



Mentor

The Newsletter of
Arisia, Incorporated

Volume 32, Issue 343, June 2026
519 Somerville Ave #371, Somerville, MA 02143
+ 1-917-7ARISIA (+1-917-727-4742)

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About the Meeting

The next corporate meeting of Arisia, Inc. will be held on **Sunday, July 19, 2026 at 2:00 pm over Zoom**. The corresponding agenda will be distributed over the corp-announce email list in advance of the meeting.

The quorum for the June corporate meeting was **15**, based on 51% of the average attendance of the last three meetings $((29+25+31)/3 \times 0.51) = 15$. The quorum for the July corporate meeting will be 17.

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 16, 2026 Corporate Meeting Summary

The meeting was conducted over Zoom and called to order at **7:03 PM**. There were 40 members attending:

Wendee Abramo
Dawn Albright
Joseph Andelman
Innana Arthen
Julia Austein
Priscilla Ballou
Fred Bauer
Andrew Brockert
Garret DeJong
etana
Alder Fehler
Allison Feldhusen
Jaime Garmendia
Lisa Opus Goldstein

Joel Herda
Elaine Isaak
Lenore Jones
Rick Kovalcik
Henry Leong
Megan Lewis
Rachael Linker
Ken London
Will McMain
Skip Morris
Peter Olszowka
Charles Olson
Patrick Powers
Antonia Pugliese
Laurel Richman
Sharon Sbarsky
Cate Schneiderman
Kylie Selkirk
Nicholas “phi” Sheckman
Rachel Silber
Mike Sprague
Rachel Tanenhaus
Ilene Tatroe
Mike Tatroe
D.J. Toland
Tanya Washburn

Proxies:

- etana to Rachel Tanenhaus (accepted)
- Claudia Mastroianni to Kelly Fabijanec (absent)
- JB Segal to Allison Feldhusen (accepted)
- Marianna Martin to Elaine Isaak (accepted)
- Jason Schneiderman to Cate Schneiderman (accepted)
- Regis Donovan to Kelly Fabijanec (absent)
- Kris Pelletier to Jaime Garmendia (accepted)
- Anna Bradley to Ilene Tatroe (accepted)
- Charles Hannum to Rick Kovalcik (accepted)
- Carolyn Heald to Lisa Opus Goldstein (accepted)
- Megan Lewis to Julia Austein (accepted)

Approval of the May 2026 Minutes:

Rachel T. submitted the following corrections:

- Several members should be added to the membership list.
- The math shown in determining the quorum was incorrect (but the quorum was correct).

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

EBoard Report:

The EBoard voted to approve two equipment loans to Readercon, one for the Corsi-Rosenthal box fans, and one for an Assistive Listening Device. These were both subject to the usual terms: if equipment is damaged or lost, replacement or reimbursement will occur.

President's Report:

Mike S. made a motion to appoint Rachael Linker and Alder Fehler to the Corporate Communications Committee. The motion was seconded. **MOTION PASSES.**

VP's Report:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

None.

Clerk's Report:

Rachel T. explained that membership notification had been broken for several months and she had not been notified by PayPal when people were joining the Corporation and paying pro-rated dues. As a result, several people were not added to relevant mailing lists, notified of meetings, or listed in Mentor as Corporate members. phi fixed the problem with PayPal, and the oversights have been corrected. Rachel apologized to all affected.

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 will be holding some work sessions to organize and clean out the storage space the weekend of June 19-21, which is a long weekend due to Juneteenth. The sessions will probably take place on Friday and Sunday. E-mail cic@arisia.org to let phi know if you can make it.

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

Elaine presented the Hiatus Committee's 3-month report:

Arisia Hiatus Committee 3-Month Pillars

The Hiatus Committee believes that Arisia is a community, of which the convention is the most visible part, as the coral reef – beautiful and fascinating as it is, is the visible and vibrant collaboration of thousands of individual beings.

In order for the Arisia community to be healthy, strong, and build together, we must nurture each other as a community in more deliberate ways than have sometimes happened.

The Hiatus Committee's work has two principal areas:

1. the internal work of examining Arisia's structure in several specific ways, and recommending or developing approaches to improve those structures;
2. and the external, the outwardly facing aspects of our community where the wider membership and the public interact with the Arisia community. Some elements of our work affect both the internal and the external, like Communication, the Websites, and the Convention itself.

The first phase of the Committee's work has been primarily one of discovery: understanding the concerns we face, where to find information and how to compile it, how to move forward with the work, and some specific areas in which to take action directly.

In order to guide our work, we have a Google Drive which all members can access. We now have a timeline spreadsheet and a project planning spreadsheet to track progress in each of the areas we were asked to address.

