



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 329, March 2025
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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7:00 pm ET over 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 was **17**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((22+23+55)/3 \times 0.51) = 17$. The quorum for the April corporate meeting will be 19.

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 23, 2025 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **2:00 PM**. There were 31 members attending:

Wendee Abramo
Joseph Andelman
Inanna Arthen
Priscilla Ballou
E.J. Barnes
Rebecca Brumberger
Adam Burdick
Kelly Fabijanic
Allison Feldhusen
Bernie Gabin
Lisa Opus Goldstein
Charles Hannum
Carolyn Heald
Rick Kovalcik

Sue Kramer
Henry Leong
Ken London
Claudia Mastroianni
Will McMain
Elliott Mitchell
Sarah Morrison
Laurel Richman
Sharon Sbarsky
Richard Schmeidler
Jason Schneiderman
Kylie Selkirk
Nicholas “phi” Shectman
Rachel Silber
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
D.J. Toland

Proxies:

- Ilene Tatroe to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- Regis Donovan to Claudia Mastroianni (accepted)
- Charles Olson to Claudia Mastroianni (accepted)
- J.B. Segal to Allison Feldhusen (accepted)
- etana to Wendee Abramo (accepted)

Corrections to and approval of the February 2025 Minutes:

- Rick’s name will be removed from the Postmaster Committee.
- The motion appealing the EBoard’s decision to ban a member from volunteering will be edited to remove any mention of the member’s removal from committees.
- Ilene Tatroe is no longer Vice President, and the minutes will be altered to reflect this.
- Vivian Abraham chose not to run for reelection as President, rather than stepping back, so their comments will be edited accordingly.

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

EBoard Report:

The EBoard made edits to the bylaws amendment proposal being addressed at this meeting under Old Business, as suggested by the membership at the February Corporate meeting. The EBoard also voted to approve some recommendations made by the IRMC, which will be reported out at a future Corporate meeting.

As President, Mike added his name to the Arisia Corporation’s bank account and now has signatory power. Voted to approve some IRMC recommendations.

President’s Report:

None.

VPs Report:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

None.

Clerk's Report:

None.

Member-At-Large's Report;

None.

A25 Con Comm Report:

phi asked people with outstanding expenses from the A25 convention, including those incurred using the Arisia Amazon account or the Arisia credit card, to notify treasury@arisia.org as soon as possible.

Committee Reports:

Budget:

phi (Chair), Kelly Fabijanic

None.

Corporate Communications:

Rachel T. (Chair)

None.

Corporate Inventory Control (CIC):

Ben, Skip

None.

Discord:

(No Chair), Justin, Ken, Will, Jason, Andrew

None.

Fundraising:

phi (Chair), Julia

None.

Grants:

(No Chair), Joseph

This Committee has been suspended until finances are stabilized.

Hotel Search Committee:

phi, Ben, Kelly

None.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC):

(No Chair), Jaime (advisory member), Kris P. (advisory member), Rachel T., Megan, Will

None.

IT:

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

None.

Postmaster:

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

None.

Social:

Mike S.

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

Old Business:

Proposed Change to Section 5.1 of the Bylaws:

Current By Law - 5.1

5.1 Except where otherwise provided, the president appoints committee members and chairpersons, subject to approval by the Membership. Except where otherwise provided, committee chairpersons may be removed by the Executive Board. Except where otherwise provided, committee members may be removed by the Executive Board on recommendation of the committee chairperson.

Recommended Changes - 5.1

5.1 Except where otherwise provided, the president appoints committee members and chairpersons, subject to approval by the Membership. Except where otherwise provided, committee members, including chairpersons, may be removed by the Executive Board. ~~Except where otherwise provided, committee members may be removed by the Executive Board on recommendation of the committee chairperson.~~

phi noted that the Bylaws already provide for people being removed from committees by their appointments expiring - reappointments would happen in September. If reappointments do not happen in September, the Bylaws allow them to happen whenever the EBoard gets around to making them happen, which it has not been doing. This means that the EBoard has only had the power to remove committee members at any time when it does not do its job of enforcing term expiration. Therefore, without this amendment, the EBoard literally has more power when it doesn't do its job, and that should not be the case.

