



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 312, October 2023
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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm ET 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 October corporate meeting is **14**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((31+29+21)/3 \times 0.51) = X$.

Please submit proxies in advance by email to corp-proxies@arisia.org (a mailing list which will be seen by some corporate members) and CC: the proxy holder.

October 17, 2023 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **7:04 PM**. There were 21 members attending:

Daniel Abraham
Vivian Abraham
Joseph Andelman
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
E.J. Barnes
Nick Brown
Regis Donovan
Melissa Kaplan
Rick Kovalcik
Sue Kramer
Ken London
Claudia Mastroianni

Sharon Sbarsky
Nicholas “phi” Shechtman
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
Mike Tatroe
Ed Trachtenberg
Nightwing Whitehead

Proxies:

None.

Corrections to and approval of the September 2023 Minutes:

The September 2023 minutes were approved unanimously via voice vote without corrections.

EBoard Report:

- The EBoard voted to sign on to endorse the ACE Act: “An Act to improve accessibility within the creative economy, sponsored by Rep. Dan Donahue and Sen. Paul Mark, H.151/S.113, would establish the Accessibility in the Creative Economy (ACE) Fund to be distributed through the Massachusetts Office on Disability and provide grants to organizations focused on the arts, culture, humanities, and interpretive sciences that would remove barriers encountered by people with disabilities.”
- As a corporate entity, Arisia can do some political stuff, but it is limited: “Nonprofits are allowed to conduct an insubstantial amount of lobbying in relation to issues that are aligned with the organization’s mission. While the IRS has not officially defined what amount is considered insubstantial, most organizations limit their lobbying activities to 3-5% of their overall activities.” (Source: MASSCreative’s web page on “Nonprofit Organizations & Advocacy” - <https://www.mass-creative.org/learn/news-example-1-m5g3b-jk2re-k4mhc-xahcx>)
- The EBoard also voted to lend equipment to Philcon 2023.

President’s Report:

- We have a few big projects regarding documentation and organization, notably the transfer to Google Suites.
- We want to clean up the committee lists:
 - Find out where they are and who is interested in participating.
 - It’s better to have ten committees that are actively doing work than twenty committees that are causing folks to be spread too thin.
 - We should have up-to-date committee info on the website.
 - We can use today’s meeting as an opportunity to check in with each committee and see where folks are and how they’d like to move forward.

VPs Report:

None

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer is putting together an Arisia Financials sheet for Corporate use and understanding. (Please see the most recent numbers in the September Mentor). He's trying to make it as un-intimidating as possible. Among other things, the sheet differentiates refundable vs. non-refundable expenses in case of con cancellation. (This is a worst case scenario and NOT in the plans).
- On November 15 taxes are due, and phi is almost done with them. He'll run them by the EBoard, but they're public record. Let him know if you want to see them (treasurer@arisa.org).

Clerk's Report:

- The updated corporate member list is in Mentor - contact clerk@arisa.org if you're not on it correctly!
- The updated list of corporate officers has been filed with the state post-election, as required.
- The corporation's annual report has also been filed with the state, including the required \$18.50 total in fees. It's a remarkably easy process involving filling out a form indicating who our officers are and when our last annual meeting took place. Anyone who wants to be Clerk in the future does not need to be intimidated by the idea of "filing an annual report", which sounds like a way bigger deal than it actually is.

A24 Con Comm Report:

- The Windborne Singers (musical guest) might get nominated for a Grammy.
- Paul Sabourin (Paul and Storm, JoCoCruise, Netflix MST3K) is coming to the con as a featured guest!
- Programming is coming along.
- Social media are active.
- The next Arisia Town Hall will be on Sunday, October 22 at 2 pm.
- Hotel reservations are opening on Thursday, October 19 at noon. If you're staff, they're open now.
- Hotel reservation opening was announced on social media, but not on e-mail because e-mail costs us money and it occurred between scheduled Progress Reports.

Committee Reports:

(include members as listed on our web site, which is almost certainly out of date)

Anti-Racism Committee: Jan Dumas (chair), Vivian Abraham, etana, Dan Franklin, Ken London, Karen Purcell, Alan Wexelbalt, Nightwing Whitehead

- Paused roll call for this committee because etana isn't present. [Turns out Jan Dumas was actually chair]. Ken confirms he's on it. (Nightwing was away from her keyboard).
- We'll check in at the next meeting.

Budget: Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (chair), Kelly Fabijanic, Rachel Kadel, Alex Latzko, Benjamin Levy, Tom Traina, Ellie Younger

- We don't have a corporate budget, so that process will be this committee's next project.
- This group traditionally consists of all the treasurers who are around, plus anyone else interested. All currently listed members need to be confirmed.

