

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	Ron Johnson
Kim Baumgartner	David Lee
Denis Curtin	Geza Serenyi
Dan DiFonzo	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the December 7, 2021 meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Membership Update

The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from December 7, 2021, through March 15, 2022, including a year-end review for fiscal year 2021. Expenses for 2021 came to \$2362, compared to the budgeted amount for the year of \$2500. Total income for the year came to \$3,155, a surplus of \$773 over the budget amount of \$2550, consisting of dues payments for 116 members. For the time period January 1, 2022, through March 15, 2022, expenses came to \$364 (annual P.O. Box rental) and income came to \$315, reflecting dues payments for 9 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account as of March 15, 2022, was \$52,163 and total assets were \$61,635, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account. The Board also formally approved the proposed 2022 budget.

LMCO Benefits

No issues regarding LMCO benefits were noted. With regard to Intelsat's emergence from bankruptcy, it is our understanding that any outstanding issues were resolved to the satisfaction the Intelsat Retiree and Alumni Association (IRAA), which would also apply in the case of former COMSAT/LMGT employees that are now covered by Intelsat pension and other retiree benefit programs.

Newsletter, Web Hosting, etc.

The new website has now been up and functional for more than 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

Hope was expressed 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. Also, preliminary feedback regarding the 2022 Clarksburg Seminar, which organized and spearheaded by a number of COMSAT retirees and for which COMARA provided some administrative support, was quite favorable, as reflected, among other things, by the large number of participants who attended virtually, and which indicates that events of this type appear to be of continuing interest to COMSAT retirees.

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, June 14, 2022 at 11:30 am
(original date of June 7, 2022, adjusted to better accommodate Board member schedules).

The meeting adjourned about 12:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Maury Mechanick