



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 343, May 2026
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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm over Zoom**. The corresponding agenda will be distributed over the corp-announce email list in advance of the meeting.

The quorum for the May corporate meeting was **14**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((27+29+25/3 \times 0.51) = 14)$. The quorum for the June 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.

May 17, 2026 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **2:03 PM**. There were 31 members attending:

Wendee Abramo
Joseph Andelman
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
Melia Beetham-Vaden
etana
Kelly Fabijanec
Allison Feldhusen
Jaime Garmendia
Carolyn Heald
Joel Herda
Rick Kovalcik
Megan Lewis
Ken London

Marianna Martin
Will McMain
Chris Murphy
Peter Olszowka
Kris Pelletier
Jo Rothman
Jason Schneiderman
JB Segal
Jude Shabry
Nicholas “phi” Shectman
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
Mike Tatroe
D.J. Toland
Tanya Washburn
Violet Zitola

Proxies:

- Lisa Opus Goldstein to Carolyn Heald (accepted)
- Laurel Richman to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- Henry Leong to Carolyn Heald (accepted)
- Elaine Isaak to etana (accepted)
- Cate Schneiderman to Jason Schneiderman (accepted)
- Anna Bradley to Ilene Tatroe (accepted)

Approval of the April 2026 Minutes:

Rachel T. submitted the following corrections:

- The minutes were from 2026, not 2025, and the heading regarding approval of the March minutes should reflect this.
- Marianna Martin should be added to the membership list.

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

EBoard Report:

The EBoard voted to uphold the IRMC’s decisions on the following 8 Incident Reports (IRs):

1. Arisia received a report that a staffer wore Punisher and “thin blue line” paraphernalia at A24. This was addressed at-con and the staffer complied with all requests to change their attire. IRMC referred the matter to the responsible division and recommends no further action.
2. The IRMC received a report that at Arisia 2025 a staffer pushed boundaries, did things that they were told were not allowed, and was generally rude to senior staff. IRMC referred the matter to the responsible division and recommends that it be recorded in

any future HR files. The IRMC recommends that the staffer should not be hired for that role in the future.

3. The IRMC received a report that at Arisia 2025 a staff member was rude and aggressive to another staff member. The IRMC recommends a warning against aggressive behavior and a reminder that convention staff are held to higher behavioral standards.
4. Arisia received a report at Arisia 2025 that several Safety staff were rude to attendees who were lining up for the Masquerade. The head of Safety spoke to the staffers at con to provide guidance around proper behavior of Safety staff. IRMC has voted to affirm the action taken at con, and recommends no further action.
5. Arisia received a report that a panelist at the "Culture of Cheese" panel took a photo of the audience in violation of our photo policy. When IRT spoke to the panelist at con they were apologetic and deleted the photo. IRMC recommends and the Eboard has voted to affirm the actions taken at con and take no further action.
6. Arisia received anonymous panel feedback of anti-indigenous comments made by a panelist at the "Herbal Medicine" panel. Upon investigation, IRT could not identify what if any offensive comments were made. IRMC recommends and Eboard has voted to take no action.
7. Arisia received a report that a panel moderator was dominating the conversation and talking over other panelists. IRMC has determined no Code of Conduct violation took place, and recommends the feedback be kept by Programming and take no further action. Eboard has accepted this recommendation.
8. Arisia received a report that a longtime volunteer was using a sockpuppet account to make posts critical of Arisia on the Friends of Arisia Facebook group. While criticism of Arisia is not in itself a violation of the Code of Conduct, the statements made were disrespectful and combative. More seriously, using a sockpuppet account to hide one's identity is disrespectful to our community and impedes our ability to carry out the incident process.

This person's behavior has been the subject of a number of incident reports over the years, showing a clear pattern of disrespectful and abusive behavior towards other staff and members of the convention. In some cases they have shown remorse and a willingness to change their behavior, only for the behavior to continue.

IRMC therefore recommends and Eboard has voted to permanently ban this person from volunteering for Arisia.

President's Report:

Mike proposed some new additions to the Hiatus Committee:

- Patrick Powers
- Suriya Jeyapalan
- Swati Joshi

He made a motion to appoint these three people, which was seconded. **MOTION PASSES.**

VP's Report:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

phi filed our Report 990 for the year ending June 2025. He had previously filed an extension which expired on May 15. He will close the Arisia 2025 and Arisia 2026 books shortly and complete several related data analysis projects.

