

ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting
Topaz Room, Westin San Diego Hotel
9:00AM – 12:00PM
November 23, 2014

Present: B.W. Ruffner, Richard Coffman, Raymond C. Ewing, Susan Ackerman, Sharon Herbert, Sheldon Fox, Beth Alpert Nakhai, Hanan Charaf, Laura Mazow, Steve Ortiz, Gary Arbino, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Jim Strange, Sheila Bishop, Vivian Bull, Joe Seger, Øystein LaBianca, Ed Wright, P.E. McAllister, Tim Harrison, Steve Dana, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Larry Geraty.

Guests: Matthew Adams, Peggy Duly, Andrew McCarthy, Barbara Porter, Selma Omerefendic (Assistant Director).

Absent: Sidnie White Crawford, Catherine Duff, Barry Gittlen, Rachel Hallote, Michael Hasel, W. Mark Lanier, Robert Massie, Orlyn Nelson, Robert Oden.

Call to Order by Chairman of the Board at 9:10 am.

BE IT RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion items:

1. Follow-up from the Syrian Heritage Initiative Breakfast (Susan Ackerman). A discussion ensued to evaluate the relationship of the Syrian Heritage Initiative, advocacy in general, and ASOR's Mission and Strategic Plan which is in effect through Dec 31 2015, and which states that ASOR should maintain the highest ethical standards...by participating actively in the ethical issues and public policy. Both CAP and the Cultural Heritage ad hoc Committee have roles to play in this discussion.
2. Remaining Issues of Concern: Ethics Working Group Guidelines on Professional Conduct (Lynn Swartz Dodd)

The Board directs the Executive Director to report on what other learned societies are doing regarding the use of ombudspersons in the adjudication of harassment reports.

The Board indicates its support for the process and mechanism of public input that were used to discuss the draft ethics policy on Friday, November 21, 2014.

3. Lapsed CAP Projects (Øystein LaBianca): CAP is working on a webpage to showcase the CAP affiliated projects and successfully completed projects.

Business items:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board approves the Minutes of the November 24, 2013 Board Meeting. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report (Richard Coffman)

For FY 2014, ASOR generated a slight gain of \$1624 in unrestricted assets available for operations (*i.e.*, unrestricted net income).

Richard Coffman answered the three key questions regarding ASOR's FY 2014 financial performance, to wit, as of June 30, 2014, (i) ASOR had approximately \$2.1 million in the bank, (ii) of the \$2.1 million, ASOR had \$475,000 of unrestricted cash available for operations, and (iii) ASOR's net worth (*i.e.*, net assets from all sources) increased by \$302,000 in FY 2014.

ASOR's FY 2014 investment results were solid once again. ASOR Fellowship Accounts generated a collective gain of \$101,054 (+18.7%), while the Endowment Accounts generated a collective gain of \$96,619 (+18.3%). By way of comparison, the S&P 500 was up 24.6% for the same twelve month period.

By way of an independent check on the investment performance of the ASOR Endowment Accounts, Sheldon Fox recently provided comparative endowment asset research data from a sample of foundations with average assets of approximately \$20 million each.

For the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014, the range of overall net returns for the foundations in the study was 8.9% - 22.1%. Factoring in the FY 2014 net contributions and quarterly withdrawals for the same 12-month period, the overall net return for the ASOR Endowment Accounts was 17.2%.

For the 36-month period ending June 30, 2014, the range of annualized returns for the foundations in the study was 5.7% - 11.5%. Factoring in the net contributions and quarterly withdrawals for the same 36-month period, the overall net return for the ASOR Endowment Accounts was 11.7%.

In short, the FY 2014 net investment performance of the ASOR Endowment Accounts is at the high end of the foundation study, and the performance of the Endowment Accounts for the past 36-month period is better than the best performing foundation in the study.

ASOR awarded 59 excavation scholarships and grants for the 2014 summer dig season—an all-time high. The goal for the 2015 summer dig season is to award 60+ excavation scholarships and grants. Since 2007, ASOR has awarded over 300 excavation scholarships and grants.

After the Spring Board meeting, ASOR was awarded the Syrian Heritage Initiative ("SHI") grant—which injected an additional \$600,000 into the FY15 Budget.

A Revised FY 2015 Budget incorporating the grant was presented as an exhibit to the Finance Committee report. An updated revised FY 2015 budget incorporating the recently awarded \$156,000 for work in Iraq will be presented at the Spring Board meeting.

The draft FY 2014 Form 990 was reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Journal Escrow Recommendation was also reviewed and discussed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD APPROVES the FY 2014 audited financial statements and supplemental information provided by the Finance Committee. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD approves the Finance Committee's Journal Escrow Recommendation to ensure that ASOR is able to fulfill its subscription obligations to members and subscribers. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD authorizes the Finance Committee to vet and select the audit firm for the FY 2015, 2016, and 2017 audits and tax returns. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

The Board commended ASOR's staff and Treasurer for the excellent letter that was from the external auditors and for work that they did this year.

5. Board Trustee Nominations Committee (Larry Geraty): Four candidates were elected at Membership meeting. Carol Meyers agreed to continue serving; Joe Green will be a new trustee taking Gary Arbino's position. Two new individual Trustees were elected: Rami Arav and Teddy Burgh.

Concerns were expressed about the need for a robust process to recruit Board members. Particular problems include: (1) the provision of candidates' names by staff to the Nominations Committee; (2) late start by the Nominations Committee despite a good calendar being in place from the past committee; (3) a concern that younger members may not be able to pay for two travels per year and also a \$500 donation so that we should be clear that all Board members commit to raising \$500 on behalf of the organization, which is not an impossible threshold. A commitment to TRY to do it was judged important to include in the Board recruitment effort.

