

NMEA Annual Business Meeting

Oct. 5, 2022, Anaheim CA

The NMEA Business Meeting, held October 5 at the NMEA Conference and Expo in Anaheim, California, underlined the robust health of the National Marine Electronics Association and stressed benefits that have been developed to support dealer members as well as other members in the trade.

NMEA Chairperson Steve Katz opened the meeting at 12:35pm on Wednesday October 5th, with his chairman's welcome, followed by Jason Young's Secretary report, with a motion to approve the 2021 NMEA Annual Business meeting minutes held last year in Orlando FL.

Richard Baker, treasurer of the NMEA, reported that the association is healthy and has a two-year reserve to protect against any severe economic problems. The annual budget is about \$1.3 million, and the annual overhead is about \$600,000. Most of NMEA's annual revenue is produced by memberships, training, and sales of standards.

"Membership is the lifeblood of any association," said Mark Reedenauer, President and Executive Director of the NMEA. He pointed out that the current membership of 850 is the highest ever for the NMEA. Regarding member benefits, Reedenauer pointed out the following:

Members qualify for benefits the value of which far exceeds the cost of membership. For example, a dealer membership which costs \$475 new, \$300 renewal, qualifies for free trainings, exams, and free conference registration. Master dealer membership which costs \$500 new, \$375 renewal, qualifies for free trainings, two free conference registrations and 5% manufacturer discount coupons that only Master Dealers can use. Becoming a Master Dealer has never been easier. NMET and CMET exams are free to dealers, and they now equally qualify for dealers who wish to become Master Dealers.

Installer training is more comprehensive and widespread than ever. Opportunities for training include sessions in selected areas and times of the year based on seasonality and several years of NMEA historical trainings and attendance. In addition, six virtual trainings were offered this past year to installers around the world, including Alaska and Hawaii. The NMEA is currently working with 10 trade schools around the nation to offer basic NMEA installer training to these schools so they can mold into their curriculum.

NMEA Training students have the benefit of being able to buy testing tools from companies like Maretron, Actisense, Fluke, and Niessi for 50% off the published internet price. This benefit is subsidized by the NMEA with the goal to get quality tools in the hands of installers so they can do their job better.

Unlike most conferences, the NMEA Conference and Expo is deliberately managed at break-even or even a loss in order to provide benefits for attendees that include free registration for dealer and trade members, free parking, more food and beverages provided free for attendees, and electrical power included for exhibitors.

In other business, John Barry, President of the IMEA (International Marine Electronics Alliance) presented scholarships to two trade school students who wish to enter the marine electronics industry. Julie Cappelli and Tom Haagensen, both students at Skagit Valley College, were two of the six students who were awarded IMEA scholarships to support their training and entry into the marine electronics field.

Mr. Steve Katz adjourned the meeting at 12:53pm.