



# Mentor

The Newsletter of  
**Arisia, Incorporated**

Volume 32, Issue 325, November 2024  
519 Somerville Ave #371, Somerville, MA 02143  
+ 1-917-7ARISIA (+1-917-727-4742)

## Contents

About the Meeting	1
November Meeting Summary	1
Calendar	8
Membership List	9
Executive Board	10
Committee Membership	10
Subscription and Dues Information	11

## About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, December 17, 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 November corporate meeting was **14**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings  $((21+31+26)/3 \times 0.51) = 14$ . The quorum for the December corporate meeting will be 13.

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

## November 19, 2024 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **7:08 PM**. There were 19 members and 1 non-member attending:

Wendee Abramo  
Joseph Andelman  
Priscilla Ballou  
Andrew Brockert  
Regis Donovan  
etana  
Allison Feldhusen  
Rick Kovalcik  
Henry Leong  
Ken London  
Claudia Mastroianni  
Elliott Mitchell  
Sharon Sbarsky  
Richard Schmeidler

Mike Sprague  
Rachel Tanenhaus  
Ilene Tatroe  
Mike Tatroe  
D.J. Toland  
Dinah Cohen (non-member)

Proxies:

- JB Segal to Allison Feldhusen (approved)
- Dale Meyer-Curley to etana (approved)

### **Corrections to and approval of the October 2024 Minutes:**

The following amendments to the October minutes were proposed:

- Change “September Meeting Summary” to “October Meeting Summary” in the table of contents
- Alter the language in the proposed (and adopted) change to the Code of Conduct to be more general (“hotel” and “city”) rather than just different specifics (“Hyatt”, “Cambridge”)
- Change “Anthrocon New England” to “Anthro New England”

A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. **MOTION PASSES.**

### **EBoard Report:**

The Con Comm approached the EBoard with a request from the Tesseract Players to give several “shadowcast” performances at Arisia 2025. Shadowcast performances involve playing a movie or video while live actors act out and lip-sync the actions taking place on-screen. The EBoard consulted with the Organization for Transformative Works and also with an EBoard member’s intellectual property attorney. Neither source was able to assure the EBoard that shadowcast performances of the materials in question would be licensable or legally constitute “fair use”. As such, the EBoard has regretfully decided not to allow the requested performances, since Arisia can not afford a lawsuit for using unlicensed materials. (The shadowcast performance of “Rocky Horror” given at Arisia falls under different licensing rules and can continue to take place).

The EBoard has begun discussions of what Arisia 2026 will look like, given that we have no Con Chair for 2026. More discussion will happen at the December EBoard meeting.

### **President’s Report:**

None.

### **VPs Report:**

None.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Arisia’s Fiscal Year 2024 taxes have been filed.

**Clerk’s Report:**

Rachel filed the Corporation’s Annual Reports for 2024 and 2021 with the state.

**A25 Con Comm Report:**

- On November 17, 2024, the Con Comm held the first in-person Con Comm meeting since 2020 at the Hyatt Regency Boston-Cambridge. Some attendees toured some of the convention spaces after the meeting.
- The Con Comm has on-boarded a Food Services Division Head, who has taken an initial inventory of food supplies and equipment in storage.
- Progress Report #2 will come out this week. Follow Arisia on Bluesky, Mastodon, Facebook, and Instagram. The Progress Report will also be available on the Arisia web site.
- The December Con Comm meeting will be virtual.
- Volunteer opportunities for the convention will be posted shortly.
- An editor for the souvenir book needed. Contact [comms@arisia.org](mailto:comms@arisia.org) if you’re interested.
- The Hyatt is fully sold out for Saturday night. The block can not be increased. The shoulder nights (Thursday, Monday) have a few rooms left. The Marriott in Kendall Square is the overflow hotel. The Hyatt shuttle picks up near there. Ask the Marriott for the Arisia block.
- Registration numbers are on track and about the same as they were this time last year; the projected total is about 1800.
- Programming plans to have a rough schedule out by the end of November.
- The Con Chairs hope to make a special performer announcement by next month.
- There will be a Bridgerton-themed ball.
- Area Heads and Division Heads should let the Con Chair team know if they have social media announcements. They can’t announce them if you don’t let them know!

