cook
Membership & Donor Services Manager | Marcus Masternak
Museum Volunteer Coordinator | Ed Tonkin

U.S. Brig Niagara

Captain | William Sabatini
Director of Marine Operations | Joseph Lengieza
Chief Mate | David Goldman
2nd Mate | Chris Cusson
Carpenter | Adam Stanisz

Board of Trustees

Flagship Niagara League

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Vice President | Ross Aresco
Treasurer | Pat Federici
Secretary | Ann Halupczynski
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Sara Kim
Steve Konzel
Liz Lincoln
Deb Masi
Rebecca McCormick
Scott Nick
Dr. Stephen Pett
John Schulze
Dr. William Vorsheck, III

Message from the Director

The 2016 season was certainly an exciting one for our staff and crew. We worked all year preparing for Tall Ships Erie 2016 and other special events. Meanwhile, the U.S. Brig *Niagara* sailed more than 4,700 nautical miles while visiting 17 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

Every three years we look forward to Tall Ships Erie (TSE). TSE 2016 was a major undertaking. After two plus years of planning and preparation, 90,000 visitors descended on Erie's Bayfront. I'd like to personally thank our staff of nine committee chairs, 800 volunteers, and their countless hours spent to piece this event together. Nine tall ships from all over the world attended, with one big rubber duck! Over this four-day festival, an economic impact to The City of Erie business community of \$8 million was generated. All of our hard work was recognized by Tall Ships America as we received the Economic Impact award which is awarded to a city that has demonstrated the best ratio of reported total expenses to economic impact. As you may already know we rely on this event to help fund our budget going into the next two-non tall ship years.

While TSE kept everyone busy, other events still took place. The year began with a frigid Wintertime at the Maritime event where more than 200 people attended this outdoor festival. Although it was extremely cold and windy, guests truly enjoyed themselves. Mariner's Ball is annually the first Saturday in June. We saw another sold-out crowd. Howard and Mary Lincoln received the Niagara Legacy Award for their generosity in keeping *Niagara* sailing for more than twenty plus years. Peak n' Peak hosted our annual charity golf tournament in July. The Scott family takes great care of their course and the staff greets everyone with a smile.

The Flagship Niagara League also hosted a variety of free events to the community. These included Charter Day, Discovery Day, July 4th Friends and Family Day, Lunch with the Captain, Christmas Tree Ship, and various lectures throughout the year. It's important to serve our community while teaching the public about Erie's rich maritime heritage.

Finally, *Niagara's* sail trainee program has grown drastically over the past couple of years. We saw 145 trainees and apprentices, which is a 200% increase from 2014. Trainees from all over the United States sailed aboard *Niagara*. New relationships include schools from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Florida, and Texas. A special thank you goes out to Captain Sabatini and Joe Lengieza for leading the charge in this effort.

Thank you to our staff, board members, volunteers, donors, corporate supporters, and members for making 2016 a fantastic year. As we look forward to celebrating Canada's 150th birthday this summer at Rendez-vous 2017, with a ship full to the last hammock of dynamic, excited trainees and the growing possibility of adding a second sailing ship to our stable, it's hard not to be excited about 2017 and beyond.

Best Wishes,



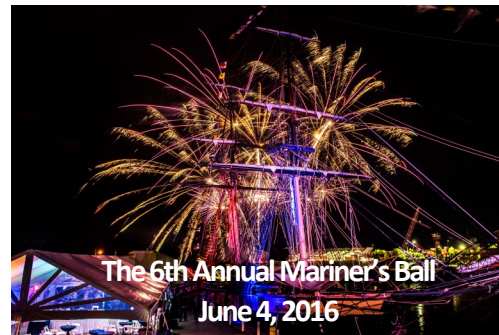
E. Shawn Waskiewicz



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Special Event Sponsors of \$500 and above

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Tall Ships Erie 2016

Tall Ships Erie 2016 (TSE) was a huge success. An estimated 90,000 visitors attended the four-day festival, which took place September 8-11. The festival opened on Thursday with a stormy and wet Parade of Sail. Nine tall ships participated with one large rubber duck! TSE is very proud of the Education Day that took place on Friday. Erie is the only port in the Great Lakes that includes an “Educational School Day” program for children. An estimated 4,600 children, teachers and chaperones attended the festival. Friday afternoon the festival was open to the general public. Saturday and Sunday were very busy. Guests were anxiously waiting to take a tour aboard their favorite vessel and take pictures with the World’s Largest Rubber Duck. Live music, entertainment, vendor booths, kid’s zones and the lecture series were available all weekend.

