

# WCI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SOUTHWEST SHIPYARD



**Brady Island facility located on the Houston Ship Channel.**

**S**outhwest Shipyard was founded in 1954 when Henry Hilliard recognized the need for a barge fleet facility in Channelview, Texas to serve Houston’s expanding ship channel. As traffic in the ship channel grew, so did their customers’ needs for fleet, as well as repair, while the barges were idle. Mr. Hilliard quickly met these demands, which marked their entry into the repair market. They continued building their business based on a reputation for quality, service, and safety. That reputation now spans more than six decades and three generations of family ownership. Over the years, the company Mr. Hilliard started has changed quite a bit by continuing to respond to market needs. Southwest Shipyard has, and continues to, operate on the principle of listening to

## SOUTHWEST SHIPYARD, L.P.



**FASTER - SAFER - BETTER**

customers’ ever-changing needs and by continuing to diversify to better meet those needs. Today, Mr. Hilliard’s grandson, Henry “Hank” Hilliard, is Chairman of the Board.

Southwest Shipyard currently operates four shipyard facilities along the Texas Gulf Coast - all with convenient deep-water access to the Gulf of Mexico servicing the marine industry. Southwest Shipyard currently provides

services that include new construction, major conversions, topside repairs, drydocking, surface preparation, painting, gas freeing, cleaning, steaming, flaring, and water treatment. Capability highlights include over 900,000 square feet of indoor fabrication space, 500-ton crane capacity, and an enclosed 200’ x 54’ blast and paint shop in New Construction. In Barge and Boat Repair, a 300’ x 80’ indoor paint booth is accessible along with deep-water drydock capacity of 24’ draft above the blocks. Barge Cleaning, Steam Dock, and Water Works boast 2 state-of-the-art USCG certified flares (99.999% destruction efficiency), 4 state-of-the-art LPG flares, and the ability to accommodate 30,000-barrel (1.2 million gallon) barge water shipments, respectively.

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As one of the largest shipyards and barge cleaning facilities on the Gulf Coast, Southwest Shipyard is equipped to build and repair a wide range of barges, inland vessels, OSVs, ferries, tugs, and dredges. Their 14 drydocks and four rail systems are capable of hauling out up to fourteen 30,000bbl barges at a time on land, giving them one of the most substantial out-of-water repair capacities in the industry.

Their management team and workforce are some of the most highly trained, experienced, and dedicated in the industry. Together they are focused on safely providing quality in everything they do, and they take great pride in the fact that they do it all “Faster, Safer, Better” to live up to their motto. With a workforce of over 600 people, they were able to maintain a TRIR of 0.85 last year. Southwest Shipyard has proudly continued to accomplish impressive safety results with a TRIR under 1.0 for the past five years.

With Scott Theriot joining their team in 2020 as President and CEO, Southwest Shipyard is excited not only to continue strengthening their core business but also to continue diversifying in new markets. Scott said, “We highly value the work and information provided by WCI on projects and



**Galveston New Construction facility located on Pelican Island.**

legislation that could impact our industry and company, today and in the future. Having this resource is a great way to stay informed and helps us manage our operations in these challenging times. We look forward to fostering our relationship with WCI in the years to come as we continue to diversify our repair and new construction operations in both the commercial and government sectors.”

For more information:

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## SAVE THE DATES FOR WCI ANNUAL MEETING AND FALL WATERWAYS SYMPOSIUM, NOVEMBER 2-4



**WCI will meet at the new Live! by Loews-St. Louis in early November.**

After last year’s Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium were held virtually due to COVID-19, this year, WCI will hold its Annual Meeting, Board of Directors meeting, other WCI meetings and the Symposium in-person, November 2–4 in St. Louis at the Live! by Loews hotel near Busch Stadium.

Live! by Loews - St. Louis is an “all-new, unprecedented luxury St. Louis experience in the midst of the city’s sports and entertainment mecca of Ballpark Village steps away from iconic Busch Stadium. With first-class hospitality and superior amenities.” The agenda—which will include a special dinner event at the ballpark—and registration details will soon be provided. Look forward to seeing you there! ❖