<b>Arisia 2025 Division Head Meeting Schedule</b>	<b>Arisia 2025 Con Comm Meeting Schedule</b>
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, Hyatt

December 8: 2-4p Zoom	December 12: 7-9p Zoom
January 5: 2-4p Zoom	January 9: 7-9p Zoom

**Committee Reports:**

Budget:

phi (Chair), Kelly Fabijanic

None.

Corporate Communications:

Rachel T. (Chair)

Rachel explained her idea of the Corporate Communications Committee as being specifically about creating Corporate communications when needed. She noted that she appreciates the idea that Committee members could look over drafts of minutes, but that the EBoard has already been very helpful with this task. The Corporation doesn't often need to send out communications, and when it does it's sometimes because of an unanticipated time-sensitive situation, so the work may be sporadic but occasionally urgent. If you are interested in being on this Committee, please contact Rachel at [clerk@arisia.org](mailto:clerk@arisia.org).

Corporate Inventory Control (CIC):

Rick (Chair), Ben, Skip

None.

Discord:

Justin (Chair), Jason, Andrew

None.

Fundraising:

phi (Chair), Julia

None.

Grants:

Ilene (Chair), Joseph

This Committee has been suspended until finances are stabilized.

Hotel Search Committee:

phi, Ben

None.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC):

etana (Chair), Jaime (advisory member), Kris P. (advisory member), Ilene, Rachel T., Megan

Arisia received a report that a program participant engaged in abusive and harassing behavior while operating as an expert in the greater Boston burlesque scene. After looking into the report, the IRMC recommended a permanent ban from all Arisia-sponsored events. The EBoard has decided to agree with this recommendation. The individual's name will be published on the corporate website.

etana thanked new members Ilene, Megan, and Rachel for joining the IRMC. The IRMC is working through the existing backlog of Incident Reports (IRs). If you are interested in joining the IRMC, contact etana at [etana@arisia.org](mailto:etana@arisia.org).

IT:

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

None.

Postmaster:

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

None.

Social:

Mike S.

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

**Old Business:**

The EBoard has two vacant openings for Members at Large. etana pointed out that serving as a Member at Large is a good way to get involved in the Corporation and prepare for possibly taking on an officer position in the future. E-mail [eboard@arisia.org](mailto:eboard@arisia.org) if you are interested or have questions about the positions.

**New Business:**

### Motion to Revive the Documentation Committee:

Mike Sprague moved that Arisia revive the Documentation Committee.

The Committee's goals are:

- Researching, organizing, and documenting the content, location, and access to all relevant Arisia convention and Corporate documents in electronic format.
- Documenting our current convention and Corporate processes both in practice and in recorded Policies and Bylaws, and suggesting clarifications and/or corrections when there is disparity between the two.
- Collaborating with the Arisia IT Committee regarding decisions including but not limited to archiving historical documents, hosting options, security, and determining necessary access to documents.

Members asked about who has access to/ownership of documents when previous owners/users leave. Mike said the Committee would address that.

### **MOTION PASSES.**

### Motion to Revive the Hotel Search Committee:

Mike Sprague moved that Arisia revive the Hotel Search Committee.

The Committee's goals are:

- Investigating local hotels for future Arisia conventions.
- Communicating with viable hotels about hosting our convention and comparing various hotel offers.
- Reviewing hotel offers and making a recommendation to the Corporation for the best option.
- Assisting with review and edits of the hotel contract.

The current hotel contract goes through 2026, so the search would be for years beyond that.

There was some discussion as to whether the Committee had been disbanded in the first place, but if it hadn't, the motion wouldn't do any harm and could still be voted on.

