

Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association Newsletter

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Fall 2003

2003 HMAA Annual Meeting held

The 2003 Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association annual meeting was held commencing at 1800 hours on July 15, 2003. Forty-six members were in attendance either in person or by proxy. The personal attendance number was probably somewhat lower due to Tropical Storm Claudette being in the Galveston/Houston vicinity on that day.

After the meeting was called to order by President Knutsen, the chairman of the nominating committee, Heather Campbell, reported there were four nominations for the two vacant Director positions for a two-year term. Following the election and counting of ballots, Ms. Campbell announced that Ed Bluestein and George McCarthy were duly elected Directors of the Association. President Knutsen expressed his appreciation to outgoing Director Bill Jensen for his dedicated service over the past two years, and thanked all nominees for their interest in running for these positions. He said he looked forward to working with the new Board of Directors to further the goals of H.M.A.A.

The minutes of the 2002 Annual Meeting and the Treasurer's Report were both distributed and unanimously approved. The President announced that the Board of Directors had approved the Treasurer's recommendation that annual dues be put on a calendar year basis. All current members, whose dues would otherwise have been renewable in July, will remain in good standing until the end of this year when renewal dues notices will be sent out. President Knutsen called on Chairman George Chandler for his report. It was reported several new HMAA arbitrations

have commenced, and all members were reminded to notify the Association of all arbitration's utilizing HMAA Rules. Chairman Chandler reported some interest has been expressed in having another Arbitration Training Workshop. If there is sufficient interest, the day and one-half workshop will probably be scheduled for November.

George McCarthy, Vice President-Marketing, then gave his report on HMAA at CMA and outlined his ideas for further marketing of HMAA, with several other ideas proposed by members from the floor. The meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting

The five Directors of the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association met commencing at 1200 hours on July 31, 2003 in Houston, Texas. All five Directors (Chandler, Knutsen, Bluestein, McCarthy, and Ryniker) were present at that meeting.

The Board considered a recommendation from Chairman Chandler that we look into the possibility of conducting our next Arbitrators Training Workshop at Brady's Landing on the ship channel.

President Knutsen next opened a discussion and a proposed draft of an information letter to be sent to shipping companies, ship operators, charterers, and other entities in the marine business who might be expected to designate an HMAA arbitration clause in their contracts. The Board reviewed the proposed correspondence and all members were in agreement with the proposed form.

It was suggested that once the list of proposed addressees was circulated, it might be advisable to modify the format somewhat to reflect a more personal

correspondence, as a result of someone's working relationship with particular individuals at those companies. Marketing Vice President, George McCarthy, advised that a list of addressees were being developed based upon a number of different lists. George McCarthy said the consolidated list will be forthcoming shortly for Board consideration and finalization.

The Board also elected new officers for 2003-2004 to serve until the next Annual Meeting at this session. Those officers will be listed in a separate article in this newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 1340 hours.

H.M.A.A. Officers

At their meeting on July 31, 2003, the HMAA Board of Directors elected the following officers to serve for the remainder of 2003, and until the Annual Meeting in 2004:

Chairman of the Board - George F. Chandler
President & Vice Chairman of the Board - Edward W. Knutsen
Secretary - Robert J. Ryniker
Treasurer - Ed Bluestein
Vice President at Large - Augustus E. Elmer
Vice President, Marketing - George E. McCarthy III
Vice President, Membership - Thomas J. Donovan

As previously reported, the Directors of the Association are Messrs. Chandler, Knutsen, Bluestein, Ryniker, and McCarthy.

Change in HMAA dues period

As noted in the report concerning the 2003 Annual Meeting elsewhere in this newsletter, the Board of Directors has approved the recommendation by Treasurer, Ed Bluestein, that the dues period for HMAA be changed to a calendar year basis.

This means that members now in good standing, will remain so until the end of this Calendar Year. At that point in time, dues notices will be sent out for the Calendar Year 2004 period.

It should also be noted that the Board considered the amount of the current initial and recurrent dues for membership in HMAA. After discussion, it was agreed to leave the amount as previously set.

H.M.A.A TO ATTEND BIMCO CONFERENCE

HMAA to attend the ASBA/BIMCO Annual Cargo Conference October 23rd/24th in Miami, Florida.

In our continuing effort to get the word out about the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association, HMAA is planning on co-sponsoring an attendee to the subject ASBA/BIMCO conference entitled "Trends in Commodity Movements".

ASBA (The Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (U.S.A.), Inc.) is a membership trade association bringing together companies and individual ship brokers and ship agents conducting business in the United States and Canada

BIMCO (The Baltic and International Maritime Council) is the largest private-shipping organization in the world, representing shipowners, shipbrokers and agents, P&I Clubs and Associate Members in 122 countries. Its Members are engaged in all types of trade worldwide, operating every kind of commercial ship. They represent 69% of the world's ocean-going dry cargo and tanker fleet – and in some segments, more than 80% of the cargo-carrying capacity of specific ship types. We believe HMAA's attendance at select industry events, is a great way to advertise by enabling face-to-face discussions (and feedback) with a broader base of prospective clients.