Mycroft spoke out against the idea that the EBoard could possibly remove people from the Con Comm without even discussing doing so with the Con Chair. phi responded that the process for removing people from the Con Comm is explicitly addressed in Section 6, and Section 5 says "except where otherwise provided", so the situation about which Mycroft was concerned would never happen.

Joseph asked if "for due cause" could be added as a friendly amendment. Mike noted that removing someone from a committee would not take place based on an individual's whim; the EBoard would make the decision as a group. Furthermore, we have no official definition for "due cause". phi was unsure that friendly amendments could be proposed on second consideration of a bylaws amendment. Elliott stated that friendly amendments don't work for second readings because then the Corporation would no longer be looking at the same proposal and have to start over again with a first reading. Rick asked if a bylaws change required five people to bring it forward. Mike called for members to be listed in support of the change, and more than five people came forward.

The membership voted on the motion. **MOTION PASSES.**

New Business:

Elections:

Julia Austen self-nominated before the meeting to run for Member-At-Large.

Allison Feldhusen self-nominated at the meeting. Allison has been attending and working on Arisia staff for 30 years, and running the Space Pilot program for 10 years. She is looking to jump in and help out. When asked about her vision for the future of Arisia and her opinions regarding taking a break, she stated that she would want to take a good look at things including financials before making any decisions. She recognizes that there is a lot of organizational burnout, but believes that Arisia must consider financials when making decisions about going forward.

Rachel confirmed that neither candidate is the subject of a current Incident Report.

The membership voted via secret ballot to elect Julia Austen and Allison Feldhusen as Members At Large. **MOTION PASSES.**

No candidates for Vice President were nominated, so no election for that position was held.

Motion Regarding the Long Range Planning Committee:

Motion to refer to the Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee the question of what challenges are currently facing the Arisia convention and organization and how we should begin to address them.

Specific topics to be addressed include but are not limited to:

- Root causes of volunteer burnout and/or reluctance to volunteer and ways to address them
- Viability of a four-day con vs. a three-day con
- Possibility of hiring external consultants to review processes/procedures
- Possibility of Arisia taking an intentional break of one or more years to address challenges and anticipated effects of such a break
- How to make Arisia a more inclusive space for fans from marginalized communities.

The LRP Committee is to report back no later than the June 2025 Corporate meeting with its findings.

The motion was seconded.

Mike, who had brought the motion forward, stated that determining whether or not Arisia takes a break is something that shouldn't just be determined by a single vote at a single meeting. This

question is within the LRP Committee's purview. The LRP Committee will discuss whether to take a break, reasons why or why not, and which factors to consider. Convention planning can start early: the con takes place in January, the convention debrief happens in February, and in March, the EBoard looks for a Con Chair or the selected Con Chair begins work. So there is a 30-60 day window for looking at long range problems before everyone is caught up in con planning and no longer has time to do so. There is no one currently on the LRP Committee, but first we have to vote on whether or not to reinstate it. Mike will bring up possible members for nomination at the next meeting.

Mike explained the questions that the LRP Committee would consider:

- Burnout: Sometimes Arisia addresses burnout in one area, but doesn't look at the overall problem; it's just moved from one place to another.
- Convention length: The LRP Committee may consider whether to make Arisia a 3-day convention again. Fewer resources are needed for a 3-day con. Not everyone has all 4 days off and travel time can be an issue.
- External consultant: An external consultant may be able to see things that folks who are too close to the problems can't or don't see.
- Inclusion: In some ways we've gotten better, in some worse, in some stayed the same.
- "Not limited to" is there because answering the given questions can bring up other questions.

At the end of the process, the LRP Committee will submit suggestions. These suggestions may not automatically come into being and get voted on; people can take up changes, make motions, etc.

Mike is in discussion with two possible LRP Committee members so far, but doesn't have their final consent yet. His appointments have to be voted on by the Corporation, so that would happen in April at the latest. If you have questions or would like to express interest in serving on the LRP Committee, you can contact him at president@arisia.org.

