

General Meeting Minutes – November 2025
Meeting Held via Microsoft Teams

Officers

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

Board Members

Ted Mason	Vin Melwani
Mike Trotta	Jim McEnteggart
Kevin Albertson	Vicky Hulick

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

College Staff

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Chapter Presidents

Art Sulzer (Del Val)	Zhen Shao (Con Edison)
Ashley O’Brien (Tampa Bay)	Ed Hulick (Hampton Roads)
Rich Merhige (South Florida)	

Guests

Dennis Hanley	2026 Candidate for Secretary
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November Meeting Minutes

1803: Call to Order

1804: Roll Call – Saira Yoo

1806: October minutes submitted with this meeting's agenda and treasurer's report. Backlog of April, May June and September minutes transcribed and formatted. Sent out today for review and vote online. Results and comments will be captured and reported out appropriately.

1808: October Meeting Minutes Approved

1809: Report from Scholarship Committee Chair – John Valvo

- The college deals with 3 large committees who provide SST scholarships: MCAA, faculty/staff association, and parent's association (similar organization). One of the other committees revisit the prompt for the essays that students are completing as part of application process.
- Revision brought to committee members and all were in favor. Trying to get more meaningful essays to tell us more about the applicants and their specific needs.
- Through dialogue with the committees and college, the scholarship committee was able consider how to address the use of AI. Seeing AI in essay submittals over the past few years, and challenge of how to deal with that.
- Committee approached the college about incorporating a statement forewarning the applicants regarding the use of AI. The committee will revisit that topic to determine what Tools are available and what each of our committee members feel comfortable with, and we'll make a decision on what we'll standardize with and go forward from there.
- Scholarship awards -- Significant SST 2026 funding anticipated, and we are shooting towards another record giving.

1814: Report from Audit Committee Chair – John Valvo

- Auditor findings submitted to SUNY Chancellor, and the College has their respective copy.

1815: Report from President MCAA – Steve Carbery

- Sporting Clays took place on October 6. General feedback was positive. Event recap meeting scheduled.
- Homecoming: Ancient Mariner, Annual Meeting and Paddy's were well received with strong attendance. High-quality photos from the events will be used in upcoming publications.
- Newsletter slated for release November 20.
- Magazine & Annual Report
 - Magazine production underway for January release.
 - Annual Report completed and posted to website.
 - Steve emphasized improved workflow with a new College-hired designer and a shared content tracker.
- Honors Dinner & Nominations
 - The Honors Committee selected three honorees. Vote was sent to the board to approve the selections.
 - Only nine survey responses received initially; verbal confirmation from Mike Trotta completed the quorum.
 - Each honoree will be contacted individually to gather materials for the program.
 - Honorees:
 - Special Achievement Award: Bridget Bendo '96
 - Lifetime Achievement Award: Charlie Munch '73
 - Distinguished Alumnus of the Year: John Valvo '83 (unanimous)
- Bylaws Committee
 - Chapters provided feedback through Dennis Brennan.
 - Revised chapter framework includes:
 - 3-year reporting cycle
 - Minimum 15 active members
 - Minimum of 2 annual events
 - Standardized chapter charter and two-page bylaws template
 - Final wording to be drafted for Board review → membership vote → adoption.

1824: Treasurer's Report – Sam Reilly and George Gacser

- Financial Overview
 - Income stronger than prior year; membership dues continue slow upward trend.

- Merchant fees increasing as more members rely on credit cards.
- Events performing above expectations: Sporting Clays, Ancient Mariner, and chapter events.
- Networking event revenue requires reconciliation—current figure (~102K) incorrectly overstates actual revenue.
 - Estimate: ~25–30K attributable once items are isolated properly.
- Investment Portfolio
 - Year-to-date performance near 12%, reflecting heavy AI-sector market activity.
 - Recent volatility in early November caused slight pullback.
 - Portfolio remains aligned with 70–71% equity strategy.
- Annual Report
 - Includes letters from leadership and feature article on Class of '65 and their SST philanthropy.
 - Thanks extended to Saira, Maggy, and George for production and coordination.

1833: Auditor's Discussion

- Reminder to schedule meeting with auditors regarding operational draw from FTI.
- Previous meetings showed hesitation from auditors; discussion needed before drafting 2026 budget.

1836: Events Committee

- Upcoming Events
 - November 25 – NYC Networking & Nominations Meeting at Reichenbach Hall.
- January Honors Dinner:
 - Deposit submitted; contract signed.
 - Pricing revisions underway to provide tiered options for attendees.
 - AV costs expected to increase, especially on the rooftop level at Tribeca.
- Chapter Event Highlights
 - Jacksonville chapter event occurring during this meeting.
 - Hudson Valley event December 4.
 - Space Coast inaugural event December 10.
 - Optional \$25 donation at registration continues to be successful in offsetting costs.

- Registration Issues
 - Tampa Bay reported duplicate registrations and PayPal redirects.
 - Staff explained:
 - PayPal retains user cookies and forces PayPal login for some registrants.
 - Square being used for simpler chapter events.
 - EventCaddy utilized for larger events with better stability.
 - AlmaBase rollout expected to streamline all registration processes.

1838: Membership and Chapters Committees – Seth Lucas

- Chapter Reports
 - Charleston – 25 attendees at October event.
 - Hampton Roads – Nearly 80 attendees; mix of alumni from 1960s to newly licensed graduates.
 - Tampa Bay – ~45 attendees; Admiral’s visit well received; strong turnout of younger alumni.
 - South Florida – Strong waterfront event; increase in younger alumni participation.
 - New Chapters – Space Coast (launched), Hudson Valley (launching Dec 4).
- Operational Notes
 - Seth to schedule a chapter leadership roundtable to share best practices for increasing attendance.
- Memorial Note
 - Announcement of passing of Charlie Hoffman '60.
 - Hoffman was a longtime supporter and regular donor to SST scholarships.

1844: Magazine Committee – Ted Mason and Don Gale

- Newsletter cleared for release Nov 20.
- Fort Schuyler Magazine timeline:
 - Content deadline: Dec 1
 - Target mailing: Jan 16
- New designer hired by College expected to improve production workflow.
- Alumni edits will now be funneled exclusively through Editor Don Gale.

1852: PR & Social Media – Taylor Netchert

- Strong engagement from chapter photos; South Florida photos to be posted
- Upcoming campaigns include Giving Tuesday, holiday messaging, and Honors Dinner marketing.

1855: Swag Committee – Vin Melwani

- Swag committee to meet and formalize a predictable merchandise release calendar.
- Vin is back in the U.S. and available for planning through January.

1900: Governance Committee – Kevin Albertson

- Committee reviewing insurance structure, including:
 - Need for active, engaged insurance broker
 - Evaluation of cyber insurance coverage
 - Review of D&O protections

1904: Additional Chapter Update – Rich Merhige (South Florida)

- Strong turnout at November 17th event; excellent mix of new and long-time alumni.
- Event held outdoors at a waterfront venue; positive feedback received.

1906: Old Business

- No items raised.

1907: New Business

- No items raised.

1908: Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Ted Mason.

Seconded by both George Gacser and Vicky Hulick.

1909: November 2025 meeting concluded.

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