

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF
THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNITED STATES**

Held at Jones Walker LLP
New Orleans, Louisiana on
Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:00 a.m.

The March 10, 2015 meeting was called to order by
President Robert G. Clyne at 9:00 a.m. In addition to President
Clyne, the following Officers were also present:

Harold K. Watson, First Vice President
Francis X. Nolan, III, Second Vice President
David J. Farrell, Jr., Secretary
William Robert Connor, III, Treasurer
Barbara L. Holland, Membership Secretary

The following Directors were present:

Robert B. Parrish, Immediate Past President

Michael K. Bell	Lynn L. Krieger
Katharine F. Newman	Daniel G. McDermott
Joseph A. Walsh, II	Donald C. Radcliff
Christopher E. Carey	Kevin J. Thornton
John S. Farmer	David N. Ventker
Boriana Farrar	

At President Clyne's invitation, Past Presidents Howard M.
McCormack, Raymond P. Hayden, Thomas S. Rue, Elizabeth L.
Burrell, and Warren J. Marwedel also attended the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the October 24, 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors held in Philadelphia.

Consistent with the motion approved at its May 1, 2014 meeting, the Board decided that a blast email advising Members of the need to opt in to receive hard copies by U.S. mail of the Spring and Fall 2014 MLA Proceedings and the Fall 2014 MLA Report would await until after our website launch and the May 1, 2015 General Meeting of the Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Connor discussed his Quarterly Report for the three months ending December 31, 2014, summarizing that the MLA's finances are generally in good shape. He reported that thanks to generous sponsorships by Philadelphia law firms the Fall 2014 Philadelphia meeting was able to return a small profit. He also noted that pursuant to By-Law 213.2, there were 55 memberships automatically terminated for non-payment of dues over three years.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Holland reported that since the Board's October 24, 2014 Philadelphia meeting there were fourteen applicants for Associate Lawyer membership:

Yaakov Adler
New York, NY

Andrew Ciganek
Los Angeles, CA

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Jack R. Daley
Baltimore, MD

Joseph A. Devall, Jr.
New Orleans, LA

John P. Dimitry
Fort Worth, TX

Edward Barrett Hails
Mobile, AL

Bronagh M. Kelly
New York, NY

David R. Maass
Palm Beach, FL

LCDR Brian McNamara
Mandeville, LA

James Noel
Norfolk, VA

Jarrold A. Rainey
Washington, DC

Clifford B. Thompson
Houston, TX

Alison Wilson
Long Beach, CA

Hansford "Ford" P. Wogan
New Orleans, LA

Ms. Holland also reported that she received thirteen applications for Law Student membership:

Valerie A. Barrios-Arce
New Orleans, LA

Laura Taylor Coley
The Woodlands, TX

Danielle T. Gauer
Miami, FL

James L. Johnsen
Alexandria, VA

Kimberly Bentson Kauth
New Orleans, LA

Kirsty Koopmans
New Orleans, LA

Reese B. Mitchell
New Orleans, LA

Matthew J. Pallay
Colonia, NJ

Kelly D. Parks
New Orleans, LA

Brandon Foster Smith
Brighton, MA

Mark Vessio
Malverne, NY

18829

Clayton J. Vignocchi
New Orleans, LA

Karen York
New Orleans, LA

Ms. Holland regretfully reported learning of the following
six deaths:

The Hon. Harold Baer, Jr.
New York, NY
Judicial Member: elected 1995

John A. Chamberlain
Woodbury, CT
Non-Lawyer Member: elected 1997

William R. Dorsey, III
Baltimore, MD
Life Member and Past President: elected 1966

Gerald Gaudet
Lafayette, LA
Life Member: elected 1965

John R. Lacy
Honolulu, HI
Proctor Member: elected 1982

James Sentner
Houston, TX
Life Member: elected 1966

With the above membership changes, the MLA's
total Membership is now

VOTING MEMBERS

Proctors	1269
Associates	1141
Non-Lawyers	174
Academic	23
Subtotal	2607

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ex-Officio	13
Honorary	4
Judicial	121
Law Students	25
Subtotal	163
TOTAL	2770

Ms. Holland also noted that the 2014-2016 *Directory* was in the mail and would be received shortly by Members.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously adopted Ms. Holland's report.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In addition to Directors, First Vice President Watson will encourage Committee Chairs and particularly the Young Lawyers Committee to contact him with suggested postings for the website Events Calendar.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In advance of the Committee Chairs' lunch meeting to be held April 29, 2015, Second Vice President Nolan asked Board

Committee Liaisons to attend and it was urged that they generally offer assistance to their Chairs, making sure that Committee meeting agendas are timely posted. He will be asking the Chairs to start looking toward the Spring 2016 MLA/CMI meeting, encouraging them to consider joint MLA Committee meetings which might be held jointly with appropriate CMI working groups.

WEBSITE

With the imminent launch of our new website scheduled for March 20, 2015 and the added complication of our current website platform with ICVM expiring in any event on March 31, 2015, the Board held a long and detailed discussion on various management, logistical, security, contingency, and remedial plans.

Unanticipated delays in Boost by Design's creation of the new MLA website and transfer of our database were specifically addressed as was MLA Administrator Robin Becker's training and comfort level with the new system.

