

Maritime College Alumni Association
Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2020

Meeting held at:

Teleconference

(All participants called in)

Officers

- John Valvo, President
- Kevin Comerford, Treasurer
- Annmarie Bhola, Assistant Treasurer
- Sam Reilly, 2nd Vice President
- Anthony DeSimone, Secretary

Board Members

- Carl Hausheer
- Ted Mason
- Kevin Danko
- Chris Nystrom
- Marissa Danzy
- Mike Trotta
- Victor Corso

Past Presidents

- John Bradley

Chapter Presidents

- Art Sulzer

Maritime College

- Doug Hasbrouck

Staff

- Saira Yoo, Director

1809

Call to order

Review of past meeting minutes. Marissa Danzy requested corrections to be made for the attendee list. (Corrections described have been made as of 12/27/2020).

Motion by Annmarie and second by Chris Nystrom to approve October and November board meeting minutes pending attendee corrections.

One Abstain

Motion Carried.

Chapter Reports

Art Sulzer described scholarships planned to be distributed on behalf of the chapter. Art described the impact of Covid and the difficulty the Association would face in attempting to follow typical Chapter voting Rights renewal paperwork.

Motion by Anthony DeSimone and second by Leo Imperial to allow current voting chapters to carry over through 2021 with reapplication due to Covid impact.

Motion carried.

18:18

Directors Report

Saira Yoo discussed the end of year membership drive. She has been following up on member standing. This year there is no awards dinner to plan.

Treasurer's Report

Kevin Comerford reports the Association is down \$70k for the year in revenues. Kevin reviewed expenses. He expects the December dues drive would improve our expected revenues for the year. However, the Association is experiencing reduced dues revenue for the year compared to the previous year.

The funds have grown considerably over the year 2020 due to market performance.

Kevin then reviewed the Payroll Protection Program.

Kevin discussed funds available for the Summer Sea Term Scholarships. Cruises are expected to be longer and more expensive. The board discussed the possibility of a market correction and its impact on the funds.

Ted Mason discussed funds withdrawal for Scholarships. Ted expressed the importance of maintaining consistency of the Association's practices.

Sam Reilly explained the Association has sufficient funds in cash and cash equivalents for scholarship payouts. This cash is not exposed to market volatility.

Alumni Association Funds are now at record highs. Kevin discussed a move towards 4% of Alumni Association funds to pay for SST Scholarships rather than interest and dividends.

Presently the Associations SST Scholarship is paid with interest and dividends from Association funds. It is proposed that Scholarship awards equal 4% of the most current three-year average of total fund average of Association Accounts.

College Report

Doug Hasbrouck reported on Maritime College's academic calendar.

He then discussed Summer Sea Term Scholarships. Traditionally, Alumni Association scholarships were only awarded to 2nd and 1st class cadets. This year other support organizations will be unable to fund a 3rd class scholarship. Tied to the One-Hand efforts, the College would like to see the Association partner with the college in fundraising efforts for scholarships for all classes on Summer Sea Term.

18:53

Events Committee

Kevin Danko reported the Awards dinner will not occur in the winter but may possibly be held in April 2021.

The summer golf outing is likely to occur.

Kevin plans for an official calendar for the next year. He would like to see the Association move towards earlier action in event planning.

PR Committee

Kevin Danko discussed the varied social media platforms the Association could use to connect to members. Additionally, he wanted to look at how to better tailor it to the audience.

The Board discussed planning ahead for New Alumni Night and other events.

Ted Mason described the need to have local events and chapter events (small scale).

Mike Trotta discussed the Mountain Biking Event.

The Board discussed social media representation of the events.

Chapter Report

Carl Hausheer discussed the importance of regularly scheduled chapter events. People respond to annual regularity. Unfortunately, not much can happen during Covid.

Finance Committee

Kevin Commerford touched on the previously covered Financial information during the Treasurer's report.

Member Report

Kevin Danko discussed member access to the membership roster.

He explained the importance of documentation showing the plan for the databases, if the partnership between the College and the Association should ever encounter issues.

Kevin brought up opportunities for Alumni to be involved with the new training ship being developed.

Kevin asked if people are getting the reminders they need in a timely manner. The Association should get more proactive in building membership early in the year.

The renewal and auto renewals for membership were discussed.

The Association would like to follow-up on membership renewal strategy.

Marissa Danzy mentioned this conversation had occurred a several times before.

Even with an imperfect membership list, cold-calling alumni is useful whether or not the person is a dues paying member.

Art Sulzer requested information on the number of alumni alive today. Doug Hasboruck offered to look for that information.

Honors Report

Ted Mason reported honorees have been notified. Ted said there is a short paragraph about each honoree in the Fort Schuyler publication. He would like to ensure that there is sufficient visibility for

the honorees in the publication and that it would not conflict with honoree notices in the next issue of the publication.

19:41

Legal Report

Victor Corso and Jennifer Barnes Hayes are finalizing the database agreement.

Scholarship Report

Change of withdrawal for scholarship to 4% of funds is in the works.

All Hands on Deck

The committee is working on training documents for the Board (such as sexual harassment).

Nominations

A Nominations meeting was held and there was a quorum and the slate has been approved. January 10th midnight is the close date for elections.

John Valvo discussed the slate and nominees.

Audit Committee

Anthony DeSimone discussed the Audit RFP. The RFP has been reviewed by the committee and the Audit Committee Chairman for the Navy League. The RFP should be distributed to multiple potential auditors.

New Business

Ted Mason discussed involvement with the new ship under construction for Maritime College.

The Association could conduct interviews of those involved with the ship building.

Ted and Art Sulzer have been evaluating potential opportunities for Alumni Association involvement.

Art explained the Association should closely monitor the projected ship completion date.

Art suggested there be a committee established for getting involved with the new ship.

Kevin Commerford agreed with the need for Alumni Association involvement with the new ship. Someone from the Board should visit people in the know to get information.

John Valvo declared he would like to appoint Art Sulzer the Association's official liaison with the ship building.

20:20

Recap

John Valvo reviewed action items from the meeting.

John Valvo thanked the board for supporting him through his term as president of the Association.

Motion to adjourn

Motion carried.