



THE SOCIETY OF MASTER MARINERS SOUTH AFRICA

Minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting of the Society held at the Lawhill Maritime Centre, Simons Town on the 17th August 2018

1. Welcome

1.1. The President welcomed all to the Lawhill Maritime Centre and the meeting was opened by the traditional reading of the Creed.

A moment's silence was observed for fellow member Bill Dernier's daughter Nicola, and ex-member Bob Copeland, who sadly passed during the year. The Society extends its most sincere condolences to all family and friends.

1.2. The attendance register was circulated, the following were present:

MEMBERS: Rob Whitehead (RW), Colin Flockhart (CF), Ian Fishley (IF), Lloyd Merriman (LM), Allen Brink (AB), Keith Burchell (KB), Dennis Henwood (DH), Louis Crole (LC), Simon Pearson (SP), Neville Noble (NN), Mike Melly (MM), Simon Aggett (SA), David Wolfaardt (DW).

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Nil

STUDENT MEMBERS: Nil

AFFILIATE MEMBERS: Nil

HONORARY: Brian Ingpen (BI)

Noted that the branches were represented as follows:

CPT – R. Whitehead.

PLZ – N. Noble

RCB – S. Aggett

DBN (Port Representative) – M. Melly

2. Apologies

2.1. The following apologies were received and tabled:

Charles Kingon; Ivor Little; Chris Savage; Sean Minogue; Lauren Lawson; Keith Pletschke; Ann Pletschke; Paul Baxter; Guy Barker; Hugo Schuitemaker; Tiaan Rabie; Richard Terhorst; Antoinette Keller, Chris Kortum; Andy MacLennan; Neil Lawson; Okke Grapow; Johan Swart; Peter Coetzer; Stuart McAllister; Bill Dernier; Mike Meyer; M Lipowski; Paul Baxter; Neil Mouton; Peter Stowe; Steve Bayman; Charles Leeraar; Robert Young; Allen Pembroke; Clare Gomes; Bernard Bunton.

3. Additional items for the Agenda

3.1. SP wished to discuss the new draft Merchant Shipping Bill. This is discussed under 18.4

4. Minutes of the 73rd AGM

4.1. No Errors and/or omissions in the minutes were tabled

4.2. The minutes were confirmed on a proposal by Keith Burchell and seconded by Lloyd Merriman.

5. Matters arising from the 73rd AGM not listed as Agenda Items

5.1. Nil

6. President's Report

Thank you in for the opportunity to address you once again.

During the course of this year we finalised the design and production of the Society's medal. Members will recall the original motivation for this was our belief that Government did not recognise the achievements of South African mariners involved in the salvage of the Costa Concordia – something the international community lauded and recognised.

Our medal has now been struck and can be awarded as and when opportunity arises. The 2017 National AGM agreed to call the medal "The Society of Master Mariners SA Medal" and defined the criteria for awarding as follows:

Certificated Master Mariner or Deck Officer who, by an exceptional action, has brought the highest honour to our profession by him or her exercising the pinnacle of marine skills acquired as a result of their qualifications and experience.

Awards will be considered by EXCO upon receipt of a written motivation by any member of SOMMSA. The EXCO decision would be by a simple majority.

The future of maritime training in South Africa has become a concern.

Both the CPUT and DUT have stated their intensions to follow a degree route in the future. Recent developments however have cast a cloud over these plans – particularly as they relate to merchant seafarers who want to follow a career at sea.

It may well transpire that Government subsidised marine education may eventually disappear completely leaving private institutions as the sole providers of this education and training.

I am also concerned that political interference and instability in the working of SAMSA at the highest levels will further hamper the early progress we saw when this institution took an active lead in maritime training and education matters.

One of the key roles of the Society is to ensure our Certificates of Competency remain internationally recognised and respected around the world. We must remain vigilant in this regard.

Over the last few years, we have discussed the role of the Executive Committee in light of its member's distribution around South Africa and the use of internet communications to keep committee members in touch. Essentially the Society works increasingly within the Branches – in the case of Cape Town and Richards Bay branches particularly. Exco members and the Cape Town Branch particularly are made up of the same members to a large extent. This reality needs to be recognised and we as a Society need to modernise our organisation both in practice and constitutionally. This is a matter for this AGM and I would urge members to seriously debate this issue during this meeting.

