



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 323, September 2024
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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:00 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 September corporate meeting was **11**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((18+23+21)/3 \times 0.51) = 11$. The quorum for the October corporate meeting will be 13.

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.

September 22, 2024 Corporate Meeting Summary

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

Vivian Abraham
Wendee Abramo
Joseph Andelman
Julia Austein
Rebecca Brumberger
Regis Donovan
Daniel Eareckson
etana
Allison Feldhusen
Diana Hsu
Rick Kovalcik
Sue Kramer
Leet
Henry Leong

Ken London
Claudia Mastroianni
Will McMain
Dale Meyer-Curley
Erik Meyer-Curley
Elliott Mitchell
Sharon Sbarsky
JB Segal
Nicholas “phi” Sheckman
Rachel Silber
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
Mike Tatroe
Ben Thornton
D.J. Toland
Nightwing Whitehead

Proxies:

- Lenore Jones to etana (approved)
- Priscilla Ballou to etana (approved)

Corrections to and approval of the August 2024 Minutes:

The minutes from the August 2024 meeting were approved via voice vote.

EBoard Report:

The EBoard has voted to approve several dues waivers.

The EBoard and Con Chairs have discussed extending the current con membership rate through the end of October or for as long as the Con Chairs feel it’s appropriate. This will allow program participants, people getting hotel rooms, and dealers to make informed registration decisions without being penalized with a higher registration fee. With the hotel delays and the Jewish holidays coming up, later in October might make more sense. The rate increase date is in our policies and not our by-laws, which is why it is open for discussion. The hotel block opening date has not been determined yet. Further discussion was deferred to the New Business portion of the meeting.

Rick asked about updating the list of people who have been banned from Arisia, since it is not up to date. The EBoard is responsible for keeping the list updated. The IT committee can also help figure out a process for approving list updates on the Corporate website. After the convention, the Con Chairs will recommend that the Corporate and Con websites be updated.

President’s Report:

Vivian made the following statement:

"Arisia is at a turning-point. The way that we interact with communities since the start of the pandemic has changed. Some of these changes are for the better, and some for the worse. What we expect and want from an in-person convention has changed, and what we need to make an in-personal convention viable has changed. There have been a few calls to take a year off in order to come back stronger. If we do this, I would suggest that we focus on our values and our goals as a community. The values that I have tried to promote are support of diversity, transparency, and kindness. The main goal that I have focused on is improving the experience of the volunteers who make the convention happen (both on the Con Comm and in the Corporation). Arisia should be fun, and running the con should be fun. These goals are achievable. I hope that we continue to work toward them."

VPs Report:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

None.

Clerk's Report:

Rachel is still 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. If you are a Committee Chair, please let her know about turnover. Some committees don't currently have Chairs and some are inactive. Inactivating committees requires a Corporate vote. We may go through and clean up the Committee rosters sometime at a Corporate meeting during New Business.

A25 Con Comm Report:

We're happy to announce that Siobhan Flanagan will be joining us as our Fan Guest of Honor. Many folks may know Siobhan from her work on ReaderCon. She's also been a member of the Arisia community for years, as well as moderating and being on panels at Worldcons and WisCon. She joins our Writer Guest of Honor Moniquill Blackgoose and Artist Guest of Honor Sarah Morrison.

Due to ongoing negotiations with the hotel and the search for an overflow hotel that is not part of the Local 26 union disputes, hotel reservations are opening later than usual. We expect them to open in mid-October and are committed to a special Hotel Edition Progress Report when we have more information. As a result, we asked the EBoard to approve a change in the date for the membership price increase. The pre-reg rate is ordinarily \$55 until September 30. It goes up

to \$65 on October 1 and stays that rate through December 31. For A25, pending final approval, the price increase will be pushed to October 31 to align with the hotel room block opening up.

We had a Division Head Meeting at the Hyatt a few weeks ago focused on space allocation. We're grateful for all the folks who showed up and so happy about the collaborative nature of that meeting. The Hyatt Regency Boston/Cambridge has a total of 8 breakout rooms, fewer if we close the airwalls. All but one are allocated to Programming. We expect to allocate additional rooms on the second floor to Programming per their request at our Space Allocation Meeting.

Every time we have been ready to submit the budget for approval, something big has come up, most recently the issues with the Hyatt. The upside of this is that we've been able to spend more time getting a more realistic handle on expenses. We should have the budget to the Corporation in a couple weeks so that we can vote on it at the October meeting.