Visit Erie estimated that approximately \$8 million was generated over the weekend for local businesses. This is an event that everyone associated with FNL is proud to facilitate not only as the largest fundraiser every three years for *Niagara* but also for The City of Erie.

Thank you to all of our Tall Ships Erie 2016 sponsors:

Title Sponsor | Highmark

Major Sponsor | Erie Insurance

World’s Largest Duck and Kidz Zone Sponsor | Widget Financial

Ship Sponsors | LECOM, Lincoln Recycling, Erie Federal Credit Union, Plyler Overhead Door Co., The Warren Company, PNC Bank, Networking Technologies, First Energy Foundation

Vendor Sponsor | Scott Enterprises

Reception and Program Sponsors | Presque Isle Downs & Casino, Mercyhurst University, Accudyn Products, Inc., Four Seasons Catering, Accuspec Electronics LLC, American Tinning & Galvanizing Company, Team Hardinger, BREWERIE, Westlake Woods, Greenfield Basket Factory, Inc., Northwest, Lake City Industries, Inc., Electronic Merchant Services, Erie Bank, Humes, Breakwater Restaurant, Lillis McKibben Bongiovanni & Co., Erie Yacht Club, Burton Funeral Homes, Vicary Insurance

In-Kind Sponsors | Erie Beer, Mazza Vineyards, Bayfront Convention Center, Zambelli Fireworks, Cumulus Media, Printing Concepts, Connoisseur Media, JET 24/Fox 66/YourErie.com, Creative Imprint Systems, The CAB Restaurant, Tap House, The City of Erie, EMTA, Emergycare



Thank you to the Tall Ships Erie 2016 Committee Chairs:

Volunteer Chair | Yevet “Karma” Anderson
Logistics Chair | Brian and Melani Scott
Security Chair | Steve Sutch and Alison Scarpitti
Education Chair | Mary Jane Koenig

Entertainment and Hospitality | Jim Scheider
Captain’s Dinner | Kathy Scheider and Jeanne Bartos
Cash Management | Tim and Kathy Goldsmith
Vendor Chair | Marcus Masternak

Ship Liaison | Bob Harkins and Chuck Detzel

U.S. Brig *Niagara* Sailing Program

2016 marked another year of strong growth for the sail training program. 145 trainees and apprentices (a number of whom returned for multiple voyages) represent a 25% increase in enrollment over 2015, and a 200% increase over 2014. Much of this is attributable to *Niagara's* growing recognition as North America's leader in education under sail. This national leadership is reflected in our diverse student body and partnerships. As *Niagara* continues to engage with local schools, we are also fostering relationships with students from literally across the continent, from the Williams-Mystic program in Connecticut to the Stephen F. Austin Maritime High School in Houston, Texas, and from Florida Keys Community College to the University of California in Berkley. We are also seeing a significant amount of international interest for the first time in over a decade.



College Programs

History Under Sail

This program gave students the opportunity to sail on *Niagara* visiting five ports, at major maritime museums and historical sites on Lake Erie, including Buffalo, Toledo, Put-In-Bay and Cleveland.

Environmental Science Field School

A multi-disciplinary program incorporated marine sciences, underwater archaeology and square-rig seamanship, the itinerary started in Green Bay, WI and concluded in Duluth, MI.



High School Programs

Exploring the Great Lakes

This voyage-based program designed for high school students age 14-18 years old was a success, providing ten local area students the opportunity to participate with help from the Sail Training

Individual Trainees

Individual trainees became an active part of the crew, learning skills of traditional square-rig seamanship through sailing, maintaining and living on the ship.



