

MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2023, BOARD MEETING
THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY
Meeting Held via Zoom

Present (Via Zoom)

Officers/Directors — Liesl Schernthanner (President); Mark Leinmiller (Vice-President); Tom Henderson (Treasurer/webmaster); Joan Boothe (Secretary)

Ex-Officio Officers — Richard Wolak (Newsletter)

Directors — Dale Anderson; Guy Guthridge; Valmar Kurol; Michele Raney; Ron Thoreson; Stephen Wilson

Absent — Matthew Jordan (on ice); Charles Lagerbom; Jeff Rubin; Lesley Urasky

Guests — Trina Baldwin; Kirsten Carlson; Kathy Covert; Ben Koether; Gerald Schatz

President Liesl Schernthanner called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm EDT 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 (March 26, 2023) had been sent to all Officers and Directors in advance of this meeting.

*Ron Thoreson moved, Dale Anderson seconded, that
the minutes of the March Board meeting 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 that have taken place since our March Board meeting at the bottom of the agenda. Listed items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Podcast about South Pole life with Symphony Antarctica music by board Member Valmar Kurol: https://physics.aps.org/articles/v16/51 Communications with other organizations AWS Imagine Grant applied for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antarctic flag request by young student (we provided some swag) Site visits to Chautauqua by Tom and Kathy Website & Gathering24 updates (https://www.antarctican.org/2024-gathering) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April Newsletter Privacy Policy update <i>Hero</i> artifacts work ongoing Facebook postings (https://www.facebook.com/antarcticansociety)
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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 by presenting a table of Society Income and Expense, which had been sent to Board members in advance of this meeting:

2023 INCOME & EXPENSES (through June 24, 2023)

Income

Dues	\$4,334
Investment Income	\$515
Donations to Antarctic Society	\$1,459
Interest	\$9
2024 Gathering Registrations	\$12,160
2024 Gathering Lodging Reservations	\$12,791

Total: \$31,268

Expenses

Admin. Costs	\$1,020
Subscription Fees	\$66
Insurance	\$614
Other	\$9

Total: \$1,708

Total \$29,560

Tom noted that we are in good shape financially. The income in excess of \$31,000 so far this year, however, is an anomaly, since the majority is for advance monies received for lodging and reservations for the 2024 Gathering.

Tom then turned to his projection of income and expense for the balance of 2023, which had also been sent in advance to the Board:

Projected Non-Gathering Expenses Remainder of 2023

\$800	Admin. Costs
\$402	Subscription Fees
\$216	Website Costs

\$1,418 **Total**

Projected Non-Gathering Income Remainder of 2023

\$1,300	Dues Payments
\$5	Interest
\$515	Investment Dividend

\$1,815 **Total**

\$397 **Balance**

Tom noted that the most significant projected upcoming expense is connected to two more newsletters for the balance of the year. With regard to projected non-gathering income, Tom said that these numbers are very conservative. Actual numbers may be higher.

Tom concluded his presentation of financial statements with the current Balance sheet, also sent in advance to the Board:

BALANCE SHEET

June 24, 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

Bank Accounts

VFCU The Antartican Society	
Checking	\$23,223
Antartican Society Savings	\$28,935
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Total: Bank Accounts	\$52,158

Investment Accounts

Vanguard Wellesley Admiral Fund	\$60,733
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Total: Investment Accounts	\$60,733

Other Cash Accounts

PayPal Cash Account	\$0
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Total: Other Cash Accounts	\$0

Total Current Assets: \$112,891

CURRENT LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Gathering Lodging and Venue	\$20,469
Other (Hero Recovery)	\$385
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Total: Current Liabilities	\$20,854

Equity

Unrestricted Funds	\$87,373
Dr. Gary Hermalyn Fund	\$500
Ruth Siple Fund	\$4,164
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Total: Equity	\$92,037

Total Liabilities and Equity \$112,891

This Balance Sheet shows almost \$113,000 in assets, including 2024 Gathering income received to date. There is an offsetting liability to this.

Tom noted that the Dr. Gary Hermalyn Fund in the Equity listing is a new fund this year, reflecting a donation that is specifically to be used to process Dr. Hermalyn's audio and video materials donated to the Society Archives.

After reviewing the Balance sheet asset distribution, Tom proposed taking \$25 k of unrestricted funds and investing these in 26 week T-bills. He described his reasoning and the implications of doing so. Tom noted that he can set up an account with the US Treasury to do this, and as a non-profit, it will be very easy to move these funds. Following a brief discussion,

Michele Raney moved / Liesl Scherthanner seconded, approving investing \$25 K of unrestricted funds in 6 month T-bills. Approved unanimously.

Michele Raney asked with regard to our other investments, where we stand. Tom responded that we are a bit down due to the stock market decline, but that it had been decided at the past Board meeting to leave this investment in place.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE STATISTICS — Tom Henderson

Our membership situation continues its strong upward trend of the past several years, as do our website visit numbers.

WEBSITE STATISTICS AND MEMBERSHIP

January 1, 2023 – June 25, 2023

Website Statistics

Website Visits: 4,500 (21% increase from this date in 2022)

Unique Visitors: 3,500 (25% increase from this date in 2022, 72% from the U.S.)

