

V S R A • V S R F

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

7TH EDITION



**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR  
ASSOCIATION**



**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR  
FOUNDATION**

## VSRA Expands Headquarters & Training Capacity

Due to an increase in training and event participation, VSRA identified a need to expand its offices to best serve its Membership. In May 2019, VSRA moved into new headquarters located inside Downtown Norfolk's World Trade Center. Along with expanded offices and storage, this new space features two large, 40+ person capacity classrooms and state-of-the-art technology. The expansion has already proved beneficial, as VSRA has hosted more than 730 students in classroom training since moving to the new space. When the schedule allows, this space is available for meetings and offsites without a facility use charge, adding another benefit for VSRA's dedicated Member Companies.



## VSRA Hosts Open House & First Ever Networking Social

In June, VSRA opened the doors to the new office during its first annual evening networking social and open house. More than 200 VSRA Members, community partners, and Navy representatives attended the event.

## Foundation's Workforce Development Partnerships Lead to Funding, Awards

The Virginia Ship Repair Foundation had a banner year in 2019, partnering with many community organizations and educational entities to develop innovative programs to bring high-quality, highly-skilled workers into the Ship Repair industry. An additional \$500,000 in funding was included in the Governor's Budget Proposal, which would provide two more years of funds to the Marine Trade Training Program. This will allow expansion of capacity and capabilities, including development of Level 2 courses to create training pathways for entry-level workers.

The Foundation's work with the Academies of Hampton Maritime Academy led to recognition as the Commonwealth's Business / Industry Partner of the Year, an Award accepted by VSRF Chair Dawn Angrisani at an awards banquet in Richmond in July. The Foundation-led Maritime Academy was also named Advisory of the Year by the City of Hampton and received special recognition from Hampton City Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeffrey Smith and City Manager Mary Bunting for their excellent support of the Maritime program.

In a revolutionary partnership with the Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC), WHRO, Tidewater Community College, and the United Way, the Foundation was a key partner in a \$500,000 Department of Labor grant awarded to HRWC. The grant will develop the Women in Skilled Careers (WISC) program, which will provide soft-skills and technical training to women with the goal of attaining entry-level careers in the Ship Repair industry. Many VSRA Member Companies have signed-on as supporters of the WISC initiative, guaranteeing interviews to participants who complete the program.

Overall, the Foundation reached more than 18,000 students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members in 2019 – a record number that nearly doubles the number of students reached just two years ago. The extraordinary efforts of the Virginia Ship Repair Foundation are proving that Virginia's Ship Repairers don't just talk ship, they make ship happen.

## Tradesperson of the Year Awards

The VSRF's annual Tradesperson of the Year Awards highlight excellence in the Ship Repair workforce. In 2019, awards were presented to Senior Tradesperson of the Year Dirk Parker of Newport News Shipbuilding and Junior Tradesperson of the Year Axel Leon of BAE Systems Norfolk Ship Repair. Also recognized from the 19 nominees were Senior Runner-Up Elvis Vera and Junior Runner-Up Paul Flory, both from Oceaneering International. Throughout the year, these individuals served as excellent ambassadors for the Ship Repair industry. In addition to attending the Surface Warrior Ball and Ship Repair Race Night, they provided testimonial videos and starred in the annual VSRA holiday greeting message. These videos air on television and digital advertising throughout Virginia.



# 40 YEARS OF SUCCESS (AND COUNTING)

Founded in 1979 as the Tidewater Maritime Training Institute (TMTI), the Virginia Ship Repair Association and Virginia Ship Repair Foundation have served the maritime industry in Hampton Roads with enthusiasm for more than 40 years. While there have been no shortages of changes throughout these years, our Association and its Membership have proved to be resilient, agile, and proactive in serving the needs of the Ship Repair industry. Through partnership with the Navy customer, workforce development and training, industry awareness and outreach, and an energetic committee structure, the Virginia Ship Repair Association is proud to remain the *Strength Behind the Fleet*. As we enter 2020, we look forward to serving the industry and our community for another 40+ years.

WE DON'T JUST TALK SHIP.  
WE MAKE SHIP HAPPEN.

