

The Society of Master Mariners South Africa



Cell. 083 440 6502
P.O. Box 1705, Richards Bay, 3900
e-mail: heydorn@wylie.co.za

RICHARDS BAY BRANCH

MINUTES OF THE 266th BUSINESS MEETING HELD IN THE LIBRARY OF THE RICHARDS BAY COMBINED SEAFARERS' CLUB ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 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, Dave Teague, Mduduzi Qwabe, Mike Patterson, Keith Marks, Jerald Rabie, Rob Farren-Hanford, Hannes Pretorius, Mark Classen and Allan Heydorn.

3. **APOLOGIES:**

Winston Lobo and Ryan Noqayi.

4. **VISITORS:**

None.

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

The minutes of the 265th business meeting held on 28 September 2017 were proposed by Mike Patterson and seconded by Keith Marks.

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

None.

7. **SECRETARIAL:**

7.1 Allan Heydorn enquired whether the date of meetings which fell on the last day of the month should be brought forward to the previous Thursday as some members had month-end functions to perform on the last day of the month. Discussions followed and consensus was reached that the meetings would continue on the last day of the month as in the past.

7.2 Allan Heydorn circulated the most recent "Africa Ports & Ships Newsletter" for those who might be interested in subscribing.

8. **EXCO:**

Nothing to report.

9. **CONGRESS:**

Nothing to report.

10. **MEMBERSHIP:**

Rob Farren-Hanford reported that Ryan Noqayi was completing his surveying course through Lloyds

11. **TECHNICAL:**

11.1 Dave Teague raised the issue of the safety of pilot ladders after a female pilot drowned in Durban recently. Discussions followed about the importance of proper training, methods of retrieving a person from the water and the importance of wearing a life jacket suitable for a person of a specific mass. Properly tying the straps of the life jackets was also emphasized.

11.2 Mike Patterson raised the incident off Richards Bay during the past week when the crew of the ski-boat "Ditto" were washed from the deck and were forced to swim ashore. The vessel was retrieved some 8 nautical miles offshore by a commercial operator. Discussions followed about kill switches and the lanyards which, had they been secured to the skipper's wrist would have caused the engines to cut when the skipper fell overboard.

12. **GENERAL:**

12.1 Mike Patterson advised that there was pressure for the view point at the port control building to be opened to the public.

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- 12.2 Mike Patterson advised that the Tugela water transfer system was under construction but that the desalination plant was not in use due to the fact that the electrical cable had been stolen and that the replacement thereof needed to be put out to tender.
- 12.3 Mark Classen advised that a Christmas carols evening was to be held at the Seafarers' Club on 1 December 2017.
- 12.4 Derek Wood suggested that the Christmas luncheon be held in January 2018 as many members would not be able to attend during December 2017. It was suggested that the luncheon be held on the 2nd Wednesday namely 10 January 2018 at midday at the Outpost restaurant at the Richards Bay Country Club. Derek Wood would book a table.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Date : Thursday 25 January 2018
Time: 16H00
Venue: Richards Bay Seafarers Mission

14. **CLOSURE:**

The meeting closed at 17h40, there being no further business to discuss.

Derek Wood
Richards Bay Branch

A J Heydorn
(Secretary)