Once again, I would like to thank my committee for their support and assistance during the year as well as our Branch Masters, Port Representatives and those members who take an active role in the work of the Society. We welcome a new Durban Port Representative,

Mike Melly, to this AGM today and I hope that this will lead eventually to the reforming of a branch in this important port. I would also like to thank Simon Pearson for continuing to represent the Society on the Syllabus Working Committee.

7. President's submission for a review of Society's structures

7.1. Open discussion was had by the attendees for suggestions and feedback as to how the Society could amend the constitution and structures to streamline the workings of the Society in this modern age. Some examples were given as what could be changed:

Membership applications: Currently all membership applications go to the President, who in turn distributes to EXCO for membership approval. Once the general consensus is positive the new membership is approved (There has never been a membership rejected). However, according to the constitution, applications are supposed to be distributed to branches for consultation amongst their members before approval is given to welcome in the new member. This is a long process and a suggestion is that the constitution is amended for new applications to be distributed by the National Secretary to EXCO who will have the final authority to approve/reject the application (two-thirds majority). The National Secretary will then inform the applicant regarding the success/failure of the application. AGM unanimously agreed and a formal proposal will be drafted and distributed to the membership for further comment or objections.

Change of the financial year also needs to change to align with the date that annual subscriptions are due.

EXCO requirement is to meet six times per year however this is never the case and any issues that are requiring attention are resolved via a round-robin email chain. Constitution required to be changed to define a meeting as an email that has been circulated to EXCO members and that has been responded to.

The President proposes that the incoming EXCO apply their minds to the changes that are needed in the Constitution and then submit these changes to the branches for comment. Once all feedback is received, the changes can be finalized at the next AGM.

SP suggests that once the proposed changes have been drafted that the Society have a legal mind such as Johan Swart examine them to ensure all is in order. Some money in the budget should be put aside to cover these costs.

8. National Treasurer's Report

8.1. The President tabled the draft audited accounts for the year ending February 2018. New auditing standards have been implemented for the report. One of these is that committee members are listed and are held liable.

Bad debts are those members that have not paid subs. These members have had numerous notices given to them and will now be removed from the membership list. Those eligible for pensioner membership will be notified should they wish to apply for this status. (Have to be a member for 20 years and in good standing. No other source of income other than retirement funding)

8.2. The audited accounts were unanimously confirmed by all. To be signed off by EXCO.

8.3. The auditors for the past financial year, APBCO Auditors, were confirmed to be retained for the present financial year.

8.4. The President tabled the budget for the 2018/2019 financial year:

8.4.1. There was brief discussion, with a suggestion to increase the subs by R25. There was unanimous approval to increase subs as follows, viz:

Members: ZAR500.00 per annum

Associate and Affiliates: ZAR450.00 per annum

Students: A nominal ZAR25.00 for 3 year membership (Unchanged)

8.4.2. The 2018/2019 budget proposal accepted by D. Henwood and seconded by S. Pearson

9. Benevolent Fund Report

9.1. The Chairman tabled his report:

The financial situation of the Benevolent Fund is sound albeit that our cash on hand has been effectively depleted due to support we have been providing to beneficiaries.

Our main investment is our Old Mutual "Investors Fund" Unit Trust account which is currently valued at R2,009,745.20.

In July 2015 the Governing Board of the Benevolent Fund undertook to support Nicole Stohr the widow of Hub Stohr. The Fund committed a significant amount to this and appealed to the general membership for contributions as well. We had an overwhelming response from members as well as from members of the GBOBA (mostly anonymously – making it impossible to thank the individuals concerned personally). Altogether the Fund has managed R292,484.55 in support of Nicole over the last 3 years.

In the last few months Nicole sold her house and has bought a smaller house thereby reducing her needs for Fund support. Also, her mother recently died, and she inherits her property which should make her secure financially. I have not heard from her for some time now and assume our support isn't needed anymore.

The Fund has supported another long-term member who has had to move into frail care and this support ended in November 2017.

In closing then I would like to thank the members of the Fund's Governing Board for their support and advice during the year.