All of these issues will be closely monitored and dealt with by President Clyne, Ms. Krieger, and others over the next ten days and coming weeks, with cautious optimism that a seamless transition will be achieved for our Membership.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Membership Issues

In conjunction with the new website, the Board approved the website page promoting MLA Membership drafted by the "Join the MLA" Board Subcommittee.

Mr. Walsh raised the possibility of creating an MLA LinkedIn group. It was decided to refer this to the Website and Technology Committee and Young Lawyers Committee for their consideration.

As addressed at several recent Board meetings, possible amendments to Non-Lawyer Membership By-Law 204 were considered. After discussion, it was decided that Past President Marwedel, the new Chair of the Non-Lawyer Nominations Committee, and Past President Burrell, its immediate past Chair, would put together a memo highlighting related issues in order to assist future discussions.

Comité Maritime International (“CMI”)

Several CMI items were addressed by the Board, including nominations for two vacant Executive Councillor positions and Treasurer.

For the Board’s information, a CMI Questionnaire on Maritime Arbitration and a memo summarizing recent work by the CMI working group on general average were attached to the agenda.

Second Vice President Nolan reported on the working group he is chairing which will survey the definition of “vessel” under the laws of various nations and legal regimes. He also commented there is a working group on the Cape Town Convention which established a central filing system for aircraft, rail, and space financing documents; he noted there was a recent proposal to expand the Convention to include vessel financing documents as well, which he noted had strong opposition.

The next CMI meeting is scheduled for Istanbul, June 6-8, 2015. President Clyne, First Vice President Watson, Second Vice President Nolan, and Vincent J. Foley will be attending on behalf of the MLA.

Rotterdam Rules

President Clyne reported there is general frustration in many circles with delays in obtaining U.S. approval of the

Rotterdam Rules due to late-surfacing opposition from domestic ports.

BIMCO Dispute Resolution Clause

President Clyne reported that while pleased that the proposed BIMCO dispute resolution clause includes New York along with London and Singapore as possible venues, he is concerned that the present draft provides that arbitrators are limited to “commercial people” as sometimes a dispute has particular need for a determination of substantive law issues. He is working with Past President Burrell, the MLA BIMCO representative, on alternative language that would be satisfactory to the Membership.

FUTURE MLA MEETING PLANS

Spring 2015 New York City Meeting

The Board discussed plans to notify the Membership of the April 28 to May 1, 2015 MLA Committee meetings, General Meeting of the Association, and dinner at Cipriani Wall Street. It was decided that an email blast to all Members would be sent by the end of the week.

There was also a discussion regarding the MLA’s reservation of blocks of New York City hotel rooms for out-of-town Members. In recent years Members have not been taking advantage of these arrangements, leaving the MLA with potential financial obligations for guaranteed minimum bookings. The Board decided not to reserve any hotel rooms this year but may revisit the issue in the future.

Summer 2015 Board Meeting in San Francisco

President Clyne asked the Board to make reservations at Parc 55 Hotel for the August 78, 2015 Board meeting. The Board is looking forward to a good opportunity to visit with our California Members and recruit new Members.

Fall 2015 Bermuda Meeting

President Clyne reported the Bermuda Arrangements Committee is well underway, chaired by James F. Moseley, Jr., with John F. Farmer heading up CLE. Mr. Moseley will report on planning at the next April 30, 2015 Board meeting in New York.

March 2016 Board Meeting

President Clyne reported he is considering Charleston or Savannah for next spring's Board meeting.

Spring 2016 New York Meeting with CMI

President Clyne reported that Mr. Foley is doing a good job planning the joint MLA/CMI meeting next spring. He is currently seeking sponsors. The preliminary schedule includes a Tuesday evening opening reception, a Wednesday cocktail reception at Rockefeller Center, the Healy Lecture on Thursday, with a Gala MLA/CMI Dinner on Friday night at the Hilton. Mr. Foley will report on planning updates to the Board at the next April 30, 2015 Board meeting in New York.

Fall 2016 New Orleans Meeting with Tulane Admiralty Law Institute ("ALI")

First Vice President Watson reported that logistical planning is moving ahead with the assistance of Grady S. Hurley and Edward F. LeBreton, III. On Tuesday, October 25, 2016 there will be an afternoon Board meeting and dinner. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings the theme of the ALI sessions will be a fifty year perspective on maritime law; on those afternoons MLA Committee meetings including CLE will be held. To minimize attendees' travel to and from the Tulane campus, holding all ALI and MLA meetings downtown is under consideration.

President Clyne asked Board Committee Liaisons to contact Committees and encourage them to identify timely topics and seriously consider authoring law review articles in conjunction with presenting during ALI sessions.

Fall 2017 Napa Valley Resort Meeting

First Vice President Watson reported that a contract had been signed with the Silverado Resort and Spa. There was general approval in principle, subject to working out the details, that the Pacific Admiralty Seminar will be held in conjunction with and provide CLE at the Napa Valley meeting.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

President Clyne reported that Past Presidents McCormack, Hayden, and Burrell and Second Vice President Nolan, all from New York City, represented the MLA at the 225th anniversary of the Southern District of New York on November 4, 2014.

President Clyne also reported that the Officers' annual January luncheon with top U.S. government maritime lawyers had a very good turnout despite inclement weather, with many appreciative comments received.

There being no other business, President Clyne adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David J. Farrell, Jr.
David J. Farrell, Jr.
Secretary