

**MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2023, BOARD MEETING
THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY
Meeting Held via Zoom**

Present (Via Zoom)

Officers/Directors — Liesl Schernthanner (president); Tom Henderson (treasurer); Joan Boothe (secretary)

Ex-Officio Officers — Jeff Rubin (newsletter); Richard Wolak (newsletter)

Directors — Guy Guthridge; Valmar Kuroi; Ron Thoreson; Stephen Wilson

Absent — Dale Anderson (on ice); Matthew Jordan (on ice); Charles Lagerbom; Mark Leinmiller; Michele Raney; Lesley Urasky

Guests — Trina Baldwin; Abib Barsoum; Eric Enig; Diane Hallett; Polly Penhale; Bill Spindler

President Liesl Schernthanner called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm EST and thanked all participants for being on the call.

Before beginning discussion of agenda items, Tom Henderson advised all meeting participants that he would be recording the meeting. This recording will *not* be posted on the Society website, but will be available to all board members.

Following this, Secretary Joan Boothe announced that sufficient directors were present to constitute a quorum as defined in the Society Bylaws.

The minutes of the most recent general Board meeting (December 4, 2022) and the special Board meeting of December 14 had been sent to all Officers and Directors in advance of this meeting.

Ron Thoreson moved, Stephen Wilson seconded, that the minutes of both these Board meetings be approved. Approved unanimously.

As per past practice, the approved minutes will be posted in the Members section of the Society website.

Liesl noted that several guests are present for this meeting, that it is good to have such membership involvement.

We then turned to the agenda, which had also been sent to all participants in advance of the meeting.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Liesl Schernthanner

Liesl noted that she has once again listed Antarctic Society accomplishments at the bottom of the agenda that have taken place since our December Board meeting. Listed items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Lecture: Matt McArthur on BGLE, Dec. 6, 2022 • Antarctic Social on Zoom, 12/10/2022 • January 2023 newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hero</i> artifacts moved across US, work ongoing • Communications with NZAS & OAEA • Active Facebook postings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website updates and Announcement of Gathering '24 plus gathering planning and meetings
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Several of these items are ongoing or in progress and are the subject of later topics on this meeting's agenda [SEE BELOW].

2. TREASURER'S REPORT — Tom Henderson

Tom opened his report noting that IRS form 990-N has been submitted as required to maintain our non-profit status. (A copy of the "postcard" report was sent to the Board in advance of this meeting). The requirement for financial reporting to the state of Vermont is biennial, so there is no need to submit it until next year.

Following this, Tom reviewed the projected report of Society income and expense for 2023 previously sent to the Board:

2023 Projected Income & Expenses

March 26, 2023

Income	Number	Rate	Income
Dues (electronic + hard copy)	175		\$3,850
Investment Income (div., cap gains)			\$3,000
Donations			\$5,000
Gathering Registrations	40	\$250.00	\$10,000
Gathering Lodging Payments	20	<u>\$262.00</u>	<u>\$5,240</u>
Total:			\$27,090
Expenses	Number	Rate	Expense
Admin. Costs			\$275
Newsletters Printing and Mailing	4	\$315.00	\$1,260
Google Gsuite	12	\$6.00	\$72
Zoom License			\$150
Website Security	12	\$5.00	\$60
Website Hosting	12	\$21.00	\$252
Domain Name Registration (10 yrs)			\$180
D&O Insurance			\$613
Hero Recovery Fund			\$385
Chautauqua Lodging Installments	1		<u>\$17,888</u>
Total:			\$21,135

Balance

\$5,955

Per these projections, the Society is in good shape financially through the end of 2023. The largest expense item here is the installment for Chautauqua lodging in connection with the 2024 Gathering. Our contract calls for a progress payment of the indicated amount in August 2023, which at that date is a bit more than the projected registration and lodge payments anticipated to be received as of that date.

Given the financial commitments we've made related to the Gathering, Guy Guthridge suggested that it might be a good idea to move forward aggressively publicizing the Gathering. Tom noted that there is now a major push on the website and that there will be a Gathering update in the next newsletter. The Gathering working group is aware of the need to let people know and encourage them to sign up.

Not covered in this projected income/expense statement is the situation with regard to our investments. Tom noted that because of the decline in the stock market, our Wellesley/Vanguard fund investment is down about \$4500 since its initiation in 2021. It is, however, continuing to generate dividends. Discussion ensued about possible alternative investment approaches. Ron Thoreson suggested that it might be useful to have a specific meeting to discuss this, that it's a big topic and can't be well covered in this Board meeting. In particular, it could be useful to have someone who is a financial expert included in the discussion. There was agreement re this, concluding with Liesl saying that there will be an upcoming Finance Committee meeting and Investment Strategy will be included as an agenda item.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE STATISTICS — Tom Henderson

Tom summed up the membership situation as headed in a positive/encouraging direction. Membership continues to grow. With regard to lapsed or about to be lapsed members, Tom will provide the Board with names of members in this situation so that Board members can contact such people and encourage them to remain members.

