



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:30 pm ET on Zoom**. The corresponding agenda will be distributed over the corp-announce email list in advance of the meeting.

The quorum for the March corporate meeting is **14**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((21+27+30)/3 \times 0.51) = 14$.

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.

March 24, 2024 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **2:05 PM**. There were 31 members attending:

- Daniel Abraham
- Vivian Abraham
- Wendee Abramo
- Joseph Andelman
- Julia Austein
- Priscilla Ballou
- Andrew Brockert
- Rebecca Brumberger
- Justin du Coeur
- etana
- Kelly Fabijanic
- Sabina Fecteau
- Rick Kovalcik
- Sue Kramer
- Henry Leong

Ken London
Elliott M.
Claudia Mastroianni
Dale Meyer-Curley
Erik Meyer-Curley
Sharon Sbarsky
Jason Schneiderman
Nicholas “phi” Shechtman
Rachel Silber
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
Mike Tatroe
DJ Toland
Ed Trachtenberg
Nightwing Whitehead

Proxies:

- Cate Schneiderman to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- EJ Barnes to Ilene Tatroe (accepted)
- Erik Meyer-Curley to Dale Meyer-Curley (accepted)
- Regis Donovan to Claudia Mastroianni (accepted)

Corrections to and approval of the February 2024 Minutes:

A motion was made to amend February minutes to change “January Meeting Summary” in the table of contents to “February Meeting Summary”, and to attribute input in New Business to “the membership”.

The February minutes were approved unanimously via voice vote with the proposed corrections.

EBoard Report:

The EBoard met with the members of the A25 ConComm and listened to their proposal and were very impressed and excited by it. Please see the A25 ConComm Report for more information.

President’s Report:

Vivian spoke with Gail, who is the head of the IT Committee, and to Rick and Mike T., who are Committee members. They would like to add more people onto the IT Committee. Vivian nominated Daniel Abraham and Dale Meyer-Curley. Both accepted. The nominations were approved unanimously via voice vote.

VPs Report:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

Date:	3/24/2024		
Assets:			
Bank accounts:		\$79,667.85	
Vendor deposits:		\$478.73	
Total assets:			\$80,146.58
Liabilities:			
Sales tax due:		\$52.56	
Excess MCC funding:		\$2,522.00	
Unspent Arisia 2024 budget:		\$4,910.54	
Unspent FY23-24 corporate expenses:		\$6,542.29	
Arisia 2025 income:		\$4,390.00	
Reserved funds:			
Equipment fund:	\$0.00		
Grant fund:	\$0.00		
Snow fund:	\$51,458.64		
Training fund:	\$1,022.00		
Total reserved funds:		\$52,480.64	
Total liabilities:			\$70,898.03
Net unrestricted funds:			\$9,248.55

We accidentally failed to collect some art show payments at con. Most of these were collected later, including the sales tax, which means some sales tax is due to the state in April instead of February. The uncollected payments cost us about as much as we saved by using new Square devices, so it evens out. Arisia 2024 will probably have a surplus in the low four figures.

Clerk's Report:

Rachel's outgoing e-mails are being bounced when sent to individuals at Gmail accounts (mailing lists work fine). She has therefore been unable to respond to individual messages sent from Gmail e-mail addresses. If you need an immediate response from her, please cc: any e-mail to her to eboard@arisia.org so that other people can see your message and she can ask those people to relay responses to you.

The EBoard is discussing how to smooth out and streamline the process of welcoming and on-boarding new Corporate members so no one falls through the cracks.

A24 Con Comm Report:

None.

A25 Con Comm Report:

The A25 ConComm has come up with a proposal for a ConChair team, which they presented via PowerPoint.

Team Voltron is: Daniel Abraham, etana, Dale Meyer-Curley, Wendee Abramo, and Julia Austein. There are five strong members who are stronger when they come together. They combine and balance the five competencies (leadership, organization, DEIA/HR, finance, and con-running). Every member of Team Voltron has a little of each of these competencies, but is stronger in different ones. Each member then introduced themselves and their respective strengths, experience, and goals for Arisia. They discussed the team's vision for Arisia, including how to improve the con, improve volunteer experiences, make the convention easier to run, and live our values. The theme could be: Choose Your Own Adventure, especially since Arisia is never the same place twice. "A24 had over 120,000 ways to Arisia. Come find yours."

Team Voltron would like input on whom to invite as Guests of Honor and will be sending out a form soliciting ideas. The survey will close on March 31. Please fill it out when you get it.

Despite not having been formally voted in yet, the team has begun planning, because it's already March. They meet weekly. Priorities include staffing (leadership and general staff), organization (documentation and communications), and 2025-specific challenges (new hotel, scheduled opposite AnthroCon, currently no video game equipment, and accessibility at a new hotel). They hope to have a collaborative relationship with Corporate in order to improve infrastructure and pre-convention and at-convention tools, manage reputation and marketing, and plan multi-year projects. They also want to collaborate with the community and remove the layer between ConComm leadership and attendees.

