



SUNY Maritime Parent Association
General Membership Meeting
September 12, 2025
7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting began at 6:55PM with an introduction of all Maritime Board Members and in prayer for the recent assassination in the news across the country.
- J. Timpone welcomes all parent volunteers and thankful for their partnership.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- J. Timpone welcomed Admiral O'kon, Val O'kon, Commander in Chief Robert Tart, Chief of staff Captain Murphy, and Captain McManus.
- Admiral Okon spoke about how Suny Maritime has not been in a good place culturally, structurally, or financially. It was not promoting successfulness to the point of what you see in Forbes magazine recently, money.com. They have a lot of work to do to get Suny Maritime back in a position, education, training and leadership for our son's and daughter's.
- Two years ago, we were at 1330 enrollment, last year 1430, right now we are at 1550. Unprecedented growth speaking greatly to the value of this education, the value of the license, and to the values of what we are trying to achieve to evolve.
- Fiscally we are incredibly strong.
- This time last year we had a 7.7 million structural deficit 20% over budget. Last year we cleared all about 20 million just by being structurally sound, making hard fiscal decisions, and putting the money and the priority for your sons and daughters.
- With one more year at 1600 on campus we become financially viable. In 1800 we become financially vibrant.
- Admiral Okon is sole focused on recruiting, retaining, and ultimately graduating.
- This Summer, we did an academic portfolio review. In every program except for one we are growing. The exception is Facilities Engineering, its mechanical engineering ashore/afloat.

- The master's program has been a part time degree. We are converting it into a full-time degree over two years and not one.
- We are focusing on the things that make our graduates special as they enter the industry. The fundamental programs such as Naval Architecture, engineering, marine environmental science, marine science, integrated transportation and logistics, shipping and logistics.
- In the MAC NPR you will see an improvement to student life, some branding is taking place. New banners, upgrading things in our dormitories such as student lounges. Furniture is on delay hopefully will be delivered in November. The gym and field have had significant improvements including about \$1.5 million between their renovations including new bathrooms, and men's lacrosse and football locker rooms. S&E Lecture Hall are having new seating by October/November. Special Events room renovation occurs. Another round of enhancements will be discussed in the following weeks.
- We revamped our Student Code of Conduct. In many cases it was contradictory. It is on the website, and all students have a copy.
- To assist in the garbage on campus, we have a reusable program for those on the go. Sign out the container, 3 days to return at no fee of charge. Being more environmentally friendly.
- Tightening up on security. Working on a mobile ID card on their phones to control access to dorms and lounges.
- They are also introducing The Great Boat Lift of 9-11 Memorial down the slope of campus facing World Trade Center as on 9-11 half a million people were evacuated by boat.
- Pep-Rally for school spirit. AD Ramsay coordinated. Club fairs 50+. Athletic clubs out of student affairs to athletic facilities.
- Fall Commencement was held September 12th. All 3 commencements will occur every year. Early walk policy will cease. They also honored "Chris Moscatello" who passed away this summer and awarded his father with his degree.
- Puppies on Campus is always a big hit. Hero Academy/Hero Labs- two non-profits for breeding dogs and giving them to combat service injuries, first responders, and for mental health of our students promote some fun.
- Admiral's Dinner on September 16th- to fundraise to have competitive advantage over the Massachusetts and Maine Maritime Academies.
- October 4th Athletic Hall of Fame where 8 will be inducted from the 2010 football team who were undefeated and went to the NAACP.

