



MENTOR

The Newsletter of Arisia, Incorporated

Number 233, March/April 2016

Arisia, Incorporated, 561 Windsor Street, Somerville, MA 02143
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Arisia March Business Meeting, Ides of March, 2016

Called to order 7:32pm

Proxies (9):

- Andy Rosequist to Mink Rosequist, until Andy arrives. (It is noted that Andy must specifically revoke his proxy when he arrives if he wants to vote on his own.)
- Arthur Ercolini ("Thumper") to Persis Thorndike
- Jason Melchert to Kris Snyder ("Nchanter")
- David D'Antonio ("DDA") to Peter Olszowka (semi-directed, privately)
- Terry Holt to Anna Bradley
- Jeanne Kahn to Walter Kahn
- Dale Meyer-Curley to Kris Pelletier
- Erik J. Meyer-Curley to Kris Pelletier
- Rick Katze to Rick Kovalcik

Election of Clerk: Since Rick Katze had to resign due to ill health, we are having an election. Though elections usually fall under new business, the bylaws say an officer must be replaced immediately, so Conor is bumping the election first. The only candidate is Lisa Hertel. Lisa gave us magical ponies as her campaign speech. Lisa elected with a "Yay, ponies!" She'll be added to the proper emails. (Rick Kovalcik does so.)

Corrections to the minutes: None; thank you, Abby, for producing *Mentor*.

Officer's Reports

Eboard: Most of the business this month was dealing with incident reports. We also voted to lend Lunacon one cellular charge box, or as needed at Rick Kovalcik's discretion. We may wing it. The eboard reported on a decision to ban someone from attending Arisia events for life in response to multiple incidents of harassment at A16. He has accepted without contest the decision of the eboard. He understands he may appeal eventually.

The eboard approved money last month for video racks: \$600 on February 9th, including shipping. Our capital expense fund (unallocated) has \$4,800 remaining. This should have been in the last *Mentor*.

President (Conor Walsh): Apparently, Thumper was badly burned in a brush fire but is okay and healing. Tom Traina may destroy ballots from last fall's at-large election; we apparently didn't direct him to do so, and like a good lawyer, he has been holding on to the paperwork since then.

Vice President (Jaime Garmendia): Grants forthcoming; see below.

Treasurer (Ben Levy): We have money. If you have questions, ask Ben. He had to persuade our credit card company we're a non-profit.

Clerk (Lisa Hertel): Um... Ponies!

At Large (Daniel Eareckson, Abby Noyce, Jaelen Rachlin): Abby made a *Mentor*. No other reports.

Committee Reports

A16 (Nchanter): Nothing new. Fred reports the fridges & coolers were cleaned & disinfected (yay).

A16 treasurer (Rick Kovalcik): Please fill out your expense reports.

A17 (Anna Bradley): We're working on making a con happen soon. Anna has two missing DHs; Diane Martin is doing Staff Services. 305 days to go (or 300, depending)! Ursula Vernon is going to be in Plainville (south MA) on Thursday, March 17th.

A17 treasurer (Tom Traina): Working on a draft budget; he will send out questions. Also, fill out expense reports.

Budget (Ben Levy): We will start getting busy next month, or in May, working on the corporate budget for the June corporate meeting.

CIC (Rick Kovalcik): We still have storage; we expect Lunacon will borrow stuff. NEFFA may be borrowing stuff. Beyond IQ will also borrowing things, as usual, via Persis. We finally got the request from Lunacon in the middle of the meeting. The list isn't very specific. The eboard will meet afterwards to go over it.

Andy came in; he revokes his proxy.

Grants (Jaime Garmendia): There are two grants.