A motion was made to call the question. **MOTION PASSES.**

The motion to revive the Committee was voted on. **MOTION PASSES.**

If you are interested in joining the Hotel Search Committee, please e-mail the EBoard at [eboard@arisia.org](mailto:eboard@arisia.org)

### Motion to Assist the UMSFS with Book Storage:

Rick made a motion to allow the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Science Fiction Society (UMSFS) to store their books in Arisia's storage space until the end of 2025. UMSFS has approximately 8000 books in around 400 boxes. The motion was seconded.

Ilene suggested that if this motion passes, we should draw up an informal written agreement with UMSFS, taking into account that we might downsize storage, who has responsibility for the books after our storage lease ends at the end of 2025, etc. Joseph concurred that an agreement would be good, especially since getting things in and out of storage requires Arisia involvement. Rick noted that e-mail is legally binding in Massachusetts and the books should be dealt with in a timely manner, so agreements can be drawn up over e-mail and documented in Mentor. Ilene also wants to document that if something happens to the books while they're in our keeping, we won't be liable.

The books would take up about 4% of our current storage, but our storage costs will probably skyrocket in January 2026 when our lease is up, since the building has undergone extensive renovations. In a smaller space that actually met our needs, the books would take 10-15% of our storage space. Another member pointed out that Arisia is very bad at getting rid of things, so if we're stuck with the books, we may be stuck with them.

Ilene asked what Arisia gets out of doing this, other than being kind. Wendee noted that UMSFS has been trying for years to find a space and has not been able to do so, and the books are not in great shape. Joseph asked if Arisia storing the books would cause issues with UMass, since they're materials owned by a UMass organization. Even though UMass failed to provide storage, will they claim the books are university property? Rick says that by helping UMSFS Arisia gains goodwill and the hope that the people we helped will someday be there for us. Also the books may not be in bad condition; libraries just don't want used books. Dinah from UMSFS agreed that libraries don't take used books. The books are a bit yellowed, but are in varying conditions. UMSFS' advisor has been working on getting an exemption regarding storage of university property. UMSFS could also donate or sell the books to an UMSFS member so they wouldn't be University property anymore. Rick said that if UMSFS still had nowhere else to store the books after the end of 2025, NESFA would either add the books to their collection, sell them at a book yard sale, or give them away.

Mike Sprague asked about hard deadlines for UMSFS. Dinah said that they've been told that the books have to be out of the building by the end of the year, but it's not clear whether or not that's actually the case. Joseph clarified that we don't know if the requested exemption is going through, among other details, which could be a liability for us.

Moving the books in and out of storage would need to take place at times that did not interfere with tagging or moving items for the convention.

Rick proposed an amendment that instead the EBoard work with UMSFS to work out an agreement and get the necessary information to take the books. Rachel suggested that we amend that amendment to agree that the EBoard and UMSFS work together, but that the Corporation will vote at the December meeting on whether to store the books.

A motion was made to table the motion. **MOTION PASSES.**

Discussion then occurred about how if we don't vote on the issue until December, there will be only two weeks before UMSFS' deadline to move the books during the holidays and UMass' Winter Break. Ilene noted that the EBoard may or may not be able to get all the negotiation done by then. Moving books can not interfere with tagging days at the storage location. Rick said that UMass would pay for the trucks to move the books. A straw poll was suggested to see if there is support to endorse the EBoard to make a good faith effort to work with UMSFS on the situation, given enough information.

A motion was made for the EBoard to make a best effort to work with UMSFS on the temporary storage of their books, including determining what happens to the books after 2025, and to report back to the Corporation, preferably by the December Corporate meeting. **MOTION PASSES.**

The Corporation voted via a voice vote to set the February corporate meeting date for **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.**

#### **Announcements:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

## **Calendar**

### Corporate Meetings

- Tuesday December 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm
- Sunday, January 19, 2025 at TBD (in person, Hyatt)
- Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 pm

### Arisia 2025 Division Head Meetings

- 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

- 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 12:00 AM on 10/11/2024. Please report any corrections to [clerk@arisia.org](mailto:clerk@arisia.org). Names in italics are non-voting members.

