

MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



General Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2025
Virtual via MS 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
Kit Mattikow	Jim McEnteggart
Kyron Cooper	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
Kamal Verma	MCAA Bookkeeper
Don Gale	Magazine Editor

College Staff

John Okon	SUNY MC President
Jennifer Mahoney	VP of Institutional Advancement

Chapter Presidents

Kevin Killoran (NE Florida)	Dennis Brennan (Southern California)
Rich Merhige (South Florida)	Ashley O'Brien (Tampa Bay)
Zhen Shao (Con Edison)	

October 2025 Meeting Minutes

1809: Call to Order

- Steve asked Saira to call the roll.
- Steve mentioned there are no action items tonight, just report outs.

1810: Roll Call

1813: Minutes

- Saira sent out April and September minutes.
- The May minutes are missing because there was no recording.
- June minutes were not saved due to software issues.
- May and June minutes will be prepared and sent out with the October minutes.
- Steve has only been able to do April and September minutes (used transcripts of the meetings, ran them through ChatGPT, summarized them, and cleaned them up)
- June minutes still need to be transcribed.
- John Valvo motions to get June minutes distributed with a Survey Monkey for voting to get them voted in for the record as quickly as practical.
- Motion seconded by Mike Trotta.
- Motion to do a survey monkey on approval as soon as the June meeting minutes are issued.

Report from President MCAA: Steve Carbery

- Annual Nominations Honors Committee trying to get a meeting scheduled for next week.
- Alma-base rollout: slides were put together to demonstrate where they are on that.
- Homecoming Heritage Hall Ceremony: Ted Mason is going to be inducted.
 - Ted is scheduled to speak at pass and review
 - The hanging of the plaque is sometime later in the afternoon, probably around the same time as the annual meeting.
- 175 golfers are coming to Ancient Mariner. It will be on 27 holes on both Pelham and Split Bay.
- Reunion classes this weekend: 65, 75, 85, 80.
- Saturday homecoming: Breakfast in the morning in the library, Pass and Review at 10, Annual meeting at 12, Football game 1 o'clock, march on, Patty's at 4 o'clock, and then reunion dinners that night.
- The slate of the officer's report will be given by Mr. Trotta later.
- The bylaws are still working.
- Governance will be discussed later, Kevin Albertson could not attend the meeting.
- Annual Report Update - The format is set, donor list is finished and categorized, the report will be issued post-homecoming.
- George interviewed John Callahan (class of '65) regarding the Spotlight article for the annual report on the class of '65 and 83's SST scholarship.

- George is traveling in California.

1830 Report from Treasurer: Sam Reilly

- Treasurer Agenda –
 - Proposed Budget 2025
 - Gross Income YTD -\$49,636.39
 - Net Income YTD - \$174,676.23*
 - Proposed Budget Highlights
 - Dues YTD - \$12,580
 - Annual Alumni Dinner - \$153,207
 - Gross Revenue from Events - \$\$267,097 YTD
 - Accounts
 - Chase Accounts - \$658,388.49
 - Business Checking 1 - \$217,997.94
 - Business Checking 2 - \$149,604.75
 - HY Savings - \$290,785.80
 - Funds Available for SST 25: \$478,000

Budget Status

- Currently "on the fence" financially.
- A successful homecoming weekend with Ancient Mariner could offset losses.
- Projecting approximately \$25k in the red through the end of the year, even with successful events.
- Need to re-evaluate the budget for 2026.

Sporting Clays Event

- 68-72 shooters participated in the inaugural event, close to the maximum of 80.
- Expected to be a profit maker, estimated at least \$10,000 or more.
- Revenue included in the networking events figure.
- Final invoice received, including no-show fees.
- Venue foundation may donate back to the organization, increasing the profit.
- Should be a separate line item in the budget going forward.

1842: Reports from Committee Presidents

- Bylaw Committee – Seth/Ted/Dennis
 - Final proof copy sent.
 - Result of work over the summer with voting chapter presidents.
 - Includes a definition of the three types of chapters.
 - Clarifies what chapters should do to help the national group and vice versa.

- Working agreement about chapter and national group responsibilities should not be part of the bylaws.
- The email from Dennis is the "best compromise" however, someone should send it as a document instead of a long email.
- The goal is to standardize the language and clarify the three classes of chapters.
- Events Committee – Steve/ Saira
 - Reichenbach Hall is confirmed for November 25th for the nominations and networking event.
 - The contract for Tribeca is set, returning to the rooftop space used for the gala.
 - Kit is compiling a solicitation list for the honors dinner.
- Membership Committee – Seth Lucas
 - The Admiral is scheduled to visit the Hampton Roads area on the 29th.
 - The Admiral is also planning to visit the Washington, D.C. area.
 - The Houston chapter had a successful golf event two weeks ago. They are planning another maritime happy hour before Thanksgiving and a clay shoot next year.
 - Greg will share pictures from the golf event via Dropbox.