Website Statistics and Membership

January 1, 2023 – March 26, 2023

Website Statistics

Website Visits: 8,400 (21% increase from 2022)

Unique Visitors: 6,500 (23% increase from 2022; 81% from the U.S.)

Membership Statistics

375 Total Members

298 Electronic Members

77 Hard Copy Members

24 Non-U.S. Members

48 Members are currently lapsed

9 New Members in 2023

(Included in above numbers, 4 members approaching 6 months lapsed)

With regard to the question of electronic vs hard copy members, there has been little change. Tom reported, however, that nearly all new members opt for the electronic copy. All hard copy members are advised of the availability of the electronic copy when the newsletter comes out.

4. GATHERING 2024 — Tom Henderson

As of the date of this Board meeting, we have 24 reservations for the Gathering. Twelve of these 24 have reserved lodging at Chataqua. We have contracted for a total of 39 lodging units at Chataqua. Almost all of the less expensive lodging has now been taken. Tom urged the Board members to register now if planning to go to have the best choice of the remaining available lodging.

As had been raised briefly in the Treasurer's report, we discussed the need to encourage people to sign up early. Board members discussed ways of getting the word up beyond the Website and the Newsletter. Possibilities raised included Social Media, emails to Society Members, and "save the date" postcards.

With regard to speakers, Liesl said that none have been confirmed as yet, but she has a long list of possible speakers, including a number from the local area. Potential topics, as in past Gatherings, span a wide range.

5. APP DEVELOPMENT FOR ARCHIVES (Time Trek) — Tom Henderson

Tom brought the Board up to date on his activity re pursuing a re-activation of Time Trek, as well as other possible Apps for the website in connection with the Archives. At the December 2022 Board meeting, the Board approved establishing a free account with Amazon Web Services to work on Time Trek. Tom reported that this has been done, but he has not yet applied for grants to support the development work but intends to.

Another possibility for funding, Tom suggested, would be to create a project on crowdsourcing website Kickstarter. Tom described how this would work, providing details as to a possible monetary goal, what we would get out of it, indicating that he'd be willing to put in the time necessary. He emphasized that there are no fees required until a project reaches its goal. This led to a discussion, which concluded that while this might be a good idea, for the time being we should not give up on looking for grants, that moving to Kickstarter now was perhaps rusing things a bit. Liesl said that she would like to see a more concrete proposal re Kickstarter or alternatives and also re how we'd use money before asking for it, which could then be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Guy Guthridge asked if new features would be open to everyone or limited to members. Tom responded that the original Time Trek had been open to all website visitors, but it would be up to the Board as to access to the new application. This led to discussion of the wealth of information on the website available to visitors and to members, but that many members are not aware of it.

Valmar noted that doing any of this would seem to be loading more work on Tom and perhaps it would be good to have a committee of working group to look into the matter, get more people involved. This led to agreement on an action item, as follows:

It was agreed that a working group to develop the proposed Kickstarter project would be a good idea. Anyone interested in participating should contact Tom and he will then set up a meeting in April to discuss and establish a plan to bring before the Board at the next meeting.

6. OUTREACH — Liesl Schernthanner, on behalf of Matt Jordan

Liesl reported that there is no recent activity on this topic. We have not had a lecture so far this year, but she has possibilities coming up, but nothing has been confirmed as yet.

7. NEWSLETTER — Jeff Rubin

Jeff and Dick Wolak reported that they have ample material to use for the upcoming (April) newsletter. One item will be a follow-up on the NSF sexual harassment reports. Jeff will be writing a short item re this.

Jeff, supported in this by Dick, stressed that the Newsletter editors always welcome original material from any Society members. This is what makes the newsletter special, rather than just being a reporting of what can be found elsewhere. Re what's included in an issue, they always prioritize original and personal items from members.

There was a bit of discussion re particular possible items, people raising them will pursue.

8. ARCHIVES & HERO — Liesl Schernthanner for Charles Lagerbom

Liesl, on behalf of Charles, who was not able to be with us for this meeting, reported that there is on-going progress on the *Hero* project. Artifacts have been transported to Maine from Washington state and conversations with museums are underway. She said that Charles is very much on top of matters. Guy Guthridge helped him obtain early (1968) reports re the ship, information that could be included in future exhibits.

9. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION / PRIVACY POLICY — Liesl Schernthanner

No progress to report since there have been no committee meetings since the last Board meeting. Work will continue in future months and Liesl will set up a working group meeting to move forward.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 4:30 pm, EDT

ADJOURNMENT

Tom Henderson moved, Joan Boothe seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Boothe, Secretary
March 29, 2023