



# Mentor

The Newsletter of  
**Arisia, Incorporated**

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519 Somerville Ave #371, Somerville, MA 02143  
+ 1-917-7ARISIA (+1-917-727-4742)

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*The November corporate meeting was called to order on November 28th at 2:08 pm by Nicholas "phi" Shectman, President, via Zoom.*

## About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on Tuesday Dec 28, 2021 at 7pm **via Zoom**. The link to the meeting and corresponding agenda will be distributed over the corp-announce email list in advance of the meeting. The quorum for the November corporate meeting is 17, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings  $((32+32+32)/3 \times 0.51) = 16.32$ .

Please send all proxies for the **December** corporate meeting in advance by email to corp-proxies@arisia.org, and CC the proxy holder.

## November Meeting Summary

**Attendance:**

Joseph Andelman	Rick Kovalcik	Kylie Selkirk
Inanna Arthen	Jodie Lawhorne	Nicholas “phi” Sheckman
Priscilla Ballou	Henry Leong	Mike Sprague
E J Barnes	Megan Lewis	Rachel Tanenhaus
Jan Dumas	Ken London	Ilene Tatroe
Allison Feldhusen	Claudia Mastroianni	Mike Tatroe
Jennifer	Karen Purcell	Dan Toland
Fitzsimmons-Gauger	Richard Schmeidler	Alan Wexelblat
Lisa Hertel	Cate Schneiderman	Michelle Wexelblat
Melissa Kaplan	JB Segal	

**Proxies:**

- Nightwing Whitehead to Jan Dumas Accepted
- Danny Miller to E J Barnes Accepted
- Sharon Sbarsky to Rick Kovalcik Accepted
- Regis Donovan to Claudia Mastroianni Accepted
- David Silber to Alex Morgan Accepted

**Corrections to the minutes:**

Moot as minutes have not yet gone out.

**Eboard report:**

- We voted to appoint Jodie Lawhorne as chair of Arisia 2023.
- Tikva: Could Jodie talk about his application? Could eboard talk about what they liked about it?
- Jodie: Intends changes regarding inclusion, mentoring younger people, increasing staffing and attendance that way.
- /phi: What Jodie said is what we heard. Visionary conchairs vs continuing conchairs. It’s good to alternate those rather than visionaries right after each other, because big changes can take a few years to really take effect. Vivian=visionary; Jodie=continuing.
- EJ: Was Jodie/is Jodie ACC right now?
- /phi: This year’s con doesn’t have the familiar organizational structure, but Jodie is part of Vivian’s small conchair team.

- Jan: Was really excited about Jodie's plans to continue Vivian's vision and to bring more people and new people in.
- Vote on Jodie as con chair taken via poll mechanism, to reflect proxies: 28 in favor, 4 against. Congratulations, Jodie.
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## **Officer reports:**

### **President's Report**

- I continue to apply for grants. Next up is the \$3000 Universal Participation grant that we got last year that reads like it was designed specifically for us. Sometime soon we should start hearing back on which ones we are getting. The one with the soonest supposed notification date is a long shot federal grant for \$10,000 which we applied for a while ago, but in practice grant notifications don't always happen when they're supposed to.
- We haven't gotten a storage lease proposal back from the landlord yet and I expect to ping them this week. Rick Kovalcik talked briefly with the landlord and there's potential for us to play hardball in rent negotiations. Lisa says the landlord never renewed her personal lease. Ilene: We didn't officially set Jan date/time. Offers Sunday Jan 16 at 1 from programming, not in the room that will have streaming capabilities. Hybrid meetings aren't something we've currently set our bylaws to allow. Priscilla: December meeting when? Tues Dec 28 at 7pm.
- Set a meeting date. January: Sunday the 16th at 1pm. Confirmed.
- February date needed: Tuesday 15? Jenn F-G has a conflict. Is the 22nd a Boskone conflict? Rick would prefer 15 but 22 could work. Other opinions in Zoom chat. Straw polls: more NOs and fewer YESes for the 22nd.
- Motion: On Zoom on Tuesday Feb 15 7pm. Overwhelmingly passes.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Dues of \$20 paid today before the end of this meeting will grant voting rights for the next corporate meeting. They can be paid by check or paypal at [corp.arisia.org/membership](http://corp.arisia.org/membership). If you would like to request a waiver for whatever reason, please send an email request to [eboard@arisia.org](mailto:eboard@arisia.org)

## **Committee reports:**

### **Arisia 2020:**

Does A20 want to remain open? Moved to close it. Passes unanimously

### **Arisia 2021:**

No report. Not ready to close books.

Rick: What is outstanding for '21?

/phi: We only recently traced Hannibal's laptop expense, and further correlation with the credit card may be needed.

(Cate was assistant treasurer, we had no main treasurer.)

### **Arisia 2022 Convention:**

Jodie: Vivian isn't here. Cate: Highlights: progress report hopefully coming out in early December. Vivian work deadline means you have a bit more time. Send to Vivian and communications by Dec 1. COVID policy will be in progress report. We still need a food person. Budget amendment comes out of '22 Treasury report. Progress is happening. Registration is low. There's still room in the hotel.

