

DIANA SHIPPING INC.
Form 6-K
April 06, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-16 OR 15D-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of April 2009
Commission File Number: 001-32458

DIANA SHIPPING INC.
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Pendelis 16, 175 64 Palaio Faliro, Athens, Greece
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): .

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): .

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally organized (the registrant's "home country"), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached to this report on Form 6-K as Exhibit 1 is the notice of annual meeting, proxy statement and proxy card of Diana Shipping Inc.

March 31, 2009

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF DIANA SHIPPING INC.

Enclosed is a Notice of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Diana Shipping Inc. (the “Company”) which will be held at the Le Meridien Limassol, Old Limassol, Nicosia Road, Limassol 3308, Cyprus on May 5, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

At this Annual Meeting (the “Meeting”), holders of shares of the Company’s common stock (the “Shareholders”) will consider and vote upon proposals:

1. To elect three Class I Directors to serve until the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (“Proposal One”);
2. To approve the appointment of Ernst & Young (Hellas) as the Company’s independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 (“Proposal Two”); and
3. To transact other such business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Adoption of Proposal One requires the vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Meeting. Adoption of Proposal Two requires the vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Meeting.

You are cordially invited to attend the Meeting in person. If you attend the Meeting, you may revoke your proxy and vote your shares in person.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO VOTE. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE VOTE OF EVERY SHAREHOLDER IS IMPORTANT AND YOUR COOPERATION IN RETURNING YOUR EXECUTED PROXY PROMPTLY WILL BE APPRECIATED. ANY SIGNED PROXY RETURNED AND NOT COMPLETED WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOR OF ALL THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED IN THE PROXY STATEMENT.

Very truly yours,

Simeon P. Palios
Chief Executive Officer

16, Pendelis Str., 175 64 Palaio Faliro, Athens, Greece
Tel: + (30) (210) 947-0100, Fax: + (30) (210) 947-0101
e-mail: ir@dianashippinginc.com – www.dianashippinginc.com

DIANA SHIPPING INC.
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

May 5, 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Annual Meeting of the holders of shares of common stock (the "Shareholders") of Diana Shipping Inc. (the "Company") will be held on May 5, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., at the Le Meridien Limassol, Old Limassol, Nicosia Road, Limassol 3308, Cyprus, (the "Meeting") for the following purposes, of which items 1 and 2 are more completely set forth in the accompanying Proxy Statement:

1. To elect three Class I Directors to serve until the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders;
2. To approve the appointment of Ernst & Young (Hellas) as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009; and
3. To transact other such business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The board of directors has fixed the close of business on March 20, 2009 as the record date for the determination of the Shareholders entitled to receive notice and to vote at the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO VOTE. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE, SIGN AND RETURN THE ENCLOSED PROXY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, WHICH DOES NOT REQUIRE POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE VOTE OF EVERY SHAREHOLDER IS IMPORTANT AND YOUR COOPERATION IN RETURNING YOUR EXECUTED PROXY PROMPTLY WILL BE APPRECIATED. ANY SIGNED PROXY RETURNED AND NOT COMPLETED WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOR OF ALL THE PROPOSALS PRESENTED IN THE PROXY STATEMENT.

If you attend the Meeting, you may revoke your proxy and vote in person.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ioannis G. Zafirakis
Secretary

March 31, 2009
Athens, Greece

DIANA SHIPPING INC.
16 PENDELIS STR.
175 64 PALAIO FALIRO
ATHENS GREECE

PROXY STATEMENT FOR
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON MAY 5, 2009

INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

GENERAL

The enclosed proxy is solicited on behalf of the board of directors (the "Board") of Diana Shipping Inc., a Marshall Islands corporation (the "Company"), for use at the Annual Meeting of holders of shares of common stock of the Company (the "Shareholders") to be held at the Le Meridien Limassol, Old Limassol, Nicosia Road, Limassol 3308, Cyprus on May 5, 2009 at 1:00 p.m., or at any adjournment or postponement thereof (the "Meeting"), for the purposes set forth herein and in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders. This Proxy Statement and the accompanying form of proxy are expected to be mailed to the Shareholders of the Company entitled to vote at the Meeting on or about March 31, 2009.

