

**Letter from the President**  
**April 2007 Marine Technology**

In my last message I related that Naval Architects and Marine Engineers are essential to the National Security of maritime nations, especially to America. It is more true today than ever before and I want to thank those of you who have corresponded with me supporting that notion. Our profession must be attuned to the maritime events affecting our world today. One SNAME initiative to help our members stay current is a topical newsletter, shared with all members electronically, that will keep us all better informed on the issues affecting our membership.

Our profession needs to show renewed interest in several very current issues: Marine Environmental Protection, Maritime Energy Conservation, and Maritime-related Alternative Energy Sources. These are but a few of the challenges with which we are dealing on a day to day basis, and those of you who have had to develop "cold iron" plans, approve plans for offshore wind generators or tidal energy turbines, or pay fines for noncompliance of environmental laws, understand first hand what I am referring to. These issues should be taking center stage in SNAME-sponsored topical seminars and presentations.

In addition, I am sure that many of you are following the current Newspaper Reports, Inspector General reports and Congressional hearings related to the Design, Construction and Acquisition of Major Fleet renewal projects for the Navy and Coast Guard. Some reports indicate that the CG Vessels have structural/strength inadequacies and one of the LCS designs is significantly over budget and behind schedule. The Navy has stopped construction for a review, and the CG has also stopped a service life extension program on their 110ft Patrol Boats and may change the design of follow on National Security Cutters. With the acquisition process and engineering analysis tools available our profession has to wonder how this could be? Many of our members are involved in these projects and it will be interesting and informative, as the situation continues to develop, to hear their views and perhaps have presentations and papers that will keep us all informed from a Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering perspective.

To round out our forthcoming annual meeting, the SMTC&E and SPS in Fort Lauderdale Florida this November, we have added two major panels to the agenda; The Shipbuilding Panel and The Cruise Ship Panel. Each will consist of five distinguished members of that industry moderated by an industry expert. To allow full attention and participation, these panels will be scheduled in plenary sessions, without conflict with other events; so all conference attendees will have an opportunity to participate. Our Annual Meeting committee is working hard to develop a quality and topical program with extensive opportunities to "network" with the industry's represented as well as with each other.

Recently, after having completed a very informative orientation by our HQ Staff, Phil Kimball and I participated in the first Oversight Committee meeting with our ASNE colleagues discussing our strategic alliance. We have a significant

opportunity for both societies to advance our agendas, increase our memberships, and reduce support costs, to say nothing of the opportunity to better support our profession and bring value to our members by working together. I am optimistic that this initiative will result in benefits to all of our mutual members, many of whom belong to both societies.

As you know I will be leading a People-to-People Marine Industry Delegation to China this summer, July 8-20, 2007. SNAME has endorsed the delegation and we have also invited members of ASNE to join us. We hope to have a robust delegation of between 24-50 members. Our plan is to visit marine industry leaders, shipyards, and ship design groups throughout China. Please consider joining us.

As with any organization there always important current issues to attend to....for the near term my focus in keeping us on course will consist of:

- The Strategic Plan Update.
- SNAME / ASNE Strategic Alliance.
- Establishing a new SNAME Website.
- The Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale.
- A Relevant T&R Program.
- Finalizing the Plan to publish SNAME flagship books, especially Principles of Naval Architecture.
- Supporting the Student and Young Professional initiatives, and
- Membership and all that is related to it.

Please join me in a continued effort to have our Society recognized as the most relevant professional society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in the world..

Admiral Bob Kramek.

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