First, we recommend we fund the Brea Library (Orange County, CA) science fiction collection application for \$2500; they will also use some of the money to bring in a local science fiction author to speak. Jaime **moves** (for the committee) **\$2500 for the Friends of the Brea Library**, a nonprofit. **Passes unanimously.**

Second, we have an application from Balticon 50 requesting \$10,000 to invite back past GoHs. The Grant committee **moves we fund past Arisia GoHs only: Phil & Kaja Foglio, Allen Steele, and Stephen Barnes & Tananarive Due, at \$3,000.** (This won't cover all of the expenses for them.) Ten thousand is a bit out of our budget, but this will help fund travel and hotel. Phi was the one who actually suggested Balticon ask Arisia for money, because they were going about it at a "bake sale" level (they've raised about half of what is needed so far, only a small amount is directed). Phi notes bringing back the past GoHs really did great things for Wiscon; it was a transformative event. He thinks it will do the same for Balticon. Nchanter notes Balticon is the end of May, so we can't put off the vote. They ask on the website for \$800 for hotel, and \$1500 for travel per guest (or \$2,500 for both), but probably need less for the guests we want to fund; only three hotel rooms and four air fares are involved. Jaime believes all five will cost \$2400 in hotel and \$4000-\$5000 for travel. Rick thinks \$4200 total should cover everyone. **He moves to amend to actual transportation and hotel costs, not to exceed \$5,000;** Balticon would have to provide receipts. Walter moves to amend that we should just give them \$5,000 (no receipts); it is ruled out of order because you can't amend a motion to amend. Phi looks up flights; it would be a bit over \$500 each for the four guests from California. Andy asks if we are willing to rule the receipts invalid? Kevin says we already require receipts for the Smofcon scholarships, and Lisa also points out we usually ask for receipts. Jaime concurs. At this point, Conor hands Abby the chair so he may speak (not the VP; as he is the head of grants). Phi points out our grant page also notes receipts are required. **Phi moves to call the question** on the amendment (actual costs to \$5K). **Passes, many to three.** Conor is against us funding this; he likes scholarships for those who can't afford it or new people to a con, but these are established pros. He would rather throw grant money at a worthier cause. Rick notes many of them could not afford to come on their own dime. Nchanter also leans toward fiscal conservancy. Walter wonders about BSFS's rules (we have rules about groups with restrictive memberships), and the answer from Fred is that they are similar to Arisia. We still have \$6,700 in the grant fund after giving money to *Locus* (last month, check written today) and the Brea library grant (above). Sharon says Balticon hasn't been pushing the guests returning as much as Wiscon did. Meg Frank likes the idea of lots of guests, but she wonders if this is a good investment, given some of the headline guests they already have (like GRRM). **Nchanter moves to call the question;** Anna seconds. **Fails** (requires 2/3rds); four people wish to speak still. We do a recount, and it fails by a bigger margin. Conor still feels the guests can afford to come. Phi notes the purpose to having the guests back is to encourage the guests to keep on coming. Jaime notes that only a few names are funded. Ben asks how big is Balticon recently? Abby says they expect about 2500 this year; Nchanter believes they have been around 1500 attendees. (The cap is 3200.) Jaelen reads bylaw 8.3, which says:

"8.3 Requests for grant funding are prioritized as follows: (a) Supporting and furthering discussion groups and conferences about the genre of science fiction and fantasy."

Lacking more speakers, we **call the question**.

Late proxy: Skip to PeterO.

Moved: to fund past Arisia GoHs only: Phil & Kaja Foglio, Allen Steele, and Stephen Barnes & Tananarive Due for actual transportation and hotel costs, not to exceed \$5,000. Passes, 22 to 12.

Conor resumes the chair.

Honors: Nothing happening at the moment, says Fred. We should send a card to Thumper.

Hotel search (Phi): No report.

IT (Abby Noyce): No report.

Logo (Anna Bradley): There's a committee.

Long Range Planning (Conor Walsh): Delayed until later. It will be long.

Relaxacon (Conor Walsh): Andy **moves to make "Buttercup" the chair of Relaxacon**; Kevin seconds. Conor rules this insufficiently specific, as one needs to be chair of the committee. Rick Kovalcik asks the chair to reconsider; two people may chair, and "Buttercup" is known to refer to both Rick and Nchanter. After some discussion, Rick says they'll let Conor know who will report to the corporation, perhaps in July. **"Buttercup" is appointed chair** (as Rick Kovalcik & Kris Snyder; they get to decide who reports to the corporation.). Rick notes you need to make a hotel reservation; the rates go up \$10 at the end of the month. There is a non-refundable deposit of one night. Info at www.relaxacon.org.

