

MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



General Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2025
Virtual via MS Teams

Officers

Steve Carbery	President
Seth Lucas	1 st Vice President
Richard McClain	2 nd Vice President
George Gascer	Assistant Treasurer

Board Members

Kevin Albertson	Duke Alvora
Ted Mason	Vin Melwani
Kyron Cooper	Mike Trotta
Vicky Hulick	Jim McEnteggart

Past MCAA Presidents

John Valvo	Past President - 2020
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MCAA Staff

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

Chapter Presidents

Kevin Killoran (NE Florida)	Ashley O'Brien (Tampa Bay)
Rich Merhige (South Florida)	Art Sulzer (Del Val)
Jim Yahner (Long Island)	Edward Hulick (Hampton Roads)

June 2025 Meeting Minutes

1803: Call to Order

1804: Roll Call

1807: Report from President MCAA: Steve Carbery

- **Minutes**
 - Justin sent the minutes from the March meeting right before the meeting.
 - The minutes from previous meetings were not reviewed due to lack of time and availability.
 - The April minutes are also unavailable at this time.
- **Scholarship Award Event**
 - The scholarship award event took place on the pier on May 20, coinciding with a board meeting.
- **Golf Classic Feedback**
 - The golf event occurred on Monday, June 9, with misty weather but feedback was positive.
 - The golf committee consists of AJ, Steve, Sam and George currently.
 - Saira is preparing a preliminary revenue and expense report.
 - The estimated profit is around \$56,000, with potential for a slight increase.
 - The final invoice from the club and some receivables are pending.
 - The event had only two major sponsors but still exceeded last year's profit due to new, smaller-scale sponsorships like the Loud and Proud Flag.
 - Taylor noted that while this year's planning was improved, there's still room for smoother execution.
 - There were some savings based on last year's spending.
 - George raised concerns about the golf event's profitability compared to previous years on Long Island, questioning whether the move to New Jersey is impacting revenue.
 - He suggests a golf committee assess the situation, focusing on sponsorships and participation levels.
 - He wants to know if the shortfall is due to attendance or sponsorships.
 - It's possible to break \$75,000 profit at the current venue with a more proactive approach to sponsorships.
- **NOLA Port Crew Port Call**
 - The NOLA port crew port call was successful, including a VIP reception on the ship attended by local alumni from Houston and New Orleans
 - There was good industry turnout for tours arranged by Greg Wagner.
 - The Ship Repair Conference and alumni reception at The World War II Museum were well-received. One attendee noted that the World War II Museum was a great venue.

- The World War II Museum event was great, and cadets networked well.
- Weather in Houston made travel to New Orleans difficult for some.
- Sponsorships for the alumni reception were just \$1,000 short of the goal.
- The FSS event at Lucy's also went well, with no reported injuries.
- **Ship Status and Future Plans**
 - The ship is functioning well with no major issues and is running as designed.
 - Captain McManus has taken the ship to the Azores, and the next stop is Bergen, Norway.
 - An event is planned on the ship in Bergen on Sunday the 12th, coordinated by Johan and Captain McManus.
 - An email will be sent to alumni about the Bergen event, inviting them to visit if they are traveling in the area.
- **Upcoming Events and Initiatives**
 - Work continues on the Alabase product, with ongoing interface adjustments.
 - A fall networking event is planned, location TBD.
 - The Sporting Clay's event will be on Monday, October 6th, with website registration launching soon.
 - Homecoming is on Saturday, October 18th
 - The Admiral's dinner is September 6th at Marina del Rey at 1730 hours.
- **PROP Training and Support**
 - The next PROP training date is Monday, July 28th, with a ride on the training ship offered afterward.
 - A budget will be established for tablecloths, table setup, and identification jackets for PROP officers.
 - Art requested printed information for PROP officers to answer questions, and the slide deck used in training will be used for now.
 - Art suggested collecting "off the wall questions" asked during events to better prepare PROP officers.
- **Ship Return**
 - There will be an MCAA tent for the ship's return on Tuesday, the 29th (of July).
 - Volunteers will be needed to staff the tent.
 - The ship is scheduled to dock at 3:30 PM.

1835: Report from Treasurer: George Gacser

- Treasurer Agenda –
 - Proposed Budget 2025
 - Gross Income YTD - \$11,974.05
 - Net Income YTD - \$59,464.19
 - Proposed Budget Highlights
 - Dues YTD - \$9300
 - Annual Alumni Dinner - \$143,706.46

- Gross Revenue from Events - \$170,233.84 YTD
- o Accounts
 - Chase Accounts - \$1,147,522.05
 - Business Checking 1 - \$270,368.70
 - Business Checking 2 - \$504,629.51
 - HY Savings - \$372,523.84
 - Funds Available for SST 25: \$478,000

1842: Reports from Committee Presidents

- **Bylaw Committee – Art Sulzer**
 - o Art will provide an update on the Bylaws Committee.
 - o A Zoom call is planned before the next board meeting to resolve issues with Dennis' draft.
 - o The goal is to present a revised draft to the board in August for discussion and a vote.
 - o The aim is to finalize the draft at the annual meeting in October.

