

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2019

Attendees:

Dan DiFonzo	Maury Mechanick
Ron Garlow	Richard Rankin
Fred Kelly	Geza Serenyi
Ron Johnson	
David Lee	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the May 21, 2019, meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from May 22, 2019, through November 12, 2019. Fidelity Brokerage account balance was \$45,897, plus a PayPal balance of \$2355, and a Checking Account balance of \$3437, for a total of \$49,590. Expenses through November 12, 2019, for calendar year 2019 came to \$3389, consisting of Webmaster Honorarium (4 quarters - \$2500); PO Box Rental of \$268; Liability Insurance of \$425, Fall Social of \$161 and Paypal Fees of \$35). Consistent with the pattern over the past several years, paying members at this time is relatively low (44 members/\$1,280), but with year-end reminders targeted both to members that had previously paid but were not current and the larger membership generally, results can be expected to increase from that figure.

LMCO Benefits

Based on Peter Jacxsens recent experience =having relocated from Washington DC to Virginia,, it was decided to post a reminder on the COMARA website about the need to coordinate geographic relocations with Via as well as with the plan provider

Newsletter, Web Hosting, etc.

Note was taken of the meeting held previously, attended by Ron, Dan, Geza and Steve Teller and the ongoing efforts to work on website improvements and ease of use. Irrespective of whether there is a need to shift to an entirely different platform, incorporating features such as those provided by Word Press that would allow multiple individuals to be able to post to the website without requiring HTML coding skills continues to be a high priority. Ron also stressed the importance of ensuring that the website was optimally accessible on multiple devices, including mobile devices. Geza again stressed the importance of having all Board members consider contributing content as appropriate to the website, rather than relying primarily on Ron Garlow's efforts in this regard.

Membership Report

As noted above, membership renewals remain fairly low year-to-date, but hopefully a year-end push will significantly increase the number of renewals.

Report on 2019 Fall Social, Annual Meeting and Board Election; First Wednesday in December Lunch

Fall Social Event and Annual Meeting held at That's Amore on September 22, 2019, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Those in attendance had a good time and at the meeting the re-election of Ron Johnson, Fred Kelly and Geza Serenyi for three year terms to the Board was announced. The one remaining COMARA-sponsored social event is the First Wednesday in December lunch, to be held at the Woodside Deli in Rockville. Ron Garlow committed to providing additional information about the event on the website and those Board members planning on attending were encouraged to timely advise Ron Johnson of their intention.

National Electronic Museum

No further developments to report.

Legacy Project Update

Cooperation continuing with COMSAT Legacy website hosted by Steve Teller.

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The next regular Board meeting will take on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 11:30 am at the home of Maury Mechanick (8905 Montgomery Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD).

The meeting adjourned about 12:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Maury Mechanick