MINUTES OF THE USA MARITIME BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:30 pm. A quorum was present.

- Brian Schoeneman, Legislative Committee Chair, reported that Erick Siahaan has arranged for the Committee to meet with the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee staff on February 17th to discuss the use of previously appropriated unobligated funds in the MSP account for a portion of the FY'21 appropriations for MSP, and the importance of securing full authorized appropriations for the Maritime Security Program (MSP) and the Tanker Security Fleet (TSF) in FY'22.

- Brian Schoeneman reported they will be meeting with House and Senate staffs to discuss the "dear colleague" letter calling for full FY'22 appropriations for MSP.

- Brian Schoeneman asked all USA Maritime members with an interest in the new TSF to provide the Legislative Committee with any proposed changes to the program that will better ensure its effectiveness.

- Sara Fuentes, Regulatory Committee Chair, reported that the Committee will be meeting with the Maritime Administration on February 19th to discuss MSP and TSF appropriations and cargo preference enforcement.

- Charlie Papavizas, Strategic Planning Committee Chair, and Brian Schoeneman, Legislative Committee Chair, indicated that their two Committees will be working closely together to advance our priorities. They further stated that short-term efforts will be handled primarily by the Legislative Committee and our longer term efforts will be handled by the Strategic Planning Committee.

- The Chairman reported that an application for membership has been received from Patriot Contract Services. Members will have the opportunity to vote on the application during the period beginning February 16th and ending COB February 25th. A two-thirds vote of approval is required.

- Chris Johnsen proposed, and the Board unanimously agreed, that Meredith Malarkey be retained to perform administrative and other related work at the rate of $1,500 per month.

- Jim Caponiti proposed, and the Board unanimously agreed, that we acknowledge Rilla Gaither's many years of exemplary service to USA Maritime and that we present her with a $2,500 check in appreciation.

- Bryant Gardner reported that the agricultural commodity groups are once again coordinating a letter to Congress expressing support for the Food for Peace and other food aid programs. Each USA Maritime member is urged to sign the letter. With the approval of the membership as required in our bylaws, USA Maritime will similarly add its name.

- Sean Murphy proposed that USA Maritime create a special Task Force to pursue our request that mariners be given expedited access to the COVID-19 vaccine. The Chairman named Sean Murphy, Jim Henry and Erick Siahaan to the Task Force.

- James Patti reported that a maritime-only meet-and-greet is scheduled with newly elected Senator John Hickenloper, who has been named to the Senate Commerce Committee. He further reported that the maritime unions have scheduled a maritime-only fundraiser for Senator Tammy Duckworth, a member of the Commerce and Armed Services Committees, on April 15th. Anyone interested in attending either or both is asked to contact James Patti.

- The next meeting is scheduled for March 10 at 1:30 pm.