Membership Statistics

382 Total Members

300 Electronic Members

82 Hard Copy Members

24 Non-U.S. Members

51 Members are currently lapsed

18 New Members in 2023

1 Old member rejoined in 2023

Members Approaching 6 Months Lapsed

List was distributed to Board prior to meeting.

With regard to lapsed or about to be lapsed members, Tom will continue to provide the Board with names of members in this situation so that Board members can contact such people and encourage them to remain members.

4. GATHERING 2024 — Tom Henderson

Work on planning/developing the 2024 Gathering is ongoing, with the Committee actively working. Tom reported that we currently have 57 people registered for the Gathering, with 37 lodging units reserved. Chautauqua has offered us 4 additional of the lower cost units. We have said yes, thank you, giving us a total of 45 units under contract. All the available units in the Columbine lodge have been taken as well as all the studio cottages. We have 7 1-bedroom cottages left available. Bottom line, the Antartican Society will be a big presence at Chautauqua.

With regard to speakers, at present 11 invited speakers have expressed interest, leaving us with two more spots to fill. The list of speakers will be posted on the website. We are currently asking speakers for their bios, but not titles of talks as yet.

The auction committee is lining up donations and Jeff Rubin has been recruited to repeat his outstanding 2022 Auctioneer role.

Alternatives are still being evaluated/considered for the final day of the Gathering.

Tom concluded his Gathering report by saying that he is “really pleased” with how things are moving along.

5. NEWSLETTER — Richard Wolak

Before discussion of the upcoming newsletter, Liesl led off by complementing the Newsletter team on the April newsletter, saying that it had been a really good one, with very nice diversity, input from a wide range of contributors, great content.

Dick then reviewed the upcoming July newsletter. He reminded everyone that the deadline for anything that people want to contribute is July 18.

There was a brief discussion of formatting (two column vs full page). Dick noted that he and Jeff are not planning any changes in the immediate future, but evolution is possible for the future. There’s no reason that we have to stay the same.

6. ARCHIVES — Liesl Schernthanner for Charles Lagerbom

Liesl reported that Charles continues to work on dealing with the *Hero* artifacts, which are now in Maine, discussions ongoing as to how they will be restored, displayed, etc. There was discussion of plans for the Maine Maritime Exhibit (in Bath). As an aside, we also briefly talked about some *Hero* history, including when and where the ship sank.

Stephen Wilson raised issues re *Hero* in the context of the work that Ben Koether has done on several ships in Fort Lauderdale that are polar region related, can be visited and/or sailed on. Youth groups and Sea Scouts have been involved.

7. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION — Liesl Schernthanner

A draft of the proposed Privacy Policy had been distributed to the Board earlier, resulting in a few comments received back. With these reflected in the version last sent to the Board for review, Liesl noted that it is important to now get this posted and in effect. After brief discussion, including Ron Thoreson's comment that it is "watertight and well written,"

Michele Raney moved, Joan Boothe seconded, that the policy as drafted be approved.

Approved unanimously

Liesl and the Board expressed their thanks to Michele Raney for the drafting and effort to move this forward, resulting in our now having this policy in place.

8. BOARD MEMBERSHIP STATUS — Liesl Schernthanner

Liesl reviewed our situation, noting that at present 15 of 16 voting seats on the Board are filled. Our next elections will be in September, and a call for nominations is now in order. Officer positions to be filled are voted on by the Board (not members). There will be a notice in the July newsletter inviting nominations, including self-nomination.

9. OPEN TOPICS — Liesl Schernthanner

A) Liesl briefly reviewed her recent communications with other organizations including OAEA and APS about areas of mutual interest.

B) Gerald Schatz (guest) shared links re issues relevant to marine sanctuaries within and beyond Antarctic Treaty jurisdiction:

Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, U.S. Dept. of State Public Notice 12110, 88 Fed. Reg. 41461 (June 26, 2023) <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-06-26/pdf/2023-13506.pdf>

U.N. Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction: <https://www.un.org/bbnj/>

Text: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N23/177/28/PDF/N2317728.pdf?OpenElement>

C) Ron Thoresen reminded the Board that he'd sent everyone material re the financial difficulties facing the New Zealand Antarctic Society. Discussion followed, including several comments that although their situation is of concern, we are in a quite different and stronger position — including the fact that they produce a glossy, expensive newsletter, whereas we do not.

D) Tom Henderson reported that he has applied for the Amazon Web Services grant for monies for Time Trek. The 1st round is in early July, If we pass that, we would move on to a more detailed application. We could also submit archival data and expand the

application. Tom cautioned that this is a very competitive situation and the odds are low that we will be successful.

E) Dale Anderson provided a link to the BBC Frozen Planet series, writing in Chat:

“Quick FYI regarding BBC’s recently released Frozen Planet II. Episode 4, was filmed at my research site at Lake Untersee in the Mountains of Queen Maud Land. Great underwater footage filmed by Hugh and Justin in McMurdo too. Here is a link to a “behind the scenes” online episode for those of you who might like to watch:
<https://youtube.be/aWudMOhER6g>.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 4:30 pm, EDT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Boothe, Secretary
June 30, 2023