

# MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2022, BOARD MEETING THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY Meeting Held via Zoom

## Present (Via Zoom)

**Officers/Directors** — Liesl Schernthanner (president); Mark Leinmiller (vice-president); Tom Henderson (treasurer); Joan Boothe (secretary)

**Ex-Officio Officers** — Charles Lagerbom (archivist); Lesley Urasky (social media director); Richard Wolak (newsletter)

**Directors** — Guy Guthridge; Michele Raney; Ron Thoreson;

**Absent** — Dale Anderson; Matthew Jordan; Jeff Rubin (newsletter); Stephen Wilson

**Guests** — Boyd Allen; Trina Baldwin; Cathy Covert; Gerald Schatz

President Liesl Schernthanner called the meeting to order at 4:35 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 Board meeting (September 18, 2022) had been sent to all Officers and Directors in advance of this meeting.

*Tom Henderson moved, Mark Leinmiller seconded, that they 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 we had many guests present, saying 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 on the agenda that have taken place since our September Board meeting. Listed items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual Lecture: Lizzie Meek – 9/27</li> <li>• October newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering 24 planning meetings</li> <li>• Active Facebook postings, thank you!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Board members deployed south</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hero</i> progress</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Board position will remain so until next election (in 2023)</li> </ul>
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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].

Liesl reminded everyone of the upcoming Antartican Society "Social," on December 10 at 4 pm EST via Zoom.

## 2. TREASURER'S REPORT — Tom Henderson

Tom Henderson reported on the current state of Society finances, summarizing these as in good shape. See Balance Sheet below. We are down about 6% in the Vanguard fund, a reflection of the current state of the stock market.

### THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET

December 1, 2022

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS

##### Bank Accounts

VFCU The Antartican Society Checking	\$13,316
Antartican Society Savings	\$26,430
<b>Total: Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$39,746</b>

##### Investment Accounts

Vanguard Wellesley Admiral Fund	\$60,381
<b>Total: Investment Accounts</b>	<b>\$60,381</b>

##### Other Cash Accounts

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

**Total Current Assets** **\$100,127**

##### PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Computer/ Software	\$0
Office Equipment	\$0
Other	\$0
<b>Total: Property and Equipment</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Total: Property and Equipment** **\$0**

**OTHER ASSETS**

Other	\$0
Total: Other Assets	\$0

**Total: Other Assets** \$0

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**TOTAL ASSETS** \$100,127

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY****CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable	\$0
Prepaid Dues	\$0
Prepaid Expenses	\$0
Prepaid Registrations	\$0
Other (Hero Recovery)	\$7,185
Total: Current Liabilities	\$7,185

**LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Other	\$0
Total: Long Term Liabilities	\$0

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES** \$7,185

**EQUITY**

Unrestricted Funds	\$88,776
Ruth Siple Fund	\$4,166
Total: Equity	\$92,942

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**TOTAL EQUITY** \$92,942

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** \$100,127

Re the *Hero* recovery fund, although not listed as such, these are in effect restricted funds. No monies have been paid out as yet for this project, but it is anticipated that we will be using these monies in the near future.

Joan Boothe asked about the interest we are receiving on monies in our savings account. Tom responded that it is currently minimal. He will look into ways that this can be increased while still remaining fully liquid.

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

#### Website Statistics and Membership

January 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

##### Website Statistics

Website Visits: 7,600 (23% increase from 2021)

Unique Visitors: 5,900 (24% increase from 2021, 94% from the U.S.)

##### Membership Statistics

372 Total Members

293 Electronic Members

79 Hard Copy Members

23 Non-U.S. Members

21 Members are currently lapsed

**63** New Members in 2022

(Included in above numbers, members lapsed, < 6 months — 15; members lapsed > 6 Months — 6)

Tom noted that there has been a steady increase in both membership and website visits during 2022. We have 63 new members this year, an approximately 20% increase. Some of the new members have come as a result of visits to the website, others from finding out about us via Facebook. We have also gained from existing members talking about the Society and encouraging friends to join. We have no hard evidence that the Gathering led to people joining, but we do know of some cases indirectly.

Once again this year, we're encouraging members to give gift memberships. See Tom's notices about this. He noted that in the past, about 50% of those who receive gift memberships do renew.

Re lapsed members, Tom sends out notices.

