



Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 509
Oakdale, NY 11769

April 27, 2005

Dear Alumnus/Alumna:

In the most recent issue of the Maritime Navigator under the Office of the President, VADM Ryan was quoted as saying *"We remain optimistic that the alumni association will eventually sign an agreement, and rejoin Maritime in a collaborative partnership. Last fall, at the request of the alumni association officers, staff from Senators' Johnson and LaValle's offices helped reach what they understood to be a verbal agreement that I was ready to sign. Unfortunately, there is still no resolution. We urge you to reach out to your leadership and get them back on board, or put the contract to a vote of all alumni. SUNY is ready to sign and so am I."*

The Admiral is correct in that the Alumni Association officers reached out to staff from Senators' Johnson and LaValle's offices to help conclude an agreement with SUNY and the College. This was done because Admiral Ryan was, and continues to be, unwilling to meet with the Alumni Association and resolve this matter directly after several overtures by the Alumni Association to meet with him.

In our opinion, the suggestion that a verbal agreement was reached last fall is not reflective of the facts. The Alumni Association met, at our request, with staff from Senators Johnson's and LaValle's offices in the spring of 2004 to express concerns regarding the agreement then proposed by SUNY, and left this meeting agreeing to revert with a proposal for SUNY to consider. The Alumni Association then submitted their proposal to Albany last summer and had no further communication with SUNY until December of this year when SUNY suggested a meeting. This meeting was held in Albany with SUNY on March 8, 2005 and the Alumni Association board is now considering the most recent SUNY proposal and having it vetted by legal counsel.

As we see the facts, the Alumni Association officers have done everything possible to conclude an agreement with SUNY and the College that satisfies the mandate of the membership to preserve an independent alumni association that can act on behalf of its members independently and have overall responsibility and control of its affairs and the directed donations of its members. This mandate was the result of a vote by the membership in which 96% of you gave the Alumni Association marching orders to preserve an independent Alumni Association and we are committed to this mandate.

It is regrettable that the facts of this matter have been so misinterpreted, but such is a predictable outcome when the parties can't sit down face to face and resolve their differences, but instead must resort to working through third parties, which appears to be the case in this instance. The Alumni Association has been trying to meet with College officials for well over a year now, and we will continue to do so.

In our continuing effort to keep the Alumni Association membership fully informed, we are making all correspondence with SUNY and Admiral Ryan available to you. Please go to <http://home.earthlink.net/~sunnycontract>, or alternatively to the alumni website for a link, to view or download the correspondence.

Fraternally,

Francis X. Gallo '64
President

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