

General Meeting Minutes – December 2025
Meeting Held via Microsoft Teams

Officers

Steve Carbery	President
Seth Lucas	1 st Vice President
	2 nd Vice President
Sam Reilly	Treasurer
George Gascer	Assistant Treasurer

Board Members

Ted Mason	Kyron Cooper
Mike Trotta	Jim McEnteggart
Kit Mattikow	Vicky Hulick
Duke Alvora	

Past MCAA Presidents

John Valvo	Past President – 2020
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MCAA Staff

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

College Staff

John Okon	SUNY MC President
Jennifer Mahoney	VP of Institutional Advancement

Chapter Presidents

Art Sulzer (Del Val)	Kerri Bancroft (Tampa Bay)
Dennis Brennan (So Cal)	Rich Merhige (South Florida)
Jim Yahner (Long Island)	

1803 – Call to Order

President Steve Carbery confirmed quorum and called the meeting to order at 1803 hours.

1804 – Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Saira Yoo. Officers, Board members, Chapter Presidents, MCAA staff, College leadership, and invited guests were present, establishing quorum.

1806 – Approval of Prior Minutes

The November 2025 meeting minutes were distributed in advance of the meeting. Board members were reminded that previously outstanding minutes from April, May, June, and September had been fully transcribed, formatted, and circulated for online review and vote. Results and any comments will be captured and reported accordingly. The November 2025 minutes were approved without objection.

1809 – President’s Report – Steve Carbery

President Carbery provided a comprehensive update on Association operations and strategic initiatives.

Audit & Administrative Fees:

Discussion continued regarding the ability to assess modest administrative fees on certain funds to support operating costs. Legal research under New York State nonprofit guidance suggests this may be permissible, subject to review of individual Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). A detailed review of existing agreements will be conducted, with recommendations to be presented at a future meeting.

Honors Dinner:

Updates were provided on the January 29, 2026 Honors Dinner. Ticket pricing and sponsorship packages have been finalized, and board members were encouraged to assist with sponsorship outreach. Peer-to-peer engagement remains the most effective driver of participation.

Technology & Almaase:

President Carbery reported ongoing challenges with the AlmaBase platform, including data integrity, event registration modules, and reporting functionality. Payment to the vendor has been withheld pending resolution. AlmaBase has assigned a new engineering team, though staff time required for implementation has exceeded expectations.

Communications & Programming:

Additional updates included progress on the Fort Schuyler Magazine, upcoming nomination timelines, PROP training scheduled for February 13, and the launch of a professionally produced video campaign funded through a donor contribution.

1824 – Treasurer’s Report – Sam Reilly & George Gacser

Financial Overview:

The Treasurer’s report reflected income trending ahead of the prior year, with modest growth in membership dues. Event revenue continues to perform strongly, driven by networking events, chapter activity, and major Association events.

Expenses & Merchant Fees:

Merchant fees were noted as higher than budgeted, largely due to increased credit card usage tied to event registrations. The Board acknowledged this as a trade-off for increased participation and convenience.

Investment Portfolio:

Year-to-date investment performance through November reflected approximately 11.5% growth, with total portfolio value approaching \$14.8 million. Asset allocation remains approximately 71% equity. An annual portfolio review meeting with Fiduciary Trust International (FTI) is scheduled for January 29.

Funds & Reconciliation:

Some revenue, particularly from networking events, requires reclassification between operating income and the Underway Fund. Staff and Treasurer will continue reconciliation efforts to ensure accurate reporting.

1855 – Campus Update – Admiral John Okon

Admiral Okon provided an in-depth update on campus operations, enrollment, and facilities.

Enrollment & Admissions:

Total enrollment has surpassed 1,550 students, the highest level in six years. Applications are significantly up year-over-year, with improved retention rates estimated at 93–94%.

Facilities & Operations:

Updates included renovations to academic buildings, dormitory lounges, athletics facilities, and the campus pool. Planning for Summer Sea Term is underway, including ship capacity considerations and staffing adjustments.

Alumni Engagement & Recruitment:

Admiral Okon highlighted strong alumni engagement across multiple chapters, successful open houses, and positive outcomes from industry events such as WorkBoat. Scholarships remain a critical competitive tool as applicant academic profiles continue to strengthen.

1915 – Bylaws Committee – Dennis Brennan

Dennis Brennan reported that revisions to the Association bylaws are nearing completion. Feedback from chapters has been incorporated, and the committee plans to pause distribution until after the holiday period. The goal is to present a refined draft to the Board for review and approval, followed by broader membership consideration.

1918 – Events Committee – Maggy Giunco & Saira Yoo

Honors Dinner:

Further details were provided regarding the January 29 Honors Dinner, including finalized ticket pricing of \$475 per person and sponsorship levels ranging up to \$40,000. New sponsorship options will allow participation without required attendance.

Event Strategy:

Staff reviewed outreach plans and emphasized the importance of board engagement in solicitation efforts. AV costs are expected to be higher due to rooftop venue requirements, though overall venue pricing remains favorable.

1923 – Membership & Chapters Committee – Seth Lucas

Chapter Activity:

Updates were provided on recent chapter events in Florida, Hudson Valley, Space Coast, Delaware Valley, and other regions. Over the past eight months, 22 chapter events were held across 11 chapters, reflecting strong geographic engagement.

New Chapters:

Interest continues to grow in forming additional chapters, including Albany, Savannah, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and potential international locations.

Governance & Support:

Chapter elections, leadership development, and best-practice sharing will be addressed in early 2026, including a planned chapter leadership roundtable.

1930 – Magazine Committee – Ted Mason & Don Gale

An update was provided on the production of Fort Schuyler Magazine. The current proof is under review, and edits are being coordinated through a centralized tracking process to streamline collaboration between the Alumni Association and the College.

1935 – Scholarship Committee – John Valvo

Scholarship applications opened on December 1 and will close in early February. Early indicators suggest strong applicant volume.

The committee discussed the increasing use of AI in scholarship essays and is exploring the development of guidance language and review tools to ensure fairness

while maintaining applicant authenticity.

Several named scholarships are being finalized, including a new Houston Gulf Coast Scholarship.

1938 – Audit Committee – John Valvo

Audit activities are current, with all filings completed on schedule. No compliance issues were reported.

1940 – Governance Committee – Kevin Albertson

The Governance Committee is reviewing the Association’s insurance program, including broker engagement, cyber liability coverage, and Directors & Officers (D&O) protections. Recommendations will be brought forward once analysis is complete.

1942 – Old Business

No old business was raised.

1943 – New Business

No new business was raised.

1944 – Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by George Gacser and seconded by Jim McEnteggart. The meeting adjourned at 1944 hours.

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