

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

October 18, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. PDT

San Francisco, California

I. CALL TO ORDER

The October 18, 2023, meeting was called to order by President Barbara L. Holland at 2:30 p.m. PDT. The following Officers were present:

Barbara L. Holland, President
Grady S. Hurley, First Vice President
James F. Moseley, Jr., Second Vice President
Edward J. Powers, Secretary
William Robert Connor III, Treasurer
Alexander M. Giles, Membership Secretary
Lynn L. Krieger, Website & Technology Secretary
David J. Farrell, Jr., Immediate Past President

The following Directors were present:

Term expiring 2024

Carolyn Elizabeth Bundy
Mark E. Newcomb
William J. Riviere
Jennifer M. Porter

Term Expiring 2026

William M. Fennell
Sean D. Houseal
Jessica L. McClellan
David F. Sump

Term expiring 2025

Samuel P. Blatchley
Ivan M. Rodriguez
Imran O. Shaukat
Thomas M. Wynne

At President Holland's invitation, Past Presidents Pat Bonner, Liz Burrell, Bob Clyne, Ray Hayden, Chester Hooper, Warren Marwedel, Tom Rue, and Hal Watson were present.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of July 29, 2023, Board Meeting at Mackinac Island, Michigan

Secretary Powers presented the Minutes of the July 29, 2023, Board Meeting at Mackinac Island, Michigan.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the July 29, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Quarterly Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Connor reported that the finances of the Association for the three-month quarter ended September 30, 2023, were in fine shape, consistent with their status on June 30, 2023.

B. Dues Status

Treasurer Connor reported that 268 Members are delinquent in payment of annual dues, totaling \$110,000. This is a normal amount of delinquent dues, and Treasurer Connor anticipates that most of these Members will bring their dues current by the end of the year.

Treasurer Connor reported that the Association's annual audit report is expected to be completed by the end of October 2023, and he does not anticipate any issues with the auditors' findings. The Association's tax return will be filed on November 15, 2023, consistent with the usual extension granted the Association.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

IV. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership Secretary Giles presented the Membership Secretary's Report.

Proctors

The Proctor Admission Committee has received two (2) Proctor membership applications for consideration, both of which have been approved by the Committee:

Frank J. Anders
United States Department of Justice
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Seventh Floor
Room 7-5395
San Francisco, California 94102

Theron R. Korsak

Federal Maritime Commission
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20573

Associates

The following eight (8) applicants have applied for Associate membership since the July 2023 meeting, and all are recommended for approval:

Marc James Armas
250 Vessey Street
27th Floor
New York, New York 10281

Seth Blackledge
Jones Walker LLP
201 St. Charles Avenue
Suite 5100
New Orleans, Louisiana 70170-5100

Thomas Benson Decina
United States Coast Guard
1230 13th Street, NW, #712
Washington, D.C. 20005

Amelia Anne Gilmer
Wilcox Savage
440 Monticello Avenue
Suite 2200
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Clyde P. Halstead
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11404 Moorage Way
La Conner, Washington 98257

Patrick Parenton
Staines, Eppling & Kenney LLC
3500 N. Causeway Blvd.
Suite 820
Metairie, Louisiana 70002

Heather M. Spring

The Pasha Group
4040 Civic Center Drive
Suite 350
San Rafael, California 94945

Camille Liliana Zuber
Collier Walsh Nakazawa LLP
1 World Trade Center, Suite 2370
Long Beach, California 90831

Reinstatement

The Membership Committee has received two (2) requests for consideration of reinstatement since the July 2023 meeting:

Randell Geuy (Proctor, 2005)
Unipac America, Inc.
3050 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 900
Houston, Texas 77056

Alexander Gruft (Associate, 2010)
Law Office of Alexander T. Gruft
1515 Palisades Drive, Suite I-1
Pacific Palisades, California 90272

Law Students

The following four (4) applicants have applied for Law Student membership since the July 2023 meeting, and all of them have been approved:

Benson Jeffrey Beidler
18 Hancock Street, Apt. 1
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

Austin Lewis Plaster
11 Chestnut Street
Falmouth, Maine 04105

Hayley Mariah Stancil
808 Village Crossing Drive
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

Ryan William Weber
112 Parkway Court
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

As of October 2023, the MLA reported its total membership as follows:

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 2023

VOTING (ACTIVE) MEMBERS

PROCTORS	1109
ASSOCIATES	863
NON-LAWYERS	109
ACADEMIC	<u>14</u>

Subtotal **2095** (676 of the active members are Life Members)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO	27
HONORARY	3
JUDICIAL	76
LAW STUDENTS	<u>49</u>

Subtotal **155**

TOTAL MEMBERS **2250**

The total number of new members proposed for the October 18, 2023, Board Meeting is twelve (14), comprised of eight (8) Associates, two (2) reinstatements, and four (4) Law Students. In addition, two (2) Associate Members were approved for Proctor status.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Membership Secretary's Report.

