

Mentor of ARISIA



The newsletter of ARISIA, Incorporated

Issue 30, March 1993

Executive Board meeting February 28, 1993

President Joe Ross called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. (The meeting time was moved forward to 12:30 because of the length of the agenda.) Present: Joe Ross, Heather Coon, Allan Kent, Mark Dulcey, Rob Bazemore, Jim Belfiore.

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the January E-board meetings as published.

The situation with the Park Plaza hotel was discussed. For those who have not yet heard about it, a brief summary:

The Park Plaza did not reserve the correct dates for our convention in 1994. (This appears to be the result of information not being transferred properly from an old computer system to a new one.) As a result, they booked Computervision for the same dates as ARISIA.

The hotel has offered us the following weekend (January 21-23, 1994) in place of the scheduled weekend. They have also offered to reimburse us for costs incurred because of the change of date (details have not yet been negotiated). It also offered us a suite for Michael Whelan (artist Guest of Honor) and family for five days free of charge. (This is needed because the change of dates affects Whelan's plans.)

The Park Plaza will give us the original scheduled dates if we insist. However, some of the facilities we need (i.e., a lot of the function space) would not be available, and they cannot guarantee that all the hotel rooms we need would be available.

Concerns about the change expressed during the E-

board meeting included cost of a mailing to all convention members and reprinting advertising materials, loss of attendance due to loss of the holiday weekend, increased strain on the staff due to being scheduled closer to Boskone, and a possible conflict with the BASH (Boston Star Trek Association convention).

The concensus of the meeting was that ARISIA should accept the change of date. The alternative of trying to run the convention while Computervision was in the hotel was not viable. Therefore it was

VOTED: to recommend to the membership to authorize the ARISIA '94 convention chair (Jim Belfiore) to negotiate and sign a modification to the hotel contract for ARISIA '94.

The next agenda item was the ARISIA '94 budget. Unfortunately, the proposed budget was not yet ready, as the convention treasurer (Mike DiGenio) has been ill. (Ed. -- I was promised a copy of this budget for publication in this issue of Mentor, but have not received it.)

Setting rates for memberships for ARISIA '94 was next. The concept of charging different rates for children 0-7 and 8-12 was new; the theory is to let us know how many children will attend Fans of the Future and how many will attend FastTrack.

VOTED: to recommend to the membership to adopt the following rate schedule for pre-registered memberships in ARISIA '94:

Adults: \$30
Children 0-7 years: \$15
Children 8-12 years: \$20

Next was the subject of meeting times and locations.

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March 1993

Mentor of ARISIA is a monthly publication of:

ARISIA, Incorporated
1 Kendall Square, Suite 322
Cambridge, MA 02139

Subscriptions to *Mentor* are included in ARISIA corporate membership. Membership runs from September 1 to August 31, and costs \$24 per year. Dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for members joining in months other than September; the rate for members joining in March is \$12.

ARISIA, *Mentor of ARISIA*, and the ARISIA lens are service marks of ARISIA, Incorporated.

Corporate Officers

President: Joseph Ross, 648 Washington Street, Brookline, MA 02146 H:617/734-7372 W:617/367-0468

Vice President: Heather Coon, 8 Colbert Avenue #11, Maynard, MA 01754 508/897-6290

Treasurer: Allan Kent, 15 Park Avenue Ext., Arlington, MA 02174 617/646-7681

Clerk: Mark Dulcey, 110 Orchard St., Somerville, MA 02144 H:617/628-9162 W:617/451-5400

Articles for *Mentor* and comments on its contents should be sent to the Clerk at the address shown above. The Clerk prefers to receive articles in computer-readable form if possible.

For up-to-date information by computer/modem, call the Arisia BBS: 617/364-1576.

VOTED: to recommend to the membership to change the location of the March meeting to the NESFA clubhouse.

VOTED: to recommend to the membership to hold the April meeting at the NESFA clubhouse.

VOTED: to recommend the following meeting dates (locations not yet set) to the membership:

- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- August 8

A letter from Con*cept '93 (a science fiction convention in Montreal) to exchange mailing lists was read. It was

VOTED: to recommend to the membership that ARISIA share mailing list information with Con*cept '93. Release of ARISIA mailing information is restricted to members who authorized release of this information. (Members were asked whether they wanted to allow such release when they registered for A'93.)

Con*cept also requested a copy of the ARISIA bylaws; they wish to use them as a guide in drafting their own. The letter indicated that they were already aware that U.S. and Canadian laws are different, and that this might affect the required laws. Since the Bylaws are a public document, no formal vote was required; the Clerk will deal with sending them.

