

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2021, 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 —Lesley Urasky (social media director); Richard Wolak

Directors —Steve Dibbern; Matthew Jordan; Valmar Kurol; Michele Raney; Ron Thoreson; Stephen Wilson

Absent — Dale Anderson; Charles Lagerbom (Archivist); Jeff Rubin (co-editor, newsletter); Guy Guthridge

Guests — Boyd Allen

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 would *not* be posted on the Society website, but would be available to any board members who request access.

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

The minutes of the most recent Board meeting (September 25, 2021) had been sent to all Officers and Directors along with the agenda for this meeting. Ron Thoreson moved, Tom Henderson seconded, that these minutes be approved. Approved unanimously.

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

1. TREASURER'S REPORT — Tom Henderson

Tom presented his treasurer's report to the group:

Antarctican Society Interim Financial Report

December 4, 2021

\$18,430.02	Antarctican Society Checking Account
4,252.60	2022 Gathering Registrations
4,151.28	Ruth Siple Fund
65,070.24	Vanguard Wellesley Income Admiral (VWIAIX)
\$91,904.14	Total

Michele Raney noted that for year end reporting, we will need a P&L and Balance Sheet report. She also commented that it would be best not to refer to the Gathering monies as a “restricted fund,” saying the nomenclature matters. This is also an issue with the Ruth Siple fund. Tom responded that he’ll change his way of referring to these separate funds.

Ron Thoreson asked about the situation with the Ruth Siple fund. Liesl has talked about this in the past, including her summary which she recently sent to all Board members. She suggested this fund can just continue as is until we are ready to do something with it in the future. There was a brief discussion about this fund, including Michele suggesting that we need to consider this, then make a recommendation. In the meantime, we’ll do as Liesl suggests and let it stay as is.

[The following item was addressed late in the meeting, but it is a financial matter] We have received a \$5,000 donation from the Bear Gulch Foundation, Rob Flint’s family. Tom contacted Rob’s wife with thanks. It was possible for this donation to be made because we are now a non-profit, a status that Rob worked on achieving in past years.

2. MEMBERSHIP UPDATE — Tom Henderson

Tom opened his membership update noting that Membership has held steady, with hardcopy members still approximately ¼ of all members

Antarctican Society Membership

December 4, 2021

240	Electronic Members
84	Hard Copy Members
—	
324	Total
16	New members in 2021 (also several lapsed members have rejoined)

He said that there are a large number of members whose membership will expire on December 31, including those who were given gift memberships last year. He raised the question of to contact last year’s gift givers to let them know that their gift recipients have not renewed.

Discussion ensued, in which several people noted that they like the personal touch of letting non-renewers know individually, rather than sending out automatic reminders. Tom said he would wait until January 1, then send out a list to Board members about gift membership recipients.

Joan Boothe suggested sending out an email to all members when it’s gift membership time reminding them of the opportunity and the season. Liesl responded that she’d draft such an email and send it on, attaching the membership announcement. She will do this as an Holiday message from the president. In addition to this, Liesl noted, Tom Henderson has proposed having a holiday Zoom gathering. This will take place on December 14 at 8 pm EST.

3. WEBSITE UPDATE — Tom Henderson

Tom reported that the only significant recent change to the website has been an update to the planning guide for the Gathering, especially with regard to lodging.

4. GATHERING GROUP — Tom Henderson

Tom reported that the Gathering Planning Group has been meeting regularly and working hard to get things in place. Michele Raney, one of the group, noted the need to ramp up publicity, get everyone in the Society and well as other informed. Her sense is that there are a number of members who have not yet caught on to what's coming up. It will be important to send out save the date postcards.

Tom urged people to think ahead NOW, especially with regard to reserving lodging.

Liesl, who is working on this with Guy Guthridge, reported on the **line-up of potential speakers**. She said that we have seven speaker slots and have seven people who have said they are interested in speaking.

Possible Keynote — Roberta Marinelli (Director of OPP)

Alan Campbell — possible re the scotch found in the Cape Royds Hut

Panel group — Charles Lagerbom / Richard Wolak / Joan Boothe / Steve Dibbern, to discuss Antarctica's earliest explorers, what their discoveries mean today

Guy Guthridge — talk about Admiral Byrd and his legacy

Tom Henderson — presentation on Gordon Cartwright (1st US Exchange scientist)

Kristen Carlson — artist and science communicator with a focus on sharing the beauty and wonder of the undersea world

Lisa Crocket — her work and father's influences

Others have been asked but not confirmed. Liesl raised the question of whether these people should be listed in the January newsletter. Discussion ensued. Was suggested that ok to say that these people are invited. In meantime, important to have backups.

