

**Maritime College Alumni Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2019**

Meeting held at:

SUNY Maritime College

6 Pennyfield Avenue, Bronx, NY

**Officers** – Voting Members Present (Name and Position):

- Jennifer Barnes-Hayes, President
- Mike Brown, 1st Vice President
- Kevin Comerford, 2nd Vice President
- Anthony DeSimone, Secretary
- John Valvo, Treasurer

**Board Members:**

- Kevin Danko
- Ted Mason
- Annmarie Bhola
- Victor Corso
- Mike Trotta\*

**Chapter Presidents**

- Marianne Michaelsen-Sanderson,  
Carolinas Chapter\*
- Jamie McNamara, NJ Chapter\*
- Robert Rose, NJ Chapter\*

**SUNY Maritime Staff**

- Adm. Michael Alfultis
- Douglas Hasbrouck
- Ashley Scotti

**Staff**

- Saira Yoo, Director

**Guest**

- Jim Maloney, Lawyer

\*Attended by Phone:

**1800**

**Call to order**

Jennifer Barnes Hayes discussed the agenda format.

Alumni Association Chapter applications were received.

**Motion** by John Valvo second by Mike Brown to accept the Carolinas, New Jersey, and Delaware Valley Chapters as approved chapters with voting rights for year 2019, pending a satisfactory review of each application.

**Motion carried.**

Jennifer discussed chapter president elections and chapter voting rights. She posed the question of how the Association would handle an increase in chapters with voting rights and potential second order effects.

Jennifer asked what the Board thought of a term cap for chapter presidents and Board Members. The Board mentioned there

**1810**

#### **Charities Bureau Registration**

Jim Maloney discussed the Association's MOA with the College. The Association must register with the Charities Bureau in the near future.

A certificate of incorporation and a copy of the bylaws, signatures, and a few other items are required to register.

The proposed agreement with the Charities Bureau was explained.

The doing business as DBA was brought up by John Valvo. He inquired about the possibility of registering the Association DBA in additional states.

Jim explained that would not be required as this Association are the only Maritime College Alumni Association.

Victor Corso asked what potential ramifications were to other states having an objection to our DBA.

Jennifer would like someone to inquire with the charities bureau if the Association should register the DBA for that state.

**1820**

#### **Treasurers Report**

John Valvo discussed the Financials for January. The Association's bookkeeper is still entering data.

Events expenses were discussed.

Preliminary data is in for the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. A positive net profit was recorded.

Expenses are yet to be recorded for January.

John Valvo discussed a line item review of the budget.

The hardship scholarship was discussed. It is itemized as outreach expense.

Membership dues by year were discussed. Several years ago, 3-year membership payments were accepted which skewed the figures.

The Association's Membership drive was discussed.

Annmarie suggested membership benefits such as web courses.

Jennifer discussed a possible move towards a dues-free association.

The Board spoke about alternative means of donation collection to offset dues.

The SST appeals will go out to membership soon. Funds are distributed for scholarships in April.

The Board must make a decision on how much scholarship will be awarded for 2019.

Mike Brown said by the third week in March, scholarship recipients will be determined. Communication with cadets on scholarship awareness is low. The scholarship has been announced at every regimental activity in recent weeks. The scholarship application deadline is February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Comerford inquired about a large donation to the underway fund.

## **1840**

Jennifer brought up the Association Facebook page. Since the board cannot monitor comments on posts constantly, comments should be turned off. The Association does not want the Facebook page to be a platform for political opinion commentary.

The general meeting is typically held at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. The meeting can be moved to homecoming weekend. There is a much larger audience at homecoming weekend.

Jennifer discussed the Parlin, NJ office possibly being closed in the near future. She explained much work occurs on campus and remotely. The Association conducts a lot of work through QuickBooks. Logistics to move operations from the Parlin office to Maritime College were discussed by the Board. Adm. Michael Alfultis suggested using the shredding service Maritime College subscribes to.

The Association will no longer receive hand written credit card information.

Location of the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was discussed.

## **1900**

Ted Mason discussed the Captain Tomb Speaker Series to occur on Maritime College campus. The Association will evaluate speakers and programs. If the speaker series is thought to be unsatisfactory the funds for the series should be applied to the SST scholarship.

## **1905**

### **Events**

Anthony DeSimone discussed New Alumni to be held at Michael's Waterfront on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

John Valvo explained the event would be improved if mentors were provided a framework of conversation.

Anthony DeSimone will reach out to classmates to bring in a mentor group 10-15 years out of college.

Kevin Danko will chair the New Alumni Night Event.

Admiral suggested sharing objectives with the school so students can be somewhat prepared for the interaction.

## **1915**

### **Chapter Reports**

Maryanne Sanderson discussed Carolinas Chapter deciding on the next meeting location.

Jim Yahner was unable to call in but Maryanne reported on the Long Island Chapter's April dinner at Bertuci's Restaurant.

San Diego would like to go through the process to become a formal chapter. They would like the Admiral to visit.

Carl Hausheer and Maryanne have been mentoring San Diego in moving towards establishing a chapter.

Maryanne suggested that she be listed on the alumni association website as a chapter liaison.

Jamie McNamara discussed the recent New Jersey Chapter event. He thanked Jennifer for attending the event. There are several events lined up for 2019.

Jennifer wants to distribute dates and deadlines for Board objectives to achieve in the near future.

## **1923**

### **College Report**

Adm. Michael Alfultis thanked the Association for his recent award at the Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner. He offered up college facilities for keeping historical documents.

He thanked the Association for backing up the College on several decisions.

The College's new football staff was discussed.

He urged the Association to encourage alumni to apply to work aboard the summer sea term.

On June 20, 2019 the training ship will have a port visit in Manhattan. It would be great to have an alumni event tied to the ship visit.

The College provides stacks of membership forms on the training ship during the summer sea term.

Updating of the ceremonial plaque of past Alumni Association Presidents.

It is growing more difficult to develop student class identity. It would help for homecoming and other unifying experiences.

The Ring Dance was replaced by the Ring Dinner to make the event more ceremonial.

A formal senior toast will be held prior to graduation. These experiences are aimed to develop a stronger alumni base.

The school is now 30% intern students. The school needs to seek out ways of holding unifying experiences.

Anthony DeSimone suggested students use program specific unifying experiences such as Capstone Courses or projects.

## **1935**

John Valvo requested distribution of the committee list. There are moving parts for next year's audit that must be addressed. Work on the RFP is not yet completed. Commitments in our MOU require we move forward with audit committee work earlier than the Association has done in the past.

Ted Mason asked about the annual report. The report is currently in Bridget Bendo and Leo Imperial's hands.

Grader access to the scholarship grading system was discussed.

Sponsors for the spring networking event are still sought after.

**1942**

**Motion to adjourn** by John Valvo and second by Annmarie Bhola.

Motion carried.