Suggestion was made to add a junior scholar position on the board beginning in Fall. The Chair asks that the ED determine what Skype or conference call facilities would be available if some members were to participate remotely. ASOR has provided money for the CCC to meet and ASOR has a chairs support line item, so ASOR could budget some travel money for a junior scholar Board Member in the future years.

The Board directs the Nominating Committee to take note of the comments made here, and the Board will continue this discussion at the Spring Board Meeting.

6. Board Trustee Appointments (Susan Ackerman): We will add one Board designated Trustee next year to make it 4-4-4 class.

Nominations for Board Designated Trustees are:

- a. Peggy Duly: a native Californian with an interest in Anthropology and Archaeology who started at Pomona College. She had a career as a Research Associate in Clinical Chemistry lab at UCSD. She is a longtime supporter of projects. Her career not in Anthropology but her heart is in Anthropology.
- b. Susan Laden is serving as publisher of BAS. She was Herschel Shank's first employee and left in 1994 and for 10 years she worked for Equus magazine, published Baba Ga News (on Jewish values for 4th and 7th grade congregational market). She brings expertise in outreach and publishing to ASOR.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board elects PEGGY DULY to the ASOR Board of Trustees for a 3 year term as a Board-designated trustee.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board elects SUSAN LADEN to the ASOR Board of Trustees for a 3 year term as a Board-designated trustee

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board elects for another term on the Board of Trustees JOE D. SEGER and W. MARK LANIER.

7. Proposed By-Laws Emendation (Susan Ackerman)

Membership and Outreach committee want the Members' Meeting to be chaired by the ASOR President.

BE IT RESOLVED to adopt the change proposed to the bylaws proposed by the membership committee, so that the current By-laws shall be amended as follows: Article 2, Section 2, change "The Meetings shall be chaired by the chairperson of the Membership Committee" TO "The meetings shall be chaired by ASOR President."

8. Committee on Publications (Chuck Jones): Editorial Appointments have been proposed to the Board by COP.

BE IT RESOLVED to endorse the reappointment of Thomas Schneider for a second three-year term as editor of *Near Eastern Archaeology* (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017)

BE IT RESOLVED to endorse the reappointment of Kevin McGeough for a three-year term as editor of AASOR/Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017; renewable)

BE IT RESOLVED to endorse the appointment of Hanan Charaf for a three-year term as editor of ARS/Archaeological Reports Series (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017; renewable)

9. Committee Appointments (from the Chairs Nominating Committee of the Chairs Coordinating Council)

BE IT RESOLVED The Board approves the motion of the Chairs Coordinating Council that Chuck Jones serve a second three-year term as chair of the Committee on Publications (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017).

10. Other Business

The President gave an update about the plans of ASOR to make a public statement of support for the so-called Syrian Antiquities Act -- Preserve and Protect Act. Susan Ackerman has taken the prerogative to establish a committee on Cultural Heritage that will advise the President. She asked them to be prepared to advise on advocacy efforts re: HR 5703.

Reports:

11. Chair of the Board (B.W. Ruffner) suggests that he may be too busy to be an effective Chairperson and that we should look for another, perhaps more engaged, candidate.

12. AIAR (Matthew Adams): Almost 7 months since taking the directorship. Currently have 15 Stipended Fellows and 36 Associate Fellows. New crop of fellows selected yesterday promise to cover our broadest range of subjects, yet. Announcing new Lydie Shufro Summer Fellowship - 2 months. Soon to announce another 2-month fellowship. Announcing a new tradition: 4th of July BBQ for American Excavators and Friends. Everyone is invited. Working on a major audit of Albright finances, operations, and admin practices. Resulting in at least \$30k cut from annual institute expenses by the end of the year. Reinvested some of that savings into facilities clean-up and telecommunications upgrade (fiber optic connection; wireless; Google apps for business). Working on a Strategic Plan, which will include some major changes to the library in the coming year - based on results of a detailed library audit conducted by Dan Mack, Assoc. Dean of Libraries at University of Maryland. Major focus on electronic resources. Updating our online presences with new website with online store for contributions and sales of products and services. Finally the AIAR is currently pursuing several initiatives that Matt hopes will put the Albright in a better position to be the Overseas Research Center for both Israel and Palestine.

Ed Wright initiated a Board Welcome for Matt Adams.

13. CAARI (Raymond Ewing; then Andrew McCarthy) Ray Ewing was applauded for the W. F. Albright Award that he received at the members meeting on November 20, 2014. The rest of report was given by Andrew McCarthy. New director of CAORC Chris Tuttle represents an archaeological perspective. Andrew McCarthy welcomes advice and help from sister organizations as they build and expand a library in a historic building. CAARI

has a full complement of fellows and programs for the coming year. In addition to the fellowships, there are two Cyprus scholars. Encourage people to apply to CAARI!

14. ACOR (Barbara Porter): Glenn Corbett is now in Chris Tuttle's previous position. ACOR signed USAID \$4million grant for specific cultural resource management activities. The Director of Jordanian Antiquities attended the 2014 ASOR Annual Meeting and participated in a session of Jordanian dig directors. Great scholars are coming to ACOR this year. Hanan Charaf is coming as a CAORC multi-country scholar. Thanks to P. E. McAllister for funding the Directors' Exchange: Matt Adams is coming in late January to Jordan. Barbara Porter will not attend the April Board Meeting. Visit ACOR's refreshed website. Like us on Facebook.
15. Andy Vaughn reported that the April 2015 meeting will be held in Houston at the Lanier Theological Library.
16. Memorial Moment (Susan Ackerman): We remember the members and friends of ASOR who we have lost this year. Roger Anderson, Naomi Arav, David Dorsey, Shuka Dorfman, Yuval Peleg, Klaus Schmidt, Karen Seger, G. R. H. Wright.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:53pm