

The Society of Master Mariners South Africa



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RICHARDS BAY BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE 264th BUSINESS MEETING HELD IN THE LIBRARY OF THE RICHARDS BAY COMBINED SEAFARERS' CLUB ON THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017.

1. **WELCOME:**

The meeting commenced at 16h30 when the Deputy Branch Master Derek Wood welcomed all and everybody stood for the reading of the creed.

2. **PRESENT:**

Derek Wood, Hannes Pretorius, Mark Classen, Keith Marks, Dave Teague, Rob Farren-Hanford and Allan Heydorn.

3. **APOLOGIES:**

Winston Lobo, Jerald Rabie and Mike Patterson,

4. **VISITORS:**

None.

5. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

The minutes of the 263rd business meeting held on 27 July 2017 were proposed by Keith Marks and seconded by Dave Teague.

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

None.

7. **SECRETARIAL:**

Nothing to report.

8. **EXCO:**

Nothing to report.

9. **CONGRESS:**

9.1 Derek Wood attended the National AGM in Cape Town on 18 August 2017. He reported that the meeting was poorly attended and that no other ports had sent representatives to attend. In total no more than 10 members attended. Reports from the various branches were however submitted.

9.2 The Society medal will be called "The Society of Master Mariners Medal". The criteria would include that the recipient be a certified deck officer who has enhanced professionalism and can be of any nationality. The executive committee will decide on the award which can be made annually or more frequently to deserving recipients.

9.3 The present executive committee was re-elected.

9.4 The dates and venue of the 74th Annual General Meeting will be circulated in due course.

9.5 The memberships of honorary members has been reviewed and Mark Classen and Hannes Pretorius had been granted honorary membership, and Mike Patterson is now also included as a honorary member of the Richards Bay branch.

10. **MEMBERSHIP:**

10.1 Allan Heydorn suggested that Eric Bismeyer from Jessegaard Marine who is a master mariner be invited to meetings but others advised that he had already been approached and showed no interest.

10.2 Mark Classen has spoken to one of the barge masters and is awaiting his response.

11. **TECHNICAL:**

11.1 The grounding of the MV Beaufort on 25 August 2017 was discussed. The vessel turned hard to starboard to exit the turning basin by which time the port pilot and tugs had departed. She suffered main engine failure and despite dropping the port anchor, the vessel simply followed the starboard turn ending up beaching herself on the southern bank. Fortunately this happened on the incoming tide and

3 tugs were able to refloat her. Divers determined that there was no damage to the hull and she was able to sail. The MV Beaufort is a Handimax (5 hatch bulker) with a draught at the time of 12,8 metres.

The fact that tugs no longer 'shadow' a sailing vessel to the harbor entrance, possibly preventing such an incident, was bemoaned.

- 11.2 Rob Farren-Hanford advised that he had made a proposal to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal regarding an improved method of conducting draft surveys.

12. **GENERAL:**

- 12.1 An armed robbery took place on the "Captain Mike" during which the captain was held up with a firearm and was forced to hand over an amount of \$14000.00 to the suspect who masqueraded as a ship's agent. The captain was handcuffed and the suspect escaped in a grey Honda without number plates. The suspect by the name of "Oosthuizen" has subsequently been arrested but to date the funds have not been recovered.

- 12.2 The East Gate to the port has been disassembled and a new entrance is in the process of being constructed.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Date : Thursday 28 September 2017
Time: 16H00
Venue: Richards Bay Seafarers Mission

14. **CLOSURE:**

The meeting closed at 17h48, there being no further business to discuss.

Derek Wood
Richards Bay Branch

A J Heydorn
(Secretary)