



NEWS From -

Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New C-PORT Chairman Appointed by Board of Directors

C-PORT (Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing) held its 30th Membership Meeting on November 14, 2016 at Wyndham Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, FL. Along with committee reports and industry issue discussions, the membership elected its 2017 C-PORT Board of Directors and the 2017 C-PORT Executive Board was named.

Newly elected to the C-PORT Board of Directors were Phil LeBlanc and Gregory Dreischmeyer. LeBlanc has served on numerous C-PORT committees over the years including serving as chairman of the standards and education committee. He lives and works in Rhode Island, co-owner of Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay. Dreischmeyer also served on a number of committees including the government affairs/legislative committee and represented C-PORT at the 1st California Boating Congress in March 2016. He is co-owner of Cat Tow Inc./TowBoatU.S. Catalina CA. Re-elected for an additional term were Robert Butler and Terry Hill.

Tina Cardone, executive director, C-PORT, announced the executive committee. Elected by the board in leadership positions are:

- John Ward, Chairman: Ward owns and operates Aquanaut Towing & Salvage/Sea Tow Pensacola and Destin. While presenting anniversary awards to the 30-year honorees, Ward remarked he recently discovered his grandfather was one of the original companies from 1987 and commented how proud he is to be a part of this organization.
- Phil LeBlanc, Vice-chairman: LeBlanc is co-owner of Safe Sea/TowBoatU.S. Narragansett Bay and has worked diligently for the association for years. He commented that he was moved to see his mentor and C-PORT's original chairman, John Andrews, receive his 30-year award to a standing ovation.
- Jon Gridley, Treasurer: Gridley owns and operates a number of Sea Tow lake franchises, including his company Lake Tow Inc. operating as Sea Tow Clarks Hill Lake. Gridley received the AFRAS C-PORT Lifesaving Award in 2011 and has served on the board since 2013.
- Dale Plummer, Secretary: Plummer owns and operates Baltimore Marine Recovery/TowBoatU.S. Baltimore and serves as president of Chesapeake Marine Towing and Assistance Association, a regional chapter of C-PORT.

The 2017 C-PORT Board of Directors includes: Robert Butler, Big Bay Marine/TowBoatU.S. San Diego; Phil Delano, Yachting Specialties/TowBoatU.S. San Francisco Bay and Delta; Gregory Dreischmeyer, Cat Tow Inc./TowBoatU.S. Catalina; Robert Estrada, Estrada Marine Services/TowBoatU.S. Lake Lanier; Terry Hill, Potomac Marine Inc./TowBoatU.S. Potomac; Anthony Noury, Hawser LLC/Sea Tow Charleston; Rand Pratt, Hawser Marine Services/Sea Tow Key Biscayne; Roger Slade, Marine Assist of Port Hadlock/TowBoatU.S. Port Hadlock.

C-PORT was founded in 1986 to act as a liaison between the marine assistance industry and public agencies and organizations involved with boating safety, marine assistance, marine salvage and other marine-related operations. Our members are dedicated to providing prompt, professional and timely assistance to all boaters and to actively partner and cooperate with local law enforcement and U.S. Coast Guard. For more information, contact C-PORT at (954) 261-2012 or visit www.cport.us.