

Donor Information Package
Houston International Seafarers Center
Maritime Gala
May 2, 2026





Houston International Seafarers Center

47th Annual Maritime Gala 2026

The Houston International Seafarers Center is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization providing essential humanitarian services to the thousands of seafarers who call on the Port of Houston each year aboard commercial vessels. At the Seafarers Center, visiting mariners are welcomed into a safe and comfortable space where they can relax away from the ship, connect to the internet to call home, purchase essential toiletries, and access ecumenical support services. The Center also provides no-cost transportation for seafarers on shore leave between their vessels, the Center, and the local area.

The Seafarers Center Maritime Gala is the organization's primary fundraising event and a premier networking opportunity within the maritime community. The Gala offers your company the opportunity to be showcased before more than 600 leaders from Houston's maritime, energy, and logistics industries. This year's theme, **Yacht Rock**, sets the tone for a festive and memorable evening with industry colleagues from across the Port region—featuring smooth sounds, strong currents, and a night that truly gives back.

A range of unique table underwriting, sponsorship, and live auction opportunities provides flexible and meaningful ways to support this important mission while aligning your company with one of Houston's most respected maritime charities.

When:

Saturday, May 2, 2026

6 pm to 7 pm: Opening reception and silent auction

7 pm to 8 pm: Dinner and program

8 pm to 11 pm: Entertainment

Where:

Houston Marriott South at Hobby Airport

9100 Gulf Fwy, Houston, TX 77017



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Honoring

Dr. Sallie Kay Janes

as the

2026 Bronze Anchor Award

Recipient

Dr. Janes is the Associate Vice Chancellor of Continuing and Professional Development (CPD) at San Jacinto College, where she oversees the Division of Corporate Training and the Division of Community Education across the college district. Her responsibilities include supervision of certification programs in Applied Trades, Health Care, Aerospace, Information Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and Apprenticeships.

Dr. Janes has held leadership roles on numerous grants funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Departments of Labor, Commerce, Transportation, Education, and Health and Human Services, as well as the Texas Workforce Commission. Collectively, these grants exceed \$30 million in funding.

She has been recognized as a U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Ambassador and serves as facilitator of the Houston Area Apprenticeship Advisory Committee, which includes public schools, community colleges, and industry-registered apprenticeship programs. Notably, Dr. Janes led the establishment of the San Jacinto College Maritime Program. For three years, she conducted weeklong summer institutes for local high school and college counselors and faculty to educate them on all facets of the maritime industry. She also serves on the Steering Committee that has administered the Maritime and Logistics Youth Expo for over ten years.

Her ongoing support of the maritime sector includes serving on the Port Houston Partners in Maritime Education Steering Committee since its inception and helping to establish the Executive Advisory Committee. She also serves as Chair of the Application Review Committee for the Houston Pilots and as a board member for the Houston International Seafarers Center. Dr. Janes is also a member of the newly formed Forum of Workers (Women) in Maritime.

Dr. Janes earned her baccalaureate degree in Mathematics Education, Recreation, Health, and Physical Education from Louisiana State University, where she also earned a Master of Arts degree in Mathematics. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M University.



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Maritime Gala 2026

Table Levels

Your table guests will enjoy a truly memorable evening from the moment they arrive. Gala highlights include a hosted open bar, professional photography throughout the night, and wine service paired with a gourmet dinner. During the cocktail reception, guests can browse the Silent Auction, try their luck at the Wine Pull, and mingle with fellow maritime and industry leaders from across the Port region—all set to the smooth sounds and relaxed vibe of this year's **Yacht Rock** theme.