We still have some senior staff positions open; some are larger coordination roles and others are more focused and limited in scope. We would be happy to discuss any of the roles below with anyone who might be interested:

- Communications Division Head
- Food Division Head
- Treasurer
- Guest of Honor Liaisons

Arisia 2025 Division Head Meeting Schedule	Arisia 2025 Con Comm Meeting 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 14: 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

Committee Reports:

Budget:

None.

Corporate Communications:

(Members: Rachel)

None.

Corporate Inventory Control (CIC):

(Members: Rick, Ben, Skip)

The EBoard loaned fans for making Corsi-Rosenthal boxes to Albacon. Two of the fans turned out to be missing cords and one fan was broken. Rick has a stash of cords and he used those to replace the missing ones. He is replacing the broken fan.

Discord:

(Members: Justin, Jason)

None.

Fundraising:

None.

Grants:

(Members: Mike S.)

This Committee has been suspended until finances are stabilized.

Hotel Search Committee:

(Members: phi, Ben)

None.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC):

(etana, Claudia, Jaime, Kris, Ilene)

The IRMC needs a Chair and more members. etana has reviewed one IR and would like to be able to call a meeting and resolve that IR, but can not be Chair. They would like to move through the backlog of IRs. Please e-mail irmc@arisia.org or etana@arisia.org to inquire about joining the IRMC. Vivian is happy to talk to anyone about what it's like to be on the IRMC even though they themselves are stepping down.

IT:

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

None.

Postmaster:

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

None.

Social:

(Mike S.)

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Elections:

phi explained the voting system.

Mike Sprague is running for President. He has been on the EBoard for 4 years. He is in favor of discussing taking a break as a con. Vivian said that Mike has been a fantastic VP. The IRMC checked and reported that there are no IRs against Mike. The membership cast 27 votes for Mike and 2 for none of the above via secret ballot, electing Mike as President.

There were no nominations for Vice President. Various EBoard members discussed the duties and experiences of the Vice President. Mike S. brought up the sections of the By-Laws that specify the duties of the Vice President:

(b) The vice president shall assume the duties of the president during any vacancy in the office of the president and during the president's absence or inability to act. The vice president shall insure that corporate activities are in accordance with federal, state, and local laws. The vice president chairs the Grant Committee.

He noted that the Grant Committee is currently on hiatus, and phi clarified that the Grant Committee gives grants to outside organizations and is not tasked with applying for grants on Arisia's behalf.

Ilene cited Sections 3.7 and 3.8 of the By-Laws:

3.7 Whenever any office (including president) becomes vacant, an election shall be held as soon as possible to fill the vacancy. Nominations shall be in accordance with Section 3.4. An officer elected to fill a vacancy shall take office immediately. Pending an election, the Eboard shall temporarily fill a vacant office of vice president, treasurer, or clerk by appointment, preferably from among one of the current members-at-large. When the office of president is vacant and the vice president has assumed the duties of president as per bylaw 3.2(b), the Eboard would temporarily fill the office of vice president in the same way pending the election for president. When an office of member-at-large is vacant, that office remains vacant pending the special election.

3.8 When a Member-at-Large temporarily fills an Eboard vacancy,

(a) the phrase in Section 3.3, "only one person can hold any office at the same time" does not apply to the member-at-large.

(b) The phrase in section 7.1, "no officer other than the treasurer is eligible to serve on the Budget Committee" does not apply to that member-at-large.

(c) The phrase in section 8.1 "no officer other than the vice president is eligible to serve on the Grant Committee" does not apply to that member-at-large.

(d) That member-at-large only has one vote on the Eboard.

A discussion took place regarding whether or not a Vice President must be named on the forms a non-profit submits to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Rick pointed out that he knew of some non-profit organizations in Massachusetts without Vice Presidents and the state hadn't seemed to mind. Ilene reported that the state does not require a non-profit to have a Vice President. Vivian noted that any appointment required to be made to fill the role of Vice President has to be voted on by the new EBoard and not the current one and would take place at a future EBoard meeting. No election for Vice President took place, but one may need to happen at the October Corporate meeting.

