

Maritime College Alumni Association
General Meeting Minutes for October 24, 2019

Meet Held at:
SUNY Maritime College
Bronx, NY 10465

Officers – Voting Members Present

- Jennifer Barnes-Hayes, President
- Kevin Comerford, 2nd Vice President
- John Valvo, Treasurer
- Annmarie Bhola, Assistant Treasurer

Board Members

- Kevin Danko
- Carl Hausheer
- Mike Trotta
- John LaGrassa
- Ted Mason
- Sam Reilly
- Victor Corso
- Leo Imperial

Chapter Presidents

- Dennis Brennan
- Jim Yahner

Past Presidents

- John Bradley

Staff

- Saira Yoo
- Doug Hasbrouck - SUNY
- RADM Mike Alfultis - SUNY

1800

Call to order

Approval of Minutes

Motion by John Valvo and second by Kevin Comerford to approve the September 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion Carried.

Motion by Ted Mason and second by John Valvo to accept the 19 October 2019, General Meeting Minutes.

Motion Carried.

Chapter Reports

Jim Yahner Reported on the Long Island Chapter event scheduled for 13 Nov. in Farmingdale.
Carl Hausheer reported on the potential for an Eastern CT chapter setup. There is also interest in a new Chapter in IL (Chicago Indianapolis), Saira and or Ashley were following up.

1807

Treasurer's Report

John Valvo reviewed the MCAA financials.

He discussed the that the Underway was doing well. He also discussed that the June Golf Classic revenue is looking good, but not all costs have been applied. The Ancient Mariner Golf Outting was slightly under budget even though overall registration was down this year over last 180 registrations last year vs 129 this year, expect to finish on budget.

1811

Report of the Board of Director's

Jennifer shared her thanks for the all who helped to make the homecoming a successful event. The membership tent in the tailgate area resulted in 40 new renewals.

The Membership meeting held in the events room on campus saw an increase in attendance about 80 participants this year vs only about 20 at the previous membership meeting.

The was a suggestion offered to add another location for the membership sign-ups in the Quad next year as well to catch Alumni who may not visit the Tailgate area.

There was a discussion about Fort Schuyler Shipmates (FSS) facebook group and how there was feeling the Board members would be prevented from posting on that page.

Jennifer shared that she talked to Bill Bartsch about what he wanted and he said he wants a partnership between the FSS group and the MCAA.

Jennifer expressed here concerns over jeopardizing the association's non-profit status.

Jennifer shared a discussion that she had with Bridget Bendo. Bridget spoke to John Konrad about in appropriate content posts on FSS specifically a picture of an undressed female. John told Bridget that picture cost Bill Bartsch a lot of money. Which raised additional concerns of the "partnership" between MCAA and the FSS group.

-Vic Corso clarified that the woman in the picture was not identifiable.

Jennifer explained the additional concerns of potential impropriety of members could have an adverse effect on the association's insurance and that we are required the disclose any potential liabilities to the carrier.

Jennifer recommend that some due diligence should be taken around claims of any damages paid for the inappropriate posts on FSS Group page.

Leo Imperiale asked the question "what does the board want". He submitted the association should be working to increase outreach to Alumni and presence.

-Jim Yahner added that the FSS group page is an entertainment site

RADM Alfultis shared that he was approached by Bill Bartsch about helping advertise for the school and he declined as the FSS Group page has made several inappropriate posts about female cadets and the Current Commandant of Cadets. RADM Alfultis does not want any affiliation with FSS group site, he further encouraged Alumni to denounce the inappropriateness of the FSS group posts.

Jennifer reminded the board that internal communications are not to be distributed outside the board before the board has an opportunity to reviewed and approve. As a board member you have a fiduciary duty.

-Dennis Brennan added that Bill Bartsch has been helpful in the setup of the San Diego Chapter and while he agrees the content of the FSS Group is Inappropriate he believes Bill's intention is keep up excitement.

Jennifer also shared that Bill Bartsch has made posts on another site, Rotary International, that was also inappropriate and demeaning to the Black Community. Howy Wishe of the Black Maritime Grads questioned the post. Although Bill Bartsch's stated intentions are raise excitement and fundraising, the methods are objectionable.

-Carl Hausheer added that the Mission of the San Diego chapter is separate from the mission of the FSS group which is one of entertainment.

-RADM Alfultis wants to continue to encourage diversity and questions how that can be successful if there were any associations with the FSS group that clearly degrades women.

1836

Events Committee

Kevin Danko discussed reviewed the homecoming event and noted that Saira and he have noted what preps were made for the event and opportunities to make improvements for the future. Sair and Kevin will be working on a digital storage of event "sop". The Fall Networking and Nominations Event will be held at Reichenbach Hall on 26 November.

