

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2022

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	David Lee
Kim Baumgartner	Richard Rankin
Denis Curtin	Geza Serenyi
Dan DiFonzo	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the June 14, 2022 meeting.

Treasurer's Report and Membership Update

The Treasurer's Report covered the time period from June 14, 2022, through August 2, 2022. Expenses for 2022 through August 2, 2022, came to \$1,302 (including annual P.O. Box rental; website hosting fee; other web expenses; and liability insurance) and income came to \$496, reflecting dues payments for 16 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account as of August 2, 2022, was \$53,399 and total assets were \$62,105, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account.

LMCO Benefits

No issues regarding LMCO benefits were noted. The President of IRAA had advised the all issues connected to Intelsat's emergence from bankruptcy that could affect former COMSAT employees subsequently employed by Intelsat had been satisfactorily resolved.

Newsletter, Web Hosting, etc.

Input from Board Members to the new website continues to be strongly encouraged. Efforts to promote the upcoming in person and virtual annual meeting events should provide opportunities for further communications with COMARA members, as will the standard end-of-year dues drive. *(Secretary's*

note: The effort to update the COMSAT Wikipedia entry and to create an on-line COMSAT history, which was discussed at the annual meeting events, should provide further impetus for increased access of the website.)

Remaining Social Activities for 2022

The date for the COMARA Annual Meeting was confirmed for September 11, 2022, at That's Amore restaurant. Denis Curtin has taken the lead in confirming details with the restaurant. The virtual annual meeting will take place three weeks later, on October 2, 2022. Kim Baumgartner and Dan DiFonzo agreed to take the lead, in collaboration with Ron Johnson, to handle arrangements for the First Wednesday in December event, which will take place on the afternoon of December 7, 2022 at the Woodside Deli in Germantown.

Election of Board Members for 2022/2025 Term

The three Board members whose current term expires this year are Geza Serenyi, Fred Kelly and Ron Johnson. Geza Serenyi has indicated his availability to serve for another three year term, while both Fred Kelly and Ron Johnson have indicated a desire not to stand for re-election at this time. Based upon a recommendation from Kim Baumgartner, Maury Mechanick spoke to Roger Cochetti regarding his interest and availability to join the COMARA Board, and he has indicated his willingness to do so. Based upon this, the Board approved a slate of two candidates, Geza Serenyi and Roger Cochetti, as nominees for upcoming three year terms. Efforts to identify a suitable candidate for the remaining open position will continue. The Board expressed its deep appreciation for the dedicated service provided by both Fred Kelly and Ron Johnson, each of whom faithfully served on the COMARA Board for a number of terms.

Satellite Gallery at the National Electronics Museum Project

The Board was updated regarding the financial and sponsorship difficulties now facing the National Electronics Museum, which will require relocation or closing of the Museum sometime in 2023. While it remains unclear if a new home for the Museum in its entirety can be located, NASA Goddard has expressed interest in the possibility of having the Satellite Gallery relocated in part or whole to its visitor's center in Greenbelt, MD. For this to occur will also require the consent of

the Museum itself, and efforts are underway to determine the feasibility of this approach.

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The next Board meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 11:30 am.

The meeting adjourned about 12:10 pm.

Submitted by:

Maury Mechanick