

**BOARD FOR BRANCH PILOTS MEETING
MINUTES**

The Virginia Board for Branch Pilots met on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at the Virginia Port Authority, 600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, Virginia, with the following members present:

Charles R. Amory, Jr.
Captain Robert H. Callis, III
Bruce R. Cherry
Captain J. William Cofer
Captain Milton B. Edmunds
Thomas P. Host, III
Captain John A. Morgan, Jr.
Meade G. Stone, Jr.

Board member William M. Martin, III was not present for the meeting.

Staff present for the meeting was:

Kathleen (Kate) R. Nobsch, Executive Director

There was no representative present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Finding a quorum of the Board present, Mr. Cherry, President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Mr. Stone moved to approve the agenda. Captain Callis seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

**Approval of
Agenda**

Captain Edmunds moved to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2011 board meeting. Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

**Approval of
Minutes**

Captain Callis provided the Board with a report of the examinations conducted by the Examination Administrators on February 1, 2012. The following report was made:

**Exam
Administrators
Report**

Adam L. Halstead

Adam L. Halstead answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point, anchoring techniques, vessel squat, overtaking situations, traffic management, block coefficient displacement, port security and safe vessel speed. Captain Halstead stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Halstead be raised from the Foxtrot classification (46,000 gross tons and 40 feet maximum draft) to a Golf classification (55,000 gross tons and 42 feet maximum draft). Mr. Amory seconded the motion

which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

William G. Saunders, Jr.

Captain Saunders answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point, safe anchoring procedures, effects of wind on light draft vessels, under-keel clearance, air draft considerations, port security and safe vessel speed. Captain Saunders stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Saunders be raised from a Delta classification (38,000 gross tons and 34 feet maximum draft) to an Echo classification (42,000 gross tons and 36 feet maximum draft). As required by the Virginia Pilot Association apprenticeship program, William G. Saunders, Jr. has acquired his First Class Federal Pilot's License. Mr. Host seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

Joseph M. Schacherer III

Captain Schacherer answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point, safe anchoring procedures, effects of wind on light draft vessels, under-keel clearance, air draft considerations, port security and safe vessel speed. Captain Schacherer stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Schacherer be raised from a Delta classification (38,000 gross tons and 34 feet maximum draft) to an Echo classification (42,000 gross tons and 36 feet maximum draft). As required by the Virginia Pilot Association apprenticeship program, Joseph M. Schacherer III has acquired his First Class Federal Pilot's License. Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Amory, Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Host, Morgan and Stone.

Board members reviewed the *Merchant Mariner Credential Medical Evaluation Report* that is used for the pilot's required annual physical for license renewal. Discussion was held on drafting a motion stating that the last page of the physical report satisfies 18VAC45-20-20.B.1 and any other relevant regulation or statute.

**Physical Form
Review**

The Board requested that Ms. Nosbisch seek board counsel's expertise to draft a suitable motion stating the submission of the last page of the physical report to the Board satisfies the reporting requirements of 18VAC45-20-20.B.1 and any other relevant regulation or statute. The Board will review the draft and continue discussion at the April 30, 2012, board meeting.

Discussion was held on the Costa Concordia cruise ship disaster off the coast of **Costa Concordia** Giglio Island, Italy. It was stated that the Virginia Pilots use equipment that is **Disaster – Giglio**

more sophisticated than what is currently available on cruise ships. Board members agreed that the behavior of the Captain following the incident was incomprehensible; moreover, that the Captain was arrogant and by showboating did not display proper ship handling. Board members concurred that this demonstrates the importance of the compulsory pilotage in Virginia. Captain Cofer stated that it could take two years or more for a full evaluation of the disaster and the lessons and best practices learned, will be included in the apprentice training program.

Island, Italy

Ms. Nosbisch informed the Board that the final regulations are at the Governor's office for approval, day 122. Once the regulations are approved and signed, the regulations must proceed to the Registrar's office within 14 days to be published. A 30-day public comment period will follow.

**Regulatory
Review Update**

Mr. Cherry informed board members that he would be retiring from the Board after, having served 34 years. Mr. Cherry stated that his replacement will be appointed by the Portsmouth Circuit Court.

Other Business

Ms. Nosbsich expressed regrets from Mr. Dixon, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Leif and Ms. Cake, for being unable to attend the meeting.

Conflict of Interest forms and travel vouchers were completed by all members present.

**Conflict of
Interest Forms**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Adjourn

Bruce R. Cherry, President

Gordon N. Dixon, Secretary