VOTING RIGHTS AND OUTSTANDING SHARES

On March 20, 2009 (the "Record Date"), the Company had outstanding 75,427,651 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Shares"). Each Shareholder of record at the close of business on the Record Date is entitled to one vote for each Common Share then held. One or more Shareholders representing at least 33 1/3 per cent of the total voting rights of the Company present in person or by proxy at the Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of the Meeting. The Common Shares represented by any proxy in the enclosed form will be voted in accordance with the instructions given on the proxy if the proxy is properly executed and is received by the Company prior to the close of voting at the Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof. Any proxies returned without instructions will be voted FOR the proposals set forth on the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

The Common Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol "DSX."

REVOCABILITY OF PROXIES

A Shareholder giving a proxy may revoke it at any time before it is exercised. A proxy may be revoked by filing with the Secretary of the Company at the Company's registered office, 16, Pendelis Str., 175 64 Palaio Faliro, Athens, Greece, a written notice of revocation by a duly executed proxy bearing a later date, or by attending the Meeting and voting in person.

PROPOSAL ONE

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Company currently has seven directors divided into three classes. As provided in the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, each director is elected to serve for a three-year term and until such director's successor is elected and has qualified. Accordingly, the Board has nominated Simeon P. Palios, Anastassis C. Margaronis and Ioannis G. Zafirakis, each a Class I Director, for re-election as directors whose term would expire at the 2012 annual meeting.

Unless the proxy is marked to indicate that such authorization is expressly withheld, the persons named in the enclosed proxy intend to vote the shares authorized thereby FOR the election of the following three nominees. It is expected that each of these nominees will be able to serve, but if before the election it develops that any of the nominees is unavailable, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote for the election of such substitute nominee or nominees as the current Board may recommend.

Nominees for Election to the Company's Board

Information concerning the nominees for directors of the Company is set forth below:

Name	Age	Position
Simeon P. Palios	68	Class I Director
Anastassis C. Margaronis	54	Class I Director
Ioannis G. Zafirakis	38	Class I Director

Simeon P. Palios has served as our Chief Executive Officer and Chairman since February 21, 2005 and as a Director since March 9, 1999. Mr. Palios also serves as an employee of Diana Shipping Services S.A., or DSS. Prior to November 12, 2004, Mr. Palios was the Managing Director of Diana Shipping Agencies S.A. and performed on our behalf the services he now performs as Chief Executive Officer. Since 1972, when he formed Diana Shipping Agencies, Mr. Palios has had the overall responsibility of our activities. Mr. Palios has 40 years experience in the shipping industry and expertise in technical and operational issues. He has served as an ensign in the Greek Navy for the inspection of passenger boats on behalf of Ministry of Merchant Marine and is qualified as a naval architect and engineer. Mr. Palios is a member of various leading classification societies worldwide and he is a member of the board of directors of the United Kingdom Freight Demurrage and Defense Association Limited. He holds a bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering from Durham University.

Anastassis C. Margaronis has served as our President and as a Director since February 21, 2005. Mr. Margaronis also serves as an employee of DSS. Prior to February 21, 2005, Mr. Margaronis was employed by Diana Shipping Agencies S.A. and performed on our behalf the services he now performs as President. He joined Diana Shipping Agencies in 1979 and has been responsible for overseeing our insurance matters, including hull and machinery, protection and indemnity and war risks cover. Mr. Margaronis has 27 years of experience in shipping, including in ship finance and insurance. He is a member of the Governing Council of the Greek Shipowner's Union and a member of the board of directors of the United Kingdom Mutual Steam Ship Assurance Association (Bermuda) Limited. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Warwick and a master's of science degree in Maritime Law from the Wales Institute of Science and Technology.

Ioannis G. Zafirakis has served as our Executive Vice President and Secretary since February 14, 2008, as our Vice President and Secretary since February 21, 2005 and as a Director since March 9, 1999. Mr. Zafirakis also serves as an employee of DSS. Prior to February 21, 2005, Mr. Zafirakis was employed by Diana Shipping Agencies S.A. and performed on our behalf the services he now performs as Executive Vice President. He joined Diana Shipping Agencies S.A. in 1997 where he held a number of positions in its finance and accounting department. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Studies from City University Business School in London and a master's degree in International Transport from the University of Wales in Cardiff.

Audit Committee. The Company's Board has established an Audit Committee, consisting of two members, which is responsible for reviewing the Company's accounting controls, recommending to the Board the engagement of the Company's outside auditors, and pre-approving audit and audit related services and fees. Each member is an independent director. The members of the Audit Committee are Mr. William Lawes (Chairman and financial expert) and Mr. Apostolos Kontoyannis. As the Company is a foreign private issuer, it is exempt from the corporate governance rules of the NYSE, other than the Audit Committee requirement.