Discussion re speakers became more general, including suggestions of other names. Joan Boothe commented that it would be great if we could keep the spirit of the Garage Theater alive, rather than making things shift to a more formal ambiance. Michele suggested one way to do this might be to have an open mike, with possible users being identified in advance.

Work on organizing a **Gathering auction** continues. Tom H reported that there has not yet been much response to a call for donations. He has reached out to John Akerson (Paul's daughter's ex-husband, father of Paul's grandchildren) who inherited Paul's house. He has offered a week stay at the Port Clyde house as an auction item. Charles said that he'd be meeting with John at the house close to Christmas. Another likely source is Rob Stephenson, who is culling things out in his book collection and is likely to donate something.

Has been decided that items remaining after the live auction will go into an on-line auction. Will also be a list of items on the bidding site made available before the gathering. Michele asked who would get to read that, suggesting that it should be restricted. Tom said they will have to look into that.

At the last Board meeting, was agreed that it would be ok to approach corporate donors for support for the Gathering. Such donors would received recognition and complimentary registration. Tom needs to develop a list of costs that donors could consider covering, e.g., say Donor/Corporation X covered the costs of the lunch. . . Michele said she felt we should not get too detailed or specific, rather have general categories.

We now have a generic logo for the Gathering. Tom will place an order for mugs using this before the gathering.

5. NEWSLETTER — Richard Wolak

Dick reported on the status of the Newsletter, which he and Jeff Rubin have now taken over from Guy Guthridge. Dick asked all to let him know of any space needs. He will call Tom H to get ideas for printers with good prices, so he will have that info when he goes to places local to him.

Ron T offered kudos to Dick and Jeff for the last newsletter, in particular the great science articles.

Matt J said he would reach out to New Zealand people with regard to the recent finding of *Terra Nova* and *Aurora* (Ross Sea Party) logbooks, perhaps got could something for the January newsletter.

6. OUTREACH/SOCIAL MEDIA — Matt Jordan & Lesley Urasky

Matt reported that a small supply of brochures has been sent to all Board members. Michele R suggested that it might be useful to get some to Antarctic cruise companies going south this year.

There has not been a committee meeting since August. The next will be in early January.

Matt will be going back to Scott Base in February and March following a Covid-related isolation period of two weeks. He will be able to have interaction with people from McMurdo and will take brochures with him.

Matt is building a relationship with US C-130 personnel in Christchurch, working on better contact, friendships — acting in his role of New Zealand Antarctica as well as the Antarctic Society. Steve Wilson commented on the history of his time in Christchurch in the 1950s, how wonderful and welcoming the New Zealanders were.

Lesley reported that there is an increase in the number of people who “like” our Facebook page, also in the number of people who are following it. “Likes” after we post are also up. The more we post, the more likely that people will join the society. If anyone has something they think might be interesting, worth posting, please send it to Lesley U / Joan B / or Matt J. The more we post, the better.

7. VIRTUAL GATHERINGS — Liesl Scherthanner

The last lecture — by Matt Jordan about the rebuilding of Scott Base — was in November. Liesl reported that the next lecture will take place on Feb 8, by James McClintock.

Looking beyond this, Liesl has been in touch with Anne Strathie, who will do a Zoom lecture in the spring.

8. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE — Liesl Schernthanner

Liesl reported that this committee has not done anything recently.

Michele noted that there are important matters to be dealt with for the future. She is particularly concerned with the privacy questions. In connection with this, she stressed that we are not and should not be posting contact information on the website. If a member or anyone else wants to contact a member, that person should contact Tom H. We recognize that as a non-profit, we need to have contact info, but doing this via Tom takes care to that. (Michele also noted what a great job Tom is doing on the financials). Tom said that following the holidays, he and the committee will work to finalize a privacy policy, to present to the board at the next meeting.

Liesl/Michele suggested adding language on the member list telling people that if they want to contact X person, get in touch with the webmaster. He will contact X and let him/her know that you want to be in contact.

Re Finance policy, much now runs through PayPal. Tom does copy checks, destroying the copies after a specific period. None of our financial information can be accessed by outsiders through electronic media.

Michele went on, if any of us have policies or procedures from other organizations that might be useful for us, please forward them to Michele so she can bring them to the F&A committee.

9. ARCHIVE UPDATE — Charles Lagerbom

Nothing new to report.

10. SPEAKERS BUREAU IDEA

Ron T. said that he'd be happy to talk with people about a speaker's bureau at the Gathering. He, Michele R., and Joan B. need to get together and discuss the idea.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Saturday, April 2, at 4:30 pm, EDT

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm, EST

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Boothe, Secretary
March 20, 2022