

**Maritime College Alumni Association  
General Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2020**

Meeting held at:  
Teleconference  
(All participants called in)

**Officers**

- 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
- Ted Mason
- Kevin Danko
- Victor Corso
- Leonard Imperial
- Marissa Danzy
- Phil Kantz
- Chris Nystrom

**Chapter Presidents**

- Marianne Michaelsen-Sanderson
- Jamie Macnamara
- Art Sulzer
- Jim Yahner

**Maritime College**

- Michael Alfultis
- Doug Hasbrouck

**Staff**

- Saira Yoo, Director

**18:00**

**Call to Order**

**Approval of Minutes for Previous Meeting**

**Motion** by Ted Mason second by Leonard Imperial to approve May 2020 MCAA Board Meeting Minutes.

**Motion carried.**

**Reports of Chapter Presidents**

John Valvo discussed a recent Zoom meeting among Chapter Presidents. There was great attendance. Chapter Presidents will aim to hold meetings at the same frequency of MCAA Board Meetings. Joint events and communication with other Maritime Colleges is a goal.

## **Director's Report**

### **Virtual Alumni Night**

Saira Yoo discussed the virtual alumni night. It was a success in that a structure has been established to set up communication between students and alumni. Participation among the student body can be improved on.

Admiral Michael Alfultis said emails were sent out to the student body but more can be done in the future to improve on student involvement.

### **o Upcoming Events.**

#### **Golf Classic**

Saira reported that the the golf committee decided the 2020 Golf Classic would be canceled due to uncertainty surrounding Coronavirus and its impact on gatherings.

Ancient Mariner will be the only golf event for the MCAA in 2020.

Leo Imperial suggested a virtual golf event in which remote groups communicate while golfing at their own locations. He also discussed the need for contingencies for lost fundraising opportunities in the future.

### **Additional Virtual Alumni Nights**

Saira Yoo said additional Virtual Alumni Nights are still to come.

## **1826**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kevin Comerford discussed month by month balances, income and expenses.

Kevin then discussed fund performance. Funds have been seeing gains.

SST money typically comes from interest and dividends on MCAA funds. The Navy League uses a 3% average of assets held.

Kevin is developing a proposal to fund distributions and payouts with the Finance Committee.

Phil Kantz asked if all funds managed by MCAA will be impacted. Kevin explained nothing will be carried out that would be inconsistent with any existing MOUs.

He will distribute information on the proposal.

Kevin reported the audit this year is close to completion

The Finance Committee held a recent meeting and discussed investment strategies and current positions.

## **1834**

### **Report from Admiral Alfultis**

#### **Pier Side Training**

Admiral Michael Alfultis discussed Sea Term Training and Coast Guard License requirements.

Days on the training ship count for 1.5 days of sea days while commercial vessels only count for 1 sea day each. He described options for students to complete their sea day requirements

including Pier Side Training. He requested the Alumni Association to arrange for scholarships to be applied to Pier Side Training.

John Valvo then described his interpretation of the request for financial assistance for alternative training on campus such as Pier-Side Training. After review of MOUs, it was found that several funds are capable of being used for this training used to satisfy Coast Guard requirements. More discussions are required. The Scholarship Committee and Finance Committee each need to evaluate how to apply scholarship to new training.

### **New Training Ship Status**

An Award Kickoff Meeting was held May 26-27, 2020. The detailed design process is underway. Scheduled delivery is 2023.

### **Campus Restart Plan**

Admiral Alfultis discussed SUNY's Restart plans and existing guidance along with state requirements. He then discussed phases of restarting.

### **Campus Climate**

Admiral Alfultis discussed SUNY Maritime's efforts to condemn hateful and offensive speech. He also described his staff's efforts to continuously work on systemic change at Maritime College.

John Valvo then expressed interest in bringing alumni on to help. Involvement on campus with the Cultural Club is one way to improve the Association's participation in solutions.

Annamarie Bhola asked how sexual harassment is handled on campus.

Annamarie wants to ensure that the Alumni Association does all possible to denounce hate speech. She stated the Association should not provide scholarship to students who have made hate speech.

Admiral Alfultis described scholarship MOU language that includes "character".

Mike Brown explained use of Code of Conduct to aid in Scholarship requirements.

Marissa Danzy thanked the Admiral on his and his staff's efforts to improve the climate at Maritime College.

She described the impact of bias on those victimized by it. She explained that there are ways to pursue anti-racism.

### **One Hand Campaign**

Admiral Alfultis explained that the One-Hand Fund is one third on it's way to the goal. There is substantial matching of funds. The hope is to have this be a crowd-sourcing fund with many smaller donors.

### **1957**

#### **Review of Committee Progress**

#### **Events**

Kevin Danko discussed options available for Homecoming.

#### **Public Relations**

Kevin Danko discussed website development. He described Association consistent branding.

### **Publications**

John Valvo discussed publications. Marissa Danzy is stepping up as chair of the Publications Committee. Bridget is stepping down as editor. Ted Mason discussed the need for a full-time editor.

### **2007**

#### **Chapter**

Carl Hausheer discussed the Chapter Committee progress in getting listings of alumni. Carl discussed the success in helping alumni meet up and find careers.

#### **Finance**

Met June 9, 2020. Kevin Comerford discussed December 31, 2019 end of year funds. He will email calculations for 2019 finance in the near future.

#### **Audit**

John Valvo discussed the Audit Committee. Anthony DeSimone will be stepping up to the chair of the audit committee.

#### **Membership**

Kevin Danko discussed the Covid-19 impact on membership dues and the Re-Starting process of encouraging membership.

#### **Legal**

Victor Corso described the ongoing work toward application for legal protections.

#### **Scholarship**

Mike Brown said there was a lot of data cleanup required but there's a final screening of the Class of '67 academic award in a few weeks. Scholarship awarding of Pier-Side Training will require more evaluation and planning.

#### **Honors Committee**

Ted Mason discussed work with Steve Carberry in working on selection of Honor recipients. He also reviewed discussions with potential recipients.

#### **New Business**

John Valvo discussed pursuit of Pier-Side Training scholarship awards. Ted Mason brought up that many MOUs state that Scholarships are merit based. This must be considered when assigning scholarship. Marissa Danzy reminded all that there are no government grants available for Pier-Side Training.

#### **Diversity/Inclusion**

John Valvo discussed hopes and plans to build a team to work on promoting diversity.

Ted Mason suggested "Values" be core to the committee. He also described how our scholarship can include character or values.

Ted Mason discussed a transition program from Navy to Merchant Marine hoping to bridge that gap.

**2045**

**Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion carried.**