Student Art (Jacob Lefton), **Student Writing** (Terry Holt): Jacob is in Germany. Anna for Terry says there will be another contest. Ben is writing and mailing the last three checks today.

Old Business: None.

New Business

NESFA leftovers: Moved, by Rick Kovalcik, that **NESFA keep the leftover New Voices Fund money**. Details: At the March NESFA meeting it was reported that the Boskone New Voices Fund, which Arisia partially funded, was a success, and helped bring three people to Boskone who would not otherwise have been able to attend, and whose panels were well attended. However only about half the money was spent — \$1100 or thereabouts of the \$2000. (Arisia provided \$1000.) NESFA told Arisia that they would either keep any extra money and put it toward a New Voices Fund at Boskone 54 (2017), or return the excess money to Arisia, as Arisia saw fit. However, in reading the *Mentor* involved, Arisia did not specify what should be done. Rick thinks it is both simpler and better if NESFA keeps the money, and puts it toward the New Voices Fund for Boskone 54. Motion **passes unanimously**. A pony says nay.

Long Range Planning (Conor Walsh): Conor, Mink and Anna went over the 231 survey responses; most of the answers were more qualitative than quantitative. They will publish some non-identifying aggregates. Phi would prefer we have bins of five or greater to avoid identifying. Each question will be its own pie chart, to anonymize the data. No major decisions will be made tonight, but the committee has some hard recommendations. First, Arisia should adopt a hard (permanent) cap of 5,000-6,000. Second, Arisia should not give money to comped attendees. Finally, there was discussion about Arisia putting on other conventions, such as a one-day or one-weekend event.

LRP moves that the data be published in non-identifying column aggregates. This would cover things that were both numbers and open questions. They will strip out identifying information and summarize as needed to make it anonymous. Persis asks who got the survey; Nchanter says there are about 500 people on staff-announce (which means about half responded, which is really good in the opinion of some, and really bad in the opinion of others). Anna notes all the analysis is qualitative, since most of the questions were open response. **Passes unanimously**.

Next, **LRP moves that we go into committee of the whole to talk about a permanent hard cap**.

Nchanter moves to table and give notice. Conor says he expects no binding motion. Ben asks it to be tabled until we see the data. Walter agrees we can discuss it without doing anything. Jeff thinks we might as well start now. Conor didn't want to wait a month, and wanted to talk about it without having to deal with rules, so he **moves to call the question; Phi seconds**. He allows Rick to talk first. Rick was annoyed that the LRP committee should have forewarned us. **Motion to table fails**, 7 to many. Kris P. notes it is

late and asks for a time limit; Abby **moves to amend to go into committee of the whole for 15 minutes. Passes unanimously**; we are now in committee of the whole. Committee of the whole runs out of time; two people still wish to speak so we let them. **Committee reports, "Data is hard." Passes unanimously.** Conor will have more discussions in the future.

There was a question about paying performers; the committee thinks we eventually should not pay anyone who gets a comped badge, to keep things community-focused and fair. There was some question about babysitters, for example; Rick points out getting good people is hard, and giving someone money to come for one day may be a good thing. He feels we need to be flexible, as we have been. Jaelen points out we have a contract with Convention Master that requires both pay and badges. Nchanter points out this is so they can do the work they need to do; Elliott wonders how valuable the badges are to them. Anna agrees we need to be flexible, but is okay with a general guideline with payment being the exception. She notes we are very inconsistent about paying musicians. Abby asks us to move on (it's 9:30pm), so we let the last two people speak. Tom notes program sometimes must pay a subject matter expert an honorarium (which is tiny). Jeff thinks we shouldn't keep the people we pay at arm's length. He notes that various dance pros (callers, musicians) are giving up a paying gig. Conor notes that we all make sacrifices. Conor **moves** that it is the sense of the corporation that **if a small number of staffers come to us proposing a convention that we would be open to them running it.** He then asks the motion be immediately tabled. Motion is **tabled** by Anna. Motion to table **passed unanimously.**

June meeting: Abby proposes June 21st. Anna **moves Tuesday the 14th of June** (Flag Day) at 7:30pm. Location TBD. **Passes, many to 2.** Rick **moves to set the location to NESFA** (if available), Tom seconds. Many people point out that NESFA is smaller and the T access is erratic. Nchanter thinks we need a diverse pool of locations. Kevin agrees the acoustics for this room sucks, and that MIT is locking more doors. **Motion passes, many to few.** Rick asks for a mic if we get this room again. [It will be at NESFA—Clerk.]

