

MINUTES  
BOARD MEETING, THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

July 17, 2016  
Home of Paul Dalrymple, Port Clyde, ME

Present: Tony Gow; Liesl Schernthanner; Paul Dalrymple; Joan Boothe; Tom Henderson; Guy Guthridge; Tony Meunier; Ronald Thoreson; Michele Raney; Lou Lanzarotti; Bob Rutford; Felise Llano

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM by society President Tony Gow

**Minutes of Prior Meeting**

Ron T. moved, Liesl seconded, that the minutes of the past meeting be accepted. Approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer Paul Dalrymple summarized the Society's current financial position, indicating that we have an account with the Camden National Bank that has approximately \$20,000 plus an account with Calvert Funds in Washington DC with \$50,000.

The 2016 meeting just concluded has cost approximately \$6,000, possibly a bit more. Donations by attendees have come to about \$2300. The Society paid for tents, chairs, porta potties. There was discussion about how appropriate it was for the Society to pay for the shortfall when donations do not cover costs, with general agreement that all members benefit from the meetings, whether or not they come. Thus it is appropriate for the Society to cover any shortfall.

Attendance at the meeting was 101, including spouses, partners, etc.

The shortfall would have been substantially greater without the help of many people. Paul D. noted in particular that the Belfast High School provided the screen for the Garage Theater; the audio system came from the Tenants Harbor American Legion. And many Society members and friends did yeoman work making things work, in particular, including but not only, Sally, Liesl, Michele, Paul, Tom.

Joan B moved, Ron T. seconded that Society funds be used to cover any shortfall for the 2016 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Paul noted that other than the meeting, the Society P&L is pretty much breakeven, and thus he noted that he was in favor of keeping dues at current levels.

Total current membership, per Tom H., is 362, including honorary members. Of these, 205 continue to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. [Paul M. noted that there had been 93 members in 1973, an increase that he attributed to the newsletter.]

We then turned to a discussion of the question of the situation of the Society re non-profit status. The board has approved applying for such status, but this had not been completed, thus we do not have 501-c-3 status. We discussed the ways such status would benefit the Society, largely a matter of taxes, making donations tax-deductible, and aid in obtaining insurance for the Society, which we do not currently have. Nothing, however, has been done. Bob Rutford volunteered to talk with Bill Merserve to see what can be done. He will also talk with Rob Flynt, who had earlier indicated a willingness to help in getting non-profit status.

Tony G. moved, Liesl L. seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Unanimously agreed.

### **Newsletter Comments**

Guy Guthridge noted that Tom Henderson has done a terrific job of archiving all the newsletters. There was a brief broader discussion re other Polar publications, in particular the *Antarctic Journal* and the *Antarctic Sun*.

### **Locale for Next Reunion — anticipated to be in 2018**

There was an extensive discussion of where the next reunion might be held, given the fact that Paul has indicated that 2016 will be the last one he wishes to host in Port Clyde.

Possible sites suggested / discussed included

- Bob Rutford suggesting Jackson Hole, possibly in September. He will check with the local chamber of commerce, geology connections . . . Will get back to Tony G.
- Felise L. has a place in Lakeland FL where she could host, possible for future, though would have to be in the winter
- Denver might be an option, especially given that Lockheed Martin is there, could help membership
- Steve Dibbern has suggested Virginia.

No decision was made

### **Social Media**

Leslie Urasky, who had indicated she would work on social media for us at the last board meeting, was not present to report, but she has established a Facebook page for us.

### **Membership Recruitment**

We had a general discussion of membership recruitment, including the issues around the question of getting younger members.

Social media is important.

Guy G. noted that two years ago we had agreed to have Lockheed Martin put our old newspapers on their website. This has not been done and we discussed the question.

Guy suggested that we now put all the newspapers on the public page on our website. Lou L. indicated that he'd thought we'd agreed to have all except those for the past two years on the public page, with the most recent issues be limited to members. Tom H. is handling this.

