

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 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** — Lesley Urasky (social media director); Richard Wolak (newsletter)

**Directors** — Guy Guthridge; Valmar Kurol; Stephen Wilson

**Absent** — Dale Anderson [on ice]; Matthew Jordan [on ice]; Charles Lagerbom; Mark Leinmiller; Michele Raney; Jeff Rubin; Ron Thoreson [submitted proxy votes via email];

**Guests** — Trina Baldwin; Bill Spindler

President Liesl Schernthanner called the meeting to order at 4:37 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 Board meeting (June 25, 2023) had been sent to all Officers and Directors in advance of this meeting.

*Tom Henderson moved, Guy Guthridge seconded, that The Minutes of the June meeting be approved.*

*Approved unanimously.*

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

The Board then turned to the agenda, sent to all participants in advance of the meeting.

**1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Liesl Schernthanner**

Liesl listed Antarctic Society actions/involvements that have taken place since the June Board meeting at the bottom of the agenda for today's meeting. Listed items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July Newsletter</li> <li>• Plaque, photo, and two 814-lb Baldt anchors from <i>Hero</i> presented to Sail Power and Steam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Virtual lecture scheduled Sept 28: Scott Base update (live on-ice)</li> <li>• Website &amp; Gathering24 updates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privacy Policy posed on website <a href="https://www.antarctican.org/privacy">https://www.antarctican.org/privacy</a></li> </ul>
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Museum of Rockland ME on July 29th	<a href="https://www.antarctican.org/2024-gathering">https://www.antarctican.org/2024-gathering</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archives/photo donations received</li> <li>Facebook postings <a href="https://www.facebook.com/antarcticansociety">https://www.facebook.com/antarcticansociety</a></li> </ul>
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## 2. TREASURER'S REPORT — Tom Henderson

Tom Henderson reported on the current state of Society finances, opening his report by saying that we remain healthy financially. He began with a review of our income and expense:

### 2023 Income & Expenses through September 15, 2023

#### Income

Dues	\$4,660
Investment Income	\$515
Donations to Antarctic Society	\$2,485
Interest	\$14
2024 Gathering Registrations	\$17,173
2024 Gathering Lodging Reservations	\$14,990

**Total:** \$39,837

#### Expenses

Admin. Costs	\$191
Newsletter Expenses	\$1,379
Subscription Fees	\$54
Website Expenses	\$220
Insurance	\$614
Other (postage reimbursement TH)	\$15
Colorado Chautauqua Payments (Gathering)	\$22,028

**Total:** \$24,501

**Net Total:** \$15,337

Looking at this Income & Expense report, Tom noted that we currently have substantial Gathering income, which we can anticipate will be matched with Gathering expense later. Re other income items of note, donations are up. Our largest expense item is the payment to Chautauqua, the September installment, which includes payment for shoulder days (reservations beyond four nights)..

**THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
September 15, 2023

**CURRENT ASSETS**

**Bank Accounts**

VFCU The Antartican Society	\$26,094
Checking	
Antarctican Society Savings	\$8,940
<b>Total: Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$35,034</b>

**Investment Accounts**

Vanguard Wellesley Admiral Fund	\$61,009
U.S. Treasury Bill	\$24,335
<b>Total: Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$85,344</b>

**Other Cash Accounts**

PayPal Cash Account	\$0
<b>Total: Other Cash Accounts</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Total Current Assets:** \$120,378

**CURRENT LIABILITIES AND  
EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

Gathering Lodging and Venue	\$27,090
Other (Hero Recovery)	\$385
<b>Total: Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$27,475</b>

**Equity**

Unrestricted Funds	\$88,239
Dr. Gary Hermalyn Fund	\$500
Ruth Siple Fund	\$4,164
<b>Total: Equity</b>	<b>\$92,903</b>

**Total Liabilities and Equity** \$120,378

Re the Balance sheet, as with the income & expense statement, we are in a healthy situation. We have not yet, however, received confirmation that checks sent to Chautauqua in August have been cashed. The result is that our true checking account balance is substantially overstated (as is the offsetting amount for unrestricted funds by the same amount). Tom is pursuing this. With regard to liabilities, the number for the Gathering costs is an estimate, but almost certainly very close. The small balance left in the *Hero* fund is an issue that Charles

will address. The Hermalyn Fund are monies donated to be used for preservation of Archives items.

Tom noted that he has received a question about what physical assets the Society has, over and above the financial ones listed in the Balance sheet. Valuation has not been placed on these assets, which are not included on the Balance sheet. Tom has now provided the Board a listing of such assets, including items in the archives, as of September 2023. See the appendix at the end of these minutes for this listing.