9.2. There was brief discussion about having cash on hand. There is currently a mandate to use 7.5% of the consolidated funds per annum (+/- R140000). Should there be a sudden demand for funds, unit trusts would need to be sold to raise this money. Other options then lean towards donations to the benevolent fund or our own fundraising initiatives.

Committee is to investigate if the Fund is subject to capital gains tax.

CF suggested that the committee approach Old Mutual and have the dividends paid out instead of being reinvested until such time as sufficient cash has been raised.

Unanimously agreed to leave the mandate of utilising 7.5% of consolidated funds unchanged.

10. Bursary Fund Report

10.1. The Chairman, Colin Flockhart, tabled his report:

There was a delay in closing our bank account with FNB, but I am pleased to advise that this has now been accomplished, and the small balance remaining transferred to the GBOBA Fund.

The auditors have been tasked with arranging the closing of our PBO with SARS, until this is done then it still formally exists. I think it would be wise to maintain the existing Board until this has been confirmed, the Board members being:-

C D Flockhart – Chairman

R Whitehead – Treasurer
K Burchell
C Kingon

I therefore ask that this NAGM mandate the present Board to continue.

We have written confirmation from GBOBA that they will settle the auditor's final invoices.

Ongoing, we have representation on the GBOBA Tertiary Sub-Committee, currently our representatives are myself and T Rabe. We are both willing to continue in this capacity, but if anyone wishes to volunteer there is no impediment. Our basic interest is ensuring that (as far as possible) suitable candidates are supported through to Deck Officer OOW courses at SSTG /CPUT/ DUT. Given the intended future paths of CPUT/DUT to go for a full 3-year Degree or Diploma course, the Fund has recently been streaming its candidates to SSTG, which maintains an "old style" 12 month "crash course", and we concur with this preference. It is hoped that SSTG will soon offer the further courses up to Mate / Master level and be recognised by SAMSA. It may be questioned why we are utilising the private SSTG, whereas the State colleges are reportedly not charging fees following the "Fees Must Fall" campaign. It has been estimated that course fees comprise only 40% of the expenses of going through the system as there are residence, books, transport costs etc. which would be applicable over 3 years. Plus the ancillary courses at CPUT are additional, whereas "free" and within the 12 months at SSTG. I would also add that the students being streamed to SSTG are also exposed to a lot of practical training via NSRI and Sea Cadets. We are of the basic view that our candidates get to sea as soon as possible so that they can start to obtain experience and earn a living. Obtaining further qualifications is always something they can aspire to later in life.

There are currently two candidates under Fund support at SSTG, one at DUT. All are doing well. As we all, I think, are aware there is still a problem placing candidates in berths. Looking forward the Fund is also assisting a number of matriculants at Lawhill, not all of whom will opt for the OOW course, but quite a few will. Our representatives are not directly involved with selecting / monitoring etc. the Lawhill students, but at this stage I would like to commend the Fund Board for the fantastic work and dedication of their team in this regard, details of which you can find on the Fund Website. If any of our members consider they could supply input into their activities we are sure it will be appreciated."

- 10.2. Agreed that the current SOMMSA members (Colin Flockhart & Tiaan Rabe) will continue to represent the society on the GBOBABF Tertiary sub-committee for the purpose of consolidation. It is not always possible that Tiaan and Colin are available due to work commitments and Dennis Henwood agreed to join the committee as a third representative.
- 10.3. KB informs that members of the Tertiary sub-committee are not always available. Any extra volunteers are welcome to join. The sub-committee is required to conduct three interview sessions and one selection session throughout the year.
- 10.4. KB gives insight into why the Fund favours sending bursars through SSTG at this point in time. His points have been raised in the Chairman's report above. It was emphasized that the scholars going through the SSTG system are better prepared for sea than those coming out of the universities. SSTG have managed to obtain the services of well-respected maritime lecturers and the setup is similar to that of the old General Botha. A strong point was made that sending students straight to sea from a three-year degree course without the necessary practical exposure was negatively impacting on the cadet berth allocations with foreign shipping companies. The Bursary Fund stands firm on its belief that our scholars are to adopt the practical approach to their studies/training and it will make them better seafarers and ultimately better ambassadors for maritime training in South Africa.

- 10.5. SP has requested that going forward SSTG be placed on the AGM agenda under the section Marine Education and Training Reports.

