



SUNY Maritime College Parents Association Corp.

Board Meeting
April 6, 2023
6:00 PM
Zoom

Board members present: Joe Sesack, Jeannine Sesack, Joe Donovan, Stephen Biscotti, Sue Donovan, JoAnn Davila, Luis Davila, Cleo Gakshteyn, Frank Harnos, Liz Harnos, Jeannine Timpone, Dorothy Kasimis, Sandra Lamarque, Thea Fry, Jeremy O'Brien.

Board members absent: Jim Fry, Keith Reilly

Guest parents: n/a

Call to Order: Joe Sesack called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of the March 7, 2023 meeting minutes: meeting minutes from the March meeting were emailed to all board members. Approved by Stephen 2nd by Liz.

***we will send the meeting minutes out from this meeting in the next day or 2 for your approval to post on our website and file in the storeroom as our last official meeting.

President's report:

- **Election for 2023/24 academic year.** You have us here through ship return in August.
- We currently have 17 board members.
- Jeannine Timpone volunteered to take the President position with help from the board as she is a new parent to our board.
- Vice President- Sandra Lamarque
- Corresponding secretary- This job can be broken down to social media (Facebook) & membership (updating membership lists and the constant contact email database. Liz Harnos and JoAnn Davila have volunteered to split this position.

- Recording secretary- Dorothy Kasimis
- All nominees will be presented at the 7pm meeting for approval.
- Hospitality and tech positions are still available. These are not elected positions.
- Thank you to Liz for hosting this zoom meeting. Some of you may not know but we had 100 listeners to the call. Liz's plan caps off at 100. We've never had 100 before. In the future you may consider purchasing your own 100 participant plan that would cost \$149.90/year/user- Meetings up to 30 hours per meeting - 100 Attendees per meeting with Cloud Storage 5GB. You can continue with the 100 and send out the recording or the association can get your own zoom membership for next year, the plan for 300 is \$199.90/year/user. Meetings up to 30 hours per meeting. 300 Attendees per meeting. Cloud Storage 5GB
- Letter writing campaign- In March the Admiral sent out another email asking for one last push in the campaign. We sent this out to all parent's association members dating back to 2010.
- Emails have gone out to students about their SST scholarships. As per student account, they are still waiting for the final numbers for the SST. If your student received a scholarship it will be deducted from the bill.
- International health insurance will also be on your bill for cadet shipping and SST. Your student will be enrolled automatically. You can NOT waive this insurance.
- Accepted Students Day Saturday April 15th- the focus of the day is on convincing students and families, who have been accepted, to choose Maritime College. Many of these young men and women have not decided where to go, and so the focus needs to be on "selling" them on the school (and less on selling them branded clothing). We will be on the Quad from 12-3. Set up time 10:30.
- Class of 2023 graduation- Doug Hasbrouck and Admiral Alfultis reached out regarding us sponsoring the senior BBQ. This will be followed by the senior picture and toast at 4:00. The Senior Awards Dinner would follow that evening on campus by invitation only. The Admiral is estimating that the cost of this event will be about \$15,000 – including catering, beverages, a DJ for entertainment, etc. They are asking if the Parents Association would consider donating \$5,000. ALL IN FAVOR OF DONATING \$5000.
- Senior awards dinner. \$250, All were in favor of giving the award to SGA president Liam Reddan. There was some confusion about this, this year. CMD Grohman sent us an email in March asking for us to give the award to another student. We told him we

already picked Liam as the SGA President. Please run the name of our nominee by Dean Romeo and CMD Grohman before giving our award winner to the school.

- FACEBOOK- still pretty quiet but the graduation subject did pop up again this week.
- John Celentani, student activities coordinator and MAP requested \$5000 for the Spring Fling. We sponsored 2 food trucks, one is pizza, the other is crepes. The Donovan's reported that the event didn't pick up until after the rain let up. Food was good. Students were enjoying themselves.
- Discussed with Joe Donovan possibly having an end of the year meeting/ party either at ship departure or return. Just to actually sit all together and enjoy everyone's company without working at our meeting or events. Once we get an accurate date for ship departure we can plan.
- Boat ride to meet ES VII- now that we know the Empire State will arrive back on campus through New York Harbor will contact the charter company and start selling tickets when we get the latest updates from Capt McManus. Remember you must ask for permission from Capt. McManus and Rob Crafa Director of waterfront to have the charter dock at the pier.