### 4. GATHERING 2024 — Tom Henderson

Several months ago, following the September board meeting, a working group was formed to plan for a 2024 Gathering. A sub-group with members Guy Guthridge, Tom Henderson, and Kathy Covert (with Liesl Scherthanner also participating) has worked on the question of location. The group has done a great deal of research, going back to basic principles of what a Gathering is all about and what members want from one, using the 2020 Survey and the Post-Gathering 2022 Survey as the basis. Key elements emerging from these surveys:

- Members want socializing first of all, and secondly, good presentations
- Past Gatherings have been in unique settings such as Port Clyde and Burlington — places with character, that have something special about them
- And a consideration emerging from the surveys, which affects interest/ability to come, one-third of members live west of the Mississippi

From this, the planning group concluded that we should consider a location farther west. Colorado became the focus for the following reasons:

- Closer to the center of the country
- Has a major air travel hub (Denver)
- Front range is a hotbed of Antarctic science and support activity
- Offers spectacular settings
- 31 members live in Colorado (2<sup>nd</sup> most of any state)

The first choice for a backup would be to return to Burlington. But assuming that Colorado would be the choice, the group then looked at specific places there — for a Gathering that would take place in early August. The group focused on the Boulder area, considering UC/Boulder, NCAR, and Colorado Chautauqua. They settled on Chautauqua for the following reasons:

- Unique, historic setting
- Chautauqua campus is perfect for socializing
- Each lodging unit has kitchen or kitchenette
- Each lodging unit has a free parking space
- We can get discount on lodging — less expensive than hotels in the area during summer
- Has dining hall, store on campus

Costs (including taxes and fees) would be as follows

- Studio cottages - \$243/night
- 1-bedroom cottages - \$279/night
- 2-bedroom cottages - \$348/night
- Columbine Lodge Studios - \$171/night

NOTE: All these costs will increase as of January 1, 2023.

Tom concluded this part of the presentation saying that the Working Group recommends a Gathering at Colorado Chautauqua in early August 2024 — pending resolution of final questions.

Tom then went into more detail, beginning with the question of impending cost increases. If we wish to use this venue and get these prices, we will need to have a contract with Chautauqua by the end of 2022 — a contract that would involve a substantial deposit from us. The committee has scheduled a zoom meeting with Chautauqua on December 12, at which they hope to get questions answered.

Board discussion ensued, with a number of questions raised, some of which Tom was able to answer, others of which he said he would seek answers for on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Would there be others people at the site when we were there, including in the dining room? The answer is yes, this is a very popular place and is likely to be fully booked. How many beds are there in the various accommodations? Answer, each unit sleeps at least two people, and the large ones more. Would they honor the prices for days before and after our event if

people wish to have longer stays? We'll have to ask. Are there available accommodations for group meetings? Yes, several of varying sizes which can be reserved. We could reserve more than one for different purposes.

Can we have individual contracts? No for the period of the Gathering. There will have to be a single contract, the Society doing it all to get the discounts, paying monies up front which we would have to recover from our members when they sign up with us to attend the Gathering. For days before and after the contracted period, the subgroup will inquire further on December 12.

Tom noted that Colorado Chautauqua has a really good website with information on all the accommodations. He screen shared several of the images from the website, whose link is [Chautauqua.com/cottage-and-lodges](http://Chautauqua.com/cottage-and-lodges).

The group feels that this location fits our needs, though there are some limitations:

- We must pay upfront deposits for catering, venues, lodging
- Lodging for all attendees could run \$33,000
- One-third of total is due at the time we sign a contract (which would have to be before end of 2022 to get the current prices)
- Meeting space is limited to 125
- Parking is limited for those staying elsewhere
- Public transportation is available only on weekends

With regard to the 125 person limitation, recent gatherings had typically not seen more attendees than that. We could have a wait list. Transportation might be an issue.

Currently, the week of August 11-14, 2024, is available, but this is a time and place that is very popular.

Further discussion ensued re whether now is the time to approve going forward, especially given the large financial commitment that would be involved. Guy Guthridge noted that there is a huge difference between the proposed meeting and ones in the past, that this is a package deal and needs to be evaluated. Joan Boothe asked how many people we would base a contract on. Tom said that the planning assumption is 100. Ron Thoreson raised the issue of possible risks to having a meeting there arising from difficulties in the west in summer (fires, smoke), also altitude. This raised the question of what provision for "acts of god" there would be in a contract.

Guy Guthridge noted that there is much positive enthusiasm for people in the Boulder/Denver area for our having a Gathering there, with the potential for a lot of participatory enthusiasm.

Michele Raney encouraged all to send any questions about this proposal to Tom. But she went on to raise the issue of what's our tolerance for risk? Discussion ensued re what should be done to pursue this and then make a decision as to whether to move forward. Re risk, several noted the potential financial consequences, the need for a large early deposit. Ron Thoreson pointed out the potential impact on our liquidity/finances if we commit to this and then don't get significant early registrants.