Announcements

Michael Kerpan says NESFA is running a gaming convention at the Dilboy in April.
Conor says LRP is going to have more public meetings, rather than trying to do this in corporate meetings. This stuff is hard.

Adjourned 9:53pm; eboard to meet regarding Lunacon.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 7th, 7:30pm, at the NESFA clubhouse; quorum is 14 members.

Treasurer's Report March 2016

| February 29, 2016 | | | Change vs last month |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Odd Year - A17 | | \$20,053.84 | \$321.15 |
| Even Year - A16 | | \$79,398.67 | -\$44,394.20 |
| | | | |
| Corporate | | | |
| Reserved/Unspent | | | |
| Two years expenses (CDs) | \$41,659.76 | | \$1.15 |
| Grant Fund | \$11,700.00 | | \$5,000.00 |
| Relaxacon | \$247.55 | | |
| Capital Eq Unallocated | \$4,873.79 | | -\$500.00 |
| Capital Equipment Allocated | \$3,300.00 | | -\$527.37 |
| Training Fund | \$829.00 | | -\$200.00 |
| Scholarship(?) Fund | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Voted Expenses (excludes budget) | \$6,780.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Unspent Budget | \$5,527.18 | | -\$1,301.94 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Reserved | | \$74,917.28 | \$2,719.39 |
| Unallocated Funds | | \$48,795.06 | -\$10,474.51 |
| Total Corporate Funds | | \$123,712.34 | -\$7,755.12 |
| Total Assets | | \$223,164.85 | -\$51,828.17 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Corporate Income | | \$1,402.74 | \$1,301.59 |
| Total Corporate Expenses | | -\$5,152.78 | -\$1,174.22 |

Mentor Subscription Information

Subscription to Mentor of Arisia is included with Corporate Membership. Membership runs from September 1st to August 31st and costs \$24. Dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for members joining during the year.

| | | | |
|-------|------|-----------|------|
| April | \$10 | July | \$4 |
| May | \$8 | August | \$2 |
| June | \$6 | September | \$24 |

Executive Board (Eboard), 2015-2016

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Conor Walsh | president@arisia.org |
| Vice President | Jaime Garmendia | vicepresident@arisia.org |
| Corporate Treasurer | Benjamin Levy | treasurer@arisia.org |
| Clerk | Lisa Hertel | clerk@arisia.org |
| Members-At-Large | Daniel Eareckson | daniel@arisia.org |
| | Abby Noyce | abby@arisia.org |
| | Jaelen Rachlin | jaelen@arisia.org |
| Arisia '17 Conchair | Anna Bradley | conchair@arisia.org |
| Arisia '17 Treasurer | Tom Traina | con-treasurer@arisia.org |

Committees

| | |
|--|--|
| Budget Committee: Benjamin Levy (chair), Rachel Kadel-Garcia, Rick Kovalcik, Alex Latzko, Tom Traina | IT Committee: Abby Noyce (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Peter Olszowka, Noel Rosenberg, Sharon Sbarsky |
| Comps Committee: Michael Sprague (chair), David D'Antonio, Kathryn Kun, Danielle Reese, Skip Morris, Jaime Garmendia | Logo Committee: Anna Bradley (chair), Abby Noyce, Lia Olsborg, Sharon Sbarsky, Kevin Schendell, Persis Thorndike, Tom Traina |
| Grants Committee: Jaime Garmendia (chair), David D'Antonio, Diana Hsu, Fred Isaacs | Long Range Planning: Conor Walsh |
| Honors Committee: Fred Isaacs (chair), Anna Bradley, Mike Sprague | Relaxacon Committee: Rick Kovalcik, Kris "Nchanter" Snyder ("Buttercup") |
| Hotel Search Committee: Phi (chair), Emily Coombs, Paul Kraus, Kris "Nchanter" Snyder, Ellie Younger | Student Art Contest: Jacob Lefton |
| Corporate Inventory Control Committee: Rick Kovalcik (chair), Lisa Hertel, Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris, Lia Olsborg, *hobbit* | Student Writing Contest: Terry Holt (chair), Abby Noyce, Lia Olsborg, Kevin Schendell, Persis Thorndike, Tom Traina |

