

## Message from the President

I am pleased to report that COMARA successfully held its first ever virtual Annual Meeting and Fall Social, on Sunday, October 4, 2020, at 4:00 pm EDT. We had more than 25 attendees, including a number from outside the DC Metro area, who would not otherwise have been able to attend an in-person meeting. Attendees included COMARA members from as far away as Florida and California, and we believe we may even have had one attendee from Japan.

I am pleased to announce that the slate of directors that were up for re-election, specifically Denis Curtin, Dan DeFonzo and Bob Kinzie, were all elected to new three-year terms. Additionally, in recognition of the outstanding job that Ron Garlow has done over the past several years in overseeing the COMARA website, we have now officially designated Ron as Webmaster Emeritus. With the new website now up and running, we are dispersing responsibilities for its upkeep and management among a number of Directors, but Ron will remain a valuable resource to us in this regard.

In light of the pandemic, there was less to report on our activities over the past year than in previous years, although I can report that our finances remain healthy, thanks to the excellent efforts of our Treasurer, Geza Serenyi. Having said that, I would be remiss if I did not remind all members how **critically important** your dues payments are to our continued financial well being. Annual dues payments are very modest – they have remained level at \$15/year since COMARA was founded in 2002. Dues can be paid either by check or electronically using PayPal; information about dues payments can be found on the COMARA website, [www.Comara.org](http://www.Comara.org). When you log in to our website, you will see either a blue ribbon near top indicating that your membership is paid up or you will see a red ribbon asking you to renew your membership for the year.

The meeting also included a brief presentation that I made looking at the world of satellite telecommunications after COMSAT, and for those who are interested, that presentation is available on the COMARA website. There was also an opportunity for those who attended the virtual meeting to share reminiscences about their days at COMSAT and to provide feedback to the COMARA Board as to how the organization can better serve the membership.

Probably the most important feedback in this regard concerned the desirability, expressed by a number of attendees, of using a virtual format in some fashion, in addition to an in-person meeting, for all future Annual Meetings, so to better enable those who are not in the DC Metro area to attend and participate. This is something the Board will definitely take under advisement and we will look to implementing this in the most technically feasible manner possible going forward.

Hopefully 2021 will be a better year for all of us. You can rest assured that the COMARA Board remains committed to preserving the COMSAT legacy going forward, and to continuing to protect the interests of all COMSAT alumni and retirees.

Thank you.

Maury Mechanick, President, COMARA