



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 322, August 2024
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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 2:00 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 August corporate meeting was **11**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((22+18+23)/3 \times 0.51) = 11$. The quorum for the September corporate meeting will be **11**.

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.

August 21, 2024 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **7:01 PM**. There were 21 members and 1 non-member attending:

Vivian Abraham
Wendee Abramo
Andrew Brockert
Daniel Eareckson
etana
Kelly Fabijanac
Allison Feldhusen
Jaime Garmendia
Diana Hsu (non-member)
Rick Kovalcik
Henry Leong
Ken London
Dale Meyer-Curley
Elliott Mitchell

Sharon Sbarsky
Jason Schneiderman
Nicholas “phi” Sheckman
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
D.J. Toland
Nightwing Whitehead

Proxies:

- Cate Schneiderman to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- Jan Dumas to Nightwing Whitehead (accepted)
- JB Segal to Allison Feldhusen (accepted)
- Erik Meyer-Curley to Dale Meyer-Curley (accepted)

Corrections to and approval of the July 2024 Minutes:

Rachel suggested that the heading “Corrections to and approval of the May 2024 Minutes” be amended to read “Corrections to and approval of the June 2024 Minutes”. The minutes were approved by voice vote as amended.

EBoard Report:

Dues are due! If you request a dues waiver, you will get a dues waiver. We want people to be able to participate regardless of ability to pay. Dues or a waiver are due by September 1, but you have until the September 22 meeting to renew if you want to be able to vote at that meeting.

President’s Report:

Thank you to Mike Sprague for running the past two meetings!

VPs Report:

None.

Treasurer’s Report:

Liability insurance was due for renewal in August. It cost more than expected.

Clerk’s Report:

Rachel is updating the membership lists of the various Committees. If you are on a Committee, please check the Committee member lists in the Committee reports and at the end of Mentor. If you see an error, please e-mail Rachel at clerk@arisia.org.

A25 Con Comm Report:

The Con Chairs would like to report that our final Guest of Honor, Siobhan Flanagan will join us as Fan Guest of Honor! From our shorter social media announcement, “Siobhan Flanagan started collecting SFF and comics at the age of 5. An IT professional, she once taught a college class on History through Sci Fi. She is a trans, bi/pan, poly woman and has published a short story under the name Sioban Krzywicki. Siobhan helped run Readercon for 7 years, 3 as conchair. She has been a panelist and moderated Arisia, Readercon, Worldcon, and Wiscon.”

While we still do not yet have a Communications Division head, we have on-boarded a social media volunteer to continue the work of our interim social media person, whom we thank very much. With that, we have a revamped social media request form for Divisions to submit requests for social media posts and future progress reports! The link will be on the staff wiki in the upcoming days, and emailing or slacking any Con Chair will get the link to you.

We had planned to send out the first Arisia 2025 Progress Report prior to this meeting, but with the recent news regarding Boston University and the Hyatt Cambridge Boston Hotel, we are pausing to ensure that the most accurate and timely information about that is included in PR1. Once we determine the communication plan for the general public, we'll be sending that out.

We have a Division Head (DH) meeting this Thursday, August 22nd via Zoom from 7-9pm, and we ask that all Division Heads attend, and if they have an Assistant Division Head to invite them along. After that meeting, we will work to finalize the Arisia 2025 budget to submit for Corporate approval at the September meeting. Our next DH meeting will be on site at the Hyatt Boston Cambridge on September 8th, where we will hopefully do a walk-through and finalize space allocation. We are still recruiting for the following DH positions: Youth Services, Communications, Food, Guest of Honor and Treasurer.. If you're interested in any of those positions, please contact conchair@arisia.org so we can chat!

We encourage you to promote Arisia 2025 in all the ways you can and feel comfortable doing, and are grateful for your efforts. Share Arisia posts on social media. Ask for flyers to spread, and talk us up to your friends and organizations! Bring us on your podcasts, streams, or other fun ways to reach folks. Remember, we are choosing our own adventures at Arisia 2025.

