



ABOUT MPC

The Michigan Port Collaborative unites our ports and partners, recognizing that our Great Lakes and coastal assets are key to growing Michigan's economy, businesses and tourism, as well as protecting our precious and unique inland seas.

OUR MISSION

The Michigan Port Collaborative unites port communities working to develop our Great Lakes coastline as "Michigan's Front Door".

Our Great Lakes, ports and coastal assets are unique in the world and are critical to future efforts to enhance the Michigan economy. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining a robust waterfront economy that integrates marine passenger and freight transportation, commercial maritime operations, recreation, tourism and education about our region's history, while protecting the Great Lakes.

We are also dedicated to preserving and sharing Michigan's rich natural and Maritime heritage. We celebrate our Great Lakes and freshwater shoreline which offers unparalleled opportunities for recreation, tourism and to experience our authentic maritime history.

We believe additional State and Federal incentives and funding are essential to maintaining the economic strength of Michigan's ports and harbors to enhance the key role we play in sustaining Michigan's economy.

Please visit our website for more information: www.michiganportcollaborative.com



AGENDA

8:00-9:00am	Registration
9:00-9:15am	Welcome
9:15-9:30am	Don Gilmet, Vice President, Michigan Port Collaborative “About Michigan Port Collaborative”
9:30-10:00am	Chuck May, Chairman, Michigan Small Harbors Coalition “Small Harbors Coalition Update”
10:00-10:30am	Fred Stonehouse, Mayor of Marquette “Cruising the Great Lakes”
10:30-10:45am	Break
11:00-11:10am	Background MPC Economic Impact Study
11:10-12 Noon	Dr. Vince Magnini, PhD., Executive Director, Institute for Service Research “Big Reveal MPC Study Results”
12:00-1:30pm	Networking Lunch
1:30-2:00pm	Break – Hotel Checkout
2:00-3:00pm	Port Workshop Session – Dr. Vince Magnini and Bill Boik, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Retired

SPEAKERS



CHUCK MAY – Chairman, Michigan Small Harbors Coalition

Chuck May graduated from Purdue University with a degree in their Economic Honors Program, and from the University of Michigan with a masters in International Finance.

After 33 years of service, Chuck retired from Ford Motor, holding leadership positions in Finance, Internal Consulting, and Purchasing/Logistics. His experience with Ford included 2-3 year assignments in England and China launching new offices.

Since 2008, Chuck has led the effort to organize and speak for the collective voices of the 112 small federal harbors of the Great Lakes. Through officially-authorized Resolutions of Support from the harbor communities, the “Small Harbors Coalition” was established in 2008. As a unified voice to Congress, they called for the appropriate, and 100% use, of the Harbor Maintenance Tax for its intended purpose of maintaining all federally authorized/owned harbors of the Great Lakes and the Nation. Since 1998 over \$9 billion of this tax has been misappropriated to other than harbor maintenance.

Working with representatives of the large ports and larger commercial harbors of the Great Lakes, bills were passed in 2014 and 2017 authorizing the gradual increase in funding; reaching 100% by 2025. These efforts and the success in getting \$10 million in low-water emergency funding from the State of Michigan resulted in the Coalition achieving to keep harbor channels open.



FREDERICK STONEHOUSE – Mayor of the City of Marquette

Frederick Stonehouse has authored over thirty books on maritime history. The *Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* and *Haunted Lakes* series are regional best sellers. *Wreck Ashore: The U.S. Life-Saving Service on the Great Lakes* is the predominant work on the subject.

He has also been an on-air expert for History Channel, National Geographic and Fox Family. Honors include the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History award for historic interpretation (2006); Marine Historian of the Year by the Detroit Marine Historical Society (2007); “Distinguished Alumni Award” by Northern Michigan University (2014); C. Patrick Labadie Special Acknowledgement Award by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society for exceptional contributions to preservation, history and the dive community (2017); Lake Superior Magazine’s Lifetime Achievement Award (2018); and Certificate of Special Recognition by the State of Michigan for contributions to maritime history (2019).

Fred teaches Great Lakes maritime history at Northern Michigan University and is an active consultant for numerous Great Lakes oriented projects and programs. He has worked with the small ship cruise industry for the Canadian Maritimes, New England, and Great Lakes for twenty years. Long active in city government, he is currently Mayor of the City of Marquette.