Storage Key List

If you need access to Arisia storage and do not have a key, email keys@arisia.org and all key holders will receive your request.

| Key# | Holder |
|------|----------------------|
| 1 | Landlord |
| 2 | Noel Rosenberg |
| 3 | Skip Morris |
| 4 | Craig McDonough |
| 5 | Dave Shevett |
| 6 | Phi |
| 7 | Dan Noé |
| 8 | Michael Trachtenberg |
| 9 | *hobbit* |
| 10 | Rick Kovalcik |
| 11 | Crystal Huff |
| 12 | Persis Thorndike |
| 13 | Rachel Silber |
| 14 | Janet Stickle |
| 15 | Mike Sprague |
| 16 | Lia Olsborg |

| Key# | Holder |
|------|---------------------------|
| 17 | Anna Bradley |
| 18 | Peter Olszowka |
| 19 | Alex Latzko |
| 20 | David Shaw |
| 21 | Tom Traina |
| 22 | Sharon Sbarsky |
| 23 | Lucky |
| 24 | Pat Vandenberg |
| 25 | Lisa Hertel |
| 26 | Arthur "Thumper" Ercolini |
| 27 | Benjamin Levy |
| 28 | Angela Morley |
| 29 | David Silber |
| 30 | Jaime Garmendia |
| 31 | Rick Katze |
| 32 | open |

Membership List

As of 3/31/2016

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dawn Ash | Rachel Kadel-Garcia | Kris Pelletier |
| <i>Rob Bazemore*</i> | Jeanne Kahn | Karen Purcell |
| Melissa Beetham | Walter Kahn | Jaelen Rachlin |
| Bridget Boyle | Rick Katze | Danielle Reese |
| Anna Bradley | Jeff Keller | Mark Richards |
| Mieke Citroen | Allan Kent | Nicole Robinson |
| Adam Cohn | Rick Kovalcik | Noel Rosenberg |
| <i>Brian Cooper*</i> | Paul Kraus | Andy Rosequist |
| Tom Coveney | Alex Latzko | Mink Rosequist |
| Elizabeth Crefin | Paul "PJ" Letersky | <i>Joe Ross*</i> |
| Mary Catelynn Cunningham | Michael "Lucky" Leuchtenburg | Sharon Sbarsky |
| David D'Antonio | Benjamin Levy | Kevin Schendell |
| Jaquelin Davison | Carol London | Jason Schneiderman |
| Daniel Eareckson | Ken London | Jude Shabry |
| Don Eastlake | Glenn MacWilliams | Nicholas "phi" Sheckman |
| Jill Eastlake | B. Diane Martin | Dave Shevett |
| Arthur Ercolini | Alan McAvinney | <i>Cris Shuldiner*</i> |
| Anna Erishkigal | Craig McDonough | David Silber |
| Maria Eskinazi | Amos Meeks | Rachel Silber |
| Kelly Fabijanec | James Meickle | Kris "Nchanter" Snyder |
| Patrick J. Flaherty | Jason Melchert | Mike Sprague |
| John Francini | Dale Meyer-Curley | Persis Thorndike |
| Jaime Garmendia | Erik Meyer-Curley | Daniel Toland |
| Joel Herda | Elliott Mitchell | Tom Traina |
| Lisa Hertel | Angela Morley | Amol Vaidya |
| Terry Holt | Skip Morris | Pat Vandenberg |
| Diana Hsu | Dan Noé | Al *hobbit* Walker |
| Crystal Huff | Abby Noyce | Conor Walsh |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fred Isaacs | Lia Olsborg | Tanya Washburn |
| Ray Isaacs | Mary Olszowka | Ian Waters |
| Suli Isaacs | Peter Olszowka | Ellie Younger |
| Spencer J. Michael | Sheila Oranch | |

**honorary*

No ponies were harmed in the making of this Mentor.