The discussion concluded with two related motions:

- 1) *Michele Raney moved, Mark Leinmiller seconded: The Working Group should continue to pursue the possibility of a contract with Chautauqua, including seeking answers at the December 12 meeting to questions raised by the Board in this meeting or communicated to them subsequent to this meeting but before December 12. Following the meeting, a report with answers to questions should be sent to all Board members.*

*Passed Unanimously*

- 2) *Joan Boothe moved, Ron Thoreson seconded: Subsequent to the Board receiving the answers to questions, there will be a board meeting to consider the responses and if satisfactory, authorize dispersal of funds for a contract with Chautauqua. Such Board meeting to take place at some time up to December 18, but no later.*

*Passed unanimously*

## **5. HERO UPDATE — Charles Lagerbom**

Charles began his update by saying that there are a lot of good things happening now. Ballard Construction in Washougal WA has agreed to turn over salvaged items, including large pieces — the rudder, both anchors, propeller, chains, in all about three tons of materiel. All of this will be transported to Maine.

Charles has a place in Maine where students at a local technical high school will work on conservation of received items. These will then be transferred to to the Penobscot Marine Museum, which will be very happy to get the items with conservation work already done.

Guy Guthridge asked about the status of the “Builders Plate.” Charles repoded that there is not one.

As for timing, Charles anticipates that shipping will take place soon, perhaps before Christmas.

In addition to concern with the artifacts as such, Charles is working on a manuscript on the history and science of the *Hero*. He’s been working on this for quite some time, having been in contact with many people who have been involved with the vessel over the years. He’s also exploring the possibility of construction of a model of the ship.

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

There has not been much activity in recent months. Matt is about to deploy south, so things are on hold right now.

The next Virtual Lecture will be on December 6, subject BGLE.

## **7. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION / PRIVACY POLICY — Liesl Schernthanner**

No progress to report. Work will continue in future months.

## **8. NEWSLETTER — Richard Wolak**

The next Newsletter will be in January. Richard summarized the situation simply, saying that he has lots of material.

## **9. WEBSITE UPDATE – TIME TREK — Tom Henderson**

Tom reported on the status of the website application Time Trek, formerly on our website, now discontinued, but under consideration for resumption. He opened his report with a brief summary of background and status:

- Developed in 2009 by Amos Alubala
- Developed with ColdFusion and Google Earth Plugin
- Development cost \$4,800
- Google Earth Plugin discontinued in 2017
- Time Trek on our website discontinued in 2015 when our website updated and moved to a new host

Tom said that he continues to think this is a really good application for our Website. He then discussed/described its features, what it offered, what it could do, summarizing as follows:

- Covered 35,000+ Geographic Features (Antarctic Geographic Names Board)
- 1,500 Events (based on Robert Headland's chronology)
- 300+ Stations/camps
- 600+ images (from 32,000 in our archive)
- 20 people

Tom noted that all the data that was in the application when it was discontinued is still there. Thousands of hours had gone into creating this, most of it Tom's time. It was a huge investment made to create a relational database.

Troy Web has proposed bringing Time Trek back, a proposal that Tom described. They would do work on our application without a contract. They are ready and willing to do more for us if we can come up with some funding support. Tom suggests looking at Amazon Web Services, which he summarized:

- Has a discount program for nonprofits
  - AWS Storage Gateway — 100 GB Free (always)
  - AWS RDS – Database Support — 12 months free
  - Hosting for Applications
- AWS (Amazon Web Services) Promotional Credits
- AWS Activate Programs
  - Provides eligible startups with free tools, resources, and content



- Must be founded in last 10 years, have a website
- AWS IMAGINE Grants for Nonprofits
  - “Momentum to Modernize Award” — Projects may include application migration and optimization, net-new application development, data warehouse projects, infrastructure expansion and more
  - \$30,000 unrestricted, \$10,000 AWS credits

Tom described the above in a bit more detail, noting that this could be a substantial source of funding. Obtaining such grants can be very competitive, but Tom is willing to put time into doing it and compete. With regard to *ongoing* Time Trek costs should we resume it,

- Storage, database services, hosting could be \$50/month in AWS fees
- AWS credits could potentially offset much of the cost, but that’s not guaranteed
- Building out remaining Time Trek application would be an additional one-time expense

How would we pay for this? Tom summarized — Grants / donations / Society general funds. Tom recommended:

- We open a free AWS account
- Apply for an AWS IMAGINE grant and other nonprofit grants
- Contract with TWC for Images application development

*Tom Henderson moved, Ron Thoreson seconded, the Society should open a free AWS Account*

*Passed Unanimously*

There was limited following discussion. In this connection, Guy Guthridge noted that the NSF is funding digital map development and perhaps we could look into a possible link. Trina Baldwin asked about ownership of digital rights, including asking re this in connection with AWS. Tom responded re this that the Antarctic Society position on digital rights re photos in our archive is that they are provided to us for storage. We do not take the rights.

## **10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 4:30 pm, EDT

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Tom Henderson moved, Liesl Schernthanner seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm, EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Boothe, Secretary  
December 7, 2022