Corporate Communications: Claudia Mastroianni (chair), Justin du Coeur, Lenore Jean Jones, Ilene Tatroe, Julia Austein

- Claudia was slightly surprised that she's chair.
- It's not an active committee. Some of its functions might have been supplanted by the #communications channel in Slack, and maybe by Clerk duties. The Committee may have historically been headed by the Clerk, which means Rachel/tikva would be the chair now. Sometimes the Committee has helped look over Mentor for the Clerk. So it might be the Clerk backup/help team.
- Ilene had resigned before, but doesn't mind staying on it once Con winds down.
- Rachel doesn't mind getting help.
- Folks will discuss it more between meetings.

Corporate Inventory Control: Rick Kovalcik (chair), Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris

- Rick is Chair. He says we should probably recruit members and check in with Kylie.
- The EBoard is re-negotiating the storage lease, so the CIC should give opinions. The landlord is offering a 3-year lease with a 5% increase the first year and 2-3% increases in the later years.
- We have more space than we need right now, but we can't beat the rate we get here. But this rate might be countered by finding a smaller place that fits us better. We could go through inventory and see if we can pare things down to need even less space. The downside of our current storage space is that it is far from the convention hotel and requires the use of an elevator. Another space won't be cheaper but may be closer in and not need an elevator.
- Rick was very much in favor of staying because moving is a pain.

Corporate Sales: Membership TBD

- Usually for corporate merch.
- But there's no one to run it and it may not be needed. We could spin it up later if needed, but for now we're taking it off the list.

Digital Assets Management: (no chair), Anna Bradley, Sol Houser, Rachel Kadel, Jess Steytler, Alan Wexelblat

- The people listed are no longer active.
- This was the online documentation organization committee, and it also was intended to address migration to a particular suite. Most of this is being done by the IT Committee.
- Vivian is working with Julia to organize the organization's paperwork and documents.
- Certainly the first step of what this committee was tasked with doing is currently being done by the IT Committee, so we can let them continue and then spin this committee back up if/when we need it again.

Fundraising: Matt Ringel (chair), Addie Abrams, Kris Pelletier, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Rachel Silber

- Could be used for grant-writing/development.
- Phi is still here and active. Others could join, but phi is doing well at it.
- Matt is probably no longer interested in chairing.
- Motion to make phi chair passed unanimously via voice vote.
- Julia offered to join, and the motion to add her passed unanimously via voice vote.

Grants: Mike Sprague (chair), Joseph Andelman, David D'Antonio

- The chair of this committee has historically been the VP, so it's still Mike.
- This committee gives out grants rather than applying for them.
- It's temporarily on hold until we have enough money to start dispersing grants again. Only one grant has been requested recently and we told them that grant-giving was on hold for the moment. Generally we distribute no more than \$5K/year. We have a big note on our page saying that we're not taking grant requests at this time, so that would explain the lack of requests.
- Grant-giving furthers our non-profit purpose, but what we've been doing lately (access, con as educational event) brings that purpose in-house.

Hotel Search: Kris "Nchanter" Snyder (chair), Joel Herda, Benjamin Levy, Diane Martin, Andy Rosequist, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Ellie Younger

- In practice, Vivian is the current chair of this committee. Phi has agreed to be on it. Ben has been incredibly helpful and Vivian is hoping he will either stay on it, or stay on as an advisory member.
- We have been mostly gathering information so that we can solicit bids for A25 and potentially beyond.
- Arisia needs to reconsider how much space we need as a smaller convention, and maybe get a space that better fits us, with the option to get a new contract in a few years if we end up growing.
- This committee needs more members.
- This committee dove-tails with the Long-Range Planning Committee, in a way. LRPC is a 5-year-plan kind of group, they do their thing and then vanish. So we're between plans.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC): Vivian Abraham (chair), etana, Delenn Brumberger (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Melissa Kaplan, Kris Pelletier)

- The IRMC has added Nightwing Whitehead, and they greatly appreciate her help.
- They continue to handle staff vetting for the convention.
- They will endeavor to get some of the remaining IRs handled before the con. Note that we will not be reporting any IRs to the January at-con meeting, as it has a much larger potential audience and is not fair to put the spotlight on those individuals.

IT: Gail Terman (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas “phi” Sheckman, Mike Tatroe, Alan Wexelblat

- Moving from HostGator, who raised their rates.
- Migrating to GoogleGroups is in process but delayed.
- Alan dropped, but Nick Brown has previously been voted onto the Committee.

Location Search: Gail Terman (chair), etana, Sol Houser

- This was for in-person meetings.
- May be defunct, but Vivian will check with Gail.

