

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

February 24, 2024, at 9:50 a.m. EST

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, Connecticut**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The February 24, 2024, meeting was called to order by President Barbara L. Holland at 9:50 a.m. EST. 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 Liz Burrell, Bob Clyne, Ray Hayden, Chester Hooper, and Frank Nolan were present.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Minutes of October 18, 2023, Board Meeting at San Francisco, California

Secretary Powers presented the Minutes of the October 18, 2023, Board Meeting at San Francisco, California.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 18, 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 December 31, 2023, were in fine shape, consistent with their status on September 30, 2023.

B. Dues Status

Treasurer Connor reported that 796 Members are delinquent in payment of annual dues, totaling \$196,000. This amount is not unusual for delinquent dues during the first two months of the year, 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 for 2023 was completed and there are no issues to report. The Association's tax return was 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 received Proctor membership applications from the following two (2) members, both of which were approved by the Committee:

Jeanne L. Amy
United States Department of Justice
175 N St, NE
11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20003

H. Allen Black
Mills Black LLP
1215 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Associates

The following thirteen (13) applicants applied for Associate membership since the October 2023 meeting and are recommended for approval:

James Johnsen Barbieri
Schroeder, Maundrell, Barbieri and Powers Law
5300 Socialville-Foster Road, Suite 200
Mason, Ohio 45040

Brianna Barnes
Virginia Port Authority
714 W. Princess Anne Road
Norfolk, Virginia 23517

Guyer S. Bogen
United States Department of Justice
P.O. Box 14271
Washington, D.C. 20044

Anna Gordon Carey
Pusateri, Johnston, Guillot & Greenbaum, LLC
1100 Poydras Street, Suite 2250
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163

Kevin Gallagher
Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP
150 SE 2nd Avenue, Suite 1200
Miami, Florida 33131

W. Jacob Gardner, Jr.
Frilot, LLC
1100 Poydras Street, Suite 3700
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Melanie Anne Huffines
Farrell Smith O'Connell Arsheim Aprans, LLP
27 Congress Street, Suite 508
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Matthew Kennedy McCardell
Carrix, Inc./SSA Marine, Inc.
1131 SW Klickitat Way
Seattle, Washington 98134

Victoria R. Nease
Hunter Maclean Exley & Dunn, PC
200 E. Saint Julian Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

Kathleen Mary O'Brien
Kuehne + Nagel Inc.
10 Exchange Place
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

Douglas K. Scheller
Nicoletti Hornig & Sweeney
63 Clinton Street, Apt 1
New York, New York 10002

Candice Mireille Woods
Carrix, Inc./SSA Marine, Inc.
1131 SW Klickitat Way
Seattle, Washington 98134

Parker Thomas Zelle
Farrell Smith O'Connell Arsheim Aprans, LLP
27 Congress Street, Suite 508
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Judicial

The following applicant has applied for Judicial membership since the October 2023 meeting and is recommended for approval:

Carl Lovers Ginsberg
Dallas County Tax Court
4502 W. Lovers Lane
Dallas, Texas 75209

Reinstatement

The following former member has requested consideration for reinstatement since the October 2023 meeting:

Kelly Wilson Clark (Associate, 2013)
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier
816 A1A N., Suite 101
Ponde Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Law Students

The following three (3) applicants applied for Law Student membership since the October 2023 meeting and have been approved:

Jackson Grant Adams
500 Coffee Pot Riviera NE
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

Victoria Pearl Branch
2853 Dryades Street, Apt. 7
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

Isabella G. Dube
4 Hemlock Drive
Saco, Maine 04072

Deceased Members

The following deaths of MLA Members have been reported since the October 2023 meeting:

Chadwick Collings	Associate, 2020 Mandeville, Louisiana
The Honorable Robert G. Doumar	Judicial, Life Member, 1983 Norfolk, Virginia
Michael Rauworth	Associate, 1986 Wellsley, Massachusetts
Guilford D. Ware	Proctor (Life Member), 1953 Norfolk, Virginia

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS

As of February 2024, the MLA reported its total membership as follows:

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 2024

VOTING (ACTIVE) MEMBERS

PROCTORS	1108
ASSOCIATES	799
NON-LAWYERS	109
ACADEMIC	<u>15</u>

Subtotal 2031 (675 of the active members are Life Members)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

EX-OFFICIO	25
HONORARY	3
JUDICIAL	76
LAW STUDENTS	<u>52</u>

Subtotal 156

TOTAL MEMBERS 2187

The total number of new members proposed for the February 24, 2024, Board Meeting is eighteen (18), comprised of thirteen (13) Associates, one (1) Judicial, one (1) reinstatement, and three (3) 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

Website and Technology Secretary Krieger reported that the website migration has been delayed due to issues with the Standing Committees’ pages, as the current MemberClicks application is inadequate to fully support the Committee pages. Secretary Krieger and Special Liaison Kevin O’Donovan are working to find a suitable platform for the Standing Committees’ pages. 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. Second Vice President

Second Vice President Moseley reported on the Committee Chairs' meeting held in early February to discuss logistics and CLE topics for the Spring meeting in New York. All Standing Committee meetings for the Spring meeting will be held in midtown Manhattan for the convenience of the Associations' members, and Second Vice President Moseley assured the Board that the Standing Committees' meetings and CLE presentations will be well worth attending.

VII. DISCUSSION TOPICS

Past President Frank Nolan, a member of the Comité Maritime International's Executive Council, reported on the CMI's 2024 Colloquium to be held at Gothenburg, Sweden on May 22-24, 2024. Mr. Nolan provided an update on the status of the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships ("Beijing Convention"), which recently received the endorsement of Liberia and will likely receive approval by the nations of the European Union at a second signing ceremony scheduled for June 19, 2024, in Malta.

Immediate Past President Dave Farrell reported on the Association's continued advocacy for adoption of the Rotterdam Rules by the United States. Given the intransience of the United States Senate regarding ratification of the Rules, the CMI may decide to move forward without the U.S. The CMI considers the 100th anniversary of ratification of the Hague Rules in 2024 as an appropriate occasion to move forward with ratification of the Rotterdam Rules. Mr. Farrell explained the critical importance of support by the American Association of Port Authorities ("AAPA") if the Rotterdam Rules are to have any chance of being ratified by the U.S. Currently, the AAPA opposes ratification because of the ports' inclusion within the Rules' definition of "maritime performing parties," and the concern of the AAPA that it will expose its members to liability for cargo losses.

Director Mark Newcomb, the Chair of the Carriage of Goods Committee, reported on the debate within that committee regarding a motion submitted by one of its members to advocate for amendment of COGSA to abolish the \$500 package limitation and legislation overturning the Supreme Court's holding in *Vimar Seguros y Reaseguros v. M/V SKY REEFER*, 515 U.S. 528 (1995). A discussion was had among the Board regarding the Association's Bylaw 504 and the procedures required before a non-unanimous motion from a Standing Committee may be acted upon at a general meeting of the members.

President Holland reported on the fine job that Vince Foley and his working group completed on behalf of the Association in which they provided written answers to the CMI's questionnaire regarding modernizing the 1910 Collision Convention.

President Holland reported on the plans of the Young Lawyers Committee to host regional CLE Seminars currently scheduled for June 6, 2024, in Norfolk, and either July or August in Long Beach. The Board authorized the Association to contribute up to \$1,500 towards the expenses of each of these YLC seminars.

First Vice President Hurley acknowledged the work of Richard Bertram and the Young Lawyers Committee on the Association's 125th anniversary project of compiling the U.S. Supreme Court's maritime decisions for the past 125 years.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Past President Clyne reported that the plans for the 125th anniversary celebration during the Spring meeting in New York from May 1-3, 2024, have been finalized. 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.

Director Tom Wynne reported on plans for the Summer Board Meeting to be held in Cleveland, Ohio on August 1-3, 2024.

First Vice President Hurley reported on the continuing 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. The Committee meetings will be held in local law offices instead of a central location normally associated with the Fall meeting.

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 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Powers', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward J. Powers, Secretary