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**Minutes**

**Cruising Club of America**

**Special Meeting of the Rear Commodores and Post Captains**

**VIA ZOOM**

 **Thursday, March 4, 2021 1300 hours (EST)**

1. Commodore Medland called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He expressed the purpose of the meeting was to provide a relatively unstructured opportunity for Rear Commodores and Post Captains to express their thoughts and ask questions regarding the Club, Stations and Posts.
2. 15 people were in attendance, including Commodore Medland, Vice Commodore Otorowski, Secretary Jay Gowell, and the following Rear Commodores and Post Captains: Crane, Prevost, Phyfe, Bruce, Waterman, Powers, Montgomery, Post, Tunick, Meslang, Calhoun, Quanci, and Myers (who was travelling, with intermittent connectivity). CHE Fleet Captain Crump attended at the request of RC Myers.
3. Commodore Medland offered each Station and Post leader an opportunity to describe how they have kept their members engaged during the pandemic. He complimented Dale Bruce for the GMP Friday’s at Five speaker series and thanked all RC’s and PCs for their efforts during the pandemic.
4. Dennis Powers reported that ESS had instituted a popular speaker series under Frank Bohlen’s leadership, and that is likely to continue long after Covid was over. Dale Bruce soke briefly about very well attended the fun Friday’s at Five Series. David Tunick described the NYS’ crossed burgess programs in conjunction with STC and NYYC that have attracted 200-450 attendees, and raised the issue that the events should be protected by copyright to prevent unauthorized use. James Phyfe described the upcoming Sable Island presentation. Rick Meslang reported that PNW had organized a cruise with appropriately socially distanced events afloat and ashore. Jim Quanci noted that Zoom meetings were often easier for younger members to attend than an in-person luncheon or dinner, and suggested it would be beneficial to have a master calendar of all Club and Station Zoom events so all members could join what may interest them, and also to create a library of all the speaker series the various Stations and Posts were creating to allow for future viewing. Steve Calhoun reported that the SOC was continuing its lunchtime meetings via Zoom, which allowed people cruising in faraway places like Tasmania to join the fun. Les Crane reported that Bermuda was well on the way to full vaccination, but only of those segments of the population that are willing to get the vaccine. Bernard Prevost reported that BDO had a short cruise and are conducting some successful Zoom events.
5. David Tunick asked whether the Station Membership Committees were showing prejudice against older candidates. There did not appear to be an evidence of that. James Phyfe noted that BOS recently had approved a 89 year old candidate. It also was noted that the intention of the new membership guidelines is not that they be a litmus test or checklist to find reasons to exclude a candidate, but that each candidate’s qualifications are viewed in the context of the guidelines on a “preponderance of the evidence” basis.
6. Commodore Medland, Dennis Powers and Steve Calhoun discussed the need to keep members engaged, to help new members feel comfortable, and to blend people up beyond their normal familiar associations. The new diversity/equity /inclusion initiative was discussed, including the suggestion to expand the effort beyond gender and age.
7. There have been 19 resignations so far in 2021, compared with low single digits in a normal year. The recently increased dues, Covid, economic hardship, health, an aging demographic were all identified as possible contributors to this. The option permitted in the By-Laws for the Board to waive dues on a case-by-case basis, so-called “Seafarer Status,” was discussed. A discussed ensued regarding whether spouses should get a more substantial discount than at present.
8. The benefits of Zoom were recognized as good way for people who may not see one another often to have opportunities to connect and share good will, and it was suggested that the use of Zoom should continue even after in -person gatherings are possible.
9. David Tunick asked if we should consider hiring professional administrative staff to help ease the burdens on various officers.
10. Pat Montgomery asked about CCA branding, such a font consistency, colors, and the like.
11. There being no other business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 1430.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Gowell

Secretary