Arisia 2025 DH Mtg Schedule	Arisia 2025 Con Comm Mtg Schedule
August 22nd 7-9 PM Via Zoom	
September 8th 11-5 Onsite at Hyatt	September 15: 2-4p in person, TBD
October 6: 2-4p, Watertown Public Library	October 15: 7-9p Zoom
November 7: 7-9p Zoom	November 17: 2-4p in person, TBD
December 8: 2-4p Zoom	December 12: 7-9p Zoom

January 5: 2-4p Zoom	January 9: 7-9p Zoom
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The membership then discussed the hotel situation:

One member noted that the hotel changing the terms of the contract might be an opportunity for us to demand more from them. etana replied that this is an emerging and fluid situation. The hotel has not yet breached the contract, since we haven't yet booked our rooms.

Some of the ConChair team and some EBoard members met yesterday with our sales rep and our event planner at the hotel and got a clearer understanding of when the BU students are moving in (next week), so a lot of our questions may be answerable after that. Some Arisia folks are going to observe move-in from the hotel lobby.

Because our sales rep has a relationship with the Doubletree, he blocked off the same number of rooms there that we would lose at the Hyatt. We would not have chosen that site ourselves due to issues around accessibility, user experience, food access, etc. We are looking at other hotels in Kendall and Central.

DHs have been asked for feedback and are doing a great job of providing it. We have limited time given to us to interact with hotel reps, so we're using it judiciously. Feel free to e-mail conchair@arisia.org or eboard@arisia.org with input. We are still in the fact-finding stage.

Vivian said that this issue is being handled jointly by the EBoard and the Con Chairs because we have a multi-year contract. We may be able to extract concessions, but it's too early to tell what those might be. We don't yet know the full impact of the BU situation. We want to be sure the things we ask for will actually help us. We have a little time, even though it feels like an emergency. We can be careful and thoughtful.

A member agreed that we shouldn't say "breach" unless we really mean it, and had questions about how many rooms we actually contracted. Vivian responded that the hotel has the ability to reduce the room block if they feel like we're not going to fill it, which has been a normal part of our hotel contracts.

phi explained that we have created an incident channel and process much like a tech company does. We have met with Kelvin (the sales rep) once and Kelvin and Karie (the event planner) once. There are some things we don't know, some things the hotel doesn't know, and probably some things BU doesn't know. We will meet with the hotel after Labor Day, at which point move-in will have occurred. This will give us some information from which we can extrapolate for spring term move-in. The number of rooms BU will be using may not even have been set yet as of right now. A lot of information will be coming in over the next couple of weeks. We do have some time-critical issues - overflow, impact on Dealers, probably other things. All of these issues have deadlines coming up. If you think of something time-critical, let us know. If you have

overflow hotel feedback, let us know. (for example, whether we should prioritize the availability of a shuttle over price, etc.).

The Courtyard on Memorial Drive does not have enough availability. The Doubletree does. We suspect that the Kendall Marriott or Le Meridien might. Agreeing on an overflow hotel is a Corporate issue. One member suggested the Royal Sonesta. Another member pointed out that the Doubletree is on the Local 26 strike list. Kelvin had said it wasn't, so that's helpful information.

Dale noted that the BU students only got their room assignments yesterday and are having mixed reactions because they are so far from campus. She's checking the BU Reddit channel for information. Hopefully, students and parents will provide feedback to BU.

Committee Reports:

Budget:

None.

Corporate Communications:

(Members: Rachel)

None.

Corporate Inventory Control (CIC):

(Members: Rick, Ben, Skip)

None.

Discord:

(Members: Justin, Dan A., Jason)

None.

Fundraising:

None.

Grants:

(Members: Mike S.)

This Committee has been suspended until finances get stabilized.

Hotel Search Committee:

(Members: Vivian, phi, Ben)

None.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC):

(Vivian, etana, Claudia, Jaime, Kris, Ilene)

None.

IT:

(Members: Rick, Sharon, Nick, Ben, phi, Mike T., Dan A.)

The IT Committee needs to meet, but various members have been out of town. They should be able to meet shortly and address the business on their docket.

Postmaster:

(Sharon, Rick, Ben, phi, Mike T.)

None.