Long Range Planning: (No chair), Anna Bradley, Heather Cougar

- Already discussed (see Hotel Search).

Mailing List Monitoring: Claudia Mastroianni and Rachel Tanenhaus

- They monitor corp-discuss.
- What about staff-discuss? A member of con-chair should be part of monitoring that.
- More discussion to come later, including looking at the original documents establishing list moderators.
- We also need a statement of purpose for each list.

Postmaster: Sharon Sbarsky (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman

- Also Mike Tatroe (advisory).
- Phi has keys to the rest of the lists, as does Mike Sprague. Mike Sprague got the keys while phi was traveling, but isn't on the postmaster distribution list. Keys let you read the archives, so non-EBoard members don't get them.

Relaxacon: Rick Kovalcik (chair)

- Rick suggested the committee be disbanded since Arisia no longer does Relaxacon due to COVID.
- The motion to disband passed unanimously via voice vote.
- The corporation thanks Rick for serving!

Social: Jan Dumas, Melissa Kaplan, Kim Riek, Mike Sprague, Alan Wexelblat

- This committee was for planning social events between cons, but then COVID happened.

- Melissa is willing to chair it starting in February. We'll leave it active and check on it at the February meeting, although we can check on it later if Melissa needs a longer break after the con.

Student Contests: Megan Lewis (chair) Anna Bradley, Johnny Healey, Allison Holt, Terry Holt, Skip Morris, Abby Noyce, Kris Pelletier, Mike Sprague, Carolyn VanEseltine, Conor Walsh

- There's a lot of desire to revitalize this group!
- But this is a very outdated list of members.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Vivian (President) will be in Japan for the next Corporate meeting, so Mike Sprague (Vice President) will run it.

The Corporation voted to set the January (at-con) corporate meeting date to Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

Announcements:

- Arisia Town Hall will take place on October 22, 2:00 pm
- Arisia Con Comm meeting will take place on October 24, 7:30 pm
- SMOFcon will take place December 1-3, Providence, RI. Arisia provides scholarships. There are some discount rates on the website, including for folks accompanying active attendees but just want to hang out, first-timers, retired SMOFs, etc. Accessible by commuter rail and Amtrak from South Station.
- Comicazi in Davis is having their public Halloween party this Saturday, October 21 at the VFW, starting around 6 pm. It's free. There will be contests and a raffle. More information is available on Comicazi's Facebook page.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Current Meetings and Events (as of 10/21/23)

- Sun 10/22 - Arisia Town Hall
- Tues 10/24 - Con Comm Meeting
- Fri 12/1-Sun 12/3 - Smofcon

Upcoming Conventions

December 1-3, 2023 - Smofcon

Please also see <https://corp.arisia.org/calendar>.

Corporate Financials

Date:	10/15/ 2023		
Next Convention:	A24		
Assets:			
Bank accounts:		\$101,4 45.93	including Paypal
Vendor deposits:		\$308.1 5	ASCAP
Total assets:			\$101,7 54.08
Liabilities:			
Excess MCC funding:		\$2,522 .00	This is money, mostly for an in-person anti-racism training that got cancelled because of COVID, that we owe back to MCC because we didn't spend it in time.
Refundable Arisia 2024 income:			One of several different ways to say how much money belongs to the convention.
Registration:	\$17,49 0.00		
Art Show:	\$1,136 .00		
Dealers:	\$340.0 0		
Total refundable convention income:		\$18,96 6.00	
Reserved funds:			

Equipment fund:	\$0.00			we moved \$1,542.27 out of this fund in February 2020.
Grant fund:	\$0.00			
Snow fund:	\$50,67 4.64			Two years' expenses, not including Student Art and Student Writing contests.
Training fund:	\$1,022 .00			
Total reserved funds:		\$51,69 6.64		
Total liabilities:			\$73,18 4.64	
Net unrestricted funds:			\$28,56 9.44	Things like Student Contests and the SMOFcon scholarships come out of this

Membership List

This membership list is as of 7:00 PM on 10/20/2023. Please report any corrections to clerk@arisia.org. Names in italics are non-voting members.