Rather than leaving Society funds in saving and checking bank account, not earning interest, Tom proposed that we purchase a \$10,000 6 month T-bill, using our saving account with the balance coming from the checking account. (Further monies in the checking account will be needed to cover the August Chautauqua check, which has not yet been cashed, as noted above.) Tom anticipates that we can expect further expenses of \$2,000 or so before year end. Thus there is there is adequate money for the T-bill.

*Joan Boothe moved, Liesl Schernthanner seconded, that the Society purchase a \$10,000 T-bill at the next opportunity.*

*Passed Unanimously (including proxy vote by email)*

Tom noted that our first T-bill purchased will mature in December. We discussed what should be done with the funds released, with general agreement that we do not need the funds at once. Given this, it would be appropriate to re-invest these funds. Should an unforeseen need for these funds emerge, T-bills are highly liquid, so there is virtually no risk.

*Joan Boothe moved, Stephen Wilson seconded, that the Treasurer be given authority to roll over T-bills when they mature, subject to his discretion and determination that the funds will not be needed immediately.*

*Passed Unanimously*

### **3. MEMBERSHIP AND WEBSITE STATISTICS — Tom Henderson**

#### **Website Statistics and Membership**

January 1, 2023 – September 15, 2023

#### **Website Statistics**

Website Visits: 6,500 (3% increase from 2022)

Unique Visitors: 5,000 (5% increase from 2022, 73% from the U.S.)

#### **Membership Statistics**

362 Total Members

284 Electronic Members

78 Hard Copy Members

23 Non-U.S. Members

26 Members are currently lapsed

## 21 New Members in 2023

[1 old member rejoined in 2023]

### Two Members Approaching 6 Months Lapsed

Tom reported that the membership total has declined since his last report because he has had to drop 16 members who did not renew. He noted that membership had benefitted from new members who joined following the Gathering last year, and we have not had the benefit of such a motivation for new members this year.

Following a question about upcoming plans, we discussed again promoting a Holiday Gift Membership program. There was general agreement that this would be a good thing to continue, with an announcement to the membership to be made just after Thanksgiving. We will once again have a certificate that Tom can send to giftees. Tom asked if anyone wanted to design a new certificate. There were no volunteers, though several said they liked the previously used certificate and would be happy to use that again.

The Website continues to get significant hits, still increasing, but now at a reduced rate. A brief discussion ensued re past use of the website by visitors looking for information of personal interest. Board members described several examples, including a Girl Scout using the website to track down other Girl Scouts who had had Antarctic involvement.

Valmar Kurol asked if we have similar data re visitation to our Facebook page. Social Media Director Lesley Urasky replied yes. We currently have 3.6 k followers and have received 3.4 k “likes.” There is no way to know if these interactions are from members, but given how high they are, this must be mostly non-members. In short, we have quite a following on Facebook, including a lot of non-US interaction. It was agreed that in the future, it would be useful to have reports re Facebook activity as well as the Website report.

Given that the Privacy Policy was approved at the last Board meeting and is now posted on the website, members can now choose to disclose contact information if they wish. We discussed whether this is happening. Members have been advised via the newsletter of this opportunity but there has, to date, been little response. It was suggested that there be another announcement re this. Tom said that he’ll add a note about this to his next general member email blast, the one reminding people of the September 28 Virtual Lecture by Matt Jordan.

## 4. GATHERING 2024 — Tom Henderson

- a. **Registration Numbers** — Tom reported that we now have 81 people officially registered with several more committed. The Gathering Committee has been discussing setting a registration limit of 110. The maximum permitted by the fire marshal on the main floor of the Grand Assembly Room, where we’ll be holding our meetings, is 100, but the balcony can hold a few more. (There is no extra cost for us to use the balcony.). If we are going to have a cut-off, we need to let people know soon.

Discussion of a possible registration cut-off limit ensued, including the fact that capacity limit is based on physical space and fire code, not some other reason. The point was made that some spouses/partners may be registered but will not be attending all, or even any, of the events/talks in the Assembly Room. We need to keep this in mind when considering

what a limit should be, but given this, it should be higher than the physical space capacity. Liesl suggested that we not officially cap numbers now, but could mention that there is a capacity issue, but not in a way to scare potential attendees.

Conclusion, hold off for now mentioning a cut-off number.

- b. Lodging Situation** — 41 of our contracted 45 Chautauqua lodging units have been reserved. Tom commented, if you plan to stay at Chautauqua and haven't yet signed on, now is the time. There may, however, be some additional flexibility. If we reach our full 45 unit booking, the committee plans to ask Chautauqua about availability of other units for our dates. If any exist, we will work with those asking for lodging to see if one or more of such units can be incorporated into our contract. Tom emphasized, this will only be done if the prospective registrant commits to reserving such unit.