SP elaborates on the how SSTG have a passion for maritime training and the buy-in there is from their shareholders. This is key in delivering a high standard of training to the students. The CEO would like to instill discipline in a way where he would like the students to live-in, wear uniform and pull watches. SSTG are currently renting building from Telkom and negotiations are underway, that if SSTG remain a favourable client, Telkom would look to establish further infrastructure for maritime training on site.

Engineering Officer of the Watch will be starting at SSTG next year and they are aiming to put in their application in with SAMSA to get training accreditation for Mates and Masters modules in 2019.

The added advantage of SSTG offering the complete training package is that foreign students could find this option attractive, as they would only need to apply for one visa.

- 10.6. SSTG have digitized their onboard training record books and thus allowing the college to monitor the students throughout their cadetship. If successful, this format could provide SAMSA with a better resource to manage the sea-time component going forward.
- 10.7. DH raised the issue of the use of simulation course at SSTG to reduce the required sea-time of 12 months. SP informed that this would be a matter that would need to be tabled and approved by the IMO.
- 10.8. MM informs that at Grindrod a newly qualified officer is required to serve out 6 months as a JNO and based on his/her performance over this period will be promoted to 3NO. LC shared his experience sailing on Greek vessels where qualified Greek/Polish Deck Officers would often sail as OS or AB for a number of years before getting the gap to be promoted to 3NO.
- 10.9. SP made the final point on the training institute debate. The Society should not always put their money into one institution. The question should be asked what is the outturn year-by-year or even semester-by-semester, by any institution that is offering the program. An independent audit would be required to determine this information. From this the Society must make their decision as to where is best to place the bursars.

11. Reports from the Branches

- 11.1. Cape Town Branch report tabled by Rob Whitehead:

- 11.2. Port Elizabeth branch report by Siegfried Duwe, read by Neville Noble:

“A warm welcome and thank you for attending, our 72nd birthday.

The branch now comprises 12 members as shown below.

Daron Burgess, Nigel Campbell, Rodney Chalk, John Davies, Ziggy Duwe, Graham Emberson, Hans Frahm, Harry Freaker, Neville Noble, John White.

Out of town: Bob Brindle, Charles Leerah,

Most of the attendees maintain some form of activity in the marine field (compass swinging, piloting, relief master and survey work.

This year (since the last AGM) we had 6 ordinary meetings with an average of 3 to 4 members attending each meeting. The prognosis is these numbers will dwindle as our membership is whittled away by natural attrition. We have invited Rob de Koning and Peter Blackett (not currently M.M. members and retired from active duty) to meetings as well which does bolster numbers.

Our achievements this year include representation at Congress by John Davies.

And representation by members at Grey High School Cadet Corps ceremonies, Trooping the Colour and Beating the Retreat
Sea Sunday at St. Mary's cathedral.
Naval Officers Association of Southern Africa, Quarterly luncheons
Naval Officers Association of Southern Africa, Trafalgar Day dinner.
Attending the presentation of the possible changes hosted by SAMSA was very informative.

We continue to enjoy fellowship and discuss local nautical matters (Port Elizabeth and Ngqura harbours) as they arise and items from SOMMSA. Graham always a pearls of wisdom that intrigue us. The conversations are certainly brisk and much laughter is had from our loyal attendees.

While our meetings don't have the formal M.M. business structure, we continue the format as related previously.

The position of Master etc is more for the sake of format.

I wish to thank Graham for his secretarial work. Thanks to our loyal attendees who make the meetings worthwhile.
Also Rob Whitehead, for keeping us abreast of nautical issues.”

11.3. Richards Bay Branch report by Derek Wood, read by Simon Aggett

“Mr. President, Members of Exco and Gentlemen,

The Richards Bay branch has had 9 meetings including the branch AGM since the last AGM.

We have 6 members in the branch of which most members regularly attend the meetings. 2 are affiliate members and three honorary members. Bob Brindle a member of the PE branch and a contract pilot at the Rbay port attends our meetings whenever he can. Simon Aggett has moved to Richards Bay and since Jan 2018 attends our meetings. Jerald Rabie was employed by SAMSA in Richards Bay and was able to attend and liven our meetings up over many months. He is currently back in Durban. We would like to thank all members who have attended the meetings. The meetings are quite informative and many discussions held on maritime issues. Many informal discussions are held over beer in the bar.