The issue of whether or not we need to collect sales tax on ARISIA video tapes was discussed. We still don't have an answer from the Mass. Department of Revenue. It was

VOTED: to continue to collect sales tax on video tapes until a ruling has been received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and to write a letter to the Department of Revenue seeking a ruling.

VOTED: to give the ARISIA copies of *Instant Message* (the NESFA newsletter, received in exchange for *Mentor*) to the current convention chair.

VOTED: to appoint Jim Belfiore to deal with receipt of mail from the ARISIA box at Mailboxes Etc. (Jim has already delegated this job to a member of his convention staff; this vote confirms the current arrangement.)

VOTED: to authorize Allan Kent to spend up to \$100 for printing of 500 pieces of ARISIA corporate stationery and matching envelopes.

Rob Bazemore presented the following proposal:

Move to create a supplemental insurance fund. The money for this fund will be kept in the regular corporate bank account, but earmarked as "Supplemental Insurance Fund". Every year that the ARISIA convention makes money and ARISIA, Incorporated is out of debt, money should be transferred to this fund in increments of \$500, until the fund reaches the amount of \$5,000. Thereafter, the fund should be maintained at \$5,000. The transfer should take place when the books for the current ARISIA convention are closed.

The purpose of this fund is to supplement the insurance that each convention carries for items used during the convention. The insurance usually has a \$1,000 deductible per day. The reason for the amount of \$5,000 is to cover all five days of the convention (based on a three day convention, plus one day of move-in and one day of move-out, for a total of five days). This

proposal may need to be made as a amendment to the bylaws, as there are provisions in the bylaws restricting accumulation of money by ARISIA.

VOTED: to refer the insurance proposal to the Long Range Planning committee.

Rob also present the following:

The Long Range Planning committee should be asked to investigate if there are any other needs that require ARISIA, Incorporated to maintain a large cash reserve. With ARISIA '93 hitting a warm body count of 1,450, do we wish to increase our limit of paying customers from 1,500 (which would give us a warm body count of 1,800 to 1,900, based on this year's figures for complimentary memberships)? My view is to keep the membership limit the same until the Convention Committee has demonstrated the ability to reliably disseminate information to all department heads, and the ConCom has a sufficient reliable staff base to fill most of the department head positions without relying on too many people wearing multiple hats.

Since this did not propose any action by the E-board, none was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

General Meeting February 28, 1993

President Joe Ross called the meeting to order at 2:20pm. Present: Rob Bazemore, Jim Belfiore, Heather Coon, Ed Dooley, Mark Dulcey, Kevin Fallon, Dave Fassett, Chris Ivey, Sheri Kaplowitz, Allan Kent, Michael McAfee, Sheila Oranch, Phi (Nick Sheckman), Tim Roberge, Joe Ross, Kim Van Auken, Pat Vandenberg.

VOTED: to accept the December minutes as published.

VOTED: to accept the January minutes as published.

Officer's reports

President: appoint Marshall Ellis as Corporate Benefits Coordinator.

VOTED: to approve the appointment.

Investigated radio announcements of meeting cancellations on WBZ; they wanted to charge us \$485 per announcement. (Thanks, but no thanks.) We are looking for a volunteer to take over Merchandising.

Vice President: no report.

Treasurer: get convention expense reports to him (Allan); he will pass them along to the convention treasurer (Mike DiGenio), who was not present.

Clerk: Dave Cantor, George Flynn, Jeff Jordan, and Mary Robison will be transferred to Red Shirt membership if they do not attend this meeting. (*None of them showed up.*)

Committee reports

Budget: Mike DiGenio and Jim Belfiore have three budgets in progress (pessimistic, optimistic, and in-between). These are not meant to be final. They will be in the next *Mentor*. (*Ed - they were not submitted by my press deadline, so they do not appear this month.*)

Grants: there is currently no committee. We are looking for volunteers.

Long Range Planning: has not met since A'93. Next meeting will be March 21, after the Corporate meeting.

Database: no report.

ARISIA '93: the financial success of A'93 rests mainly on the following three factors:

1. The costs saved from the hotel due to the compensation for giving up the main ballroom Thursday and Sunday nights. (Thanks to Jeff Jordan and Pat Vandenberg for working these out.) There were also additional savings from using the freight elevator while Computervision was moving out, since the elevator operator was on their tab.
2. The staff and division heads, who did a wonderful job of trying to stay below their budgets, even if it meant more money coming out of their own pockets, or the generous donations of the companies who employ them.
3. The fans who were willing to pay the increase rate of \$40 at the door, and the fans who were willing to pay for hotel rooms. (I know that staff and division heads got rooms also, but I hope they consider themselves fans.) This generated more than expected income, plus additional savings from the hotel. (The convention receives complimentary rooms based on the number of hotel room-nights taken by members.)
4. The guests who did panels, the dealers who brought merchandise, the artists who brought artwork - I thank them all for giving me more to see this year.