The question was raised about status of a waitlist for units, which we did have briefly for the less expensive units. We do not have one at this point, but depending on how things develop, we may establish one.

- c. Speakers** — We have a tentative list of speakers, all of whom have indicated that they wish to speak. One slot is being held for a speaker from the contractor community. Liesl noted that several such people have been suggested, but the committee is holding off on finalizing the person at this point, waiting until the 2023-24 Austral summer is over.

There was discussion about the possible impact of a Contractor speaker on attendance, that whoever it is may result in additional local friends/colleagues wanting to attend.

- d. Auction** — The auction committee is still looking for items for the silent and live auctions. If you have items to contribute or have questions, Diana Logan and Kathy Covert are the contract people. [Contact: [Antarcticanauktion@gmail.com](mailto:Antarcticanauktion@gmail.com)]
- e. Tour and Picnic** — These events have been moved to the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). This is only a 10 minute (4 ½ mile) drive from Chautauqua, so we plan to have another “Need a Ride – Give a Ride” sign-up for transportation.
- f. Gathering Logo** — The Gathering Committee is working with the Antarctic Artists and Writers Consortium (AAWC), in particular Kirsten Carlson and Maris Wicks, to design a unique logo for this Gathering. This could be used for postcards, stickers, t-shirts, etc. They are doing this for us at no cost to us. Working with them on this is a great opportunity to develop a relationship with this group.

Tom concluded his Gathering report saying, that things are “shaping up nicely.”

## 5. NEWSLETTER — Richard Wolak

The October Newsletter is being put together, but the main news from Richard Wolak and Jeff Rubin, our newsletter co-editors, is that we have changed printers for our hardcopy edition. The decision to change will give us better time turnaround, as well as significantly less cost. Richards has found a printer who has quoted a net price including postage of \$2.75/copy, a substantial reduction from the almost \$5/copy we are currently incurring. Jeff and Richard will take care of mailing envelope preparation, folding, and stuffing.

## 6. ARCHIVES — Tom Henderson on behalf of Charles Lagerbom

Tom reported on a hugely significant donation coming to the Society from Karen Ronne Tupak. On the death of her father Finn Ronne and then her mother Edith (Jackie), she fell heir to all her parents' Antarctic documents and images from the many expeditions they participated in — Byrd II, USAS, RARE, Deep Freeze. In addition, her grandfather Martin Ronne was a member of both Amundsen's *Fram* expedition and Byrd I. She has been looking for a good home for all these for years. After much effort on her part, the Library of Congress has now agreed to take all the physical and digital items, including images and other items she had scanned. The digital archive includes approximately 34 k individual items (22-24 k images/photos) — an enormous historical resource. Ms. Tupak has chosen to donate the same digital files to the Antarctic Society that she is giving to the Library of Congress, wishing to make these available to the public through us. She will retain copyright.

The donation has already been made, with Charles Lagerbom having an original thumb drive with the digital content. All of this needs to be catalogued, a big step. This donation will be in addition to the 37 k images that we already have, scanned from Society members as part of our slide scanning service. With the Ronne addition, we'll have more than 60 k images.

In addition to images, there are other items of immense historical value, including scanned copies of Finn Ronne's diaries from Byrd II, USAS, and RARE, as well as Jackie Ronne's scanned diary from RARE. Karen has indicated that she wishes these to be made available to interested parties.

After Tom's description of donation, there was extended discussion on many related issues. We talked about making Society members — and others — aware of the donation. We'll have a significant announcement in the next newsletter.

Then Tom went on to a critical topic, that the question now facing us is need for financial support to make our archive available to the public. Extensive discussion followed re the importance of these items as a historical resource, the huge potential for the Society to be a source for historians and others. Guy Guthridge commented that he feels we have an "obligation" to make these materials as available as possible. Tom said that he's had discussions with our website designer. If we just look to create a platform to make images available, we're looking at a cost around \$10 k. If we added Time Trek with its info on events, geography, people, etc., that cost rises to \$20-25 k. This is serious money for the Society, but Tom wishes to continue his discussions with the developer. One question would be where to put it, if we go ahead. Tom suggested that Amazon Web Services is a good option, describing why.

More discussion followed re the value of making our material available, the possible costs and sources of funds. We could look for grants or perhaps use a method such as Kickstarter. We also talked about using a portion of Society funds for this purpose. It was noted that we currently have \$60 K in investments, with no specific purpose for these funds at present. The Ruth Siple fund is also a possible source. One possible benefit of using some of our own monies is that this could attract matching grant funds.