Admiral \$8000

Table Level Underwriter

- Table for 10 in a premier location
- Premium wine for table
- Company logo & recognition in souvenir program, on-line auction & social media campaign
- Prominent event signage at the Gala

Rear Admiral: \$5500

Table Level Underwriter

- Table for 10 in a prime location
- Company logo & recognition in the souvenir program, on-line auction, & social media campaign

Captain: \$4000

Table Level Underwriter

- Table for 10 in a prominent location
- Recognition during on-line auction

Engineer: \$3000

Table Level Underwriter

- Table for 10

Individual Tickets: \$300



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Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship of the Seafarers Center Maritime Gala positions your company at the center of an influential maritime audience while supporting a vital humanitarian mission. With high-impact visibility and recognition woven throughout the evening, sponsorship delivers both brand value and purpose—set to the smooth sounds and easy confidence of **Yacht Rock**.

<p>Platinum Sponsor \$5000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Gala tickets• 1 seat at the pre-event menu tasting• Special recognition during program• Company name & logo on placard at event• Company name & large logo in souvenir program, on-line auction & social media campaign	<p>Gold Sponsor \$3000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 Gala tickets• Company name & logo on placard at event• Company logo in souvenir program, on-line auction & social media campaign
<p>Silver Sponsor \$2000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Company logo in souvenir program, on-line auction & social media campaign	<p>Bronze Sponsor \$1000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Company name in souvenir program, on-line auction, & social media campaign



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Silent Auction & Wine Pull

"Smooth Sailing Starts With Your Support"

Silent Auction Items: Many individuals and organizations choose to enhance their table sponsorship by donating an item to the Silent Auction. These contributions add excitement to the evening and directly support the mission of the Houston International Seafarers Center. Past auction highlights have included sports memorabilia, curated wine baskets, unique experiences and activity packages, and historic maritime items. Creative and distinctive items are especially encouraged.



Father Rivers Patout Wine Pull

In addition to purchasing a table, supporters are invited to contribute to the popular Father Patout Wine Pull by donating a case of wine (valued at \$20 per bottle or more) or a special, premium bottle. The Wine Pull is a perennial guest favorite and a fun, high-energy way to support seafarers while adding a little mystery—and a lot of enjoyment—to the evening.





Become a table underwriter:

Admiral \$8000 Engineer \$3000
 Rear Admiral \$5500
 Captain \$4000 Single Ticket \$300

Become a sponsor:

Platinum \$5,000
 Gold \$3,000
 Silver \$2,000
 Bronze \$1,000

Become a silent auction item or wine pull donor:

Description of item or wine to be donated: _____

Cash in lieu of an item for the silent auction: \$ _____

Payment Information

Name/title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment Check enclosed (Payable to HISC Maritime Gala) Please invoice me

Your contact information:

Name: _____

Sponsorship/auction item Display name

(Specify how you would like your company name to appear)

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Upon receipt of this form, an invoice will be sent for the contribution you have selected, with a letter of confirmation & explanation of benefits associated with that level.

Have questions or need more information? Contact J.J. Plunkett at jjplunkett@comcast.net or 281-409-6119

REMIT TO: MARITIME GALA 2026 ••P.O. BOX 9506 ••HOUSTON, TEXAS 77261••(713) 672-0511••FAX (713) 672-2444

Special thanks to our 2025 Maritime Gala Sponsors & Admiral and Rear Admiral tables



Dating the port that built the city



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In 1963, a Belgian sea captain who immigrated to the U.S. had a dream of a place for seamen to go in the Port of Houston. He had sailed to Houston many times and had found that it had not received the name of "Worst port in the world" for seamen without cause. He dreamed of a great seamen center and sold this dream to several others involved in shipping. The result was the formation of the Houston International Seaman Center Inc.



In 1968 three ministers (Rev. Taft Lyon, Presbyterian; Rev. Sam Duree, United Methodist; & Fr Rivers Patout, Roman Catholic) who were working together in an ecumenical venture, developed a vision of serving the many seafarers who visit Houston. The Port Commission Chairman at that time, Howard T. Tellepsen supported the concept and recruited Houston philanthropist, Jane Blaffer Owen, among others, to turn this dream into reality. This was the beginning of a unique coalition that was to bring to existence a "one of a kind" service to seafarers.