Treasurer's Report:

- Chase - we currently have \$27,354.52 with a few outstanding checks not cashed yet.
- Cleo spoke with our accountant Danielle who will continue to report our taxes this year when they are due.
- Cleo please bring checkbook and cash box to Accepted students day

Club fund requests:

- Since our last meeting we had 3 new club fund requests from the SNAME, the culture club, and the black student union. Approved by email and text voting.
- So far this year we have given out funds to 15 clubs for a total of \$7500.

Shop report:

- Joe D. has completed inventory to prepare for Accepted Students Day. We are in good shape with the storeroom.

Additional Comments:

- We are so thankful for the support the parent's association receives. Because of this support and the dedication of our board members this year we have donated \$43,375.00 back to our students: \$7500 to 15 clubs, \$8000 Admiral dinner, \$1000 One Hand Student Relief Fund, \$4000 in Holiday party scholarships, \$4337.50 alumni dinner, \$3000 for Superbowl party, \$5000 Spring fest, \$5000 to SST, \$250 senior award, \$5000 for the senior BBQ. Plus \$287.50 for new alumni night last night bus transportation.
- Mugs and shoulder boards- it has been brought to our attention that the Mug class is the first class that do not have shoulder boards on their uniforms. They have started a petition that they will bring to the Regiment requesting the boards be added to their uniform. In speaking with CDR Grohman- A decision was made roughly a year and a half ago, to remove shoulder boards from the INDOC Sea Bag issuance. Shoulder boards are very expensive and without proper care/updating, they can be an issue. The ultimate goal was to provide a significant cost saving to the cadets. In lieu of shoulder boards, cadets will utilize collar devices to indicate their class.
- At our last meeting all approved to donate \$5000 to SST- we must make sure that the students know it came from us. We can bring this up with Capt. McManus tonight.

Unfinished business

- **MOU-** we have not heard back from administrators about the MOU.
- Donation to the new student center opening in 2023. This was included in Doug's email on March 14th- I'm pleased to report that much of the outfitting of the Student Union is going to be achieved through the State Construction Fund and other funds that are restricted toward that purpose. Roxanne and I met with IT to discuss student needs/desires related to the new space, and they have identified the television system upstairs in the Mess Deck. The system currently only allows for the same signal to go to each television. If the system were renovated (using the same televisions), a different channel could be streamed to each one – we need to explore further, but audio could probably be provided wirelessly to students' phones/earbuds. This would allow the news to be provided on one television, while Wheel of Fortune could be on another, and even an educational maritime program on another. It would be a significant enhancement, but since that space is not in the renovation the State funds don't apply. IT has obtained a price of about \$12,000 for this project. If it is something that the Parents Association would be interested in funding we will develop a more detailed proposal and clarify the audio situation. We have many on campus events coming up to rebuild funds for this donation.
- Luis John Davila, follow up regarding gym equipment. Requesting about \$10,000 for new equipment. We asked Luis to ask the athletic director to directly email us about this

request since the fund request is pretty high. We need to make sure the chain of command is followed. The athletic director asked Luis to speak with Dean Romeo. Dean Romeo said to speak with the athletic director.

Upcoming Events and Meeting schedule for spring semester:

- Tonight we will have a Q & A about SS and Cadet shipping. Capt. McManus has offered to join our meeting. We will also have our SGA President Liam Reddan 1/C and Richard Hutter 1/C, First Assistant Cadet Engineer – Summer Sea Term 2023, SUNY Maritime Student Government 1/C Representative to speak to our parents.
- Saturday April 15th - Accepted students day, volunteers will be needed for this on campus membership drive and sales event. We will be on the quad from 12-3. We will meet at C-D dorm at 10:30.
- April 15th is also the deadline for the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Scholarship-This scholarship is available for students living in Pennsylvania, Delaware, or New Jersey.
- Thursday May 4th senior BBQ, Senior toast, Senior awards dinner.
- Friday May 5th graduation
- Ship departure on TBD- volunteers will be needed.

Adjournment:

Joe adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.