

**COMARA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 7, 2021**

**Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):**

Maury Mechanick	Fred Kelly
Denis Curtin	David Lee
Dan DiFonzo	Geza Serenyi
Ron Johnson	

**Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes**

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the July 27, 2021 meeting. It was noted that the date of today's meeting coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the date that Lockheed Martin decided to formally shut down LMGT, another reason this day will live in infamy.

**Treasurer's Report and Membership Update**

The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from July 27, 2021, through December 7, 2021, Expenses for 2021 to date have come to \$2272, representing a slight variance over budget for the year of \$228. Total income for the year to date has come to \$2,195, representing dues payments for 82 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account was \$52,393 and total assets were \$60,335, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account. The Board also provided its approval in principle the proposed 2022 budget.

**LMCO Benefits**

COMARA will continue to liaise with Intelsat Retiree and Alumni Association (IRAA) to assist as may be desired in connection with the impact on IRAA retirees of the Intelsat bankruptcy proceeding, which is still ongoing.

**Newsletter, Web Hosting, etc.**

The new website has now been up and functional for approximately a year. The Board was requested to look for additional photos that could be used as part of the website photo display, either in addition to or in lieu of current photos that

are being used. Input from Board Members to the new website was strongly encouraged. Based on feedback from members, efforts will be undertaken to expand or give greater visibility to the Members Stories portion of the website, to allow members to provide updates regarding themselves after COMSAT or to share reminiscences of their experiences while working at COMSAT.

### **Social Activities for 2021/2022**

Since the time of the last Board meeting, COMARA held its annual meeting virtually on September 26, 2021, and while attendance was somewhat lower than last year (attributable in part to a very seasonably pleasant weather day), those who attended appreciated the event and appeared to have a good time, including participating in the first ever COMARA COMSAT trivia event. Maury Mechanick, David Lee and Richard Rankin were re-elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors.

The First Wednesday in December event was held in person at the Woodside Deli in Germantown on December 1, 2021. It was attended by more than 35 individuals, with photos from the event now on the COMARA website. Special thanks to Surinder Sharma for serving as unofficial event photographer and truly capturing the spirit of the event. *(Secretary's note: As requested as the Board meeting, I did send a thank you note to Surinder thanking him for his time and effort.)*

At this point it is hopeful that all in-person events can be resumed in 2022, including the IRAA/COMARA picnic, the COMARA Annual Meeting, and the First Wednesday event, and planning for all three events will proceed on that basis. At the same time, given past success, the current plan is to hold a dual Annual Meeting on successive Sundays, as both an in-person and virtual event.

### **Satellite Gallery at the National Electronics Museum Project**

The Board was informed about the financial and sponsorship difficulties now facing the National Electronics Museum, which will require relocation or closing of the Museum sometime in 2023. Efforts are underfoot to find an alternative venue for at least the Satellite Gallery and hopefully the Museum in its entirety.

Denis Curtin and Maury Mechanick, along with Joe Pelton, are actively involved in those efforts and will provide updates to the Board as developments unfold.

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**The next Board meeting will take on Tuesday, March [15], 2022 at 11:30 am.**  
The meeting adjourned about 12:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Maury Mechanick