/phi: We're holding a party at Discon? Vivian was looking for party space? Cate is not sure. /phi thinks so--be in touch with the conchair. Rick: Sharon was perhaps hosting a joint Boskone/Arisia party? Con team, be in touch with her.

### **Arisia 2022 Treasury:**

- This is where to bring the budget amendment.
- Current registration numbers? Through Sept 30, 230 paid. Cate doesn't have Oct/Nov numbers. People may have been waiting for COVID policy and/or child vax.
- Budget amendment proposed, was emailed, linked in chat.
- Highlights: moving Space Pilot from TAS -> Hotel 2) Add Ops 3) fixing discretionary fund to 2% of budget 4) removing Turtle Track, moving portions to Fast Track (which will take age 5 this year), Teen Lounge, and Space Pilot B which will support Fast Track volunteers.
- Rick thinks discretionary funds have been historically based on a lookback? /phi says marketing is based on a lookback, but discretionary is based on the current budget.
- Rick: Don't we need to update the budget for actual numbers through Sept 30? Cate says yes, see tab labeled '22 income estimates.
- Alan: Why should Ops have this budget? Plenty of office supplies in storage. Other items are already being budgeted by other departments. Why do we need a paid phone line? Random admin? This may not be a large line item, but I see no justification for these expenses.

- Cate: Lisa can add some things, but the Admin line is something almost every division gets to have. It doesn't always get spent, but it is a safety valve within the division. The phone line: I do have some confusion over the hotel phone, but my understanding is that they do need to be able to call out from Ops location. Office supplies: Yes, we do have a lot in storage. I was at tagging yesterday. A lot of what we found has expired. Hand sanitizer, for one. A lot of pens are not reliable. Not every division was counting on spending that money themselves.
- Rick: Zoom functionality: hand raising and updating your zoom so green checkmark can be permanent. Ops phone is key for people calling Ops within the hotel. For the outside line, Rick has a cell phone available (for \$40?) We tried eliminating Ops in '20 and it failed miserably, so he supports this budget for unanticipated expenses.
- Ilene: I think this is an important conversation given the low numbers: Office supplies: should be centralized. Programming has no pens. My programming budget is going to be envelopes and labels for packet prep. I want to get other supplies from Ops and have them go back to Ops at the end.
- /phi on income: given Paypal glimpses: we didn't see the usual slowdown in October, so maybe our Sept numbers aren't as dire as they would be in other years. The low year-aheads and lower Sept rate may not mean anything as we catch up with higher rate October and later memberships.
- Jan: Have we figured out how Cards to Culture will work? Will it have to be in person?
- Claudia: Was added to the website after the Fans of Arisia conversation Jan referenced.
- Cate: If people email us we will figure out how to serve them, but we don't have a process right now. And it's not part of the budget. /phi notes we had 3 last year, and hopes we have more, but 13 or 30 would still not signify in our budget.
- Alan: Can we come back to this after the budget? Okay.
- Alan W moves to call the question.
- Mike Sprague: 336 is current reg. How does at-door vs pre usually go?
- /phi doesn't think past patterns really apply this year. At the door has been half-ish, but then you have to split out day vs. weekend, and everything is unpredictable this year.
- Cate: Thank you, Mike, for the numbers. Added to projection with a note. Yes, this will be a strange year
- Question has been called. Vote via poll on approving the budget as sent to the corporate list. Passes 33 to 0.
- Jan's Card to Culture question is now in order. Can we get more info?
- Rick: Ben added EBT info to the con website, which requests email to registration from those who wish to use Card to Culture to attend.
- Melissa Kaplan: Do we want to look at hotel numbers to project memberships?
- /phi says hotel numbers at one point were down a third from previous years, but that's not very recent info.

- Claudia: I don't know how reliable those are before the cancellation deadline.
- /phi: Which is in two weeks.

### **CIC:**

Rick - dealing with storage and Philcon to and fro. I had made arrangements with Lisa the landlord to leave the elevator on and it was not on when he got there. Whoever is in charge of logistics, make arrangements with Lisa early, in writing, and confirm!

I don't know if the elevator has gotten more flaky, but loading and returning were both significantly delayed by elevator flakiness and repairs, so logistics may want to budget time for the elevator!

Rick has told NESFA when we expect to be loading/unloading at NESFA

Discon stuff will be leaving ~Dec 9-10 and returning ~Dec 21-22.

Jan asks re storage: is it safe for Neelix the service dog or should she travel alone?

Rick sees no hazards to the dog, but there are some rough patches. It might be good to tether him near the front door.

Lisa H: People do take dogs to work in that building, but the floor of our unit might have questionable chemicals on it from 100 years ago?

Lisa asks what's up with forward hotel contracts? /phi says we'll know a lot more after Arisia '22.

### **IRMC:**

Alan Wexelblax reports new members successfully onboarded, and those people have taken on the backlog. Focusing on remaining items from 2019, some of which were previously handled provisionally--to get resolution at the December meeting on those old IRs. So try to be at or be proxied to that meeting if you want to have input. Questions?

