



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 332, June 2025
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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 2:00 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 June corporate meeting was **15**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((31+27+27)/3 \times 0.51) = 15$. The quorum for the July corporate meeting will be 15.

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.

June 17, 2025 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **7:02 PM**. There were 29 members attending:

Wendee Abramo
Rob Allison
Joseph Andelman
Inanna Arthen
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
Regis Donovan
Allison Feldhusen
Jaime Garmendia
Lisa Opus Goldstein
Charles Hannum
Joel Herda
Rick Kovalcik
Henry Leong

Megan Lewis
Ken London
Claudia Mastroianni
Will McCain
Antonia Pugliese
Laurel Richman
Sharon Sbarsky
Kylie Selkirk
Nicholas “phi” Shectman
Rachel Silber
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Mike Tatroe
D.J. Toland
Tanya Washburn

Proxies:

- Jason Schneiderman to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- etana to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- Regis Donovan to Claudia Mastroianni (accepted)
- Carolyn Heald to Lisa “Opus” Goldstein (accepted)
- JB Segal to Allison Feldhusen (accepted)

Approval of the May 2025 Minutes:

Rachel suggested that the “February Meeting Summary” in the table of contents be changed to “May Meeting Summary” and that the missing closing parenthesis be added to the list of proxies and the missing period be added to the approval of the April minutes.

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

EBoard Report:

The EBoard loaned out fans to the New England Folk Festival Association (NEFFA), and now that NEFFA’s event is over the fans are in an intermediate location in Lexington waiting to be deployed to Readercon. After that, they will go back to storage.

On Thursday, June 19, people are invited to meet up at Arisia’s storage space to begin an inventory of items stored there.

The EBoard has interviewed a candidate for Con Chair for Arisia 2026 and is awaiting some additional responses from the candidate. The EBoard may proceed with a recommendation for a vote by the Corporation, but not at today’s meeting.

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:

Wendee and phi are working on closing the books for Arisia 2025 and hope to have done so by the July meeting.

Committee Reports:Budget:

phi (Chair), Kelly Fabijanic

None.

Corporate Communications:

Rachel T. (Chair)

None.

Corporate Inventory Control (CIC):

Ben, Skip, phi

phi talked about the advantages of inventorying items in Arisia's storage space and getting rid of what we aren't using.

- The storage space costs \$1800/month.
- Going through things we don't use makes it easier to find things we do use. For example, a tote was left behind at storage during Arisia 2025, and we still aren't sure where it is.

- Recruiting people to help with cleaning out the space can also help get volunteers involved earlier, as recommended by the LRP Committee.
- The LRP Committee recommends that Arisia cut costs, and getting a smaller storage space is one way to do so.

The convention's Food department has already determined which of their items to get rid of, what can be kept, and what can be given away to other community organizations. The first cleanout day is on Thursday, June 19, especially since phi isn't working that day and will be available to take items to a thrift shop. One goal is to have the least environmental impact that we possibly can.

Discord:

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

None.

Fundraising:

phi (Chair), Julia

None.

Grants:

Joel Herda (Chair), Joseph

This Committee has been suspended until finances are stabilized.

Hotel Search Committee:

phi, Ben, Kelly

None.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC):

Jaime (Interim Chair), Kris P. (advisory member), Rachel T., Megan, Will, Adam

The IRMC received a report that at Arisia 2025, an individual previously banned from attending the convention was found in convention space, having been able to pre-register without issue. The individual claimed to be unaware of the ban, but agreed to leave the convention, and their membership was rescinded. The Registration database was properly updated and the EBoard authorized a refund contingent on fresh acknowledgement of the previous disciplinary action.

IT:

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

None.

Long Range Planning (LRP):

Tanya (chair), phi, Dan T., Julia, Henry

The LRP Committee gave the following report:

We were asked to address some of the following questions:

- 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 (need clarity)
- 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

We have been talking with people who work on Arisia, other members of the community, and people who work or have worked on other similar conventions. There is more information to gather, but we cannot continue as we have been. If we'd like to continue as a convention, we have big structural changes to think about, like how many days we would like to run, how we want recruitment and volunteer retention to work, and how we want to work on inclusion. Some of these things are easier to work on, when you are not also trying to have a convention. We need to gather more information on how we want to prioritize the work we have before us.

Whatever we do, we should work this summer, as soon as we can, to sort and reduce the stuff we have, and move to a smaller storage space. This gives us more flexibility and options for what we want to do next.

We need to look at making volunteer response and recruitment a year round, corporate responsibility. Even though we have shrunk, there is work for the con all year, and one of the key failures with volunteers is not engaging them when they are excited. (Reg has work in the Spring, Programming and Art Show start early summer). We have had too many gaps when we don't have a Con Com and have lost good volunteers to that gap.