V. WEBSITE AND TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY'S REPORT

At the invitation of President Holland, Special Liaison to the Website and Technology Secretary, Kevin O'Donovan, presented the Website and Technology report with Secretary Krieger. It was reported that the website migration is mostly complete except for the Standing Committees' pages, which hopefully will be completed in time for the Spring 2024 meeting. Once the Committees' pages have been migrated to the new platform, Secretary Krieger anticipates scheduling training sessions for the Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs to ensure their familiarization and ability to properly use the new platform.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Website and Technology Secretary's Report.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS, UPDATES

A. 1st Vice President

First Vice President Hurley acknowledged the work of Professor Sturley and Richard Bertram on the Association's 125th anniversary project of compiling the U.S. Supreme Court's maritime decisions for the past 125 years. First Vice President Hurley also reported that the Association's Guidelines and Policies on Social Media Postings approved by the Board at the meeting on July 29, 2023, have now been posted on the website.

VII. DISCUSSION TOPICS

Immediate Past President Dave Farrell reported on the Association's continued advocacy for adoption of the Rotterdam Rules by the United States. The CMI is interested in the intention of the United States regarding the Rotterdam Rules and whether there is the potential for a "work around" if the United States will not adopt the Rules in their current form. Immediate Past President Farrell explained that the American Association of Port Authorities ("AAPA") has, historically, opposed the Rotterdam Rules because of their application to the port authorities as "maritime performing parties," and the concern of the AAPA that it will expose its members to liability for cargo losses. In August of 2023, Immediate Past President Farrell and Director Mark Newcomb met with the AAPA at their offices in Washington DC to lobby the AAPA's support for the Rotterdam Rules, and Immediate Past President Farrell will attend the AAPA's annual meeting in November 2023 to continue the lobbying efforts. A possible "work around" would allow port authorities to opt out of Rotterdam Rules as "maritime performing parties," and Immediate Past President Farrell will discuss whether this is acceptable to the CMI for purposes of increasing the chances of adoption by the United States.

President Holland reported that Vince Foley of New York has been tasked with leading an *ad hoc* group of the Association's members in providing answers to the CMI's questionnaire regarding the viability of modernizing the 1910 Collision Convention.

President Holland reported on Past President Frank Nolan's continuing leadership of a working group promoting ratification by the United States of the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships ("Beijing Convention").

President Holland led an extensive discussion on the continuing efforts to grow the Association's membership including amendment of the bylaws to delete the requirement that Adjunct Membership be limited to 10% of the Association's total membership, encouraging maritime law professors to promote law student participation in the Association, and leveraging the events surrounding the 125th Anniversary to include membership recruitment.

Finally, President Holland reported on the ongoing efforts by the Young Lawyer's Committee to produce regional CLE Seminars during 2024 in select cities to include Norfolk, Houston, and Long Beach.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

President Holland confirmed the date of February 24, 2024, for the Winter meeting of the Board of Directors at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Past President Clyne reported on the plans for the 125th anniversary celebration during the Spring meeting in New York from May 1-3, 2024. The week's festivities will kick off with a reception at Tavern on the Green on Wednesday evening, May 1st, open to all members and invited guests. On Thursday, May 2nd, there will be a dinner at the Yale Club, 50 Vanderbilt Avenue, but due to a maximum capacity of 260 persons, the dinner will be limited to members and one guest. Past President Clyne encouraged the Board members to vigorously promote the New York meeting and encourage sponsors in an effort to defray the cost of attendance to members and guests.

First Vice President Hurley reported on the plans for the 125th anniversary celebration during the Fall meeting in New Orleans from October 23-26, 2024. There will be a welcoming reception at the Windsor Court Hotel on Wednesday, October 23rd, for members and guests, followed by a cocktail reception on Thursday evening, October 24th, at the Southern Yacht Club. On Friday evening, October 25th, there will be a dinner at Arnaud's Restaurant in the French Quarter.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business proposed.

X. ADJOURN

After thanking the Board of Directors for their service, and there being no further business of the Board of Directors of The Maritime Law Association of the United States, President Holland adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Powers". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Edward J. Powers, Secretary