- Winter Break will be cut down from 6 weeks to 4 weeks this year- Mark the calendars from December 13th to January 12th because numerous amounts of classes building on themselves and this will ensure students are more academically successful.
- January Commencement will be January 23rd, 2026, and May commencement will be May 8th, 2026. Two weeks earlier, therefore, leaving on SST two weeks earlier and coming back two weeks earlier. Summer Break will be two weeks longer. May 12th is the plan for SST.
- Questions and Comments open to parents.
- Thursday morning muster is reinstated due to the number of students in the regiment needs to be longer as they get through all the students to make sure, they are safe and healthy. Friday afternoon formation is also reinstated this year.
- Undergraduate Student's 8am -5pm, Monday thru Thursday, and 8am- 2pm on Friday as no student should be in class until 10pm at night. New schedule will be instituted. Level the load balance for successfulness. Certain Liberties were already instituted due to certain athletic teams winning important games. This is being done to enhance character-based leadership, to enhance their skill sets and training they need to be successful. Nothing was being done to promote character-based leadership and core values. Being a good leader is being a good human being.
- Change is tough but the industry is changing.
- Admiral Okon's focus is to give our sons and daughters the tools they need to be ready to be successful one day and to be better than us.
- Certain Parents expressed concern of their Mugs cannot eat as they are hungry. They went over the schedule of when and where they can eat at certain times.
- Questions about weekend leave job requirements. After regimental formation at 1600, there's no restrictions beyond that. There will be reg activities where mugs must stay for example tomorrow Football game and homecoming.
- Liberty request forms will be available to accommodate student's schedules.
- Students need to learn the Rules and Regs for these reasons.
- Admiral Okon reiterated "you cannot do this program in 4 days, 5 days need to be reinstated.
- Admiral Okon highly expresses the open transparent conversations we have are important, don't ever feel like I shouldn't talk. If you have a hard question that's what you pay me for.
- J. Timpone thanked Captain McManus with a gift.

- Captain McManus highlighted the program at SUNY Maritime from all aspects. The mugs might be having a hard time adjusting but they will be successful. Captain McManus had the Most precious cargo in the world, and for himself in his personal career it was his best honor.

PRESIDENT TIMPONE

- J. Timpone took back the mic and stated guest speakers for next month's meeting will be Dr Todd Lidh, and Dean Spilane.
- J. Timpone reiterates to join the Parent's association as it is a great network of families coming together to support our kids, as it is a unique college experience.
- J. Timpone also reported with the help of volunteers we give back to the school. Last year, we gave back over \$47,000 dollars back to the school. We support every event taking place on campus. We are sponsoring a table of cadets at the Admiral's dinner in September.
- J. Timpone asks for the clubs to reach out to us to assist with materials they need.
- J. Timpone also supporting the T2T event and sponsor the t-shirts as we split the costs with the school. Sunday September 28th.
- Homecoming Oct 18th and mugs are required to stay.
- Question-The licensing class has a charge now and no longer free of charge. It was never free of charge in the past.
- Homecoming pushups in the end zone- The Pass Review for parents and alumni to attend.
- J. Timpone also introduces to the parents of upcoming dates- After Homecoming another meeting in November, and holiday party coming, Super bowl party for the students with games and hot catered food. Halloween will be Truck or Treat.
- Pocket book bingo, celebrating our 10 years as an association of parents on the board and became a 501C3.
- J. Timpone introduced the by law committee to be updated with structure.
- J. Timpone introduces Kathleen Dvorak by Law Committee Chairperson. K. Dvorak read the introduction to the proposed changes to article 10, 8 and 6, which will be posted on the website. This is to strengthen our association. Next month they will be re-read and voting on these changes. There should be a level of commitment to be a Board Member, and they know what they want to get into. It takes a lot of effort.
- J. Timpone asked for a volunteer for tomorrow's football game. (September 13th first home game)

- Next meeting will we speak of the mental health of our students. J. Timpone reiterated who will be at our October meeting. Feedback is important.
- A Parent expressed concerns regarding scholarship money and how its being appropriated. He had called housing or student affairs as he constantly hears a recording that they work 8am-4pm. No one picks up the phone or gets back to you. Other parents have suggested to email with a phone call. The department may not even know that message is still on there. J. Timpone will raise it up to the school.
- A Parent requested for J. Timpone to have a suggestion box. As people may not be aware with certain issues people don't want to speak about.
- P2- will be a cost to park for the year for home games.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM.