C. James Patti
Chairman

MINUTES OF THE USA MARITIME BOARD MEETING

MAY 12, 2021

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

- Meredith Malarkey reported that the April 2021 financial report was sent to each member prior to today's meeting.

- As stipulated in our by-laws, dues are due by the first day of each quarter and the quarterly invoice will be sent to each member organization by Meredith Malarkey prior to the first day of the quarter. Meredith noted that there are presently two members that have not paid their first quarter 2021 dues. According to our bylaws, organizations that have not paid their quarterly dues by the last day of the first month of the quarter will not be able to vote on Coalition issues until payment is made. Reminder emails have been sent by Meredith to both organizations and she will send one final reminder to each.

- Brian Schoeneman, Chair, Legislative Committee, reported that 90 Members of the House of Representatives have signed the Courtney-Wittman FY'22 Maritime Security Program appropriations "dear colleague" letter. The letter has been sent to the House Appropriations Committee. Brian further reported that 16 Senators have signed the companion Hirono-Wicker "dear colleague". Brian informed the meeting that the President's FY'22 budget is scheduled for release on May 27.

- Brian reported that the legislative proposals requested by the Senate Commerce Committee have been approved by the Coalition and have been sent to the Committee. Copies of the approved legislative proposals were sent to each Coalition member prior to today's meeting.

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- Brian announced that the Tanker Security Fleet (TSF) Subcommittee of the Legislative Committee has had numerous meetings to discuss proposed changes to the statute as well as funding in FY'22 for the new program. The TSF Subcommittee also met with House Seapower Subcommittee staff to discuss the status of the program and ideas for moving forward. Despite these efforts, Brian announced that it was highly unlikely the members of the Subcommittee will be able to reach a consensus on the issues relating to the TSF and that no recommendations will be made for action by USA Maritime on matters relating to the TSF.

- Charlie Papavizas, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, reported that the Tax Subgroup authorized at our last USA Maritime meeting has been formed and has had numerous meetings. The Tax Subgroup, comprised of individuals designated by the carriers who have expertise in vessel operations, includes Chris Barber (ARC), Ed Hanley (Maersk), Henry Nuzum (Waterman), Adam Peterson (APL), Josh Shapiro (Liberty), Charlie Papavizas, Chris Johnsen and Jim Patti. Charlie reported that the Subgroup is close to agreeing on a tax proposal and approach that he expects to be presented to the Coalition soon.

- Sara Fuentes, Chair, Regulatory Committee, discussed the Federal Register notice published by the Export-Import Bank soliciting comments relating to the use of U.S.-flag vessels for foreign-to-foreign transactions. Comments were prepared by Bryant Gardner and Sara and distributed to the members of the Coalition for approval. [**NOTE**: the requisite two-thirds of the Coalition membership approved the comments and the document as submitted by USA Maritime is attached.]

- Sara reported that the Regulatory Committee has scheduled its next meeting with staff at the Maritime Administration for 2:00 pm on June 23rd.

- Bryant Gardner and Russ Paret reported on the recent meeting of the Food Aid Consultative Group and the discussion of the agenda for the June FACG

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meeting. Bryant and Russ made clear to the FACG that maritime wants the situation involving the carriage of food aid to Yemen – and the total lack of U.S.-flag participation in this trade – on the agenda. They further reported that the representative from AID indicated that the authority i.e., "memo" authorizing a blanket exclusion of U.S.-flag vessels in this trade was currently under review. It is likely that further action, including Congressional involvement, may be necessary to rectify this situation.

- Under new business, Jim Patti reported that Paul Fitzgerald has created a "members only" section on the USA Maritime website. This section will include meeting minutes, financial reports, organizational documents and statements submitted to Congress, regulatory agencies or other entities on behalf of USA Maritime. The members only password to access this section is: MaritimeCoalition20

- Also under new business, Ed Hanley reported that Tony Fisher, Deputy Associate Administrator for Commercial Sealift, is under consideration for the position of Executive Director at the Maritime Administration. It was suggested that USA Maritime submit a letter to the Acting Maritime Administrator recognizing Mr. Fisher's exemplary efforts on behalf of our industry during this past COVID-19 year. [**NOTE**: the requisite two-thirds of the Coalition membership approved sending the letter and the document as sent to the Acting Maritime Administrator is attached.]

- Finally under new business, Charlie Papavizas suggested an introductory meeting and briefing be scheduled as soon as possible with Celeste Drake, the President's newly-appointed "Buy America Czar" who is responsible for ensuring the full implementation of the President's January 25 Executive Order.

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- Members of the Coalition were encouraged to attend the maritime-only meet-and-greet with Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee Member Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman on May 17th; the maritime-only meet-and-greet with Congressman Don McEachin on May 27th; and the maritime-only fundraiser for Congressman Bob Gibbs on May 27th. Anyone interested in attending should contact James Patti at jpatti1979@hotmail.com

- The next virtual Coalition meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9 at 1:30 pm.

APPROVED

R. Christian Johnsen
Secretary-Treasurer