Williams-Mystic Program

The Williams-Mystic Program is a collaboration between The Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport and is one of the most prestigious and well-regarded maritime studies programs in the U.S. In September 2016, 18 students and three faculty from the Williams-Mystic Program sailed on *Niagara*.

Sail, Explore, Experience

Total Miles Traveled

4,752 nautical miles

Full time & Seasonal Professional Crew

35 employees

Deck Tours in Ports

72,122 visitors



The U.S. Brig *Niagara* is a replica of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victorious relief flagship during the Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812. In the modern age, she operates as a U.S. Coast Guard certified Sailing School Vessel (SSV). Through *Niagara's* various sailing programs, members of the general public can experience the golden age of sail in an immersive environment. *Niagara's* sailing programs include: public day sails, private corporate day sails and school group sails. *Niagara* offers school group sails to any grade level between eight and twelve.

2016 Ports of Call

Alpena, MI
 Bay City, MI
 Buffalo, NY
 Chicago, IL
 Duluth, MI
 Fairport Harbor, OH
 Green Bay, WI
 Mackinac Island, MI
 Sault Ste Marie, MI
 Sturgeon Bay, WI
 Put-In-Bay, OH
 Sandusky, OH



Sailing the Past, into
 the Future.

Program

Number of Participants

Trainees & Apprentices	145*
Private (corporate) & Public Day Sails	664
8 th Grade Sails	240

*overall growth of approximately 200% since 2014

Discover and Interact with History at the Erie Maritime Museum

2016 Highlights

<u>Events</u>	<u>Total Attendees</u>
Museum Visitors (includes Tall Ship Erie)	122,660
Members	641
July 4th Friends & Family Day	1,452
Christmas Tree Ship	1,600
Lecture & Movie Series	590
Other Community Events	1,790
Special Events	1,120



The Erie Maritime Museum has 57 guides, greeters, and volunteers who manage the museum floor, greet guests, give tours, run programs for schools, scouts, senior citizens, special events, and the general public.

57 volunteers put in 6,667 hours over 2016. There are 37 Forster Society members who have put in a minimum of 75 hours volunteering, after volunteering 150 hours in a previous fiscal year. We had 33 guides who volunteered more than 100 hours and joined our new 100 Hour Plus Club; 11 volunteering more than 200 hours; four more than 250 hours, and one, Steve Dusza, who volunteered 319 hours this past year. He received the "First Most Hours" award at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

The Volunteer of the Year Award went to U.S.M.C. Lt. William Koehle. Bill has been a volunteer since 2010 and is trained to present classes and programs in knot tying, gun drill and sail handling. We also awarded the Outstanding Service Award to Pat Claxton for his decades of service to the museum and U.S. Brig *Niagara*.

Besides museum programming, some volunteers go to schools and present programs on the Seabag, life of a sailor, STEM, intellectual health, and plastic waters. Volunteers also work events in the museum, educational festivals, and all free days. Our volunteer staff is invaluable to us, and we thank them for their hundreds of hours and support throughout the year. We truly couldn't keep the doors of the Erie Maritime Museum open without them.