Vivian Abraham  
Wendee Abramo  
Joseph Andelman  
Inanna Arthen  
Julia Austein  
Priscilla Ballou  
Fred Bauer  
*Rob Bazemore*  
Anna Bradley  
Andrew Brockert  
Rebecca Brumberger  
*Brian Cooper*  
Skyler Crossman  
Regis Donovan  
Jan Dumas  
Dennis Duquette  
Daniel Eareckson  
etana  
Kelly Fabijanec  
Sabina Fecteau  
Allison Feldhusen  
Jaime Garmendia  
Diana Hsu  
Lenore Jones  
Rick Kovalcik  
Susan Kramer  
Henry Leong  
Megan Lewis  
Ken London  
Glen Macwilliams  
Claudia Mastroianni  
Will McMain  
Penelope Messier  
Dale Meyer-Curley  
Erik Meyer-Curley  
Elliott Mitchell  
Hope Moore  
Skip Morris

Lia Olsborg  
 Kris Pelletier  
 Danielle Reese  
 A. Joseph Ross  
 Sharon Sbarsky  
 Richard Schmeidler  
 JB Segal  
 Jude Shabry  
 Nicholas "phi" Sheckman  
 Cris Shuldiner  
 Rachel Silber  
 Mike Sprague  
 Mary Stock  
 Rachel Tanenhaus  
 Ilene Tatroe  
 Mike Tatroe  
 Ben Thornton  
 D.J. Toland  
 Melia Vaden  
 Wendy Verschoor  
 Tanya Washburn  
 Nightwing Whitehead

## Executive Board - eboard@

President	Mike Sprague	president@
Vice President	Ilene Tatroe	vice-president@
Treasurer	Nicholas "phi" Sheckman	treasurer@
Clerk	Rachel Tanenhaus	clerk@
Members-At-Large	Megan Lewis	at-large@
	TBD	
	TBD	
Arisia '25 Con Chairs	Wendee Abramo, Julia Austein, etana, and Dale Meyer-Curley	conchair@
Arisia '25 Treasurer	TBD	con-treasurer@

## Committee Membership

<b>Budget (budget@)</b> Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (chair), Kelly Fabijanac
<b>Corporate Communications (corpcomms@)</b> Rachel Tanenhaus (chair), Justin du Coeur, Lenore Jean Jones
<b>Corporate Inventory Control (cic@):</b>

Rick Kovalcik (chair), Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris
<b>Discord:</b> Justin duCoeur (chair), Jason Schneiderman, Andrew Brockert
<b>Fundraising - donations@:</b> Nicholas "phi" Shectman (chair), Julia Austein
<b>Grants (grantsrequest):</b> Ilene Tatroe (chair), Joseph Andelman
<b>Hotel Search (hotelsearch):</b> (no chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman
<b>Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@):</b> etana (Chair), Ilene Tatroe, Rachel Tanenhaus, Megan Lewis (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Kris Pelletier)
<b>IT (it@):</b> Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas "phi" Shectman (Chair), Mike Tatroe
<b>Location Search (no email address):</b> Gail Terman (chair), etana, Sol Houser
<b>Long Range Planning (lrp@):</b> (No chair), Anna Bradley, Heather Cougar
<b>Mailing List Monitoring (monitor@):</b> Claudia Mastroianni, Rachel Tanenhaus
<b>Postmaster (postmaster@):</b> Sharon Sbarsky (chair), Rick Kovalcik, Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Mike Tatroe (advisory member)
<b>Social (social@):</b> Mike Sprague (chair)
<b>Student Contests (student-contests@):</b> 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](mailto: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