Rachel S. had concerns about the timeline given the short amount of time between the April meeting and the June meeting. Mike responded that if Arisia is taking a year off, we need to know that ASAP. The Hotel Search Committee is currently active and will find the LRP Committee's recommendations relevant. Furthermore, there is no Con Chair for 2026. If you have questions about or interest in being part of a Con Chair team, e-mail eboard@arisia.org.

Will, Dan T., and phi all expressed interest in being on the LRP Committee, and Mike said he would follow up with them, but will not appoint someone at this meeting with whom he hasn't had prior discussion. He has had prior discussion with phi, and will submit his name to the Corporation for appointment should this motion be approved.

The Corporation voted on the motion via voice vote. **MOTION PASSES.**

Mike motioned to appoint phi to the LRP Committee. phi does not want to be Chair but is interested in throwing ideas out without dominating the discussion. But he's very invested in how the Committee gets started, putting together and implementing tools and processes, etc. As Mike comes up with possible LRP Committee members, phi will talk to them about accelerating these processes within our existing procedures.

The Corporation voted via voice vote on appointing phi to the LRP Committee. **VOTE PASSES.**

The Corporation voted via a voice vote to set the June corporate meeting date for **Tuesday June 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.**

Announcements:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 2:00 pm (Zoom)
- Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 7:00 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 9:00 PM on 3/11/2025. Please report any corrections to clerk@arisia.org. Names in italics are non-voting members.

Vivian Abraham
Wendee Abramo
Dawn Albright
Robert Allison
Joseph Andelman
Inanna Arthen
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
Fred Bauer
Rob Bazemore
Anna Bradley

Andrew Brockert
Rebecca Brumberger
Adam Burdick
Brendon Chetwynd
Adam Cohn
Brian Cooper
Skyler Crossman
Garret DeJong
Regis Donovan
Jan Dumas
Dennis Duquette
Daniel Eareckson
etana
Kelly Fabijanec
Sabina Fecteau
Alder Fehler
Allison Feldhusen
Bernie Gabin
Jaime Garmendia
Lisa Opus Goldstein
Charles Hannum
Carolyn Heald
Joel Herda
Diana Hsu
Elaine Isaak
Angela Jones
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
Eliot Mohrmann
Hope Moore
Skip Morris
Sarah Morrison
Lia Olsborg
Charles Olson
Kris Pelletier
Antonia Pugliese
Danielle Reese
Laurel Richman

Phoebe Roberts
 A. Joseph Ross
 Sharon Sbarsky
 Richard Schmeidler
 Jason Schneiderman
 JB Segal
 Kyle Selkirk
 Jude Shabry
 Nicholas “phi” Sheckman
 Cris Shuldiner
 Rachel Silber
 Mike Sprague
 Mary Stock
 Rachel Tanenhaus
 Ilene Tatroe
 Mike Tatroe
 Ben Thornton
 D.J. Toland
 Edward Trachtenberg
 Melia Vaden
 Wendy Verschoor
 Tanya Washburn
 Nightwing Whitehead
 Violet Zitola

Executive Board - eboard@

President	Mike Sprague	president@
Vice President		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	None	con-treasurer@

Committee Membership

Budget (budget@) Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (chair), Kelly Fabijanec
Corporate Communications (corpcomms@) Rachel Tanenhaus (chair), Justin du Coeur, Lenore Jean Jones

Corporate Inventory Control (cic@): Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris
Discord: (no chair), Justin duCoeur, Jason Schneiderman, Andrew Brockert, Ken London, Will McMain
Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Shectman (chair), Julia Austein
Grants (grantsrequest): (on hiatus) (no chair), Joseph Andelman
Hotel Search (hotelsearch): (no chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Kelly Fabijanec
Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): (no chair), Rachel Tanenhaus, Megan Lewis, Will McMain (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Kris Pelletier)
IT (it@): Benjamin Levy, Sharon Sbarsky, Nicholas "phi" Shectman (Chair), Mike Tatroe
Location Search (no email address): Gail Terman (chair), Sol Houser
Long Range Planning (lrp@): (No chair), Anna Bradley, Heather Cougar
Mailing List Monitoring (monitor@): Claudia Mastroianni, Rachel Tanenhaus
Postmaster (postmaster@): Sharon Sbarsky (chair), 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.

519 Somerville Avenue #371

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