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January 27, 1997

Document # 729

FALL/WINTER 1997 PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Dear MLA Member:

The Association remains strong and quite active in areas of significance to you. Our Fall '96 Committee meetings, seminars, and our General Meeting on October 18, 1996 were enthusiastic and well attended. Our membership continues over 3,650. Additionally, a substantial number of our members moved from an Associate status to the full fledged Proctor status. Our Committee activities are energized by effective leadership of the Committee Officers and the commitment of the membership. For all of this effort, I thank you.

As I have mentioned to you previously, the Newsletter is not the perfect method for communicating our activities. I would suggest only that you review Proceedings of the Fall '96 Meeting that is enclosed herewith for a full understanding of the various activities that continue within our Association. However, I will attempt to outline to you a few significant matters that have been occurring in the past few months, and also highlight those events that are forthcoming so that you may be well aware of these events and calendar them accordingly.

SPRING MEETING MAY 2, 1997 - NEW YORK CITY

Our General Meeting in May will be held in the Great Hall at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. The date will be, as always, on the first Friday in May, which this year falls on May 2, 1997. For several days preceding the General Meeting,

the thirty-one standing Committees will hold their meetings, as well as their many Subcommittees. The Board of Directors and Officers will meet on Thursday, May 1st.

Matters that will be discussed during all of these meetings will include changes and amendments to the law, future issues that will impact our clients and us, as well as, significant substantive and procedural law matters. In addition to the meetings, there will a seminar on Friday afternoon, once again in the Great Hall.

As inevitably occurs, there may be some conflicts among Committee meetings. This is unavoidable due to the number of substantive law Committees that we have, the active participation in each of the Committees and the limited number of days that we have to conduct meetings. However, the Officers work diligently on this scheduling and I would hope that you can appreciate the fact that our Membership Secretary Ray Hayden, in coordinating with Committee Chairs, strives to avoid as many conflicts as possible.

Work is now underway in scheduling the Committee meetings for the week of April 28th. In the very near future, you will be receiving additional information concerning the General Meeting, the black tie dinner that will be held at the Marriott Marquis on Friday night, and a cross-referenced schedule of Committee and Subcommittee meetings. I hope that you all will be able to attend.

New York City continues to have a shortage of hotel space during the times of our meetings. I would encourage you to make your arrangements promptly upon receipt of the next mailing that provides meeting dates and information concerning hotel accommodations. Hopefully, this will avoid anyone being disappointed with their accommodations.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May meeting. I would also remind you that if there is anything that you wish to discuss or have the Board discuss at the meeting, please be kind enough to contact me so that it may be brought before the Board.

COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL - JUNE '97

The Comité Maritime International was founded two years before The Maritime Law Association of the United States. It will be celebrating its Centennial meeting this year in Antwerp from June 9 through June 13, 1997. As you are so well aware, the MLA was established, in part, to be a constituent member of the CMI in fostering the international mission of dedication to uniform maritime laws. The meeting will be principally held at the Hilton Hotel in Antwerp, but some of the activities will also be conducted in the medieval Town Hall nearby.

As you may know from attending past CMI meetings, many matters are discussed by the CMI Subcommittees relating to prospective recommendations for international public and private laws. Several topics will be discussed in Antwerp during the five day meeting. Some of the topics for discussion will be Off-shore Mobile Craft, EDI and Arrest of Ships/Maritime Liens. Discussing these matters will be three of our members, Winston Rice, George Chandler and Emery Harper, respectively.

In addition, the Carriage of Goods topic will also be discussed. There presently exists an International Subcommittee working on this subject with our representatives being: Immediate Past President, Chet Hooper, Professor Michael Sturley and Immediate Past Chair of the Carriage of Goods Committee, George Chandler. The reporter of this group is also our own member who serves as an Executive Counselor to the CMI, Frank Wiswall.

The CMI also intends to devote a portion of its time to its analysis of its direction into the future. I believe that we have a great deal to contribute to their direction in the next century, and I would welcome any comments that any of you would wish to make to me or to the CMI Committee Chair. In the very near future, we will be organizing our delegation for the CMI meeting. Please inform me if you wish to be considered part of our group. We have a travel agent in New York City, who has assisted us with numerous other events through the years, that will be handling our travel arrangements and hotel accommodations in Antwerp.

Should you wish to attend, please be kind enough to contact me, as well as, our travel agent, Mary Williams. For those of you in the New York area, Ms. Williams can be reached at (212) 332-8945. If you are calling from outside of New York, Ms. Williams can be reached at 1-800-213-9179. The conference registration is \$950.00 (30,000 BEF) per attendee. An accompanying adult is an additional \$450.00 (15,000 BEF). Please contact me or Charlie Anderson, Chair of the CMI Committee, for other details.

FALL MEETING OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 1, 1997
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

This meeting is being extremely well planned by Tom Rue and his Committee. It is going to be a great blend of seminars, Committee meetings, activities and fun. Tom has been working on the meeting for three years and has been assisted by the following Committee members:

Robert B. Acomb, III
Geoffrey F. Birkhead
G. Beauregard Gelpi
Richard M. Leslie

James W. Bartlett, III
Michael Marks Cohen
D. Arthur Kelsey
Peter A. Lindh

William C. Miller
Steven E. Mulder
Robert B. Parrish
Charles E. Schmidt

Dennis Minichello
Thomas O. Murphy
Thomas F. Paul
Howard McCormack

In addition to all of the customary events, the Committee is also forming a "Children's Activity" Subcommittee.

The full details and particulars of the October Conference will be in a mailing that you will receive in the near future. The envelope will be marked to indicate that it is material for the Fall Meeting. Please review all of the documentation at that time and make your necessary reservations promptly. The registration cost has been kept extremely low considering the great events, the site of the meeting and the other amenities. Each registrant will pay only \$450.00 and the fee for the accompanying adult will be only \$250.00. This will be a great professional event and an enjoyable one.

THE TULANE SEMINAR

Every other year the Law School at Tulane University holds an internationally important maritime seminar. This year the seminar will be held on March 12 through March 14, 1997. Many of our members will be in attendance. Our member, Bob Acomb, Jr., is the Chair of the Institute and he is ably assisted by many of our other longtime distinguished members from New Orleans.

During this period of time the Officers and Board of Directors of the Association will be meeting in order to continue providing effective and responsive leadership to the Association. I look forward to seeing you at Tulane.

COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Our substantive law committees continue to provide monumental efforts in shaping the law and providing sound advice to the frequent requests of governmental agencies and departments. All of the work of these Committees may be studied in detail in the accompanying volume on our proceedings of the October Meeting. I run the risk in mentioning only a few Chairs by name, in that I will omit several Chairs who are involved, but allow me to provide an overview of some of the ones who are in the forefront.

The Carriage of Goods Committee continues to lend its advice and sound logic to the discussion of the MLA proposed Carriage of Goods by Sea Act amendments. It appears that due to the strong efforts of the Committee in the past and present, as well as support by industry leaders, the MLA amendments have been viewed with favor, far and wide. A great deal of this effort is a result of the work of Chair, Vince DeOrchis, and Immediate Past President, Chet Hooper and others who have been committed to this project from all perspectives.

In addition, other Committees continue to be quite actively involved in many meaningful matters. These include, but are not limited to, Pat Martin of the Arbitration Committee, Steve Vengrow of the Carrier Security Committee, Jack Lillis of the HNS Committee, Gray Staring of the Certification Committee and Ben Reynolds of the Professionalism Committee.

I had occasion during two and a half days in December to speak with virtually every Committee Chair on specific matters, and I find that they are encouraged with projects that the Association has undertaken. They are likewise happy with the enthusiasm of their Committee members.

This enthusiasm also seems to be reflected by the requests for Committee assignments that I receive in relatively large numbers on a weekly basis. Our thanks and appreciation go to all of the Committee Chairs who are doing such a tremendous job.

U.S. SHIPPING COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SHC MEETING)

The United States Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) is scheduled to meet at 10:00 o'clock on February 6, 1997 at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to report on the Ninth Meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Group of Experts (JIGA) to consider the 1952 Arrest Convention, and to prepare for the seventy-fifth session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (Legal Committee) (LEG). There will also be reports on the HNS and LLMC Conventions on the docket. Our Second Vice President, Bill Dorsey, will be attending this meeting. Limitation Committee Chair Don Greenman will also attend. Should you wish any further information regarding this meeting, please contact Bill Dorsey or Commander Bruce Dalcher at (202) 267-1527.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Two of our members were recently recognized. Each was the recipient of a well deserved honor.

Bob Acomb, Jr. of New Orleans was presented with the Distinguished Maritime Practitioner Award by the New Orleans Bar in December. This award was certainly well deserved. He has been one of our outstanding members and has participated widely in numerous matters involving maritime law.

Additionally, Ms. Jean Knudsen was honored by the American Institute of Marine Underwriters (AIMU), with their Distinguished Service Award. She is the first lady to be honored with the award. Jean is the National Claims Manager for MOAC and is the current President of the Recovery Forum. In addition, she is the Vice Chair of the Cargo Subcommittee of the MLA's Marine Insurance Standing Committee.

We are always proud of our member's achievements. It is particularly pleasing to know that others also appreciate their qualities. Our warmest congratulations go to Jean and to Bob.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Due to the high regard that other individuals and organizations have for the MLA, there are repeated and welcomed invitations to participate in various programs, presentations and to share in the very gracious hospitality of our related organizations. I wish to thank all of them who have so kindly extended invitations to the MLA and allowed me the privilege of representing you at these events.

The 1996 Houston Marine Insurance Seminar was held on September 15-17, 1996. As in past years, the seminar was very well attended and presented many interesting topics and speakers. Among the topics covered were: "Building a Basis for Partnership" by Robert C. Golden, Head of Global Energy, a Zurich Insurance Company; "Equitas, the Future" by D.K. Newbigging, Chairman of Equitas Holding, Ltd.; "The Responsible Carrier Program" by Gregory F. McGinty, President of the American Waterway Operators; and "What's going on ..." by Thomas G. Kaiser, President of the Energy Division of American International Companies. I presented a paper on the topic of "Uniformity." If you would like more information regarding these and other topics covered at the seminar, please contact Marion E. McDaniel, Jr.

As you will recall, it was necessary for me to leave near the conclusion of the General Fall Meeting on October 18th to participate in a maritime seminar at Louisiana State University. My thanks go to their able volunteer coordinator and our respected member, Warren Faris, and also the staff of the law school of LSU.

Additionally, the MLA was asked to make a presentation to the Society of Maritime Arbitrators at New York City. I greatly enjoyed the privilege of attending their meeting at India House on November 13, 1996 and making remarks. The President

that effectively leads this organization is our own member, Tony Siciliano. The SMA welcome was warm and greatly appreciated.

In addition, the following week I attended the American Institute of Marine Underwriters in New York. Their kindness and welcome were also warm and extensive. It was a privilege to once again associate with many of our members who also lead the AIMU including their President, Walter Kramer, and their Chairman of the Board, Richard De Simone.

These recent meetings, as well as the ones that will soon be forthcoming, are not only enjoyable events but serve to establish a basis for MLA aiding our "maritime law world."

1999 EVENTS

In 1999, we will be celebrating our One Hundredth Anniversary. A Centennial Committee chaired by Ted Cunningham is hard at work. At the present time, the Committee consists mainly of those from New York, since the nerve center of the Committee will be located there. You will be brought up to date from time to time at meetings on events that will be scheduled. In the near future, there may be a need to expand this Committee as to size and geography; however, at the present time the Committee seems to be functioning well.

Additionally, the 1999 Fall Meeting will be in the Disney World area. The Chair of this event is Cliffe Laborde.

The site was selected due to many factors, not the least of which was the fact that this area affords accommodations in all price ranges and styles. This decision was not made lightly. It was felt that younger members might find it easier to attend this location with younger children. As you are aware, the Fall '97 Meeting will have a Childrens Activity Subcommittee. The Association is attempting to provide our members needs now and two years hence.

MISCELLANEOUS

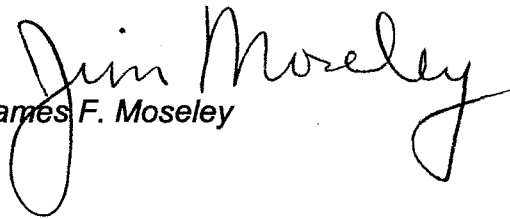
Our friends at American Maritime Cases are offering a free sample of AMC on CD-Rom for 1997. This offer expires March 1, 1997. If you decide to purchase the CD-Rom package, you will be granted a non-exclusive and non-transferable license to use AMC on CD-Rom for 1997. The first CD-Rom will contain 1990-1996 and updates for all of 1997 will be sent on a quarterly basis. If you are interested, please contact Martin L. Kappert, Business Manager for American Maritime Cases, at 410/752-2939.

We are also making available to all of our members, the opportunity to purchase various MLA merchandise, including burgees, long ties and bow ties. Please refer to the enclosed order form for details.

CONCLUSION

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you. The stewardship of this Association that has so many significant projects is one that is taken very seriously. Please call me at any time regarding any MLA matters. A large voluntary organization, such as this, without a permanent staff, is exactly what we want because it allows us to draw upon the voluntary strength and commitment of its members. However, I hope that you appreciate that it does take a little time, here and there, for it to be done correctly and all of us are attempting to do it the way you would wish it done.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Tulane Seminar, at the Committee meetings and General Meeting in late April/May and at the CMI Conference. Once again, please contact me if there is anything I can do.


James F. Moseley