



January 4, 2012

Dear World Ship Society Port of New York Branch Member,

We regret to inform you that the election of World Ship Society officers for 2012-2013 is in dispute.

Following the regular nomination and recruitment process as defined by the Constitution of the World Ship Society, Port of New York Branch, a non-contested slate of officers, approved by majority board vote, was sent to the membership for ratification. Shortly thereafter, the Chairman of Nominations and Recruitment and another member of the board, making unauthorized use of World Ship Society letterhead and e-mail addresses, and without the knowledge of the full World Ship Society Port of New York Branch Board of Directors, secretly sent to specifically targeted branch members an e-mail and letter concerning the election. These messages requested that the recipients cross out two candidates' names on the non-contested slate and substitute the names of two other persons.

Neither of the substitute names was presented to the full Board of Directors as a candidate for those offices for 2012-2013, and all of these actions took place after the Constitution's deadline for officer nominations had passed. The e-mail instructed recipients to mail the amended slate not to the Branch's PO Box, but to the home address of the Chairman of Nominations and Recruitment, where the purported votes were tallied without oversight or verification. The Chairman of Nominations and Recruitment did not disclose the results of the secret vote to the Board of Directors, but instead announced at the December 9 membership meeting that the purported substitute candidates had won.

In light of the foregoing, there exists a dispute concerning the results of the election. Therefore, the majority of the Board of Directors of the Branch will not transfer authority to those who were announced as the new officers at the December 9 membership meeting.

The World Ship Society Port of New York Branch's Board of Directors will make every effort to resolve this dispute as quickly as possible. Until it is resolved, however, we are suspending the business of the Port of New York Branch of the Society. There will be no membership meeting or program on January 27, no January issue of The Porthole, and no other branch activity of any kind until there is a resolution of the disputed election. Although we hope to move past this crisis shortly and resume the Branch's normal activities, we will be glad to refund the 2012 dues of any member who so advises us in writing.

Sincerely,

The majority of the Board of Directors, World Ship Society, Port of New York Branch

Bob Allen	Doug Friedlander	Carol Miles
Alan Borthwick	Stuart Gewirtzman	Tom Rinaldi
Richard Faber	David Hume	Ted Scull