

May 30, 2024

The Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay Board of Directors is announcing the retirement of its President, Lisa Himber. “After 36 years of faithful service to the Maritime Exchange, Lisa Himber will retire at the end of this year. While she will be sorely missed, we are happy for Lisa as she sets out on a new voyage,” said Maritime Exchange Chairman John T. Reynolds.

Himber started at the Exchange in 1988 to help the association build its then-nascent TRACS cargo manifesting and Customs release program. Since then, she assumed increasingly responsible roles, becoming the Exchange’s first network administrator, then moving on to Computer Operations Manager, Director of Operations, and Vice President. She was named to the President’s position in 2021.



She has been responsible for the many activities designed to meet the organization's mission to promote and protect maritime commerce within the Delaware River and Bay port complex. As such, she has led Maritime Exchange government affairs and public policy initiatives and worked directly with legislative, administrative, regulatory, and enforcement agencies, including Customs, Coast Guard, USDA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. She has also overseen the Exchange’s Maritime On-Line port information and intelligence network, the numerous Exchange committees, membership initiatives such as the Delaware River 101 and 102 training programs and Maritime Matters, and the array of communications and publications the port community has come to rely on to ensure they are apprised of events as they occur and of longer-term trends.



Beyond the Maritime Exchange, Himber has engaged with local, regional, and national committees and organizations that focus on maritime transportation and efficient vessel, crew, and cargo processing. She was appointed by the U. S. Secretary of Homeland Security to the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee in 2005 and served as its Chair and in other leadership positions during her 10-year tenure. She is vice president of the National Association of Maritime Organizations and serves on the boards of the North Atlantic Ports Association, Seamen’s Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey, World Trade Association Delaware, Chilean & American Chamber of Commerce, and New Castle County Chamber of Commerce. She is past president of the Seamen’s Center of Wilmington and Maritime Information Service of North America and a former member of the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society board. Himber was also a founding member of the Delaware Bay Chapter of the Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association.

Himber leaves a long legacy of leadership and success, including:

- Building TRACS from scratch into a system now used by hundreds of people every day to meet Customs requirements and to clear cargo;
- Taking the Exchange newsletter from an infrequent membership mailer to *The Beacon*—a quarterly journal that now goes out to thousands in the region and across the country;
- Leading the TWIC reader standards development effort through the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee;
- Working with Coast Guard and Customs to advance electronic systems development;
- Opposing local dunnage processing requirements that increased costs and delayed cargo movement—which turned into a Delaware River pilot program that ultimately led to a change in national policy; and
- Building nationwide networks to:
 - advocate with Customs to help crewmembers in distress during COVID;
 - help fund Customs personnel;
 - fully fund the PORTS real-time tide and weather system; and
 - raise a strong voice on so many more issues of local and national significance.

Due to her many achievements, Himber has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the prestigious Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award. To highlight but a few others, she was also named an Honorary Customs Officer and recognized for leadership by the nine-state All Hazards Consortium. In 2021, Ms. Himber was inducted into the Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame, and she received the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society “Port Person of the Year” award in 2024.

“I had absolutely no idea that maritime would become my vocation when I first joined the Exchange staff,” Himber said. “Having the opportunity to help people every day, to learn so much about this vibrant, dynamic, critical industry and hopefully make it a little better, and to develop deep and lasting relationships with the people who work within it has been a unique and deeply rewarding experience.”

Please join the Exchange board and staff in extending best wishes to Himber in her retirement.