We would like to extend our mandate to investigate these problems through the fall, possibly next spring. We would like to have some outreach Town Halls, in person and virtual, in July. The purpose of the Town Halls would be to let attendees know a hiatus is under serious consideration, to hear from them what the impact will be, and to hear what they think we should do with that break. We'd also like to reach out to some more folks from other conventions that either had to shut down, or started up relatively recently.

We will continue to gather feedback from the community towards a strategic plan, which we hope to present at the August meeting.

A member asked if a smaller storage space would still be outside of town. phi responded that the market indicates that we could get less space for less money, probably further out of town. The space we have was not the cheapest space available per square foot at the time we got it. Ultimately storage space decisions rest with CIC. The LRP Committee hopes to make a full report in August, and to have in-person and Zoom Town Halls in July. Another member asked about absolute deadlines for planning Arisia 2027. Those deadlines depend on whether or not we're sticking with the Hyatt as a convention hotel. A third member asked about the LRP Committee's planned process. After hearing from the community, the committee's list of tasks and questions will be re-prioritized and re-ordered. The original questions were not listed in order of urgency.

Postmaster:

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

None.

Social:

Mike S.

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

phi made a motion to refer the 2026 COVID policy to the EBoard for presentation to the Corporation at the July Corporate meeting. This would be in consultation with any Con Chair who might eventually be appointed. **MOTION PASSES.**

phi noted that some areas of the convention are already proceeding with preparations for Arisia 2026, even without a Con Chair, but without Team Arisia Services (TAS), we can't vet volunteers yet. He made a motion to create a recruiting committee to take on certain aspects of our volunteer management and charge the recruiting committee with volunteer vetting. That committee would continue their work after we have a Con Chair.

One member considered making a motion to table the recruiting committee motion until next month because such a committee might be a big change in processes for Arisia. Another member pointed out that a delay could lose volunteers for the convention, or even the possibility of having a convention. A third member noted that volunteer management should happen year-round, and this committee could help that happen. This original motion was point #2 in the LRP report. **MOTION PASSES.**

The LRP made the following motion: We, the LRP would like to have two meetings, one in person and one remote, in July, to communicate that Arisia is considering its future and to hear from the community about our options, and the impacts of those options. We would like \$200 for ice cream for the in-person meeting. **MOTION PASSES.**

Joel asked about shortening the Con Chair approval process at this late date. Rachel T. brought up the Recruitment committee as one way to make progress on convention tasks. phi noted that some things can happen through the EBoard, and also that once the EBoard votes, the Con Chair nominee is basically the equivalent of a President-Elect.

The Corporation voted via voice vote to set the September corporate meeting date for **Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 2:00 pm on Zoom.**

Announcements:

- Longtime Arisian Craig McDonough has died.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- Sunday, July 13, 2025 at 2:00 pm (Zoom)
- Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 2:00 pm (Zoom)

Other Meetings and Events

Upcoming Conventions

- Readercon - July 17-20 - Burlington, MA
- NESFA Annual Picnic - August 31 - Larz Anderson Park, Brookline, MA
- Boskone - February 13-15, 2026 - Westin Boston Seaport District, Boston, MA

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” Shectman
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	Joel Herda	vice-president@
Treasurer	Nicholas “phi” Shectman	treasurer@
Clerk	Rachel Tanenhaus	clerk@
Members-At-Large	Megan Lewis	at-large@
	Julia Austein	
	Allison Feldhusen	

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, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman
Discord: (no chair), Justin duCoeur, Jason Schneiderman, Andrew Brockert, Ken London, Will McMain
Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (chair), Julia Austein
Grants (grantsrequest): (on hiatus) Joel Herda (chair), Joseph Andelman
Hotel Search (hotelsearch): (no chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman, Kelly Fabijanec
Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): (no chair), Rachel Tanenhaus, Megan Lewis, Will McMain (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Kris Pelletier, Adam Burdick)
IT (it@): Benjamin Levy, Sharon Sbarky, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (Chair), Mike Tatroe
Location Search (no email address): Gail Terman (chair), Sol Houser
Long Range Planning (lrp@): Tanya Washburn (chair), Nicholas "phi" Sheckman, Julia Austein, Henry Leong, Dan Toland
Mailing List Monitoring (monitor@): Claudia Mastroianni, Rachel Tanenhaus
Postmaster (postmaster@): Sharon Sbarky (chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman, Mike Tatroe (advisory member)
Social (social@): Mike Sprague (chair)
Student Contests (student-contests@):

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 ebboard@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