



# Schooner Western Union

PRESERVATION SOCIETY & MARITIME MUSEUM

OFFICIAL FLAGSHIP OF FLORIDA & THE CITY OF KEY WEST



February 01, 2017



Key West Bight Management District Board  
510 Greene Street  
Key West, FL 33040

Re: 2017-01 KWBB / schooner Western Union Restoration Progress Report

## Board of Directors

William M. Barry  
*Chairman*

Frank Holden  
*Secretary*

John Dolan-Heitlinger  
*Treasurer*

Richard Manley  
*Project Management*

Cori Convertito  
*Historian*

Donald E. Yates  
*Attorney*

Guy de Boer  
*Past President/Chair*

John Jones  
*City Relations*

Edwin O. Swift, III  
*At Large*

- A. The schooner, still on the boatyard rails and largely opened, was inspected Jan. 09 by the United States Coast Guard wooden boat restoration ship inspectors.
  - a. Present were SWU Marine Surveyor & Shipwright, Capt. Allen Taube, SWU Capt. Lenn Verreau, SWUPS Chair, William Barry, MarPro Shipwright Capt. George Georgio.
- B. With much of the ship now opened the USCG requested that an updated refit (repair) plan be submitted. The SWU licensed & certified Marine Surveyor, Capt. Taube completed a very comprehensive recommended refit plan. Taube's plan was so complete the USCG approved the updated refit plan in an unprecedented 24-hrs.
  - a. The updated refit plan restores the vessel to both the USCG and the Secretary of Interior Guidelines for restoration of a wooden vessel.
  - b. The ships internal flooring (known as Ceiling on a vessel that sits above the ribs) was largely removed and revealed several of the schooner's frames (ribs) were severely deteriorated from deck fresh water leaks. It has been determined and approved by the USCG that all but one of the ribs can be rebuilt in place and when complete will be stronger than the original frame. This is also significantly less costly than replacing the ribs.
  - c. The schooner's deck is to be replaced to end leaking after the below water line work is complete.
- C. The Transom (rear) of vessel has been mostly removed and is being reconstructed.
- D. Upon completion of the Transom the schooner will be jacked up in sections and a steel shoe will be wrapped around the length of the keel to prevent "hogging" (keel warping) of the vessel. This is a common practice with an 80-yr. wooden ship.

William M. Barry  
Chairman

Copy: Sue Harrison, City Clerk, CKW,  
Doug Bradshaw, Port & Marina Dir., CKW  
SWUPS BOD

[www.SchoonerWesternUnion.org](http://www.SchoonerWesternUnion.org) ■ [wmbarry@outlook.com](mailto:wmbarry@outlook.com) ■ Phone (305) 240-0898

P.O. Box 4379, Key West, FL 33041 ■ 201 William Street, Key West FL 33040

The Schooner Western Union Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit-organization FEI # 20-5958968. A COPY OF OUR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING (800) 435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE.

*Florida's Historic Sailing Maritime Museum*