



SUNY Maritime College Parents Association Corp.

**Board Meeting
March 7, 2023
6:00 PM
Zoom**

Board members present: Joe Sesack, Jeannine Sesack, Joe Donovan, Stephen Biscotti, JoAnn Davila, Luis Davila, Cleo Gakshteyn, Frank Harnos, Liz Harnos, Jeannine Timpone, Dorothy Kasimis, Sandra Lamarque, Thea Fry, Jim Fry, Keith Reilly

Board members absent: Jeremy O'Brien, Sue Donovan

Guest parents: Lorie Hartfield, Kathleen & Michael Philbin

Call to Order: Joe Sesack called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of the February 12, 2023 meeting minutes: meeting minutes from the February meeting were emailed to all board members. Approved by Luis 2nd by JoAnn.

President's report:

- Thank you and welcome to our newest board members Sandra Lamarque, Thea Fry, and Jim Fry. At this time we have 17 board members.
- When we reached out to the President of the Mass Maritime PA when the students died in the car accident in December, the Dean of students replied. At Mass Maritime the college runs the Parents Association. We will discuss more on this later.
- Thank you to Liz for hosting this zoom meeting.
- Super Bowl party - thank you to Jeannine and Frank Timpone and Joe & Sue Donovan for organizing this event. Thank you to all of our volunteers. Everything was delicious. The students looked like they had a great time. We fed 239 students. We spent (for the record, Joe did not itemize each vendor just said total spent but will leave vendors cost here for future reference).
- Nonna's - \$500

- Morris Yacht club- \$1000
- White Castle- \$168.71
- Annie's pretzels- \$164.74
- BJ's- \$25
- Tip for Patrice- \$100
- Ship's store gift cards- \$1000
- **Total - \$2958.45**
- We donated for raffle- 5 watch caps, 1 tote bag, 10 Empire State Shirts, 4 new all-weather jackets.

- Letter writing campaign- our state assemblyman Jarret Gandolfi called us on 3/1/23. He mentioned that he attended Maritime for 1 year. He loves the college and we have his full support. He said we'll know more about the budget in about a month.

- Jeannine Timpon addressed Senator Nathalie Fernandez at last night's Bronx Budget Forum. The senator stated she did put funding for the Summer Sea Term in her budget. Thank you Jeannine T.

- Class of 2023 graduation- on 2/22/23 Doug also reached out regarding the senior BBQ- "Dear Joe and Jeannine, When the College made the decision to move to one formal Commencement ceremony a year, like the other SMA's and most colleges, the vision was to make it more special experience. Our hope is to add and update events to make both Thursday and Friday days that graduates will enjoy, and something that those who finished their degrees in the prior eight months will want to return to participate in and see classmates and friends. For the last several years the Alfultises have sponsored a Senior Toast on Thursday afternoon, and personally provided an engraved flute for each graduate to keep (while parents get to use a plain one from food services). This year we are discussing a picnic lunch on Thursday afternoon (May 4) at the Admiral's lawn, with music, games, and lunch from about 1-3, a class photo at 3:30, and the toast at 4:00. The traditional Senior Awards Dinner would follow that evening on campus, while many other graduates will make dinner plans with family or gather at Paddy's. Commencement will be on Friday morning. Mike asked me to reach out to you, and the Alumni Association, to see if either or both organizations would be interested in sponsoring the luncheon. We're just starting to develop the idea, so I don't have firm costs yet but I wanted to run the idea by you."

- Senior awards dinner. \$250, All were in favor of giving the award to SGA president Liam Readdon. We will be away and will need someone to present this award to Liam.

- FACEBOOK- still pretty quiet

- John Celentani, student activities coordinator and MAP are requesting \$5000 for the Spring Fling. We spoke to John this morning about what exactly the funds would be

used for. Specifically, 2 food trucks one is pizza, the other is crepes. We saw a flyer on instagram from Fort Schuyler shipmates that says Alumni and MAP hosting the event. John assures us it will be changed and the parents association will be added. The event will start with a set up from 2:30-3:00. The party will run from 3-8. The band "Ladies and Gentlemen" will perform at 4:30. MAP will not need our parents to volunteer. There will be a men's lacrosse game, women's basketball game and an event at the Waterfront. There will be many students on campus for this event. All approved donating \$5000 to the Spring Fling.