Kevin Danko and Doug Hasbrouck have met to identify events that both the College and the Association can mutually support. Doug shared the calendar from the College's website that identifies College and Association events. Kevin will send out a link separately that be accessed from your mobile devices.

-Dennis Brennan suggested we look at potential events in the future that include MARAD

-Ted Mason suggested we continue to look for opportunities to hold joint events with other organizations and gave examples of Navy League events recently held

1845

Public Relations Committee

Kevin Danko reported on work he and Saira have been doing to clean-up the website and social media platforms, we have many media which not consistent and carry different information. The goal is to standardize the approach to digital outreach and maintain consistency throughout the platforms so if an alumnus prefers to get their information from Twitter or facebook or Instagram they should be able to get the necessary information.

The website also needs work to clean-up and reformat. As part of the website clean-up efforts two new sections will be added. The first section will be a "meet the board" page. Each board member will have a picture and a short bio, with their board positions. That second section will be an "FAQ" section, this will be an effort to collect the most commonly asked questions and provide answers. This section will also include a brief history of the Alumni Association.

-John Valvo added that we need to reestablish the Graduate list access.

There was a discussion on where we are with our database management and the status of merging records with College. There were also questions on how we get information from Alumni that we have lost touch with.

-Dennis Brennan added that the list that the '64 grads is comprehensive.

-Doug Hasbrouck added that the College has a full-time person working to clean-up the database and they solicit updates when the reunion classes are contacted. The Database merge is expensive and time consuming.

-John Bradley added that KP does a great job setting new cadets with mentors right away that builds their Alumni from the start and a stronger bond.

Jennifer added that you don't have to be on the board to be a committee member, the committee chairs are board members and will report on progress to the board.

1914

Magazine Committee

Ted mason stated we should make sure to include the new website additions of FAQ and Bio's in the next magazine.

Bridget Bendo needs input for the newsletter that comes from the President of the board.

1920

Fund-merger and Consolidation

Kevin Comerford rewrote the resolution to consolidate to 7 funds. He asked FTI how long they need to consolidate the funds and they need 6 weeks. Kevin will send out a resolution to for an e-mail vote by the board to be completed by November.

The consolidation should satisfy the requirements of future financial audits.

1923

Nominations

Mike Trotta reported he has 1 nomination for the ballet and we should continue to get the word out.

The nomination process should be posted to website.

1926

Honors Committee

Ted Mason reported that there is the potential for the significant attendance, John West would like to invite several people. We should be highly publicizing the event.

Halsey Hereshoff will be the guest presenter. Leo asked when the official invite can be ready to send out. Saira added that the constant contact e-mail has already been sent out

-Anmarie needs info from the recipients ASAP so she can work on the video.

-Leo and Ted are coordinating the Awardee coins

1934

Membership Committee

Carl Hausheer reported that there is interest in forming the CT Chapter. He also noted that Chapter Facebook pages are closed groups and could be a source of contacts for the database.

New Business

We should consider forming a database committee when we are closer to the merge details. The committee can determine what the process should be for merging and policies for data sharing.

Saira reported that that Assistant Director has resigned. She also noted that we are need of equipment upgrades so we can be more agile during events like homecoming. For membership sign-ups and look ups. We need to discuss where all documents can be stored with “cloud” based solution.

AnnMarie noted that we should have a history brief of the Alumni Association to answer any questions members may have. This will be posted on the website and Ted Mason will work to compile.

Vic Corso noted that the website posting of board minutes is not current and hasn't been updated since 2017. He also noted that the Alumni association has an office on campus, and it is not manned. He also recommended that we post webinars to the members and post to the website. AnnMarie to make recommendation to Saira and Kevin.

Jennifer reported that he and Jennifer discussed a travel program. The travel program included organized trips of interest to Alumni and could be reason get people together. Jennifer to send out the power point file describing the program.

Ted reported that the College will be hosting an NROTC prep program that will lead to full NROTC scholarships for the successful program grads. The class will start with 7 recipients the cost for the individuals will be \$8500 ea. And needs funding support. He also noted this was a diversity opportunity.

Ted also reported that Don Krom was not onsite for his class reunion, Class of '57, he will follow-up with Don to make changes to the Don's Scholarship fund requirements.

John Bradley and Ted Mason both noted that FTI stumbled when asked about their fees to manage the scholarship funds. The board needs to get back to the membership with a clear answer. FTI can add a fee schedule to their presentation that can be distributed.

2011

Motion to adjourn by John Valvo second by John Bradley.

Motion carried.