Chair - Reviewed various items of the previous meeting and addressed issues of mutual concerns with updates from the floor. New manifest rules for truckers/border crossing; carriers extending peak season surcharges; even greater congestion in the LA basin; FDA/CBFANC dinner success last month; CBFANC Product Code Seminar. Also of significant note, a compliment to the Customs Brokerage segment from CBP that “all is going well with no problems…” Thank you.

CBP & FDA Related issues –
As previously discussed, FDA fines will be assessed through CBP – CBP now awaiting for FDA to sign off on internal instructions as to procedures/parameters; radiation monitors at Pier 80 up and running with no problems noted Of a sad note for us, Kay Fike will be retiring next month (much too young and not nearly harried enough…) A long term friend to many in the trade community, she has brought a level of sensibility to ABI, and has bridged CBP and the brokerage community. In the process she has made many many friends in the community outside of her CBP affiliations. She will be sorely missed leaving poor Randy to fill some big boots which we’re certain he’ll do with ease. On behalf of the SFMX, we wish her well...

COAST GUARD –
Security level, elevated.
Port security plans remain a major focus in the region with elections coming up in the next months. Vessel advance notice of arrival still an issue with the 96 or more hour window for first port calls that must be adhered to; exceptions being from LA north to Bay area where only 24 hours required. USCG continues to work very closely with the SFMX; USCG grants were distributed over the last month.

BANKING –
ICC working on changes to Letter of Credit terms/articles. Transport articles are influencing some of the changes, but expect more to come due course. The NICTD is involving them selves in this process.

CARRIERS – LA congestion – confirmed that carriers will begin assessing $20 TEU/$40 FEU for daylight handling of container traffic called “Pier Pass” with a committee organized to handle. Given the thousands of containers passing through those portals, its quick to calculate this new revenue opportunity. FarEast carriers have warned of transit delays of 8-9 days due to “gridlock” that will easily take more than a year to fix.” Expect 10-12% growth in the trade for 2005, and more congestion in LA. Peak Season Surcharge in the Far East Trade extended through November 30th. This week there were 80 ships in port, 30 at anchor, with 23 more arriving in the next 48 hours. Not a good outlook.

CBFANC – WESCON is on the horizon – October 14-17 in San Diego! Bigger and better than ever!

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 26, 2004
San Francisco World Trade Club
Attending: Louis Andrade, Mechanics Bank; John Berge, PMSA, John Leitner, WJ Byrnes; CDR Gordon Loebl, USCG; Ted Rausch, Ted L. Rausch; Fransean Rible, CBP; Kaitlin Ortega, SFMX; Chaired by Fred Hosking, Hoyt Shepston, Inc.