- School calendar has removed the ship departure date of Friday May 26th, returning August 1st. The students have received updated SST information today. We will get this latest update tonight from Admiral Alfultis.
- 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 with out working at our meeting or events.
- 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. More information to follow.

Treasurer's Report:

- Chase - we currently have \$29,785.72
- There are 3 outstanding checks to be cashed; the Women of Maritime Club, Jiu Jitsu Club, and the Alumni Association check for half of the bus ride to the alumni event.
- Cleo spoke with our accountant Danielle who will continue to report our taxes this year.
- Godaddy auto renewal for website and marketing last month \$599.76 for 2 years. This renews from the checking account. **This failed to auto renew from the checking. Godaddy feels it was on their end, we paid with our debit card. It is important** for you all to know when setting up any account. Must pay bills directly from our checking account. If you use a debit card you will have to update when an executive board member is done with their term. This has been updated throughout our term.
- We need to pick a date for our April meeting. Is Thursday April 6th good for a zoom meeting? This is right before the religious holiday vacation week. All approved April 6th.

Club fund requests:

- Since our last meeting we had 2 new club fund requests from the Women of Maritime and Brazilian Jiu- jitsu club. Approved by email and text voting.
- So far this year we have given out funds to 12 clubs for a total of \$6000

Shop report:

- Joe D. Is currently working on our inventory to prepare for Accepted Students Day. We are in good shape with the storeroom.
- We received an email from an alumni looking for Empire State VI shirts. Matthew brought the shirts home and Jeannine added them to our website on March 3, 2023. We sold 19 shirts to 11 customers. Total sales \$475 minus \$88 in postage, square fee, and of course, the cost of the shirts which was about \$6.95

Additional Comments:

- After tonight's meeting we will know more about the Empire State returning to campus. We will have to decide whether to do the charter boat ride or not with the ship departing and returning to campus through the LI Sound.
- Vote on \$5000 to SST- we must make sure that the students know it came from us. All approved this donation.
- Doug Hasbrouck stopped by our Super Bowl party and asked who would be taking over for us. Jeannine told him that noone has stepped up yet. He did mention that at other schools the parent's association is run by the college staff with parent volunteers. . On 2/22/23 Doug sent this email which we forwarded to all of you- " If you haven't been able to find new leadership I would be happy to brainstorm about options for moving forward. I don't have any 'silver bullet' in mind, but I work closely with the Alumni Association who also have challenges – they have a shortage of volunteers, while I see you turning out 20-30 for your clothing sales ... they have always had paid staff to help run things. At every other school where I have worked the Parents Association was a less formal organization, with parent leadership and volunteers but staffed by the college. Similarly, at most schools the alumni program was the same (except one where it was legally separate, with its own Board, but still staffed by the college). I'm very impressed with the Maritime College Parents Association, so am not advocating for any sort of change, but if there are ways that working together we could make you more successful and benefit current students I would want to help. Hopefully you already found new leadership to take your places!"
- We have worked very hard running this association and would really hate to see the college take it over.

Unfinished business

- **MOU-** we have not heard back from administrators about the MOU.
- Donation to the new student center opening in 2023
- Luis reported that the weight room could use improvement. His son Luis will report back to us what their needs are.

Upcoming Events and Meeting schedule for spring semester:

- Tonight's meeting: Speakers will include: our new Dean, Dr. Michael D. Jasek, Admiral Alfultis, Capt. McManus, and CMD Grohman discussing SST schedule
- Date change due to religious holidays: Saturday April 1st Spring Fling. MAP (Maritime Activities Program) Giacomo Martello contacted us asking if we'd be able to help. They are looking to host "Spring Fest". They are planning on having food trucks, a concert and a carnival.
- Our final meeting of the year and elections will be a zoom meeting Thursday, April 6th. We will have a Q & A discussion about SST- maybe have some students speak to the parents.
- Saturday April 15th - Accepted students day, volunteers will be needed for this on campus membership drive and sales event.
- Thursday May 4th senior BBQ, Senior toast, Senior awards dinner.
- Friday May 5th graduation
- Ship departure on TBD- volunteers will be needed. Traditionally, we sell tickets for the ship return charter boat ride at this event. Will start selling boat ride tickets to PA members only at the beginning of May. We may have to rethink the charter trip this year if the Empire State truly comes back to campus through the Long Island Sound. The excitement of the boat ride has always been the scenic ride up the East River and the NY City sites. We will know more after tonight's meeting.

Adjournment:

Joe adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.

