



Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins

Marseille, May 2018

MARSEILLE, PORT OF CALL FOR PASSENGER AND CARGO SHIPS

The usual activities of Association Marseillaise d'Accueil des Marins (A.M.A.M.), founded in 1995, are:

- to visit cargo ships and their crews in the afternoon, and
- to welcome seafarers in the evening in its Seamen's Club located in the Port area.

An important new service was started in 2004: to welcome the seafarers from the cruise liners.

Since April 2004, we have been receiving crews in large premises specially built for this purpose, located near the new Passenger Terminal - Marseille Provence Cruise Terminal. These premises were kindly donated to us by the Port Authorities who built them especially for us. On November 2014, we celebrated the 300 000th seafarer welcomed at the Seamen's Club. In 2010, 2011 and 2012 we received more than 40 000 seafarers a year. Last year (2017), due to some unusual circumstances, 12 000 came to the Seamen's Club.

In this Seamen's Club we have two large rooms and one terrace.

- one room is dedicated to one of the main services provided to the crews, like in so many Seamen's Clubs, which is to help them communicate with their families. We have four computers with cable connection, although more and more seafarers use their own equipments: lap-tops, tablets, smartphones In addition, we provide them with some cordless phones and they are used to buying telephone cards for our Wifi connection.
- in the other room, the seafarers can play billiards, baby-foot, or have a rest in some armchairs and a sofa .We also operate a small shop with Asian products, drinks and souvenirs.

On the terrace, the seafarers can play table tennis and we plan to set up a basket for basketball.

We print different newspapers in many languages, on demand.

This Seamen's Club is now open all the year round (originally we only opened from March until the end of October), generally four or five days a week.

To welcome the seafarers we have some volunteers and also a Welcoming Shipping Agent. Twenty two volunteers came last year; some come once or twice a week, generally for half a day, including Saturdays and Sundays.

The association only has one full time paid employee, who is the General Manager.

We generally hire two other employees on six months and twenty hours a week contracts.

Usually two or three volunteers are present to welcome the seafarers.

G rard PELEN

President of AMAM

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