## BY THE NUMBERS



VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR  
FOUNDATION

\$131,182

RAISED FOR WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

17,632

STUDENTS &  
EDUCATORS REACHED

30,745

STUDENTS TRAINED  
(IN-CLASSROOM & ONLINE)



VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR  
ASSOCIATION

293

MEMBER COMPANIES

500

COMMITTEE MEETING  
ATTENDEES

1,682

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING ATTENDEES

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- ✓ WORKED WITH NAVY TO REDUCE DBIDS WAIT TIMES
- ✓ PARTNERED WITH OSHA & SCA TO BEGIN DEVELOPING SHIPYARD SAFETY PROFESSIONALS COURSE
- ✓ MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO RESOLVE CONTRACTING ISSUES
- ✓ COMPLETED FILMING OF 16 TESTIMONIAL VIDEOS FOR THE "MY SHIP REPAIR STORY" SERIES

## From the Leadership

For VSRA, 2019 was the “Year of the Testimonial.” As an Association and Foundation, our focus was on finding ways for the hardworking men and women of the Ship Repair industry to tell their stories. In collecting those testimonials, we learned a lot about the diverse workforce that exists in our industry. Most of all, we found that no matter their backgrounds, trades, or experiences, the comments they made had a common theme: if you’re looking for a great career to support yourself and your family, give Ship Repair a try. These videos have been compiled in a series on the VSRA YouTube Channel called “My Ship Repair Story.”

For this year’s annual report, we decided that the best message we could pass along would come from these individuals themselves. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of the men and women who truly are the Strength Behind the Fleet and encourage everyone in the industry to share their Ship Repair Story with friends, family, and neighbors.

Many thanks for an incredible year, and we look forward to more success in 2020, the year of “Making Ship Happen!”



Dave Thomas,  
VSRA Board Chair



Dawn Angrisani,  
VSRF Board Chair



Bill Crow,  
VSRA President

# THE YEAR OF THE TESTIMONIAL

*“I made the decision to start taking classes as a welder ... because it allowed me to be hands on. My future goal is to become a welding foreman and to be a future role model for women who want to join the industry.”*

– Keisha Holloman, Welder

*“In high school I knew I was destined for a trade to work with my hands. On my 18th birthday I got a call to come work and I’ve been here 35 years. There’s nothing more rewarding than seeing a ship that you worked on going down the river full of Navy personnel on their way to defend our country anywhere in the world.”*

– Tim Pastella, Shipfitter Specialist

*“I followed my dad’s footsteps into the shipyard industry 36 years ago as a helper, moved my way up to go into the apprenticeship program and now I’m an assistant superintendent of the pipe shop. I take pride in the job I do and the people I work with.”*

– Robert McCarthy, Pipe Assistant Superintendent

*“I knew college wasn’t for me and I needed a career that would support my family. You can do so in the shipyard industry even without a college education. I would recommend a shipyard industry job because it’s a great way to provide for your family and it’s an industry that’s always going to be in demand.”*

– Alma Winslow, Specialty Welder

*“To be a female welder is really a way to prove to yourself that you can do it just as much as the men can. It is a great opportunity to show your love for your job and move up the ranks.”*

– Candace Winslow, Pipe Welder, 2018 Junior Tradesperson Runner-Up

*“My brothers when they came home and talked about what they did every day at work and the people they dealt with and how they completed their jobs every day, it really inspired me to pursue this career. It was a real great opportunity.”*

– Harold Martin, Pipefitter, 2017 Junior Tradesperson of the Year

*“I was nominated as the 2019 Senior Tradesperson of the Year. I am very humble and appreciative for the Virginia Ship Repair Association. I’m trying to teach the younger generation there is a job out there! You can come into the shipyard and you can make a wonderful career.”*

– Dirk Parker, Welder, 2019 Senior Tradesperson of the Year

*“If you are interested in any of the careers working in the shipyard industry, this is one of the nicest places to grow not just as a mechanic but as a person.”*

– Elvis Vera, Outside Machinist, 2019 Senior Tradesperson Runner-Up

*“In Puerto Rico I was in the construction industry. One day, I called my uncle and asked him, and he told me to travel from Puerto Rico. Winning the Junior Tradesperson of the Year Award is an honor for me, and a result of my hard work and accomplished goals.”*

– Axel Leon, Plate Shop Welder, 2019 Junior Tradesperson of the Year