I know I said three factors, and I listed four. Of the factors listed, only the fourth one is something I believe we can count on beyond a doubt in future years, provided we don't try to milk them for more than they can afford. The first factor was something that was a pain to work around, but we managed with minor loss (who needs sleep, anyway?), and I hope won't happen again; we can't afford to not budget for the items we got in return. My bottom line is that we can't afford to get cocky concerning the budget.

The bad news:

1. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will not be producing a Video Memory Book this year. (It helps the budget, but I don't have to like it.) The original tape has problems that make it impossible to watch for long periods of time with melting one's brain down, never mind trying to market it. The tapes should not be erased, as future technology might make it possible to correct the problem, and the tapes do contain documentation of what happened at A'93 for any legal problems that might crop up down the road.

2. The artwork mentioned in the February *Mentor* that was damaged has been returned to the artist, who has settled with the shipping company she used. She is also willing to send artwork to next year's ARISIA, and does not hold us responsible for what happened.

The good news:

It seems that almost everybody had a grand time from the attendees' standpoint. From the running side, Mike still thinks I spend too much money (I'm sure he's right). I wish I could have been at ARISIA '93 to see for myself the good time everybody seemed to be having.

Joe Ross added that the aggressive marketing this year helped attendance.

ARISIA '94: the hotel situation was discussed. (See the Executive Board minutes.) The membership expressed the same concerns as the E-board.

Sheila Oranch offered the following suggestions about concessions that we might get from the hotel:

- Sending publicity about our convention to the hotel's "hot list" (a mailing list of frequent guests)
- Improved parking rates
- Access to the basement of the castle (perhaps for use by a live role-playing game)
- Improved signage in the hotel, especially about convention smoking policy

VOTED: to authorize the ARISIA '94 convention chair (Jim Belfiore) to negotiate and sign a modification to the hotel contract for ARISIA '94.

Kim Van Auken felt that the Boston Star Trek Association should be contacted immediately (before public announcement) about the change of date. Rob Bazemore volunteered to deal with this.

Jim Belfiore is working on a letter to be sent to current convention members (pre-registered members, dealers, and artists) apologizing for the change of date.

There was a discussion of whether to issue refunds of memberships to people who will not be able to attend on the new dates. It was

VOTED: to allow refund of fees (membership, dealer's

tables, and art show panels) if a request is sent in writing, postmarked by May 31, 1993.

MOVED: to adopt the following rate schedule for pre-registered memberships in ARISIA '94:

- Adults: \$30
- Children 0-7 years: \$15
- Children 8-12 years: \$20

VOTED: to amend the proposal to include convention publications (i.e., the program book) in the memberships for children aged 8-12 years.

VOTED: to amend the ages for children's memberships to state "as of the date of the opening of the convention".

VOTED: to accept the rate schedule as amended.

The next Convention Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 8pm, at Pat and Allan's house. Submissions for the first issue of the ConCom APA are (were) due today.

Unfinished business

none

New business

VOTED: to change the location of the March meeting to the NESFA clubhouse.

VOTED: to hold the April meeting at the NESFA clubhouse.

MOVED: to set the following meeting dates:

- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- August 8

It was noted that June 20 is Father's Day. (This fact had also been noted by the E-board.)

VOTED: to amend the proposed June meeting date to June 19.

VOTED: to accept the meeting dates as amended.

VOTED: to share mailing list information with Con*cept '93. Release of ARISIA mailing information is restricted to members who authorized release of this information. (Members were asked whether they wanted to allow such release when they registered for A'93.)

The question of access to ARISIA for handicapped, blind, and deaf attendees was raised. The members felt that providing access is a good idea, but we need people to do it. (Handicapped access is not a problem at the Park Plaza.)

The question of whether to form a hotel search committee was raised. The E-board felt there isn't much to search for right now; hotel options have already been researched adequately by past ARISIA conventions and by other Boston-area convention groups (notably NESFA and MCFI). Pat Vandenberg feels that we could reserve dates at the Park Plaza through 1997 if we wish to.

A member asked about the possibility of offering lifetime memberships. This was referred to the Long Range Planning committee.