Clerk's Report:

None.

Member-At-Large's Report:

None.

A25 Con Comm Report:

None.

A26 Con Comm Report:

None.

Committee Reports:Budget:

phi (Chair), Kelly Fabijanic

None.

Corporate Communications:

Rachel T. (Chair)

None.

Corporate Inventory Control (CIC):

phi, Ben, Kylie, Skip, Sharon

We lent Art Show equipment to Life Drawing Boston for Somerville Open Studios. This has not yet been returned but phi will make sure that it is.

We have an ongoing project to get rid of things in storage that we no longer need. The next work sessions for this will take place the weekend of June 19-21.

Discord:

Will (Chair), Justin, Ken, Jason, Andrew

None.

Fundraising:

phi (Chair), Julia

None.

Grants:

Joseph

This Committee has been suspended until finances are stabilized.

Hiatus Committee:

Elaine (Chair), Rob, Jem, Rose, Pauline, etana, Alder, Violet, Rachael

New committee members requested to be added:

- Patrick Powers
- Suriya Jeyapalan
- Swati Joshi

Progress report:

Elaine has been meeting with individuals responsible for various areas listed in the Hiatus Committee Mandate to become acquainted with the needs to be met and resources available. Results as noted below. If you have not been contacted and feel that you should be in or would like to add to the Hiatus conversation, please reach out to Elaine, authorelaine@gmail.com.

Communications:

Committee member Rachael Linker requests permission to access Arisia social media to post on a regular basis with the intention of building engagement during the gap year, including asking questions and promoting gap year and related activities of interest to the Arisia community. We agree that a newsletter during the gap year for more general communications with members would be good, but do not yet have a proposal or volunteer(s) for this.

Documentation Group:

Tanya W. has volunteered to gather such documentation from past Division Heads and other volunteers as she is able to contact and acquire it. That would enable future Con Chairs, Division Heads, and volunteers to have a framework for understanding how these roles have been carried out before. She intends to have the information gathered by the end of August.

This information will be delivered to volunteer archivists (already secured) for organization and preparation such that incoming leadership and volunteers will be able to access it in March 2027. The intention of the documentation process is not to create a proscriptive list of HOW IT MUST BE DONE, but rather to provide an understanding of how it HAS BEEN DONE, and how new or continuing volunteers may choose to do it, adding their own creative energy, to offer a bouquet of options while bringing clarity around some specific issues like timelines and coordination across divisions.

Marketing/Promotions at other conventions:

Committee member Alder is compiling a list of other local conventions at which we might like to table, along with their tabling requirements (deadlines, costs, etc.). An informal gathering at Readercon may be possible, Elaine is looking into this since she will be there.

Social Activities:

Elaine is following up with a few people who proposed specific ideas at the gap year sessions in person or on the form. She will also create and post a form to gather more ideas (this can then be shared via social media).

Proposal: Building on the very popular Goblin Night Market, and also the walkable labyrinth hosted at Arisia in the past (but which is in need of repair), we propose a goblin/labyrinth-themed event in the fall or later. This event would feature the collaborative creation of a walkable labyrinth (on fabric, using members' handprints or chosen imagery), incorporating a trinket trade, possibly a DJ or renaissance music, and would encourage costumes.

Tech Debt Group:

Art Show system:

Elaine met with Julia Austein to discuss the current system and its pros and cons. We strongly advise replacing this system. Julia has agreed to evaluate possible replacements when we have a slate of possibilities.

Registration system:

Elaine has a scheduled meeting with Melia to discuss Registration needs and current system pros/cons.

Several members of the committee are doing outreach with contacts in other conventions to inquire about what software they use for Art Show and Registration to populate a spreadsheet of options which can then be evaluated. Ideas are welcome if you have experience with an alternative system or know someone with such experience - or if you would like to help evaluate the alternatives when a list has been compiled.

Websites:

etana is working with a small cohort of other past Con Chairs to create a proposal for what the Arisia website needs to do. Mike has identified a charity web development opportunity, 48in48,

which may or may not be adequate for Arisia's needs. When the website proposal is complete (anticipated in about 6-8 weeks), it can be evaluated against the 48in48 guidelines.