Priscilla wanted to make sure the Guest of Honor survey would be sent out to a wide audience, and she was assured that it would be.

The membership voted unanimously via voice vote to approve Team Voltron as ConChair team.

Committee Reports:

Budget:

(Chair: phi)

Phi presented updated Arisia financials. Our Directors and Officers insurance payment is going up, but we don't yet know by how much. It is typically paid in May.

The FY23-24 corporate budget was accepted unanimously via voice vote.

In discussing the FY24-25 corporate budget, phi noted that Corporate membership has been declining slightly, and that is one source of revenue. Likewise, insurance costs have gone up. Rent and mailbox costs are steady and easy to predict. Student contests and SMOFcon scholarships have historically been funded through convention surpluses, but our surpluses haven't been high lately. This explains some of our numbers from year to year recently. Our new hotel contract is very favorable, and that may help.

The membership will vote on the FY24-25 corporate budget in May, since the current meeting has a full agenda and phi is unavailable for the April meeting.

Corporate Inventory Control:

(Members: Rick, Ben, Skip)

Rick has fixed the Goat Check cart so it's now safer to use.

Hotel Search Committee:

(Members: Vivian, phi, Ben)

Vivian thanked the Hotel Search Committee. We have signed a contract with the Hyatt Regency Boston/Cambridge (aka the Ziggurat), which has had a major renovation. The contract is much more favorable to us than the previous contract at the Westin. Our contract is one year long, just for 2025. Vivian would like Corporate approval to sign for 2026 and 2027. We may not sign for 2027, but instead for 2026 with an option for 2027, so Vivian would like approval to negotiate for those years. The Hyatt has already provided a draft contract for 2026 that is identical to the 2025 contract except for a ~\$5/night increase in hotel rooms. Joseph made a friendly amendment that the intention of the motion be negotiating for 2026 with an option for 2027, and not negotiating for 2026 and 2027. The Committee prioritized issues as specified in the membership survey conducted about hotel selection; the two biggest priorities were MLK weekend and low room rates. Phi pointed out that the advantage of trying for a two-year contract rather than a one-year contract with the option for renewal is that the deal is usually better, including kickbacks per rooms rented, which can give the convention up to \$40,000 in extra money to work with. Mike noted that we don't know how things will work out at the Hyatt after this long, and that may make a shorter contract more comfortable, but it's hard to leave \$40,000 on the table. If that \$40,000 isn't a guaranteed part of the contract, we should exercise caution. Rachel asked if we could offer to sign a longer contract if the hotel would be willing to fix some of their accessibility issues (buy a ramp for the stage, etc. - not necessarily buy an accessible shuttle bus).

The membership voted via voice vote to call the question.

The membership voted unanimously via voice vote to authorize the EBoard to sign a contract with the Hyatt for 2026 with an option to negotiate for 2027.

IT:

(Members: Gail, Rick, Sharon, Nick, Ben, phi, Mike T., plus now Dan and Dale)

Rick is working on moving Arisia to Google Suite.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Justin proposed the creation of an official Arisia Discord (https://docs.google.com/document/d/12a_InlYGG3K6S9bdQXq1mBPAYFR0a6EZpUVuu-KJ8m0/edit#heading=h.t8s94cw83ep1). The primary goal would be to give Arisia a better way to interact with its community. The younger half of geekdom tends to hang out on Discord. Justin would like the Corporation's permission to begin the process of setting up an Arisia Discord server. This would involve the creation of a sub-committee, with Justin as Chair, which would not necessarily be the same people who would be staffing the server. The sub-committee would oversee determination of how the Code of Conduct, moderation, etc. would be implemented. They would also hire staff for the Discord. The Discord would be a one-year experiment, and the Corporation would come back in 2025 and evaluate the process and results. Vivian noted that other parts of fandom are setting up Discord servers, and announcements can be shared among Discord servers, so this could be a great way to network with other cons and organizations. Dan Abraham is excited about GMs being able to talk on Discord, but also would like to know who would hold the keys to the server. Justin said a discord@arisia e-mail address would exist and would go to the people in charge of the server. Rick noted that other cons and organizations have had Discord servers without major incident, including NESFA. Claudia commented that users might be tired of signing up for sites that may or may not stick around, since there have been several unofficial Arisia servers that were not necessarily permanent. Justin clarified that the intent is for the Discord server to be permanent, and that it would not be advertised as temporary, but it would be evaluated after a year. Vivian noted that the proposal is just to create a committee, so that provides a lot of flexibility. Arisia is not moving away from Slack, but our Slack server is only for staff. Ilene stated that Discord makes her nervous, but it's a great opportunity to let the membership know about things going on and for panelists to talk pre-convention. Justin agreed and added that it would also be a great place to continue hallway conversations.

