

Lilac Preservation Project Leadership

Joseph Casey has been a waterman since his days as a lifeguard and water safety instructor. After attending Northwestern Connecticut State University, Joe started Main Stream Canoe & Kayaks, which has served many Boy Scouts and inner city youth in Southern New England. He earned his United States Coast Guard (USCG) Master of Steam or Motor Vessels License with Towing Endorsement in 1992 and worked barges along the Connecticut and Thames Rivers. Joe entered the Corporate Safety arena in 1996 and has overseen and directed complex projects, including the refurbishment of the Intel chip plant in Hudson, Massachusetts and construction of the Yale Smilow Cancer Center in New Haven. As the Safety Director for Tishman Construction at Citigroup's world headquarters in Tribeca, New York, Joe had a bird's eye view of *Lilac* and Pier 25, rekindling his passion for old objects. He considers it an adventure to be part of getting *Lilac* operating.

Commander **Timothy Dring** retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 27 years of active and reserve duty service on board destroyers and frigates, as well as reserve duty in a number of assignments including composite Navy/Coast Guard coastal warfare/harbor defense units on the U.S East Coast, and an Atlantic Fleet carrier battle-group staff augmentation unit. He is the co-author, with William D. Wilkinson, of a book published in 2009 by the University Press of Florida, [*American Coastal Rescue Craft*](#), on the technical design history of all the coastal rescue lifeboats and surfboats ever used by the U.S. Coast Guard and its predecessor service, the U.S. Life Saving Service. This book won the best history book award from the Foundation for Coast Guard History in 2010. Commander Dring is a former board member of the U.S. Life-Saving Service Heritage Association, and is on the board of trustees for the Twin Lights Historical Society in Highlands, NJ. He is a regular author-contributor to the Heritage Association's journal *Wreck & Rescue* on. In 2010, he was given the U.S. Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Service Award for his years of volunteer assistance to the Coast Guard in researching, preserving, and teaching the history of rescue craft.

Brian Flanagan is a maritime attorney and former Coast Guard officer. Brian has been involved in the practice of maritime law in Boston and throughout the United States since 1985. He was Adjunct Professor of Maritime and Admiralty Law at Suffolk University Law School from 1989 through 2013. While in the Coast Guard, he was a deck officer on the Cutter *Bibb*, worked as a staff officer involved with law enforcement matters, and served as an advisor to the U.S. Department of State on treaty matters. He also served on assignment to the Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State (1982-1984) for the [Case Concerning Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary in The Gulf of Maine Area](#) [International Court of Justice 1984]. His J.D. is from Catholic University and his bachelor's degree is from Tufts University. His post-graduate education has included Studies in Strategy and Policy at the U.S. Naval War College Center for Continuing Education.

John Gallagher, Secretary, is an active volunteer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, including serving as a relief cook on active-duty cutters. His day job is Director for Technology: Administrative Organization and Business Effectiveness at Borough of Manhattan Community College, right across West Street from Hudson River Park's Pier 25. He is a lifelong educator with a deep commitment to public higher education, especially in film and the media arts. John introduced digital media production to both the City College of New York and Borough of Manhattan Community College where he built new post-production facilities around non-linear editing systems, shared storage, media asset management and HDTV.

Mary Habstritt, Museum Director, has been *Lilac's* chief executive since 2009. Previously, she was a freelance historical consultant researching and interpreting industrial sites and maritime topics. She is founder of the Historic Ships Coalition and a past president of the North River Historic Ship Society. Mary has served as President of the Society for Industrial Archeology and was, for several years, that organization's Events Coordinator. She has held several positions with the SIA's local Roebling Chapter, including Preservation Chair advocating for industrial heritage sites in New York and New Jersey. Her devotion to history and preservation

follows a career as an academic librarian, working at such institutions as the University of Minnesota and Pace University. She has a master's degree from Columbia University's School of Library Service.

Captain **Thomas R. Rice, Treasurer**, retired in 2003 after 26 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard. His last position was as Chief, Office of Command and Control, Operations Directorate, USCG Headquarters (2002 - 2003) and before that he served as Commanding Officer, USCG Navigation Center (1999 - 2002), but most of his career was spent on cutters. He was Commanding Officer, USCGC Mohawk (1997 - 1999) and Executive Officer on the USCGC Diligence (1991 - 1993) and the USCGC Chilula (1990 - 1991) and at the USCG Surface Effect Division (1987-1988). He served on the USCGC Gallatin as Operations Officer (1984 - 1987) and was First Lieutenant/Deck Watch Officer on the USCGC Bibb (1977 - 1979). His education includes a Master of Science in Information Systems Management from the Naval Postgraduate School and a B.S. in Management from the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. Tom also attended Aids to Navigation School and Maritime Law Enforcement School. His post active-duty experience included Senior Systems Engineer for CACI, Program Manager for Northrop Grumman and, before his second retirement, Program Manager for Precise Systems supporting the H-46 under NAVAIR.

Captain **Ed Westfall, President**, is currently the Director of Customer Success at Sikich Technology/Government Solutions where he leads a team specializing in innovative technological services and solutions. He previously worked as Deputy Director of Response Operations for the State of California. He is retired from the U.S. Coast Guard where he last served as Director of the Office of Emerging Policy. During his Coast Guard career he commanded five cutters including the buoy tenders ASPEN, WILLIAM TATE and RED CEDAR. Ed's non-profit experience includes being a board member of OurBrainBank for Glioblastoma and the DC Chapter of National Railway Historical Society