Social:

(Mike S., Vivian)

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

Old Business:

Elections will take place at the September meeting. Members are welcome to run for EBoard. Being on the EBoard is a great experience. You can learn a lot about the structure behind the convention which we need in order to make the convention successful. We need organizational stability. Vivian has found it to be a very positive experience and is planning to run again for President, health permitting. You can announce your candidacy now or later. phi will be running again for Treasurer. There's a lot of support for new EBoard members, and Members at Large have a lot of flexibility and freedom as to what they want to do. Rachel said she was going to run again for Clerk unless someone else was really excited about doing it, but if anyone wants to talk about the duties and run, come talk to her.

New Business:

None.

The Corporation voted via a show of hands to set the November corporate meeting date for **Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 PM.**

Announcements:

- Arisia 2026 needs a Con Chair or Con Chair team. Feel free to e-mail the EBoard or mike.sprague@arisia.org if you have questions or want to put yourself into the running. Asking questions does not automatically volunteer you to be on the Con Chair team!
- Side Quest Books and Games is opening up this weekend in Bow Square in Somerville! Caroline, who is running it, is great and has a good curated selection of books and games.
- Porter Square Books is moving to the Lesley building! They will have 40% more space, 2 whole bathrooms, and event space.
- The NESFA Annual Picnic at Larz Anderson Park is Monday, September 2 from 3:00-7:00 pm. Hamburgers, hotdogs, etc. will be provided. Please bring something to share. If you have a dietary restriction, please let the organizers know in advance.
- Albacon is September 13-15 in Clifton Park, NY and online - fully hybrid! Jeff Warner, who was going to be running Programming, died recently. The organizers will have memorial sessions at the con.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 19 2024 at 7:00 pm

Arisia 2025 Division Head Meetings

- Thursday, August 22, 2024 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, September 8, 2024 from 11:00 am-5:00 pm (on-site at the Hyatt)
- Sunday, October 6, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 pm (in person at the Watertown Public Library)
- Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, January 5, 2025 from 2:00-4:00 pm (Zoom)

Arisia 2025 Con Comm Meetings

- Sunday, September 15, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 pm (in person, TBD)
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, November 17, 2024 from 2:00-4:00 pm (in person, TBD)

- Thursday, December 12, 2024 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Zoom)
- Thursday, January 9, 2025 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Zoom)

Other Meetings and Events

Upcoming Conventions

- NESFA Annual Picnic - September 2, 2024, 3:00-7:00 pm, Larz Anderson Park
- Albacon - September 13-15, 2024, Clifton Park, NY and online

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

Membership List

This membership list is as of 7:00 PM on 8/20/2024. 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 Fabijanic
 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” Shectman
Cris Shuldiner
Mike Sprague
Mary Stock
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
Mike Tatroe
Gail Terman
Benjamin Thornton
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” Shectman	treasurer@
Clerk	Rachel Tanenhaus	clerk@
Members-At-Large	Julia Austein	at-large@
	etana	
	Claudia Mastroianni	

Arisia '25 Con Chairs	Wendee Abramo, Julia Austein, etana, and Dale Meyer-Curley	conchair@
Arisia '25 Treasurer	TBD	con-treasurer@

Committee Membership

<p>Anti-Racism Committee (arc@) (No chair), Vivian Abraham, etana, Dan Franklin, Ken London, Nightwing Whitehead</p>
<p>Budget (budget@) Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (chair), Kelly Fabijanac, Rachel Kadel, Alex Latzko, Benjamin Levy, Tom Traina, Ellie Younger</p>
<p>Corporate Communications (corpcomms@) Rachel Tanenhaus (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>Discord: Justin duCoeur (chair), Dan Abraham, Jason Schneiderman</p>
<p>Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (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 Abraham (chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman</p>
<p>Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): Claudia Mastroianni, etana (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Kris Pelletier, Vivian Abraham), Ilene Tatroe</p>
<p>IT (it@): Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nick Brown, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman, Mike Tatroe, Daniel Abraham</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" Sheckman, Mike Tatroe</p>

(advisory member)
Social (social@): Mike Sprague (chair), Vivian Abraham
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