We have invited one youngster to attend our meetings and hope he will join us as an affiliate member.

On the social front we had a Christmas lunch in January which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

In ending, we would also like to thank Allan Heydorn for all the work he puts in as Secretary, the Seafarers' Club for providing the venue and generous snacks for our meetings, as well as all the members for their attendance and input at our meetings.

Thank you”

11.4. Durban Port Representative report:

Mike Melly has now taken over from Hugo Schuitemaker as the representative for the Port of Durban. It is encouraging to see a number of new membership applications for Durban. Mike has plans to liaise with Allen Brink and the Richard's Bay branch to organise a “regional meeting” to discuss the way forward in re-establishing the Durban branch. It is felt that Durban such a busy port and inside information would be beneficial to all our

members. Mike would also like to start by issuing new (and existing members) their parchments when joining the Society. This is a tradition that has fallen away, but it is felt it would instill some pride in joining the Society and create a sense of belonging. (Discussed below in section 18 “General”) The AGM wished Mike well in his efforts and look forward to hearing of the progress from Durban.

12. Marine Education and Training Reports

12.1. Lawhill Maritime Centre – Report back delivered by Brian Ingpen

Debbie Owens was unfortunately unable to attend and extends apologies. Prof. Ed Snyders joined Lawhill at the beginning of the term and will be taking over from Brian Ingpen towards the end of the year. The Maritime Economics website is up and running (www.maritimesa.org) and the Nautical Science website should be up and running by the end of the year. The curriculum for Marine Science is still to be approved by the Department of Education, but all in all, Lawhill are hoping to have three marine subjects on offer by next year.

The Lawhill rowing team excelled once again in the Regatta and the sailing program is progressing well thanks to Marine Inspirations and the volunteer skippers of Lawhill’s dedicated sailing yacht. Lawhill’s main sponsors were thanked for their contributions to the success of the centre. An update was given about the whereabouts of past students. Many completing cadetships and other students excelling in other fields. Thami Ghoza is one such student who is studying Business Science at UCT. It was pleasing to hear that another Lawhill student has recently obtained his Masters Certificate of Competency.

Concern has been expressed by the students with regard to the shrinking nature of SA shipping and also about the difficulty in obtaining the required 12 months sea time as a cadet in a reasonable timeframe. Some students are taking up to 3 years to complete this requirement. Also a worry was that once a student has qualified with a Deck Officer’s Certificate of competency, where are they to find employment. BI expressed his concern that there are ships on the SA register sailing around the world, yet they are not being suitably manned by South Africans. He has stated that pressure needs to be put on the necessary authorities to make sure that ship owners who register their vessels in South Africa employ a suitable amount of South Africans to man these ships.

It was well noted that the quality of students that come out of the Lawhill Maritime Centre have always impressed when sailing as cadets in various fleets around the world. They do a lot of good in promoting the quality of South African cadets.

BI expressed his thanks to the Society for their on-going support and the President in turn thanked Brian for hosting the AGM and congratulated Lawhill on yet another successful year.

12.2. Cape Peninsula University of Technology – Anne Myers was attending the CPUT advisory committee meeting at the same time as our AGM today. It was expressed how important it is to have someone on the committee to represent what the industry wants out of the Maritime Studies course and not so much what academic system the University wants to enforce. It is a vital link between the academic institution and the greater maritime industry. SP is prepared to backup Anne on the committee and to represent the best interests of the industry. At a later stage and once settled in at Lawhill, it would also be of interest to get Prof. Snyders involved in representing the Society on the Advisory Committee.

CPUT needs to be carefully managed leading up to their accreditation and the new HoD needs to be carefully considered. When the EU delegation audited SAMSA and CPUT, 29

non-conformities were found. This needs to be corrected and well managed going forward to ensure that South Africa remains on the white list in the future. This is a major concern as 60% of South African seafarers are employed in EU flagged ships and losing white list status puts all these seafarers at risk. Thus it is of great importance that the Society maintains a strong vigil on what transpires in our academic institutions.

Suggested that Society liaises with CPUT to ensure we do not have the AGM on the same day as the Advisory Committee Meeting in 2019.