Volunteering Review & HR system:

We agree that this is the largest and thorniest task because it underlies all else. Tanya, carrying through with the work of the Long Range Planning Committee, is creating a draft survey for the membership as previously agreed. The draft is to be delivered shortly and will consist of about 10 questions. The survey is intended to be sent in June. We hope to have an in-person working group to discuss and brainstorm around the issue of volunteer recruitment and retention later in the summer. We should have some information from the survey at that time.

Elaine expects to be present at the June meeting to present the 3-month pillars as directed in our mandate and timeline.

etana added that folks should reach out if they are interested in getting involved in the HR side of the Hiatus Committee's work. That includes reviewing IRMC, the IR system, the volunteer process, staff hiring, staff removal, and checking the bylaws for any other people-related topics.

Hotel Search Committee:

phi, Ben, Kelly

None.

Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC):

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

Will reported that the IRMC closed out 8 IRs this month and has 11 open IRs remaining. Of those 11, 7 are from 2026, 1 is from 2025, and 3 are from 2024.

JB asked if we could have a cumulative report more frequently. Will will create one for next month.

IT:

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

None.

Long Range Planning (LRP):

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

The LRPC will convene soon to finalize a survey to be disseminated to the membership.

Postmaster:

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

None.

Social:

Mike S.

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

The Corporation voted to set the September Corporate meeting date for **Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 2:00 pm over Zoom.**

Announcements:

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 2:00 pm (Zoom)
- Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)
- Sunday, September 27, 2026 at 2:00 pm (Zoom)

Other Meetings and Events

Upcoming Conventions

- None at this time

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

Membership List

This membership list is as of 2:00 PM ET on 5/17/2026. 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
Pauline Arsenault
Inanna Arthen
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
Fred Bauer
Rob Bazemore
Melia Beetham-Vaden
Anna Bradley
Andrew Brockert
Adam Burdick
Adam Cohn
Brian Cooper
Skyler Crossman
Garret Dejong
Stefanie Deschamps
Regis Donovan
etana
Kelly Fabijanic
Alder Fehler
Allison Feldhusen
Jaime Garmendia
Max Gladstone
Lisa Opus Goldstein
James Hammond
Charles Hannum
Carolyn Heald
Joel Herda
Elaine Isaak
Suriya Jeyapalan
Angela Jones
Lenore Jones
Rick Kovalcik
Susan Kramer
Henry Leong
Megan Lewis
Rachael Linker
Ken London
Glen Macwilliams
Marianna Martin
Claudia Mastroianni

Will McMain
 Penelope Messier
 Elliott Mitchell
 Eliot Mohrmann
 Rose Moore
 Skip Morris
 Chris Murphy
 Lia Olsborg
 Charles Olson
 Peter Olszowka
 Kris Pelletier
 Patrick Powers
 Antonia Pugliese
 Danielle Reese
 R. Eric Reuss
 Laurel Richman
 A. Joseph Ross
 Jo Rothman
 Sharon Sbarsky
 Richard Schmeidler
 Jason Schneiderman
 Cate Schneiderman
 JB Segal
 Frances Selkirk
 Kylie Selkirk
 Jude Shabry
 Nicholas “phi” Shectman
 Cris Shuldiner
 Rachel Silber
 Sarah Smith
 Stephani Smith
 Mike Sprague
 Mary Stock
 Rachel Tanenhaus
 Ilene Tatroe
 Mike Tatroe
 D.J. Toland
 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 '26 Con Chair	Joel Herda	conchair@
Arisia '26 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: Will McMain, (chair), Justin duCoeur, Jason Schneiderman, Andrew Brockert, Ken London
Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Sheckman (chair), Julia Austein
Grants (grantsrequest): (on hiatus) (no chair), Joseph Andelman
Hiatus (hiatus@): Elaine Isaak (chair), Rob Allison, Jem, Rose Moore, Pauline, etana, Alder Fehler, Violet Zitola, Rachael Linker, Patrick Powers, Suriya Jeyapalan, Swati Joshi
Hotel Search (hotelsearch@): (no chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman, Kelly Fabijanec
Incident Response Management Committee (IRMC) (incidents@): Will McMain (chair), Rachel Tanenhaus, Megan Lewis, Adam Burdick (advisory members: Jaime Garmendia, Kris Pelletier)
IT (it@): Benjamin Levy, Sharon Sbarsky, 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 Sbarsky (chair), Benjamin Levy, Nicholas "phi" Sheckman, 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 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