### **ARC:**

Jan: New books, rearranged our recommendations on our Goodreads page. An upcoming Globe event "Elevating lives" Dec 8. It is free. Recommended. Questions?

**Unfinished Business:** I don't think Melissa's motion goes here if it wasn't actually brought up last time.

## **New Business:**

- Melissa Kaplan: I would like there to be an official policy in place that if a person is found to have forged vaccination credentials to attend Arisia 2022, the standard consequence for this CoC infraction is a lifetime ban from Arisia.
- Claudia: leave with the IRMC
- Melissa: Keep it from cluttering the IRMC process.
- Ilene: How are we defining this infraction?
- Melissa: Good question. Because CDC cards are just a piece of paper, this is a possibility. We'd act only on definitive information. It's unlikely to happen; the purpose is to set tone and act as a deterrent.
- Ilene: Concern is with due process.
- Melissa: means from a board of health, doctor's office.
- /phi: Our policies allow motions that direct policy changes without having to spell out every detail of the policy--the eboard is empowered to fix the details. Permabans procedurally need eboard/corp action, and changes would be needed to leave the IRMC out of the process along the way. Might be easier to say that IRMC does it but automatically recommends action to eboard without much process.
- Alan W super-duper opposed. I Don't think definitive proof magically appears. This will never happen so he'd rather not create a rule for that case. Don't alter rules we've carefully built for a specific case like this.
- Henry Leong: Opposed, because no way to verify. Massachusetts isn't sharing that info. Other locales, no way to get that info. People have been known to claim to be unvaxxed and be lying!
- Jodie: We're not (planning on) keeping documentation regarding people's cards, which creates a lot of problems in the process.
- Rick: I agree with Alan and Henry. About the only way you will know if someone broke the policy is if they gloat on social media. I think the chance of there being any cases of this is pretty much zero. We're talking about creating a bad rule for a vanishingly small number of cases.
- Lisa H: Moves to call the question, but yields to the queue.
- Matt Ringel: Alternate proposal: A threat is more powerful than an action. Agreeing with Rick that getting the info is nigh impossible. But we can state: "We reserve the right to permaban, at any point in the future, anyone who is found to have lied regarding their COVID-19 vaccination status at any time in the past." To give the message that "we don't care if we find out 15 years later", that might have a real effect. The proposed rule has no concrete way to do it. The threat will make more sense.
- Melissa K: Thinks Matt's idea is better than hers.
- JB: Matt's proposal ignores the IRMC backlog and the attempt to simplify the process. We *\*should\** be punting people on this.

- Alan W: I think we're all in agreement but I want to clarify: this is not an IRMC motion, this is Melissa's, and I think we should respect that. Yes, there is an IRMC backlog, but I don't think the work itself is piling up as JB fears, so much as needing to replace burnt-out people with non-burnt-out people. I don't think this will impact that much one way or the other.
- Melissa: Yes, I'm not representing the IRMC (or IRT, or GoH liaison) when I make this motion. This was \*me\* making a proposal.
- Matt wording in Zoom chat: "We reserve the right to permaban, at any point in the future, anyone who is found to have lied regarding their COVID-19 vaccination status at any time in the past."
- Priscilla: I feel all warm and fuzzy about what just happened. (Proposal, vigorous discussion, new idea, embraced by original proposer, progress.)
- Rick suggests a motion, so the signal comes from Corp. "The corp directs the concom to state, etc."
- Mike Sprague: we try not to tell the concom how to run the con
- Claudia: Agree with Rick: Because this is about future action, the statement should come from the corporation, not the concom.
- Michelle W: agrees with Claudia. It's about who the statement is coming from. We don't have ConChair here to speak about the con doing this.
- Matt: Agreed. Who is "we" here? It's Arisia, Inc., not Arisia '22. Even if there's no change in policy, it is the corp handing the con suggested wording.
- Motion from Matt R: The corporation directs the concom to put this statement on the website: "We reserve the right to permaban, \*at any point in the future\*, anyone who is found to have lied regarding their COVID vaccination status, \*at any time in the past\*."
- Vote via poll: 18 to 2 and counting.
- Any other new business?
- Matt R: In 7 minutes BEO office hours.
- BEO = Banquet and Entertainment Orders. (What some call the resume, but in the industry the resume means something else.)

### **Announcements:**

- Matt R: In 7 minutes BEO office hours.
- BEO = Banquet and Entertainment Orders. (What some call the resume, but in the industry the resume means something else.)
- WorldCon is happening
- December Corporate Meeting: Tuesday December 28th at 7 pm via Zoom



- Allison Feldhausen: Space Pilot has a soft close for entries on Dec 1. We have very few signups, and none from some of the bigger departments. [spacepilot@arisia.org](mailto:spacepilot@arisia.org).
- Jan Dumas: Sharing something personal: I have been appointed by the mayor of Revere to run our affordable housing fund. (Congratulations, Jan!)
- Congratulations to Jodie.
- Rick: MCFI has voted to host Relaxacon same place, weekend after mother's day 2022.

<https://corp.arisia.org/calendar>.

- Meeting Adjourned 3:58pm