- 12.3. **Durban University of Technology** – MM has received a comprehensive and technical report from DUT and will circulate to the membership.
- 12.4. **SAMTRA** – Report delivered by DW. Training management and operations department under Pieter Coetzee along with Seatrain going well with the main client being SAIMI and the running of the National Cadet training program. Roughly 300 cadets in the program at the moment (Deck and Engine) at various stages in their training. Pieter is continually looking to grow the pool of international companies that are prepared to offer cadet berths. At the moment there are 11 companies taking on South African cadets. It is advised that the majority of cadets that do their training with these international companies are generally offered further employment as junior officers. A report on these statistics will be compiled and circulated as it is of great interest to the Society and the GBOBA bursary fund.

The training side of SAMTRA continues to do well with an average of 1000 to 1400 students per annum completing the short courses.

The joint venture is still in place with the Professional Yacht Training (MCA approved super yacht courses). It is found that a growing number of South Africans are entering this field of the industry. The MCA have approved the accreditation for the Efficient Deck Hand course (EDH). The Human Element Leadership Management (HELM) course has also been approved and will be on offer soon. OOW and Masters (under 500 GT) courses are on offer and approved by the MCA. Engineering courses for the super yacht industry are currently under development.

- 12.5. **SAMSA “Panel of Experts”** report from SP is that they have had one meeting in the past year held at the Durban Convention Centre. A legal firm was employed by SAMSA/DoT to explore what is needed to be done in South Africa going forward. From the large report it was SAIMI that was put in place. (Discussed further in Section 16)
- 12.6. **SAMSA Syllabus Working Committee** report from SP (nominated SOMMSA representative) informs that the committee meets twice per year. The meeting is usually attended by 20 to 30 people and is chaired by the Chief Examiner of SAMSA (Azwi Nelwamondo). The meetings are crucial as they are the only meaningful interface the stakeholders have with SAMSA which could end up being quite aggressive due to the industry's frustration on the one side and the inability of SAMSA to meet all the industry requirements on the other side. It is noted that with the Chief Examiner being based in Pretoria, it can make his task to manage the examination centres around the country that much more difficult. The main concern is that SAMSA are tasked with primarily surveying and secondly examining and when it comes to things such as moderation of papers from the universities, they are not regarded as high priority and may lay idle while “more important” tasks are completed.

SP suggested that it can be quite difficult to be an examiner without a purpose designed program to make the assessment. SAMSA examiners are principally surveyors and are tasked with examination of new candidates. What are the key areas of assessment before you become an examiner/assessor? EU picked up in their audit that the staff at the training colleges are teaching and assessing without suitable teaching/assessing qualifications.

The high pass rate in Durban compared to Cape Town was also discussed and questioned. At the request of Azwi Nelwamondo, a separate meeting, chaired by SP, was

held to discuss this specific issue. The main issue that was questioned was what is happening with onboard training and if the training record book system is working.

Reports and minutes of the working committee and been circulated to the membership by SP.

It is noted how important the Society's participation in these meetings has become. Different institutions are often reluctant to say what is needed to be said in calling out the faults with the current systems. This is where the Society has a pivotal role to play in saying what is needed to be said without fear or favour.

The introduction of STCW-F will also now start to complicate matters.

Gary Walsh has been sub-contracted to review all the syllabi for training, starting with the short courses.

KB again calls for better statistics/feedback on the cadets going through the program in order to know where the short-comings lie and the best way in which they can be remedied to streamline the whole system.

DH made a suggestion that a good place to start would be to follow up with all previous bursars from GBOBA and SOMMSA (even if they are now off our books)

Resolution of the AGM: Society to form a Strategic Working Group to investigate what is required to maintain South Africa's White List status in relation to marine education and training.

13. Prizes and Awards for 2018

13.1. Lawhill Maritime Centre: Best Learner in Nautical Science. Agreed that SOMMSA would again award a suitable book prize this year. Will look at some of the Nautical Institute options.

13.2. CPUT prize – no prize has been awarded for several years. No prize-giving ceremony last year. To look into possibly presenting CPUT with a floating trophy similar to that of DUT. EXCO to decide what is appropriate.