SPEAKERS

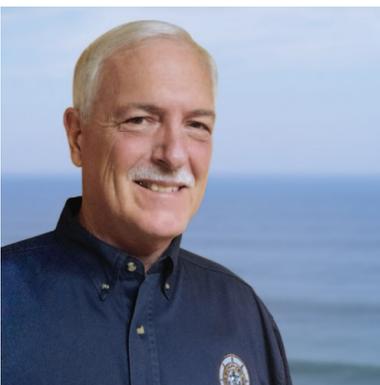


VINCENT MAGNINI – Executive Director of the Institute for Service Research

Dr. Vincent Magnini is the Executive Director of the Institute for Service Research. He was recently ranked as one of the top 12 most prolific hospitality researchers worldwide and holds editorial board appointments on all of the top-ranked research journals in the field. Further, he is a U.S. Fulbright Scholar.

Magnini has published six books and more than 250 articles and reports. He has also been featured on National Public Radio's *With Good Reason*, *All Things Considered*, *Pulse on the Planet* and cited in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

- Ph.D. in International Business / Marketing from Old Dominion University
- M.B.A from Wichita State University
- B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Virginia Tech



BILL BOIK – Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Retired

Bill Boik retired from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources after 30 years in the Waterways Program. He managed the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations of the state's boating facilities. These facilities included two locks, 19 harbors and over 1300 boating access sites across the state. Additionally, Bill managed the Waterways grants program including state-administered federal grants.

Bill now works as an independent consultant for boating facilities.

MPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FELICIA FAIRCHILD – President of the Michigan Port Collaborative

Ms. Fairchild is a seasoned executive with extensive experience in both the international and U.S. domestic travel industries. She began her career with Pan American World Airways where she served in various International Marketing, Public Affairs, and Public Relations positions in New York City. She also held executive-level marketing positions with Pacific Southwest Airlines and Air West International before joining UNICEF as Director of Communications for the United States.

She founded the Saugatuck-Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and served as its first Executive Director for over two decades. Fairchild is credited with having raised Saugatuck's tourism revenues 1,297% by generating over \$103 million in earned media.

As an appointed Travel Commissioner for the State of Michigan from 1993 to 2001, she founded Cruise Michigan and served as its Executive Director from 1998 through 2002. There Felicia was instrumental in bringing back luxury cruise ships to Michigan waters after an absence of 35 years. In 2003 Fairchild became the first president of Michigan's Beachtowns Association and served in that capacity until her resignation from the Saugatuck-Douglas Visitors Bureau in December 2016.

Her past & present maritime industry board service includes appointments to the board of directors of Cruising the Great Lakes, Inc. (1999-2002); Great Lakes Cruise Coalition (1999-2001); Michigan Small Harbors Coalition (2008-present); and Michigan Port Collaborative (2008-present).



DON GILMET – Vice President of the Michigan Port Collaborative

Donald H. Gilmet is currently the Building/Zoning/Harbor Official for the City of Alpena, a position he's held for the last 19 years.

He is actively engaged with the Michigan Port Collaborative and serves as Vice President. Don has been an integral part since it's inception. He also serves on various state and regional boards.

Don retired from the Army National Guard in 2002 with 38 years of service as a First Sergeant in the Infantry. Prior to employment with the City of Alpena, Don owned and operated Gilmet Construction Company, and taught Building trades at Alpena High School.

Don is married to Glenda Gilmet and has six children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He and his wife still operate Gilmet Construction Services.

MPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MARCI CISNEROS – Treasurer of the Michigan Port Collaborative

Marci Cisneros is the Executive Director of the Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; a destination marketing organization whose mission is to promote, market, and publicize the Grand Haven Area for overnight stays for visitors, business travelers, and tourism-related activities.

Marci has been an active member of the tourism industry for 20 years. She is one of the founding members of Michigan Port Collaborative and currently serves as Treasurer. Additionally, she is involved as Vice President of Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy, a board member of Michigan's Beachtowns, West Michigan Tourism Association, Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited, and a member of Grand Haven Rotary.

After spending ten years in Tennessee, and studying Business Management & Marketing at Tennessee Tech University, she moved back home to West Michigan to head the Grand Haven Area CVB.

Cisneros understands the important role that ports play in all sectors of commerce and industry, locally and across the state.



DENNIS BLUE – Secretary of the Michigan Port Collaborative

Dennis Blue graduated from Michigan State University in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. There ensued a thirty-year career with Ford Motor Company, fourteen of which were served in Venezuela, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil with his wife and two children.

Immediately following his retirement from Ford in 1988, Mr. Blue began charter fishing businesses in Michigan and Florida, guiding fishing expeditions throughout the U.S., and Central and South America.

Mr. Blue has published two memoirs about his career at Ford and his twenty-eight-year career as a professional charter captain. He is currently a member of the board for the Portage Lake Harbor Commission and Manistee County Sport Fishing Association. Blue is also an active board member of Michigan Port Collaborative, serving as Secretary.

Dennis and his wife, Dottie, are the grandparents of six and share their time between Onekama and Mason, Michigan.