Rachel Tanenhaus is running for Clerk. She has been Clerk for over a year and has tried to produce high-quality, easy-to-understand minutes. She understands that minutes are the official documentation of Corporate decisions and takes her role seriously. She is in favor of Arisia taking a break and using the time and money to hire a consultant to address organizational processes, culture, diversity, and stress. Vivian stated that Rachel has worked hard and began her duties at a difficult time for the role and the EBoard. There are no IRs against Rachel. The membership cast 28 votes for Rachel and 1 for none of the above via secret ballot, electing Rachel as Clerk.

phi is running for Treasurer. He is the current Treasurer, and has become more involved in money-related things for the Con and Corporation (grants, saving money, etc.). Treasurer duties are easy for him, so he can put in an impactful effort without burning himself out and model that

behavior. He noted that he's too optimistic and gung-ho and enthusiastic to be President these days. Vivian said that phi has been invaluable to the EBoard and has gotten Arisia lots of money. phi hopes that maybe we can work to coordinate equipment, etc. with other local cons and events. He said that the challenge of taking a break is that we have \$20k in storage expenses, and we should go through our stuff and figure out what we need and if we can lower those expenses. There are no IRs against phi. The membership cast 29 votes for phi and 1 for none of the above via secret ballot, electing phi as Treasurer.

Ilene Tatroe is running for Member at Large. She believes we need a break to deal with our constant crisis mode, which has been going on since 2018. Also, she feels that we need to let the world know about the Corporation and get new faces in. She used to go to Arisia in the '90s, took time off, and came back because she heard it was a fun con for families. She was Co-Chair last year. She has run Programming in the past. She's now interested in branching out. She feels that Arisia needs a break to get breathing room to figure out our next steps. Vivian put in a good word for her. There are no IRs against Ilene.

Megan Lewis nominated herself for Member at Large. She has been coming to Arisia since 2001, with one year off. She has held every possible position at the Art Show. She lives outside of Washington, DC. She hadn't been very involved in Corporate activities since she's out of town, but since everything's online these days, she wants to help. She hopes to use our fabulous Art Show to get more people involved with Arisia. She understands organizational fatigue but also has optimism, and is worried about people thinking a short break is a permanent break. She asked for an accountability buddy and phi said he would help keep her accountable. There are no IRs against her.

Rebecca Brumberger nominated herself for Member at Large. She has been going to Arisia since the '90s. She took a break when she had her daughter and then came back. She wants to see the Corporation succeed. She's a positive person and has time to devote to the role. Ilene brought up that Rebecca had issues meeting her obligations as Fast Track Chair for last year's convention. Rebecca said that she had been having health and personal problems at the time. She would like to get a little more background on why Arisia would need a break, but is in favor of making the con shorter (perhaps two days long) as an alternative so we don't lose people without getting them back. There are no IRs against her.

Vivian thanked Julia, etana, and Claudia, our outgoing Members at Large.

Megan would not want to be Interim Vice President. Ilene is willing to be Interim Vice President. Rebecca would prefer not to be Interim Vice President, but would be able to do so if necessary.

Ilene and Megan were elected to be Members at Large. Rebecca was not. The membership cast votes via secret ballot.

Other New Business:

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Con Chair team to extend the \$55 preregistration date to a date in October 2024 of its choosing. Ilene suggested that there be a social media splash if the motion passes. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

The Corporation voted via a show of hands to set the December corporate meeting date for **Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM.**

Vivian congratulated the new EBoard.

Announcements:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Tuesday December 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Arisia 2025 Division Head Meetings

- 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

- Monday, October 14, 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

- None

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. The updated meeting list for 2024-2025 will be in next month's Mentor.

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” Sheckman
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	Mike Sprague	president@
Vice President	TBD	vice-president@
Treasurer	Nicholas “phi” Sheckman	treasurer@
Clerk	Rachel Tanenhaus	clerk@
Members-At-Large	Megan Lewis	at-large@
	Ilene Tatroe	
	TBD	
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), 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>

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
Discord: Justin duCoeur (chair), Jason Schneiderman
Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Shectman (chair), Addie Abrams, Kris Pelletier, Julia Austein, Matt Ringel, Rachel Silber
Grants (grantsrequest): Mike Sprague (chair), Joseph Andelman, David D'Antonio
Hotel Search (hotelsearch): (no chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman
Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): Claudia Mastroianni, etana (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Kris Pelletier), Ilene Tatroe
IT (it@): Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nick Brown, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Mike Tatroe
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@): Mike Sprague (chair)
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.

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Somerville, MA 02143