MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2026
Meeting Held via Microsoft Teams

Officers

	President
	1st Vice President
Rick McClain ‘13	2nd Vice President
	Treasurer
George Gascer ’87	Assistant Treasurer
Dennis Hanley ’20	Secretary

Board Members

Ted Mason ’57	**Vin Melwani ’02**
Kathy Tart ’02	**Vicky Hulick ’05**

Past MCAA Presidents

John Valvo ’83	Past President – 2020

MCAA Staff

Saira Yoo	MCAA Staff
Maggy Giunco	MCAA Staff
Taylor Netchert	MCAA Staff
Don Gale	Magazine Editor
Kamal Verma	MCAA Bookkeeper

College Staff

	SUNY MC President
Jennifer Mahoney	VP of Institutional Advancement

Chapter Presidents

Zhen Shao ’00 (ConEd)	**Rich Merhige ’83** (South Florida)
Art Sulzer ’74 (Del Val)	

1805 – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1805 hours by 2nd Vice President Rick McClain, who chaired the meeting in Steve Carbery's absence.

1805 – Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Quorum requires 10 voting board members; quorum was not present; members expected to arrive late were noted.

1814: Approval of Prior Minutes

Approval of the prior meeting minutes was deferred because a quorum was not present.

1815: President's Report – Maggy Giunco (for Steve Carbery)

- The Golf Classic was successful in attendance and participation; sponsorship revenue remains an area for improvement. Discussion will continue regarding the 2027 venue/course.

- Upcoming events include the ValleyCats baseball outing, October Sporting Clays, Ship Return, and Albany activities.

- Ship Return is scheduled for Thursday, July 16, with the ship expected on campus at approximately 1:30 PM. The Alumni Association will host a tent and provide refreshments for families and cadets with merchandise sales. Board members and former board members were encouraged to volunteer

- No Alumni Association-specific July 4 event is planned. Ship activities are also limited due to increased security and changes to the ship's location.

- Albany events are scheduled for July 8–9, including an Alumni event on July 8 and a state/local government event on July 9. SUNY presidents are expected aboard July 8.

- Summer office hours will be narrowed and published to reflect staff availability during July and August.

- The 2027 MCAA Honors Dinner:

    - A separate selection committee will identify 2027 honorees

    - The committee should work during the summer and provide recommendations for board discussion in September.

    - Members were encouraged to submit suggestions for potential honorees and committee members

- Homecoming planning is largely underway. Events include Ancient Mariner on Friday, tailgating and the annual meeting on Saturday, and the Paddy's event. The Class of 1986 is also working on its reunion.

- No board meetings in July and August.

1835: Treasurer's Report – George Gacser

George Gacser presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Sam Reilly. Financial materials had been distributed in advance.

- Overall revenues, expenses, and net income were generally tracking in line with expectations, although membership dues are slightly below the prior year.

- Event revenue was approximately $140,485 against a full-year budget of $300,000.

- Golf Classic sponsorship revenue remains below budget; additional receivables are expected.

- Travel and meeting expenses are approaching the annual budget and should be monitored.

- Investments remained positive, with returns reported at approximately 6.94% through May and 7.07% year-to-date through June 16.

- The Association's $618,000 scholarship commitment remains in place. The first $400,000 payment has been made, with the remaining $218,000 scheduled after July 1.

- George will work with staff on the Annual Report, with the goal of completing it before Homecoming.

1844: Committee Reports

- Events: No additional report beyond the event updates already provided.

- Membership & Chapters: Deferred because Seth Lucas was absent.

- Magazine/Newsletter: The prior newsletter was completed; the magazine is in progress and slightly behind schedule.

    - The magazine team will investigate information about alumnus Joe Tyson, Class of 1984, who recently received a Legacy Service Award from IMX.

    - Taylor Netchert will prepare a social media post regarding Dennis Brennan's passing and memorial information.

- Scholarships: The $618,000 scholarship commitment is being fulfilled. The Class of 1967 is also establishing academic scholarships totaling $5,500 per recipient over two semesters.

- Audit: The current audit with Weaver is underway, but personnel changes have caused some delays. John Valvo will circulate an RFP to approximately 3–5 audit firms as part of the Association's fifth-year auditor review and will discuss expanding the Audit Committee.

- Swag:

    - The custom Alumni hats have been approved and ordered; a rendering is expected shortly.

    - A new Ship Return shirt is also being developed, with the goal of completing the design soon.

    - The committee will work toward having merchandise available for Homecoming.

1906: Old Business

No old business was raised.

1906: New Business

- Maggy proposed informal summer working sessions focused on improving events, fundraising, membership, and other recurring issues. The sessions would be collaborative idea-generation meetings rather than formal board meetings.

- Saira reported that work on AlmaBase had temporarily paused due to scheduling conflicts but is expected to resume the following week.

- Vin Melwani recommended alumnus Ben Wong, a 2004 graduate and maritime captain who recently became an ensign in the Navy Reserve Strategic Sealift Program, as a potential spotlight subject. Vin will provide contact information so Taylor and Rick can explore the story.

1911: Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1911 hours.

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Action Items Summary

- Saira / Maggy: Coordinate Ship Return logistics, volunteers, and member participation for July 16.
- Honors Selection Committee: Begin work on 2027 honoree nominations during the summer and bring recommendations to the September meeting.
- John Valvo: Coordinate transportation/logistics for surplus yearbooks at Homecoming and locate the inventory of available years.
- Magazine team: Collect all Fort Schuyler content and photos by July 1 and develop the Seth Lucas feature.
- Don Gale / Magazine team: Explore a feature on Dennis Brennan and gather information regarding Joe Tyson's Legacy Service Award.
- Taylor Netchert: Prepare and publish an appropriate social media notice regarding Dennis Brennan's passing.
- George Gacser / Staff: Continue work on the annual report with the goal of publication before Homecoming.
- John Valvo: Develop and circulate an RFP to approximately 3–5 auditing firms and discuss expanding the Audit Committee with President Carbery.
- Vin Melwani: Share the custom hat rendering once received and continue coordinating merchandise plans for Homecoming.
- Saira Yoo / Staff: Resume AlmaBase work the following week.
- Vin Melwani: Provide Ben Wong's contact information to Taylor/Rick for potential alumni spotlight coverage.
- Board members: Identify potential 2027 honorees, nominations committee members, future board candidates, and Ship Return volunteers.

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