Financial Recap

Statements of Activities



Supports and Revenue

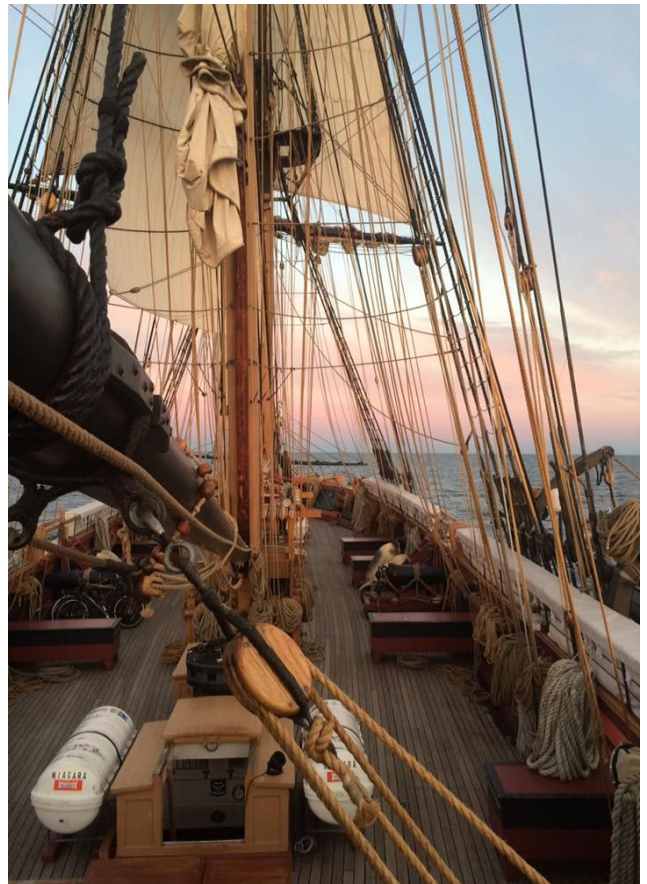
Grants	\$488,184
Contributions and memberships	\$215,161
Contributed materials and services	\$72,779
Admissions	\$56,416
Gift shop sales	\$111,328
Port fees	\$294,727
Sailing school fees	\$206,937
Fundraising events	\$815,774
Investment income	\$52,748
Educational programs	\$5,368
Other	<u>\$4,060</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,323,482

Expenses

<i>Program services</i>	
Education and museum	\$32,391
Shipwright gift shop	\$89,730
Sailing program	\$1,005,273
<i>Support services</i>	
Management and general	\$402,374
Fundraising	<u>\$572,839</u>
Total Expenses	\$2,102,607

Change in Net Assets

\$220,875



Flagship Niagara League Members

Admiral (\$500 member)

David Alexander
Michael and Becky Dzurik
David and Nancy Eichelsdorfer
Phil and Chris English
Alvin and Audrey Irwin
James Bell and Mary Beth Cermak-Bell M.D.
Stanley Ross
Nancy Schaeffer
Joao and Delores Tavares

Commodore (\$250 member)

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Charles and Dorothy Heise
William Hill
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Beverly McCoid
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Albert and Peggy Richardson
Craig Ryan
James and Kathy Scheider

Captain (\$100 member)

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Roy and Rosanna Strausbaugh
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Joseph Zimmerman

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\$10,000 & Above

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Erie Arts & Culture
Erie Community Foundation
Erie Insurance
Gary and Becky Johnson*

\$1,000—\$4,999

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*Dobbins Society Member

\$500—\$999

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Union City Lodge #882
David Wagner
Len and Barb Zawistowski

\$100—\$499

Anonymous – Erie Gives Day
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OHP Cabot
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Mary Louise Chulak
John and Diana Collins
Dale and Barbara Deist
Deborah Diplacido
David and Margaret Fancher
Pat and Linda Federici
Kathryn Felion
Rebecca Hays Forster
Colonel (Ret) and Mrs. James R. Fournier
Leslie Grey
Margaret Healy

\$100—\$499 cont.

Hoss's Steak and Sea House
Marcus and Celene Kalivoda
Robert Kennedy
Edward and Nancy Komlenic
Jonathan Kropko
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Dan and Marianne Levstek
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Chad and Amy Vilushis
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Roger and Joanna Zurn

Daniel Dobbins Leadership Giving Society

The Daniel Dobbins Leadership Giving Society is a group of individuals The Flagship Niagara League recognizes for their support of \$1,000 or more. These funds support Erie's deep maritime history and education while ensuring *Niagara* sails into the future.

Platinum Contributor

Gary and Becky Johnson



Silver Contributor

Captain Thomas Hagen
Dr. Stephen and Lisa Pett
Kathleen Scheppner and
Jerri Lynn Quiggly

Bronze Contributor

Dr. William Garvey
Dr. Robert and Betsy Guelcher
Vinnie and Ann Halupczynski
Bob and Chris Hornak
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Erie Arts & Culture

