C. James Patti
Chairman

MINUTES OF THE USA MARITIME BOARD MEETING

September 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:30 pm. A quorum was present, with a majority of each membership group represented.

- The Chairman began by acknowledging the passing of Matt Eisele and extended our condolences to Matt's family and to Eric Ebeling and the ARC family. Matt was a strong supporter of USA Maritime and our industry, and he will be sorely missed.

- The Chairman then welcomed Chris Barber who will be replacing Matt in our USA Maritime meetings and will replace Matt on our Strategic Planning Committee.

- Chris Johnsen resented the monthly financial report which had been distributed by Meredith Malarkey prior to today's meeting. This will continue to be done prior to each monthly meeting. Chris reported that we currently have 20 member organizations in USA Maritime with one, US Ship, in arrears.

- The Chairman asked everyone to please make sure their accounting offices are following the directions on the invoices that are sent out each quarter – we still have several members who are sending their checks to the American Maritime Congress instead of to Meredith at the address on the invoice. This is an inconvenience for AMC and makes it difficult for Meredith to determine promptly and accurately who has paid and who is in arears. He urged everyone to please make sure this is taken care of before Meredith sends out the 4th quarter invoices the week of September 13th.

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- Brian Schoeneman, Chair, Legislative Committee, presented the Legislative Committee's report. He reported that the House Armed Services Committee marked up and reported the FY 22 defense authorizations legislation on September 1. Committee held its most recent meeting July 12. The legislation includes language authorizing a new icebreaker for the Coast Guard for Great lakes operations and language that authorizes the maritime Administration to use previously appropriated funds to purchase replica Congressional Gold Medals for WW II merchant mariners. While not a USA Maritime issue, Brian reported that the defense legislation includes a provision that prohibits vessels under long term charter from participating in the new Tanker Security Program.

- Brian reported that the FY'22 appropriations legislation passed by the House includes full funding for the U.S.-flag programs as requested by the President: $318 million for the Maritime Security Program; $60 million for the Tanker Security Program; and $10 million for the cable ship program. The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to consider its appropriations legislation later this month.

- Sara Fuentes, Chair, Regulatory Committee, reported that the Regulatory Committee met with Adam Yearwood, Office of the Secretary of Defense. She reported that Adam focused on sealift recapitalization, the new tanker security fleet and COVID. On behalf of the Committee, Sara is reaching out to US Coast Guard and to USTRANSCOM to schedule meetings.

- Sara distributed a number of Federal Register notices for review. The Committee will be recommending whether USA Maritime should submit comments in response to the notices on any or all of the Federal Register notices. The Committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

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- Charlie Papavizas, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, reported that the Tax Subgroup has reached a consensus on a proposal to create a tax credit for shippers intended to increase the number of vessels operating under the U.S. flag by increasing the amount of commercial cargo carried by U.S.-flag vessels. The proposal has been presented to the Coalition and everyone is urged to provide any comments to Charlie as quickly as possible. A special meeting of the Coalition will be scheduled for the purpose of discussing and approving the tax credit proposal.

- Under old business, the Chairman reported that because certain concerns were raised when Crowley's application was first presented, we delayed the vote on Crowley's application so that we can discuss this at today's meeting. The vote to decide whether Crowley is accepted into membership will occur by electronic means during the period beginning Thursday, September 9, 2021 and ending close of business, Friday, September 17, 2021. A two-thirds vote of the membership is required. (Section 9.2)

- Under old business, the Chairman reminded evertyone that the deadline for registering to attend the American merchant Marine Veterans dinner on September 23rd is September 10th.

- Under new business, it was reported that a number of USA Maritime member organizations have been asked by Congressman Garamendi's staff for comments on his ocean shipping reform legislation. It was previously agreed that USA Maritime would not get involved in this legislation, and following a discussion, this remains the policy.

- Under new business, the Chairman reported that a number of USA Maritime member organizations have raised questions regarding various provisions in our bylaws. The Chairman asked Chris Johnsen to chair a special committee to review the bylaws and to report back to the Coalition with suggested changes, if any.

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- The Chairman reported that maritime-only events are scheduled with Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger (September 15), Congressman Chris Pappas (September 21), Congressman John Garamendi (September 28) and Senator Tammy Baldwin (September 30). Details on time and place will be sent out as soon as they are available.

- Finally, it was agreed that the date and time of the next meeting will be determined pending the special meeting to review the shipper tax credit proposal.

- APPROVED

R. Christian Johnsen
Secretary-Treasurer