Liesl S. moved that we have a link available on our website to the newsletters, with those from the last year not included. Bob R. seconded, passed unanimously. – move to have link avail on our website to the newsletters, with last year not included except for members.

Joan B. asked what other organizations have links to our website, asking if we could do outreach to expand this. No action taken with regard to pursuing this.

Michele R. asked if we could develop a cell phone app, with a link to our website, perhaps make this available in an app store. Paul M. noted that if we want younger people to go to our website, we need an app. Liesl moved, Bob R. seconded that we have Tom H. investigate with the people working on redesign of our website what an app would involve. Approved unanimously.

## **Books**

Many Society members have collections of Antarctic (and other books) and have questions of what should happen to these in the future. We discussed this question of concern to many of us at some length. The question has come if up the Society would be interested in receiving such collections. Or should they go to Chip Lagerbom, who has a fantastic Antarctic library. Several suggested that maybe we should check with Chip first.

Michele R. suggested that in the future there may be people who want to do something other than give books to libraries, and perhaps if they have a few valuable books, they could be posted by the Society for sale. Perhaps Chip L. could be a Society book man, adding an option for our members, a way to dispose and a way to acquire books.

Tom H. moved that we discuss these matters with Lagerbom, including Michele's suggestion. Guy G. seconded. Approved unanimously.

## **Society Website**

Tom Henderson reported on the current status of the website and his efforts to update it. He noted that it has been eight years since he started on the website and there has been minimal change since then. Today, the original coding is not professional, especially with regard to security. Thus it is time to revisit the website, look into redoing it and having it done professionally. He has contacted a small website developer in Troy NY. He knows their work,

including re security, and has learned more about what it would take to make our website more up to date, easier to maintain, and more secure.

Tom passed out a summary cost sheet from the developer he has contacted.

The issues of concern re the current website

- Not up to date, re navigation
- When add content and/or make changes, have to go into the pages to rewrite to accommodate the changes, make sure all linked is up to date. This is difficult and time consuming and could be difficult for a new person to take over
  - Better content management tools are needed
  - Would be good to have it possible to allow (authorized) others to add content
- Biggest concerns are about security
  - Concerns re hackers, planting of malware, which then spreads to all visitors
  - Of potential visitors of concern, 2/3 from China, India, Russia
- When written, written in a language that at the time was a good foundation, but none of this has been updated
  - Are currently paying \$26/month for hosting website, more expensive because of the code being used. (Would be more were it not for a courtesy discount because Tom knows the president of the hosting org.)

Following Tom's description of the situation, discussion ensued. Guy G. commented that security issues along make a rewrite worthwhile. Tom indicated that once the new site is all designed, he would still manage things. His current quote has 55 hours of company time, with Tom working with them.

Bob R. moved that the board authorize Tom to negotiate a contract to redesign the website at the listed price. Ron T. seconded, approved unanimously.

Tom did indicate that is anyone wants to take over the website for him, he's happy to step aside. No one volunteered, but if anyone does want to take over in the future, it should be much easier following the rewrite.

Tom made clear that the quote does not include rewrite of Time Trek (which was Tom's pet project). That would be a separate item. It is a standalone item, plugged into the website, now up to 33,000 photos available, of which about 600 are on Time Trek.

Liesl S. asked if we could have a new page on the website that could have the photos that have already been scanned in. Tom said he would look into this.

Discussion of how to handle Time Trek development and a page on the website for photos will be topics for the next board meeting.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Tony G. has three more years as president (out of a 5-year term). It is assumed that he will be replaced by the Vice President
- Moki Kokoris, with the Polar Society website, is a person we should make an effort to get to know.
- Joan B., expressed thanks to Guy G. for the fine newsletter he is turning out.

### **Adjournment**

Bob R. moved, Paul D. seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimously approved. Meeting accordingly adjourned, at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Boothe, Secretary  
July 29, 2016