Liesl summed up much of this discussion by saying that we need to develop a proposal and put this forward. No specific action was taken following the discussion, leaving this an open item that needs to be pursued.

## 7. OFFICER ELECTIONS — Liesl Scherthanner

This Board Meeting constituted our official Annual Meeting, and all current officer terms are up. All the officers present on this call — President Liesl Scherthanner, Treasurer Tom Henderson, and Secretary Joan Boothe — have indicated that they are willing to continue in their positions. Kathy Covert has self-nominated for the Vice President role in place of retiring Mark Leinmiller.

*Stephen Wilson moved, Guy Guthridge seconded, that the Board re-elect the existing officers to new three year terms and Kathy Covert to a three-year term as Vice President*

*Passed Unanimously*

Note: this motion was passed unanimously by all Board members present, plus a proxy vote by Ron Thoreson received previously by email.

Following the election, Liesl Scherthanner reminded the Board and officers that all must be aware of the Conflict of Interest Policy and sign a statement to that effect. This is a requirement of our non-profit status. In addition, any committee members who are not Board Members or officers must also follow this requirement. Joan Boothe will send all Board members and officers copies of the Policy as well as the statement that they need to sign. Signed statements are to be returned to the Secretary (Joan) where they are retained by her.

## 8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, December 10, 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 6:08 pm, EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Boothe, Secretary  
September 18, 2023



## APPENDIX: PHYSICAL ASSET INVENTORY

Antarctic Society Physical Assets - September, 2023			
Category	Item	Custodian	Notes
Equipment:	Nikon Coolscan LS-9000 Slide Scanner	Tom Henderson	
	Nikon Coolscan ED-5000 Slide Scanner	Tom Henderson	
	Olympus DS-40 Portable Dictaphone	Tom Henderson	
	Western Digital External Hard Drives(2)	Tom Henderson	
	PayPal Zettle Credit Card Reader	Tom Henderson	
	32GB Flash Drive (1)	Tom Henderson	
	Baroque Utensils	Tom Henderson	2022 Gathering Picnic
Books	A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration	Tom Henderson	by Robert Headland
Supplies	Franked #10 Envelopes (300 +/-)	Tom Henderson	
	Blank CDs (90 +/-)	Tom Henderson	
	CD/DVD Paper Sleeves (400 +/-)	Tom Henderson	
	Blank DVDs (35 +/-)	Tom Henderson	
	32# 8.5" x11" Bond Paper (200 sheets +/-)	Tom Henderson	
	9" x12" Manilla Envelopes (60 +/-)	Tom Henderson	
Miscellaneous	AS South Pole Anniversary Medallions (8)	Tom Henderson	
	AS South Pole Anniversary Necklaces (1)	Tom Henderson	
	AS Maple Leaf Pins (4)	Tom Henderson	
	Antarctic Society Brochures (250 +/-)	Tom Henderson	
	6'x11' Antarctic Society Banner	Tom Henderson	
	Various Gathering Supplies	Tom Henderson	Name tag holders, name tags, lanyards, registration envelopes
Archive Materials	Various CDs and DVDs of Archival Material	Tom Henderson	Backups or original sources for photos, video
	Slide Collections	Tom Henderson	Ralph Lewis, Jim Burnham, Paul Dalrymple
	Photographs and Slides	Charles Lagerboom	John H Roscoe, 313 scanned slides, catalog, photos in protective album
	Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia	Tom Henderson	Gordon Cartwright Materials (4 boxes), Papers, books, maps, slides, photos, other memorabilia
	Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia	Charles Lagerboom	Kendall N Moulton collection: Antarctic Passport, scrapbook of clippings, postcards, philately, 529 scanned slides, album of German Antarctic exped 1981-82.
	Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia	Charles Lagerboom	Thomas Laudon collection of misc gear, philately, 2032 scanned images, negatives and photographs in protective albums
	Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia	Charles Lagerboom	Paul A Humpry collection: Publication Weatherwise 1958 IGY Issue, USS ATKA 1955 Cruise Book, Misc Gear
	Papers, Memorabilia	Charles Lagerboom	Paul C Dalrymple collection: Photographs/Scanned Images, books, publications, journals, papers, Misc.
	Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia	Charles Lagerboom	Kristen Larsen collection: 4 boxes to be sorted
	Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia	Charles Lagerboom	Arpad Toth Collection: 3244 scanned images, photos in protective sleeves, postcards, stickers, maps, papers, publications, books