Elaine will break these down in terms of the Hiatus Committee Mandate.

Communications Group:

- Most members of the committee cited a lack of clear communications as a leading source of frustration when attempting to become volunteers with Arisia.
- Also, Arisia's external communications, both via email and social media are intermittent, and tend to go fallow except immediately around the convention.
- We would like to see a newsletter in some form established to maintain contact during the gap year.
- Rachael Linker will begin using Arisia social media to engage our audience more, both to ask questions and gather community feedback, and to promote gap year and other activities.

DEIA Group

- We believe this needs to be a standing committee.
- In the meantime, Swati is taking the lead within the Hiatus committee and has developed survey questions we plan to use to learn more about the concerns of affected members so that they can be better addressed.
- Access will also be a key consideration in planning both gap year events and should be incorporated into the hotel search.

Documentation Group:

- Tanya Washburn has offered to lead this effort; we are due for a progress report or check-in in mid-June.

Marketing/Promotions:

- We have developed a list of local conventions where it would be beneficial to have tables or another form of Arisia presence and flagged some as being of particular interest.
- Committee member Rob Allison created artwork we can use on a badge ribbon, and perhaps in other ways, to let people know that Arisia's gap year is meant as a time for working on improving our community, and help members of the community to join in our efforts.
- While we don't have much traction at the moment to gather at Readercon, now that the Readercon schedule is coming together, Swati and Elaine hope to have an informal meet-up, and if the ribbons are ready, they will wear and distribute them to attending Arisians to talk about what we're up to behind the scenes and invite community participation.

Social Activity: Gap Year Activity:

- We have a form and spreadsheet to gather gap year activity ideas, which already have several promising suggestions. Hopefully this will soon be on our social media as well.

Tech Debt:

- There were three areas to consider:
 - Art Show
 - Registration
 - The Websites
- We have started a spreadsheet for potential software solutions.
- The current Art Show system is not an effective system and must be replaced. Art Show would like a system that integrates with Registration and better enables communication with artists.
- Melia, Registration Division Head, is a strong proponent of keeping the current registration software, but we need better training, ideally before the con: we spoke of creating some training videos that volunteers could watch. Also, the user interface, the search box, is less clear than some other programs, but the developers are easy to work with and may be able to make this change, which would benefit other users as well. The program is more affordable than many comparable systems, but there are other alternatives. However, Melia points out that Civet, the current reg software, has many other functions that Arisia has not been using.
- This software can also handle Art Show jurying and communications, and may meet the needs of Art Show staff. Elaine would like to have it evaluated by Art Show staff. Is it possible that we already have the solution to the Art Show problem, with a program that many volunteers have worked with in some form in any case?
- Etana is convening a group of former Con Chairs to create a vision document about what the websites should have and do which can be used to evaluate proposed website solutions.

Volunteering Review Group:

- This is the largest area of concern. We anticipate that the LRP survey will help us to better understand the issues here. This survey is intended to be sent in June.
- We plan to convene an in-person working group to brainstorm around the flaws in the current volunteer system and develop some ideas to address them. This session would be relatively small, and probably held at the co-housing site in Cambridge in August, bringing together some members of the Committee, and some other Arisia volunteers locally. This would be the first of several sessions, expanding to include a wider group of the community. The next phase would include more members of the board as well as Division Heads and other long-time volunteers - working into the Leadership Group, which is one of the points on our mandate - then opening to bring in more volunteers and expand our embrace of the community.
- Etana has also reached out to several members of related committees within Arisia to discuss what an HR system for Arisia would look like and begin brainstorming such structures.
- When discussing our own frustrations with volunteering at Arisia, issues that have arisen in the past with volunteer structures both at Arisia and at other organizations, and general ideas about community building, we spoke of a need to create a new culture within this organization. The LRP results spoke of fannish gate-keeping, and we ourselves noted a tendency to be dismissive of new ideas, or for a long-time volunteer to carry on with a task because it's easier than either teaching someone or watching them either struggle or do it their own way. If we cannot nurture new volunteers, they won't stay - and we will continue to burn out the volunteers we have. If our community is to thrive, to be both strong and flexible, and gather new members to build into the future, we must acknowledge this need for change and be open to it.
- This will be a challenge, but it's one that we know can be overcome because this is the theme invested in the very substance that draws us all together to begin with. As one committee member pointed out, we've already got the metaphors we need to communicate. We're trying to create Star Fleet.

Elaine hopes everyone present will be among the first to sign on.

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 has had no change to its workload numbers since the May meeting.