Daniel R. Abraham	Noel Rosenberg	
Vivian Abraham	<i>A. Joseph Ross</i>	
Wendee Abramo	Sharon Sbarsky	
Joseph Andelman	Richard Schmeidler	
Inanna Arthen	Cate Schneiderman	
Julia Austein	Jason Schneiderman	
Priscilla Ballou	JB Segal	
E.J. Barnes	Kylie Selkirk	
Fred Bauer	Nicholas "phi" Sheckman	
<i>Rob Bazemore</i>	<i>Cris Shuldiner</i>	
Anna Bradley	Mike Sprague	
Nicholas Brown	Mary Stock	
Rebecca Brumberger	Rachel Tanenhaus	
Adam Burdick	Ilene Tatroe	
Brendon Chetwynd	Mike Tatroe	

<i>Brian Cooper</i>	Gail Terman	
Regis Donovan	DJ Toland	
Jan Dumas	Melia Vaden	
etana	Wendy Verschoor	
Kelly Fabijanic	Alan Wexelblat	
Sabina Fecteau	Michelle Wexelblat	
Allison Feldhusen	Nightwing Whitehead	
Adrian Gunn	Glen Williams	
Lenore Jones		
Melissa Kaplan		
Rick Kovalcik		
Sue Kramer		
Henry Leong		
Megan Lewis		
Ken London		
Claudia Mastroianni		
Dale Meyer-Curley		
Erik Meyer-Curley		
Elliott Mitchell		
Hope Moore		
Skip Morris		
Lia Olsborg		
Danielle Reese		
Phoebe Roberts		

Executive Board - eboard@

President	Vivian Abraham	president@
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Vice President	Mike Sprague	vice-president@
Treasurer	Nicholas "phi" Shectman	treasurer@
Clerk	Rachel Tanenhaus	clerk@
Members-At-Large	Julia Austein	at-large@
	etana	
	Claudia Mastroianni	
Arisia '24 Con Chairs	Melissa Kaplan and Ilene Tatroe	conchair@
Arisia '24 Treasurer	Bill Sherman	con-treasurer@

Committee Membership

<p>Anti-Racism Committee (arc@) Jan Dumas (chair), Vivian Abraham, etana, Dan Franklin, Ken London, Nightwing Whitehead</p>
<p>Budget (budget@) Nicholas "phi" Shectman (chair), Kelly Fabijanic, Rachel Kadel, Alex Latzko, Benjamin Levy, Tom Traina, Ellie Younger</p>
<p>Corporate Communications (corpcomms@) Claudia Mastroianni (chair), Justin du Coeur, Lenore Jean Jones, Ilene Tatroe, Julia Austein</p>
<p>Corporate Inventory Control (cic@): Rick Kovalcik (chair), Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris</p>
<p>Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Shectman (chair), Addie Abrams, Kris Pelletier, Julia Austein, Matt Ringel, Rachel Silber</p>
<p>Grants (grantsrequest): Mike Sprague (chair), Joseph Andelman, David D'Antonio</p>
<p>Hotel Search (hotelsearch): Vivian (chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman</p>
<p>Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): Vivian Abraham (chair), Claudia Mastroianni, etana, Delenn Brumberger Nightwing Whitehead, (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Melissa Kaplan, Kris Pelletier)</p>
<p>IT (it@): Gail Terman (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nick Brown, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Mike Tatroe</p>
<p>Location Search (no email address): Gail Terman (chair), etana, Sol Houser</p>
<p>Long Range Planning (lrp@): (No chair), Anna Bradley, Heather Cougar</p>
<p>Mailing List Monitoring (monitor@): Claudia Mastroianni and Rachel Tanenhaus</p>
<p>Postmaster (postmaster@): Sharon Sbarsky (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Mike Tatroe (advisory member)</p>
<p>Social (social@): (chair), Jan Dumas, Melissa Kaplan, Kim Riek, Mike Sprague, Alan Wexelblat</p>

Student Contests (student-contests@):

Megan Lewis (chair) Anna Bradley, Johnny Healey, Allison Holt, Terry Holt, Skip Morris, Abby Noyce, Kris Pelletier, Mike Sprague, Carolyn VanEselte, Conor Walsh

Subscription and Dues information Membership runs from September 1st to August 31st (*) and costs \$24 for the year. Dues are pro-rated on a monthly basis for members joining throughout the year. Subscription to the Arisia, Inc. newsletter, *Mentor of Arisia*, is included with corporate membership.

New members must attend one meeting after joining to receive voting privileges at subsequent meetings.

Pay for the month in which the next corporate meeting will take place (per the [calendar](#)).

September	\$24	March	\$12
October	\$22	April	\$10
November	\$20	May	\$8
December	\$18	June	\$6
January	\$16	July	\$4
February	\$14	August	\$2

If you cannot afford to purchase a membership, you may reach out to the Executive Board at ebboard@arisia.org and request a dues waiver.

You can pay in cash at a corporate meeting, mail a check for the appropriate amount to Arisia, or use the PayPal button on the form at <https://corp.arisia.org/membership>. (You do not need a PayPal account to use your debit or credit card with PayPal.)

Arisia's mailing address is:

Arisia, Inc.

519 Somerville Avenue #371

Somerville, MA 02143