

8th Edition

2020 ANNUAL Report



**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR
ASSOCIATION**



**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR
FOUNDATION**

VSRA • VSRF

FROM THE LEADERSHIP

2020 will go down in history as a year of challenges. However, I believe that history will reflect not just the many challenges, but how we as Americans met them head on. In particular, our ship repair workforce persevered through a public health crisis, ensuring every day that the United States military and commercial fleets would be able to continue operation on safe, modernized, well-maintained vessels. As a company executive and as Chairman of the Virginia Ship Repair Association, I cannot express enough how proud I am of this incredible workforce. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, and I look forward to standing with you as we overcome any challenges 2021 may throw our way.



Tom Epley,
Chairman, Virginia Ship Repair Association

As I enter my first year as Foundation Chair, I find myself reflecting on the great success this organization has enjoyed in the past. I would be remiss if I did not take the time to credit the leadership of previous Chair Dawn Angrisani and previous Secretary-Treasurer Brian Daugherty. I thank them both for their remarkable leadership. Through the peaks and valleys of the past year, VSRF has worked hard to ensure quality training and workforce development programs are in place for current and future ship repairers. With the emergence of a global pandemic, this has been no easy task. However, with the backing of an incredible industry, and participation of an equally incredible group of board members, we have persevered. I am hopeful the challenges we saw in 2020 will wane, and if presented with new obstacles they will be met with the same resilience and determination. Otherwise, I look forward to continued success in the next twelve months, and beyond.



Robbie Walker,
Chairman, Virginia Ship Repair Foundation

Resilience. Perseverance. Determination. Grit. Pride. Patriotism. These are the words that come to mind when I think about the past year. This industry, which has always blown me away, showed these things in spades. There's never been any doubt that Ship Repairers will rise to every challenge, and in 2020 you proved that beyond anyone's wildest imagination. In the face of a health crisis, you rallied together to keep our workforce safe by developing 'best practice' guides. You kept our industry and economy robust by providing continual information on available business relief aid. You kept our port competitive by supporting innovative workforce development and training programs. Above all, by getting up every day and 'making ship happen,' you helped to keep our nation safe, secure, and free. I've never been prouder to represent you, the Virginia Ship Repair Association, and this phenomenal industry. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



Bill Crow,
President, Virginia Ship Repair Association

VSRA Passes Membership Milestone

Despite the challenges of this past year, VSRA continued to grow. In November, the Association passed a landmark milestone as it reached **300 Members**. The entire VSRA staff is grateful for the continued support and dedication of our passionate members!

By THE NUMBERS

\$149,670 Raised for Workforce Programs

26,323 Students Trained

29 Tradesperson of the Year Nominees

303 Member Companies

1,953 Committee Meeting Attendees

5.3k Active VSRA Website Users

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34th VSRF Golf Tournament

The 34th Annual Foundation Golf Tournament was held in October and, despite some small adjustments to meet health and safety guidelines, brought a sense of normalcy to VSRA Members. The Tournament once again sold out in record time, with more sponsors participating than ever before. Funds raised by the Golf Tournament help the Foundation achieve their goals of community outreach, industry awareness, and innovative workforce development programming. Networking is difficult in the time of social distancing, but the VSRF Golf Tournament provided a safe outlet for camaraderie among VSRA Members and raised money for a great cause.

Highlights of the Year

- Established much acclaimed partnership with Navy to overcome contractual issues & re-work select NAVSEA Standard Items
- Quickly transitioned to virtual meeting platform, allowing more attendees than ever before
- Received updates from Government Leaders, including U.S. Senator Tim Kaine who addressed the VSRA Membership during a virtual meeting
- Had 26 Middle Schools, representing 245 students, register for the LEGO Competition

Industry Resilience, Perseverance on Display During Pandemic

The VSRA Membership rallied together during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the spread of valuable information as it became available. A COVID Resources information page launched on the VSRA website in early April and held a regularly updated compilation of various Navy memorandums, Federal business and health informational portals, and State-provided resources. The Safety & Environmental Committee sprung to action to develop a Safety & Health Resources Guide, describing “best practices” for critical topics such as symptom screening, personal protective equipment, and ever-changing regulations. After passage of the CARES Act, the Contracts Committee put together a webinar helping VSRA Members navigate through the Payment Protection Plan, Employee Retention Credit, and other complicated relief measures. Recognizing the importance of continued employee training, the Workforce Development Committee put together a webinar discussing best practices for in-person and online training during the pandemic. Upon passage of strict health regulations by the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health group, the Human Resources Committee teamed up with the Safety & Environmental Committee to put together a valuable webinar to assist VSRA Members with navigating the new mandates. Overall, the VSRA Membership showed the true resiliency of the Ship Repair industry throughout this pandemic, showcasing their selflessness and dedication to work together for the stability of our national security and the health of this incredible workforce. These efforts received praise from throughout the chain of command of VSRA's Navy partners.

Junior and Senior Tradesperson of the Year Named in Virtual Ceremony

In 2020, perhaps more than ever, it was vital to recognize the hard work of the men and women who maintain and modernize America's fleet. Although the pandemic pushed the Tradesperson of the Year Awards from May to November and from a live gathering to a virtual ceremony, the importance of bestowing these honors was not lost. The Foundation received a record number of nominees, with 12 Junior and 17 Senior individuals nominated. From this illustrious group, a panel of industry-expert judges selected Michael Wayne Ledbetter and Policarpio Calimbas, both of HII-Fleet Support Group, as the Junior and Senior Runners-Up. Danual Pearce, a rigger supervisor at Colonna's Shipyard, was selected as the 2020 Junior Tradesperson of the Year. Heng Hy, a welding supervisor at BAE Systems – Norfolk Ship Repair, was named the 2020 Senior Tradesperson of the Year. Congratulations to these fine tradesmen, and to all of the well-deserving nominees.



Heng Hy

2020 Senior Tradesperson of the Year



Danual Pearce

2020 Junior Tradesperson of the Year