

**Maritime College Alumni Association
General Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2020**

Meeting held at:
SUNY Maritime College
6 Pennyfield Ave, Bronx, NY 10465

Officers – Voting Members Present

- John Valvo, President
- Mike Brown, 1st Vice President*
- Sam Reilly, 2nd Vice President
- Anthony DeSimone, Secretary
- Kevin Comerford, Treasurer
- Annmarie Bhola, Assistant Treasurer

Board Members:

- Carl Hausheer*
- Kevin Danko
- Ted Mason
- Victor Corso
- Chris Nystrom
- Marissa Danzy
- John Bradley – Past President

Chapter Presidents

- Art Sulzer*
- Jim Yahner*
- Jamie McNamara*
- Marianne Michaelsen-Sanderson*

Maritime College

- Doug Hasbrouck

Staff

- Saira Yoo, Director

18:00

Call to order

John Valvo discussed the previous approval of the January MCAA Board Meeting Minutes.

John welcomed Sam as new VP and Marissa Danzy as a new board member.

Chapter Reports

Carl Hausheer discussed the upcoming NJ chapter event March 4th.

John suggested Carl get some additional help with Membership activities.

Art Sulzer had an organizational talk last week on Amelia Earhart and aviation. Approximately 10 chapter members attended.

May 20th is Maritime Day. He encourages members of the Board to attend.

John mentioned that Art made several great suggestions on how the Association could improve.

Kevin Comerford discussed a March 4th event for the NJ Chapter in Metuchen.

Jamie McNamara then discussed efforts for additional NJ Chapter events.

18:10

Director's Report

Profits from the Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner are up this year over last year.

New Alumni Night March 12.

Spring Networking May 14 – likely the same venue, Bourbon St. Looking for sponsors.

The Golf Classic will be held on June 8.

2020 Homecoming will be October 17.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates: 3/19 NYC, 4/9 Bronx (attempting to coordinate this event around Spring Fest at Maritime College), 5/21 NYC, 6/25 Bronx.

Art Sulzer recommended moving a Board Meeting to the same date as the Admiral's Dinner to welcome more membership to attend.

Marianne discussed a spring event to be held in either Charleston or Atlanta.

18:23

Treasurer's Report

Kevin Comerford discussed the draft of the 2020 Budget. It will be voted on at the March MCAA Board Meeting.

He reviewed the Alumni Association Funds. There was solid growth in 2019.

He discussed goals for Scholarship Funds. Scholarships are only paid using interest and dividends.

Sam Reilly mentioned if we moved more towards a dividend-centric portfolio, the Association could bring in additional income for Scholarship.

John Valvo requested Board Members volunteer for scholarship essay grading.

Kevin asked if the Board could locate representatives for each of the funds.

Annamarie Bholá can dig through the Fund's MOUs to locate a representative for each.

18:35

Committees

John Valvo requested Board Members get involved with additional committees.

Members volunteered for various committees.

John Valvo wants regular discussions with Committee leads.

18:45

Membership

Kevin Danko wants to work on tiered levels of membership based on contribution to potentially allowed for future dues-free memberships. He'd also like to clearly show what each level of membership gives to the member.

The Committee will also work on membership data integrity.

Doug Hasbrouck discussed discrepancies in the database records.

Chapters

Carl Hausheer keeps a current listing of chapter presidents and members.

Events

Kevin Danko discussed Hoops Across America. They'd like to connect alumni all over through online shared viewing of athletics.

The New Alumni Night and Tomb Lecture will both be held on the same night.

The MCAA would like some presence at the CMA.

The Admiral began a new event, the Senior Toast. Kevin said the College would like more alumni participation in this event.

The end of June is typically our last Board Meeting of the Summer. June 25, 2020 could be a night for a Maritime College event for watching the fireworks over Fort Totten.

Scholarship

The Summer Sea Term appeal was discussed.

Nominating

Mike Trotta discussed the SOP and By-Law Changes to be reviewed.

Auditing

John Valvo would like the Auditing Committee to meet and have their RFP out to the Board by April.

Auditors get started by early May. We'll have to investigate how fund consolidation impacts our audit.

Honors

Ted Mason discussed the Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner.

Doug Hasbrouck said the College would like to have an annual meeting with the Association about potential recipients.

Legal

John Valvo asked about Officer and Director Liability Insurance.

Magazine

Bridget Bendo has reached out to John Valvo for the President's message to be included in the 2020 Publication.

Public Relations

Kevin Danko discussed the Association's website. The Committee has received a proposal. The site should be updated to modernize it and improve posted information.

Annmarie asked about the website developer and what platforms they work on. She mentioned a web developer that works with non-profit companies.

John Bradley did note that Annmarie should look into the developer she described.

19:15

Motion by Kevin Danko and second by Victor Corso to spend no more than \$5,000 on web developer for MCAA page improvements.

Motion carried.

John Valvo looks to create a video introduction up on social media. He'd like the Board to have more facetime on the internet. He may record a video message next week.

19:30

Unfinished Business

Funding was donated in 2019 for legal fees for any potential attorney work related to defamation. The Board will likely not continue down that path and move those funds to other productive uses for the Association.

Anthony DeSimone discussed proposed By-Law Changes. He will work with Kevin Comerford, John Valvo, and Annmarie Bhola.

Saira Yoo recapped the meeting.

19:40

Scholarship

Mike Brown reported on Scholarships.

There has been a great response in scholarship applicants. The Board could always use more essay reviewers.

Mike is working on a large scholarship with Kevin Fox.

Ted Mason, Ron Rasmus, and Steve Carbery volunteered to pay for the setup costs for the Distinguished Alumni Award die cast.

Ted Mason discussed the upcoming Navy League Dinner.

19:50

Motion to adjourn.

Motion carried.