There are 11 open Incident Reports:

- 7 from 2026
- 1 from 2025
- 3 from 2024

IT:

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

None.

Long Range Planning (LRP):

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

We have a survey! Tanya pulled it together primarily from the LRP Committee report. It is 6 questions long and available at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqIqjYP2shjXajkcZ01IS1TK109ZN4xBvcomt8n6UQHCAWqQ/viewform>. It will be rolled out publicly. Please respond by July 15. Rachael L. offered to share the link on social media. Rachel S. asked if we can start responding now, and we can. It's for the public, not just Arisia Corporate members. Will offered to announce the survey link on Discord, since he's the Chair of that Committee, and Tanya agreed.

Postmaster:

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

None.

Social:

Mike S.

None.

Student Contests:

(members needed)

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

A motion was made to enter into Committee of the Whole to discuss Incident Report (IR) #8 as reported at the May meeting by the subject of that IR. phi felt that the Committee of the Whole discussion would be harmful to the organization and not change anything, but that using

Robert's Rules to argue against it would also be harmful. Fred noted that people were presuming what would be discussed in Committee of the Whole and that no action was being proposed at the time. Wendee pointed out that we have discussed the situation previously and doing so was harmful enough then that people left the organization as a result, and that any subsequent conversation should be on record and maintain order. The subject said that at that time the points to be discussed hadn't been clear and that people left the organization because they didn't get what they wanted. Mike S. asked that we refrain from hostile statements. Wendee noted that the current discussion was taking place because someone didn't get what they wanted, and dredging up previous discussions would make things worse. Ilene pointed out that she herself had resigned in the aforementioned meeting, and was against going into Committee of the Whole now. Andrew Brockert moved to call the question. **MOTION PASSES.**

The subject of IRMC Motion #8 from the May 2026 meeting moved to enter into Committee of the Whole. **MOTION FAILS.**

A motion to overturn the decision of the EBoard regarding IRMC Motion #8 from the May 2026 meeting was brought by the subject of that Incident Report:

"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."

The subject pointed out that the thread from the Friends of Arisia Facebook group is gone and that other Arisia staff also behaved badly during the incident in question. They felt that the IR process should not be used to save people from hurt feelings.

Skip asked if this discussion had already taken place in February. Will noted that in February the membership voted in a way that indicated that the complaint against the volunteer should go through the IR process, and that has now taken place. Skip said he thought volunteer bans should be determined by Con Chairs, and doing otherwise might deter volunteers.

D.J. moved to call the question. **MOTION PASSES.**

phi asked for a secret ballot for the motion to overturn the decision of the EBoard regarding IRMC Motion #8 from the May 2026 meeting, and a vote was taken via secret ballot. **MOTION FAILS.**

The Corporation voted to set the October Corporate meeting date for **Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm over Zoom.**

Announcements:

- Jane Yolen, Guest of Honor at Arisia 2000, has passed away.
- House of Toast will be at Readercon on July 10 from 6-9 pm. A volunteer web page will be set up by the Toastmaster.
- Readercon will take place in Burlington, MA on July 9-12. Readercon focuses on books, writing, publishing, and every aspect of the written word. Mike S. noted that it is a good con for attendees and volunteers, and that they are looking for sound board operators, among other things. <https://readercon.org>
- AnthroCon will take place in Pittsburgh, PA from July 2-5. At least 4 Arisians are on the Art Show team alone! <https://www.anthrocon.org>
- Sally Woehrle, Chair of Sasquan 2025, passed away last Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Calendar

Corporate Meetings

- 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)
- Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Other Meetings and Events

Upcoming Conventions

- Anthrocon - July 2-5, 2026 - Pittsburgh, PA
- Readercon - July 9-12, 2026 - Boston Marriott Burlington - Burlington, MA

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

Membership List

This membership list is as of 6:00 PM ET on 6/12/2026. 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" Shectman (chair), Kelly Fabijanec
Corporate Communications (corpcomms@) Rachel Tanenhaus (chair), Justin du Coeur, Lenore Jean Jones, Rachael Linker, Alder Fehler
Corporate Inventory Control (cic@): Benjamin Levy, Skip Morris, Nicholas "phi" Shectman
Discord: Will McMain, (chair), Justin duCoeur, Jason Schneiderman, Andrew Brockert, Ken London
Fundraising - donations@: Nicholas "phi" Shectman (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" Shectman, 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" Shectman (Chair), Mike Tatroe
Location Search (no email address): Gail Terman (chair), Sol Houser
Long Range Planning (lrp@): Tanya Washburn (chair), Nicholas "phi" Shectman, Julia Austein, Henry Leong, Dan Toland
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 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