



Exciting NAMMA Membership Changes 2017

Dec. 1, 2016

Dear NAMMA members and supporters,

2016 has been wonderful for our Association. It has been a pleasure to build new partnerships and to serve our members in many ways. Our meetings were well attended, we developed numerous new resources, and our financial position throughout the year enabled us to do our work with confidence in a successful future. Behind the scenes, we completed a strategic plan and a major revision of our constitution and by-laws. Part of the revision of the constitution was to reconfigure membership levels to clarify value and attract new members to our work.

Until now, NAMMA's membership categories have been numerous and confusing as we attempted to include various types of agency, individual, and lifetime members. As a result of discussing this problem at our 2016 Annual Conference, the NAMMA Board has determined that, moving forward, *membership will focus on people.*

NAMMA now will offer two, simple categories of paid membership: *Member* and *Associate Member*. A full explanation of costs and value is available at namma.org:

- *Members* are individuals, whether paid or volunteer, in maritime ministry. Each member shall have one vote in meetings of the association and will be eligible to hold elected offices in the organization.
- *Associate Members* are any individuals who subscribe to the purposes of the organization and who contribute to NAMMA through prayer, ancillary support and financial support. They shall have voice, but no vote, in meetings of the association. A full explanation of member costs and value is on our website.

It is understood that the overseeing organization or board will continue to assume the cost of the individual person's membership in NAMMA.

For no cost, an agency can choose to be a *NAMMA affiliated agency*. Any organization in North America and the Caribbean that has seafarers' welfare in its stated goals, and which supports the mission and purpose of NAMMA, will be considered a *NAMMA affiliated agency*. This affiliation would entitle the agency to participate in NAMMA programs designed for agencies (such as our programs tailored for staff and volunteer issues). Finally, NAMMA will no longer begin lifetime memberships, although we continue gratefully to recognize existing lifetime memberships. The NAMMA board is developing other, specially-designed methods to recognize dedication to seafarers' welfare for our constituency and in conjunction with international partners.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to an even more exciting year ahead!

Sincerely,

**Dr. Jason Zuidema
Executive Director**