MOVED: to transfer the following members from Red Shirt to General membership:

Donald Eastlake

Jill Eastlake

Dave Fassett

Tim Roberge

Nick Shectman (Phi)

Per the Bylaws, these transfers were automatically tabled.

Announcements

The next Programming meeting will be at Sheri Kaplowitz's house on March 13 at 1pm. Directions appear elsewhere in this issue.

Bernie Norton (a well-known gamer who has attended a number of ARISIA conventions) had appendicitis that was caused by cancer. He was in the hospital in January for an operation on the appendicitis; he is going in soon for cancer treatment. (The Clerk saw him on the Friday before the meeting at Total Confusion, a gaming convention; he seemed to be doing well.)

There will be (was) an MCFI meeting at the NESFA clubhouse on Wednesday, March 3, at 7:30pm, to discuss alternative locations for the convention (the Boston Sheraton is not available).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Directions to the NESFA clubhouse

The NESFA clubhouse is located at 504 Medford St. in Somerville. It's about two blocks from the intersection of Medford St. and Broadway.

By car from Cambridge: take McGrath Highway to Broadway. (This is a wide street shortly before you reach I-93; there is a Dunkin Donuts store on the left, and two gas stations on the right.) Turn left on Broadway. Proceed until you reach Medford St. (This is a complex intersection with three streets coming into Broadway; there is another Dunkin Donuts here.) Take a sharp left turn onto Medford St. Park as soon as you see a space; the NESFA clubhouse is about two blocks from the intersection.

By car from I-93 southbound (from 128, etc.): take the Mystic Ave. exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right. Continue straight through two traffic lights (Mystic Ave. and a small street.) At the third light (Medford St.), turn left. (There is a white building labeled Gange Insurance at this intersection.) Follow this about a mile, staying right at the fork near the fire station. Proceed straight through the complex intersection mentioned above. Then park.

By car from I-93 northbound (from Boston): take the Route 28/Somerville exit (near the Assembly Square Mall). Stay to the left when you leave the ramp. Shortly after the first traffic light, take the U-turn road. When you get back to the traffic light, turn right on McGrath Highway (Route 28 south). Turn right again at the next light; this is Broadway. Then see the directions above.

By T: Take the #80 bus from Lechmere. This passes right in front of the NESFA clubhouse, shortly before you reach Broadway. Or take the #89 bus from Sullivan Square. Get off the bus at Magoun Square (the intersection of Broadway and Medford St.); walk two blocks toward Boston (cross Broadway and continue in that direction).

On Sunday, the #80 leaves Lechmere at 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00 (not very friendly timing, alas; you get the choice of too early or too late). It leaves Arlington Center at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 (much better, but you have to get there). The #89 leaves Sullivan Square at 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00; it leaves Clarendon Hill (the other end of the line) at 12:20, 1:20, and 2:20.

By foot: if the weather cooperates, the NESFA clubhouse is a pleasant walk from most of Somerville, and from parts of Cambridge and Medford. Call the Clerk if you need directions.

Directions to the programming meeting

Sheri's house is at 20 Harris Rd. in Medford. If you get lost, you can call her at (617) 391-7464.

By car from Route 2: At the Alewife intersection, turn onto Route 16 East (a right turn if you're coming from Cambridge; left if you're coming from points west). Continue past Mass Ave. (first traffic light), Broadway (second traffic light), signs for Tufts, and a rotary with signs pointing to Arlington. At the next traffic light, turn right on Boston Ave. Turn right at Pinkham St. (the fourth street). At the end of Pinkham, turn right. Make the first right turn onto Harris Rd. #20 is the first house past the fire hydrant. Park on the left side of the street.

By car from I-93 northbound (from Boston): Take the Route 16/Mystic Valley Parkway exit. Follow this to the first traffic light after the U-Haul place; turn left on Boston Rd. Then see the directions above.

**ARISIASM, Incorporated
1 Kendall Square, Suite 322
Cambridge, MA 02139**

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 13, 1pm. Programming meeting at Sheri Kaplowitz's house.

Wednesday, March 17, 8pm. ARISIA '94 Convention Committee meeting at Pat and Allan's house.

Sunday, March 21, 2pm. Corporate meeting at NESFA clubhouse. Executive Board will meet at 1pm.

Sunday, April 18, 2pm. Corporate meeting at NESFA clubhouse. Executive Board will meet at 1pm.

Sunday, May 15, 2pm. Corporate meeting.

Saturday, June 19, 2pm. Corporate meeting.

Sunday, July 18, 2pm. Corporate meeting.

Sunday, August 8, 2pm. Corporate meeting.

Please notify the Clerk of upcoming events to go into this calendar.

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