Chapter Events

- Tampa Bay
 - The next event is November 18th at the Tampa Bay History Center.
 - Bobby Davis is creating the Tampa Bay Maritime Society for all maritime graduates and they are seeking resources to help create flyers for Bobby's event.
 - King's Point invited the Tampa Bay chapter to their Space Coast chapter event.
 - Ashley requested an updated email list of people within a 50-mile radius of Port Canaveral.
- South Florida
 - Southport Raw Bar event: Big turnout, sister companies chipped in to pay the bar bill.
 - September 11th event at Fairwater: Lightly attended (15-20 people) which was surprising. More people attend events at a bar than an office.
 - Work Boat show in New Orleans: Event at the Abstinence House on Wednesday. Maritime field chipping in to pay the bill and is usually a big turnout.
 - Possible alumni event at Workboat conference: Thinking of doing something the last night, joint for the maritime alumni with the chapter.
 - An event at the Seafarers House in Port Everglades is being planned.

- Snowbird season impacts event attendance but simpler events at bars tend to have better turnouts.
 - Healthy competition with other academies can increase attendance.
 - Jacksonville Propeller Club - Recent award for Bill Kelly.
 - AOTOS event: Following weekend, Kevin Killoran will be up for the AOTOS dinner.
- o Del Val
 - Golf and crab outing was held in September.
 - Annual all academy holiday party: December 18th
- Magazine Committee - Ted Mason/Don Gale
 - o Magazine was about two months late due to lack of coordination and problems at the college.
 - o We went through five or six proofs, one or two is normal.
 - o An agreement was reached to publish the fall/winter edition in the first week of January and the spring/summer edition in July.
 - o The Admiral wanted to delay issuance to include cruise-related material. Summer edition will be issued in July immediately after the ship arrives to include cruise material.
 - o Pam is ensuring there will be follow-ups for the next magazine issue, with additional coordination meetings planned to address any issues and ensure timely delivery.
 - o The Summer 25 issue was sent to the printer on September 18 and delivered to the mail on October 7, just under three weeks for printing.
 - o The college's production schedule aims for printer delivery by December 22, with a winter 25 in-hand delivery goal of January 5.
 - o Content is being solicited, with a cutoff date around November 2 for submissions, as content is due to Pam by December 1.
- Social Media/PR Committee – Rick McClain/Taylor
 - o Advance notice for events is helpful to chapter leaders.
 - o Photos from events are the best content.
 - o Taylor encourages everyone to engage with their content.
 - o Photos from non-exclusive maritime events are welcome, especially if the organization is driving the event.
- Audit Committee – John Valvo
 - o The audit of the financial statements was completed, presented to the Board in September, and tax documents were filed.
 - o The auditor's letter to management was a clean opinion with no issues noted.
 - o The goal is to present the 2025 financial overview from the auditors at the June meeting.

- o The non-draft version of the financial statement will be sent to SUNY, the controller's office, along with the management letter and a copy to the college.
- Scholarship Committee – John Valvo
 - o Last Friday was the Patrick Warren Baeszler Class of '14 golf outing on Staten Island.
 - o The golf outing is organized by coworkers and alumni through their own 5013C nonprofit.
 - o Funds raised go toward SST scholarships, coordinated with Josh Renta.
 - o The inaugural year provided \$12,000 in scholarships, with a focus on Staten Island residents.
 - o Last year, a single \$5,000 scholarship was awarded.
 - o The goal is to increase funding levels to offer more than one scholarship next year.
- Nominations Committee – Mike Trotta
 - o All officers except the secretary are running again.
 - o A candidate is slated for the secretary position and will be nominated from the floor.
 - o Three board of director positions are open: Mike Trotta, Ted Mason, and Vin Melwani
 - o Ted and Vin wish to run again.
 - o Mike Trotta is stepping down to open his spot for "some new blood" but will remain involved in committee positions.
 - o The timeline: after the nominations meeting, there will be a week plus another week for everyone to submit their information.
- Swag Committee – Vin Melwani
 - o For the 175 golfers, they are trying to get swag to both the Ancient Mariner event on Friday and the on-campus event on Saturday.
 - o Available swag:
 - Maroon polos with the M and maritime alumni logo (extras may have an ancient mariner logo).
 - White flag hats (confirmation pending).
 - Navy quarter zips (like last year).
 - Clay chute bags.
 - Good or sunback glasses.
 - Backpacks.
- Governance Committee – Kevin Albertson
 - o Kevin Albertson is working on creating a calendar of essential corporate tasks (audit report, New York State charities filings, insurance payments, tax returns).
 - o The committee plans to conduct overdue sexual harassment training in February after the board reorganization.

- o This training will be mandatory for all board and voting members and will be an online format.
- o Kevin has been assisting with contracts and insurance matters.

1914: Old Business
None

1914: New Business

- Art proposed a work weekend to address issues more effectively than board meetings. Staying on the Empire State is now possible, resolving hotel concerns. Suggested timing: February or March.
- Concerns were raised about the feasibility of a weekend commitment versus a Monday/Tuesday option due to work and teaching schedules.
- There will be opportunities to participate virtually.
- A doodle poll or survey monkey may be used to see what days people prefer before making concrete decisions.
- Some board members don't live in New York and have to factor in travel time.
- One board member mentioned needing to add eight hours of travel or flights.
- One board member stated that the point of meeting in person is to get together and bond and to be able to communicate better.
- Ted mentioned that the New York Council Navy League does a full day every January on Saturday, which turns out to be very productive.

1919: October 2025 meeting adjourned.

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