13.3. DUT – there is an existing floating trophy to be awarded.

14. IFSMA report

SOMMSA is no longer a member of IFSMA. The President was no longer allowed to remain on as a individual member. It was felt that any relevant news or developments the society deemed interesting could be found on their very comprehensive website.

With the weakness of the Rand and the increasing membership fees it was not viable for the Society to remain associated. It was felt in the past that IFSMA would provide us with a good link to the IMO, but this is something that the Society has access to through it's close working relationship with the Nautical Institute.

15. Membership Report

15.1. The President tabled the report:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT TO THE 2018 NATIONAL AGM

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	CTN	DBN	PLZ	RCB	TOTAL
MEMBER	107 (103)	46 (44)	7 (8)	7 (6)	167 (161)
LIFE MEMBER	1 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)
MEMBER RETIRED	17 (18)	13 (13)	7 (6)	0 (0)	37 (37)
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	24 (23)	3 (3)	0 (0)	1 (0)	28 (27)
STUDENT MEMBER	0 (3)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (4)
AFFILIATE MEMBER	7 (6)	5 (5)	0 (0)	4 (1)	16 (12)
HONORARY MEMBER	6 (6)	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (1)	8 (9)
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	162 (159)	70 (69)	14 (14)	13 (8)	259 (250)

(Prior year in brackets)

15.2. The President reviewed the current Honorary memberships:

CPT: John Hare; Brian Ingpen; Debbie Owen, Ashley Petersen & Sue Whitehead.

PLZ: Nil

DUR: Shane Dwyer.

RCB: Padre Mark Classen,

There was agreement that Rev Ashley Petersen from the Cape Town Mission to Seafarers; Johan Pretorius from the Richards Bay Mission; Mike Patterson from NSRI RCB, be added.

Suggestion made by the President to make the Chief of the Navy and CEO of SAMSA honorary members.

15.3. Discussion had about the future of the honors boards and whether they are to be updated in the current format or whether there is a more suitable way to digitize them on the website. Investigation work will be required to fill in the missing years. SP has offered to get a quote to have the traditional honors boards updated.

15.4. RW and LM will distribute membership brochures at SAMSA and learning institutions.

16. Liaison with other organisations

16.1. **SAMSA** – Working group to be put together to tackle the EU audit findings. SAMSA will be putting a large amount of their focus into STCW-F certification in the coming months. It can be expected that there will be further extensions before full implementation. Nigel Campbell will be retiring from SAMSA.

16.2. **SAIMI** – not much news from this organisation since Prof. Malek and Yvette de Klerk have left. SAMSA Special Projects have been tasked to assist with the National Cadet Training Program until someone suitable is found to fulfill the role. It was noted that SAIMI is not an autonomous body and in fact a department within the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. Prof Malek has been asked to stay on as a consultant.

SP suggests that SAIMI should be the organisation tasked to monitor training from a national perspective from school level and all the way through the ranks. As tax money is being utilized, someone needs to be held accountable. Also suggested that the Society meets with the top management of SAIMI (when in place) and give thoughts as to what would be helpful going forward for the industry.

- 16.3. **Department of Transport** – Still to follow up and establish a contact. KB suggests offering membership to a member of the department.
- 16.4. **SAIMENA** – Little contact with them recently, but we do receive newsletters and invitation to their functions.
- 16.5. **The Nautical Institute (SA Branch)** – Has not met frequently but hosting AGM on Monday, 20th August. Ideas welcomed for future command seminars. AB informs that John Lloyd has taken over as the CEO of the Nautical Institute.
- 16.6. **Maritime Law Association** – No recent contact but looking forward to report back from members attending their AGM in Franschoek at the end of the month.
- 16.7. **Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers** – No recent contact.
- 16.8. **NSRI** – KB informs station at Port Nolloth have had issues with retaining staff and volunteers. However the station have managed to complete some very important rescue missions and have saved lives. Crew members are being taken to Cape Town for special training and courses. NSRI is doing very well overall, but are under serious pressure to transform at board level as well as on the ground. NSRI now actively involved in training GBOBA bursars.
- 16.9. **Missions to Seafarers** – Rental charged by TNPA still high even after some relief agreed to by the port. Mission is now downsizing and will convert top story of the building into office rental space.
- 16.10. **SAMPA** – Maintain a watching brief to decide if membership is beneficial. MM to find suitable candidate in KZN who is willing to join on behalf of the Society. A suggestion was made that Nomkhitha Mbele might be a willing candidate.

