



National Marine Electronics Association

Annual Business Meeting Minutes Orlando Doubletree Hotel Wednesday September 22, 2021

NMEA's annual Business Meeting took place during lunch on Wednesday and quickly clicked through several presentations. Chairman Steve Katz called the meeting to order at 12:51pm and welcomed attendees before turning over the podium to President & Executive Director Mark Reedenauer, who asked for a vote to accept the minutes from both the 2019 and 2020 Business Meetings. The 2019 meeting was held at the Conference & Expo in Portsmouth, VA. A virtual event was held in 2020 due to the pandemic. Both sets of minutes were approved.

Treasurer Richard Baker told the audience that while revenues declined from 2019 to 2020 due mostly to the absence of income from the convention, year-to-date revenue is up compared to all of 2020. He said current reserves are \$1,269,557, which "equals two years of operating expenses and pursuit of special projects."

Katz then congratulated Reedenauer on successfully completing The Center for Association Leadership's Certified Association Executive (CAE) course.

In the President's Report, Reedenauer said the Trade sector at 296 members accounted for the largest slice of membership, followed by Manufacturers at 210, Dealers at 188, Associates at 72, Master Dealers at 16 and Boat Builders at 14 for a total of 796. He said the association is focusing on providing unique member benefits for each category and reaching out to military veterans as a potential source of high-quality employees for the industry.

Member benefits

Among the benefits for dealers, he said a \$300 renewal returns a \$2000 value, including three free trainings along with three free training renewals per year, one free CMET/NMET exam annually and one free conference registration. Master Dealers receive four free trainings/four training renewals, two free conference sign-ups and 5% discount manufacturer coupons. Trade members get one free training/one training renewal and a free conference registration. Another program for credentialed members is 50% discounts on specialty tools, such as gateways, multimeters, coax crimpers, soldering irons, label makers and other equipment.

Training

Reedenauer told members that despite cancellation of in-person technical training during 2020, 1325 individuals completed NMEA's virtual training courses, including 535 manufacturer employees. Trainees in these programs represented 23 countries. Reedenauer said 2022 will see a combination of interactive virtual and in-person trainings.



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MEJ

Following adjournment of the formal proceedings, Reedenauer introduced Bruce Cole, manager of *Marine Electronics Journal*. Cole said advertising sales of nearly \$400,000 are at the highest level since 2008, and that the last reader survey showed NMEA members rank MEJ among the top three member benefits. He said MEJ has returned \$1.1 million in annual dividends to NMEA from 1995 to 2020.

IMEA scholarships

John Barry, Chairman of NMEA's International Marine Electronics Alliance (IMEA), reported that the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization launched a marine electronics industry scholarship in 2021 and this year is awarding scholarships to two trade school students. The awards provide both recipients with \$2500 tuition payments to their schools along with free attendance to the Basic MEI and NMEA 2000 Installer training classes. Barry presented a blow-up of the check to scholarship recipient Tyler Perlow of Kingsborough Community College and said a second check was on its way to Skagit Valley College for student Shane Eubank. Perlow is also currently an apprentice at Strong's Marine in New York.

Before closing, Reedenauer told the audience to mark their calendars for next year's Conference & Expo—Oct. 3-7 at the Sheraton Anaheim Park Hotel—and said in 2023 the event will return to the Orlando Doubletree Universal Hotel, Sept. 18-23.

Adjournment: 1:15pm