- **Membership Committee – Seth Lucas**
 - o Charleston had its first event with 25 attendees, organized by Josh Burton and Kyle De Monterey.
 - o New Orleans and Houston chapters, led by Greg Wagner and Andrew Kurlick, raised money for the World War II Museum.
 - o Tampa Bay celebrated its one-year anniversary with a volunteer effort at the SS American Victory.
 - Ashley coordinated the event, with Kirby Strauss and Tom Tamalo volunteering.
 - o Hampton Roads: Ed and Vicki Hulick had an event on May 3rd in conjunction with Alexandra Rivera from the college. They are planning a summer event at the ballpark for families.
 - o South Florida: Rich secured an event with Fairwater in Fort Lauderdale for September 11th. They are also planning a networking event at Safe Harbor Lauderdale Marine Center in mid-July.
 - o Del Val Chapter had Two events held in partnership with the Port: a Maritime Exchange event and a Port of Philadelphia event.
 - Six scholarships were awarded this year, with three going to Fort Schuyler cadets. Each scholarship is worth \$3,500.
 - The next major event is the Crab and Golf outing in September.

- **Social Media/PR Committee – Rick McClain/Taylor**
 - o Chapters with upcoming events should reach out for help creating flyers, adding events to the calendar, and promoting them via email and social media.

- o The committee has been busy with social media leading up to the Golf Classic and New Orleans event.
 - o Content may slow down during the summer.
 - o Alumni accomplishments and "where in the world" posts can still be shared.
 - o Chapter leaders should send photos from events to solicit participation and provide content.
 - o The next newsletter is set to come out at the end of the month, before the 4th of July.
 - o Taylor from the social media team is doing a great job. Her work is "very crisp, concise, and sequenced, not overlapping, not contradictory, not confusing."
 - o Everyone should be "sharing our social media stuff" on Instagram and Facebook to increase visibility.
 - o Engagement has gone down a little in the last couple of weeks.
 - o Taylor shared the first reel, which was a video of photos from the Golf Classic.
- **Scholarship Committee – John Valvo**
 - o Slight adjustments were made to the scholarship awards since the last board meeting.
 - o Some recipients did not go out on cruise.
 - o Some first-class award recipients also received NROTC scholarship money.
 - o The final numbers are 155 scholarships totaling \$578,040.
 - o It took time to re-award dollars and ensure the next recipient was actually out on cruise.
 - o Scholarship Process
 - The scholarship process involves a tremendous amount of work beyond just reading essays.
 - Jennifer spoke with students on the ship who said they wouldn't be there without their Summer Sea term scholarship.
 - SST scholarship tuition for 2025 for an in New York state student was \$12,220.
 - o Positive Feedback on Cadets
 - Cadets who spoke at the Ship Repair USA conference were inspiring.
 - There is enthusiasm from the cadets.
 - The cadets are sharp and want to do a good job.
 - The school and cadets are doing well.
 - There has been a turnaround in the quality of Skyler grads.
 - o General Consensus
 - Admiral Okon is approaching his first-year anniversary.
 - Leadership can significantly impact an organization.

- **Swag Committee – Vin Melwani**
 - The store will remain open for another two weeks, until July 6th.
 - Blankets are available for purchase.

- **Governance Committee – Kevin Albertson**
 - Kevin Albertson is on the committee.
 - They are reviewing preliminary information.
 - Training is planned for the fall.
 - Saira and Maggy will get Kevin a Maritime email address for governance.

- **Magazine Committee – Ted Mason/Don Gale**
 - Don is on the committee.
 - They are working towards a summer issue.
 - They have 10-11 class notes and 5-6 chapter events.
 - Chapter events may be better suited for the newsletter.
 - Art provided content about outreach to three schools in Philadelphia. One cadet from the Philly area attended one of the prop events
 - Content includes:
 - Association of the United States Navy event attended by Domers.
 - Feature on alumnus Timmel (class of 1981) and his two sons (class of 09 and 17).
 - Story of Vietnamese refugees John Tran (graduated 1989) and Van Lee (graduated 1990).
 - The target date for the next newsletter is the end of next week or the Monday/Tuesday before the Fourth of July.
 - Magazine Update from the College- Jennifer Mahoney
 - Still need letters from Steve, John Bree, and the Admiral.
 - The Admiral's letter is in progress.
 - Features are about 75% complete.
 - Additional bids for printing were sent out to control costs.
 - They will be looking at the mailing list and setting a threshold on donors.
 - Ad sales:
 - Pentagon was telling advertisers that the magazine was not being produced.
 - They have secured three ads.
 - They are soliciting for this magazine issue and will solicit for the entire fiscal year in the fall.
 - They are getting full payment on the ads that have been submitted.
 - They did a look back at the past three years of advertising.
 - Some companies only buy advertising in magazines and won't sponsor anything else on campus.
 - Magazines are "coffee table editions" that people keep around, giving ads longevity.

- **Audit Committee – John Valvo**
 - John Valvo asked about plans for the 2024 Annual Report following the Golf Classic
 - George, Maggy, and Saira have plans to start the process, using a template from last year and aiming to "gussy it up a little bit more."
 - The Audit Committee is on the verge of completing the 2024 audit.
 - The Annual Report has not included the financial statements from the auditors, only a summary.
 - Timeline for Annual Report
 - The goal is to issue the Annual Report by the end of 2025, which is better than 2026.
 - Saira, Maggy, and John will develop a timeline and share it with the group, involving input from Steve and Sam.
 - There is a possibility of a September issuance.
 - Getting the report out before the year-end is good for fundraising, showing what was done in 2024 to encourage donations for 2025-2026.
 - The goal is to get back on track with issuing the annual report in the April timeframe for 2026.
 - Kamal and John are trying to get the auditors back on track.
 - The auditors are close to finishing by June, which was the goal.

Old Business
None

New Business
None

1921: June 2025 meeting adjourned.

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