17. Branch submissions for Consideration by the National AGM

- 17.1. Nil received.

18. General

- 18.1. **The Society Medal:** (Sample medal circulated at start of AGM) – ready to be processed. Discussion had as to where and when the first medal should be presented. It was unanimously agreed that this should be done at a well-attended event that provided not only the recipient, but also the Society with worthy recognition. A nominee for the first recipient has been brought forward by the president and the candidate will be presented by EXCO to the broader membership for any comment/objection in due course.
- 18.2. **Website:** The President is looking for any volunteers to help administer the SOMMSA website. This mostly involves controlling the posting to the website. This task can be contracted out (Debbie Owen uses these services for the Lawhill site. Will get quotations for the costs involved.

There is still sponsorship space available on the homepage. Local companies have expressed interest in sponsoring our page and will follow up. KB suggests GBOBA BF should have link on the page due to our common venture in sponsoring bursars.
- 18.3. **Facebook page:** Charles Kingon administers the page. In this modern age, with social media being at the forefront, our page needs to be more active to attract interest. We request that members submit photos, articles etc, that can be uploaded for the general interest of our membership and beyond.

Links to our Facebook page and other marine orientated webpages can be placed on the SOMMSA website. Ideas include the GBOBA BF, Lawhill and Nautical Institute webpages.

18.4. **Other Matters**

- 18.4.1. **New Merchant Shipping Act:** SP informed the meeting that he had received the 2nd draft of the Bill that had been updated with a number of corrections that were suggested during the country-wide stakeholders presentation of the Draft Merchant Shipping Bill by the Department of Transport in April.

The electronic copy of the 2nd draft will be posted on the SOMMSA website shortly.

SP suggests that SOMMSA appoints a member to consult the Department of Transport on the new Draft during its early stages of implementation. Bill Dernier was suggested to be the right candidate for this task along with Simon Pearson and Lauren Lawson as his deputies. (Lauren Lawson is currently lecturing on this subject at SAMTRA and she might find it beneficial for herself to be actively involved in this advisory process) Money should be set aside to pay for any expenses that may arise should the representative need to travel to meetings. It was unanimously agreed that SOMMSA needs to play a very active role in the legislating of the new MSA.

- 18.4.2. **Parchments:** As mentioned by MM, it was agreed by the AGM that members are issued (or re-issued) parchments to certify their membership to the Society. SP has offered to take on this task. An email will be sent out to the membership to ask who requires a parchment.

19. **Election of Executive Committee and Office Bearers**

- 19.1. Confirmation of nominations received and call for additional nominations. Existing office bearers all indicated they were prepared to continue. No new nominations have been received.
- 19.2. **Election of President:** Rob Whitehead. Approved unanimously.
- 19.3. **Election of Vice President:** Azwi Nelwamondo. Approved unanimously.
- 19.4. **Election of National Secretary:** Charles Kingon. Approved unanimously.
- 19.5. **Election of National Treasurer:** With no new volunteers, the President would continue with the Treasurer portfolio too. Rob Whitehead appealed once again for a volunteer to step forward to take up this portfolio, as it is not healthy for the President to be burdened with this dual role. The candidate would preferably be a shore-based member.
- 19.6. **Election of other Executive committee members:** Simon Pearson, Keith Burchell, Dennis Henwood, Tony Nicholas and Lloyd Merriman were all available to stand again. Port Reps Guy Barker (Mossel Bay) Lance Tiedt (Saldanha) Mike Melly (Durban).
All unanimously approved en-bloc.
- 19.7. **Election of Benevolent Fund Governing Board:** Rob Whitehead, Keith Burchell & Charles Kingon were all available again. The board is required to have a forth member and Lloyd Merriman was nominated and approved by all.

20. **Provisional Date and venue for 74th National AGM**

- 20.1. Proposed for August 2018. Venue to be decided by EXCO in due course. Will explore the options of hosting the AGM in KZN.

21. **Closure**

- 21.1. The President declared the meeting closed at 16h15