The membership voted unanimously via voice vote to approve the recommendation. Justin said he would report back in May and hoped to have the server operational by October. If you are interested in serving on this sub-committee, e-mail Justin at jducoeur@gmail.com.

The Corporation voted unanimously via a show of hands to set the June corporate meeting date for **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm.**

Announcements:

Vivian announced that Deb Geisler has passed away and will be missed.

Joseph announced that LadiesCon will be taking place at the Armory in Somerville on May 11 from 10-4. Vivian noted that Arisia will have a table there. Also, the Toastmaster from House of Toast is always looking for help, especially since we'll be in a new hotel.

Claudia stated that the Watch City Steampunk Festival in Waltham will also be taking place on May 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Other Meetings and Events

Upcoming Conventions

- LadiesCon - May 11, 2024, the Armory, Somerville, MA
- Watch City Steampunk Festival - May 11, 2024, Waltham, MA
- Readercon - July 11-14, 2024, Boston Quincy Marriott, Quincy, MA

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

Membership List

This membership list is as of 11:00 PM on 1/24/2024. Please report any corrections to clerk@arisia.org. Names in italics are non-voting members.

Daniel R. Abraham
Vivian Abraham
Wendee Abramo

Joseph Andelman
Inanna Arthen
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
E.J. Barnes
Fred Bauer
Rob Bazemore
Anna Bradley
Andrew Brockert
Nicholas Brown
Rebecca Brumberger
Adam Burdick
Brendon Chetwynd
Brian Cooper
Skyler Crossman
Regis Donovan
Jan Dumas
Daniel Eareckson
etana
Kelly Fabijanec
Sabina Fecteau
Allison Feldhusen
Jaime Garmendia
Adrian Gunn
Joel Herda
Lenore Jones
Melissa Kaplan
Rick Kovalcik
Sue Kramer
Adria Kyne
Henry Leong
Megan Lewis
Ken London
Claudia Mastroianni
Dale Meyer-Curley
Erik Meyer-Curley
Elliott Mitchell
Hope Moore
Skip Morris
Lia Olsborg
Kris Pelletier
Danielle Reese
Phoebe Roberts
Noel Rosenberg
A. Joseph Ross
Sharon Sbarsky
Richard Schmeidler
Cate Schneiderman
Jason Schneiderman

JB Segal
 Kylie Selkirk
 Nicholas “phi” Shechtman
Cris Shuldiner
 Mike Sprague
 Mary Stock
 Rachel Tanenhaus
 Ilene Tatroe
 Mike Tatroe
 Gail Terman
 DJ Toland
 Melia Vaden
 Wendy Verschoor
 Alan Wexelblat
 Michelle Wexelblat
 Nightwing Whitehead
 Glen Williams

Executive Board - eboard@

President	Vivian Abraham	president@
Vice President	Mike Sprague	vice-president@
Treasurer	Nicholas “phi” Shechtman	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

Anti-Racism Committee (arc@) (No chair), Vivian Abraham, etana, Dan Franklin, Ken London, Nightwing Whitehead
Budget (budget@) Nicholas "phi" Shechtman (chair), Kelly Fabijanac, Rachel Kadel, Alex Latzko, Benjamin Levy, Tom Traina, Ellie Younger
Corporate Communications (corpcomms@) Rachel Tanenhaus (chair), Justin du Coeur, Lenore Jean Jones, Ilene Tatroe, Julia Austein
Corporate Inventory Control (cic@): Rick Kovalcik (chair), Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris
Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas “phi” Shechtman (chair), Addie Abrams, Kris Pelletier, Julia Austein, Matt Ringel, Rachel Silber

Grants (grantsrequest): Mike Sprague (chair), Joseph Andelman, David D'Antonio
Hotel Search (hotelsearch): Vivian (chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman
Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): Vivian Abraham (chair), Claudia Mastroianni, etana, Delenn Brumberger Nightwing Whitehead, (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Melissa Kaplan, Kris Pelletier)
IT (it@): Gail Terman (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nick Brown, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Mike Tatroe, Daniel Abraham
Location Search (no email address): Gail Terman (chair), etana, Sol Houser
Long Range Planning (lrp@): (No chair), Anna Bradley, Heather Cougar
Mailing List Monitoring (monitor@): Claudia Mastroianni and Rachel Tanenhaus
Postmaster (postmaster@): Sharon Sbarsky (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Mike Tatroe (advisory member)
Social (social@): (chair), Jan Dumas, Melissa Kaplan, Kim Riek, Mike Sprague, Alan Wexelblat
Student Contests (student-contests@): In need of members

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 eboard@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