

COMARA Board Meeting Minutes
November 15 , 2022

Attendees (held virtually, via Zoom):

Maury Mechanick	David Lee
Kim Baumgartner	Richard Rankin
Roger Cochetti	Geza Serenyi
Denis Curtin	

Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes

Following adoption of the agenda, the Board approved the Minutes for the August 2, 2022 meeting.

Treasurer’s Report and Membership Update

The Treasurer’s Report covered the time period from August 2, 2022 through November 15, 2022. Expenses for 2022 through November 15 , 2022, came to \$1,427 (including annual P.O. Box rental; website hosting fee; other web expenses; liability insurance and fall social) and income came to \$680, reflecting dues payments for 24 members. The value of the COMARA Fidelity account as of November 15, 2022, was \$55,412 and total assets were \$64,155, including bank balance, Paypal balance and the Fidelity account.

LMCO Benefits

No issues regarding LMCO benefits were noted.

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.

Report on 2023 in-Person and Virtual Annual Meetings

The COMARA Annual Meeting took place on September 11, 2022, at That's Amore restaurant. The virtual annual meeting (the third time a virtual meeting has been held) took place three weeks later, on October 2, 2022. Kim Baumgartner and Dan DiFonzo are handling 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.

The primary focal point of discussion at both annual meetings concerned the need to update and revise the COMSAT entry in Wikipedia, as well as create a separate Wikipedia entry for COMSAT Labs. Additionally, with input to be provided by COMARA members, the plan is to also produce an on-line more detailed history of COMSAT and its accomplishments that would be accessible on-line on the COMARA website.

Social Activities for 2023

It is anticipated that IRAA and COMARA will again jointly host a picnic during the second quarter of 2023 and both an in-person and virtual annual meeting are slated for the fall of 2023.

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. *(Secretary's note: Another possibility is a computer museum in Hunt Valley, MD operated by Bob Roswell, a former Chair of the NEM Board, which is collocated with his business System Source; more details about this will be provided at the upcoming February 28, 2023 Board meeting).*

* * * * *

The next Board meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 11:30 am.

The meeting adjourned about 12:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Maury Mechanick