Required Vote. Adoption of Proposal One requires the vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Meeting.

Effect of abstentions. Abstentions will not affect the vote on Proposal One.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTORS. UNLESS REVOKED AS PROVIDED ABOVE, PROXIES RECEIVED BY MANAGEMENT WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSED DIRECTORS UNLESS A CONTRARY VOTE IS SPECIFIED.

PROPOSAL TWO

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

The Board is submitting for approval at the Meeting the selection of Ernst & Young (Hellas) as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.

Ernst & Young (Hellas) has advised the Company that the firm does not have any direct or indirect financial interest in the Company, nor has such firm had any such interest in connection with the Company during the past three fiscal years other than in its capacity as the Company's independent auditors.

All services rendered by the independent auditors are subject to review by the Audit Committee.

Required Vote. Adoption of Proposal Two requires the vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Meeting.

Effect of abstentions. Abstentions will not affect the vote on Proposal Two.

THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG (HELLAS) AS INDEPENDENT AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009. UNLESS REVOKED AS PROVIDED ABOVE, PROXIES RECEIVED BY MANAGEMENT WILL BE VOTED IN FAVOR OF SUCH APPROVAL UNLESS A CONTRARY VOTE IS SPECIFIED.

SOLICITATION

The cost of preparing and soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. Solicitation will be made primarily by mail, but Shareholders may be solicited by telephone, e-mail, or personal contact.

OTHER MATTERS

No other matters are expected to be presented for action at the Meeting. Should any additional matter come before the Meeting, it is intended that proxies in the accompanying form will be voted in accordance with the judgment of the person or persons named in the proxy.

By Order of the Directors

Ioannis G. Zafirakis
Secretary

March 31, 2009
Athens, Greece

Before completing this form, please read carefully the notes on the reverse side.

Please x
mark your
votes as
indicated in
this
example

The proxy is to vote in respect of the resolutions mentioned below as follows:
Please mark one box with an "X" for each resolution.

1. Election of Class I Directors for three-year terms

FOR WITHHOLD *EXCEPTIONS FOR AGAINST ABSTAIN

ALL FOR ALL

(a) Simeon P. Palios

Proposal Two To approve the appointment of Ernst & Young (Hellas) as the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009.

(b) Anastassis C. Margaronis
(c) Ioannis G. Zafirakis

(INSTRUCTIONS: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee, mark the "Exceptions" box above and write that nominee's name in the space provided below.)

*Exceptions

The proxy may vote as he thinks fit or abstain from voting (i) in respect of the resolutions for which no indication has been given as to how the proxy must vote and (ii) on any other business or resolution (including amendments to resolutions) which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment of it.

Mark Here
for Address
Change or
Comments

SEE
REVERSE

Signature

Signature

Date

NOTE: Please sign as name appears hereon. Joint owners should each sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such.

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTERNET OR TELEPHONE VOTING,
BOTH ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Internet and telephone voting is available through 11:59 PM Eastern Time
the day prior to the annual meeting day.

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DIANA SHIPPING INC.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – PROXY FORM

I/We, _____
of _____

being (a) shareholder(s) of Diana Shipping Inc. hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting
or

of _____

as my/our proxy to vote in my/our name(s) and on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to
be held on 5 May 2009 and at any adjournment thereof.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

Address Change/Comments
(Mark the corresponding box on the reverse
side)

BNY MELLON SHAREOWNER
SERVICES
P.O. BOX 3550
SOUTH HACKENSACK, NJ 07606-9250

(Continued and to be marked, dated and signed, on the other side)

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

Notes on completion of the form of proxy:

1. To elect three Class I Directors to serve until the 2012 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (“Proposal One”);
2. To approve the appointment of Ernst & Young (Hellas) as the Company’s independent auditors for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009 (“Proposal Two”);
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof;
4. The time of the meeting is 1:00 p.m. local time in Limassol, Cyprus on 5 May 2009 which is 11:00 a.m. London time and 6:00 a.m. New York time on the same date; and
5. Any alterations made to this proxy form should be initialed.

Choose MLinkSM for fast, easy and secure 24/7 online access to your future proxy materials, investment plan statements, tax documents and more. Simply log on to Investor ServiceDirect® at www.bnymellon.com/shareowner/isd where step-by-step instructions will prompt you through enrollment.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

DIANA SHIPPING INC.

(registrant)

Dated: April 3, 2009

/ s / A n a s t a s s i s
By: Margaronis
Anastassis
Margaronis
President

SK 23159 0002 983225