



**ASOR Board of Trustees Fall Meeting
November 19, 2023, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM CST
Chicago, IL Hilton (Waldorf, 3rd Floor)**

Present: Susan Ackerman, Emily Miller Bonney, Alex Brooks, Sarah Costello, Lindy Crewe, Erin Darby, JP Dessel, Lynn Dodd, Jane DeRose Evans, Sheldon Fox, Jamie Fraser, Kate Grossman, Michael Hasel, Sharon Herbert, Chuck Jones, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Carol Meyers, Eric Meyers, Bob Mullins, Ann Sahlman, Nancy Serwint, Carolyn Strange, Jason Ur, Andy Vaughn.

Guests: Solange Ashby, Ricardo St. Hilaire, Kiersten Neumann, Marta Ostovich, Britta Abeln

Absent: Lisa Ackerman, Teddy Burgh, Margaret Cohen, Randy Helm, Melissa Kutner, Mark Lanier, Alex MacAllister, Joe Seger

Preliminary Matters (8:30–8:45)

1. Call to Order (Sheldon Fox)
2. Approval of Agenda (Sheldon Fox)
3. Approval of the Minutes from the Spring 2023 Board Meeting (Sheldon Fox)

Carolyn moved. Chuck seconded. Unanimously approved.

Elections (8:45–9:15)

1. Emily Miller Bonney to a second term as Treasurer (3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Ann moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee that Emily Miller Bonney be reelected as ASOR Treasurer for a second 3-year term (January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Unanimously approved.

2. Life Trustees (Sharon Herbert)
 - a. Carol Meyers

Chuck moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and elects Carol Meyers to the Board as a Life Trustee.
One recusal (Eric). All other in favor.

3. Board Elected Trustees (Sharon Herbert)
 - a. Solange Ashby (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Sarah moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and elects Solange Ashby to the Board of Trustees for an initial 3-year term (January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Unanimously approved.

- b. Ricardo St. Hilaire (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Jane moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and elects Ricardo St. Hilaire to the Board of Trustees to an initial 3-year term (January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Unanimously approved.

- c. Mark Lanier (fifth 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Sarah moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and elects Mark Lanier to the Board of Trustees to a fifth 3-year term (January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Unanimously approved.

4. Elected Institutional Representatives (Kate Grossman)
 - a. Jason Ur (second 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)
 - b. Eric Cline (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)
5. Member Elected Trustees (Kate Grossman)
 - a. Theodore Burgh (fourth 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)
 - b. Kiersten Neumann (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Sheldon recognized the work of Kate Grossman in this year's election.

6. New CCC chairs (Chuck Jones)
Chuck spoke about the process for nominating chairs
 - a. Co-chair for DEI Julia Troche (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Carol moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendations of the Executive Committee and the CCC, and elects Julia Troche co-chair of ASOR's DEI committee, for an initial 3-year term (January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Unanimously approved.

- b. Chair for CAP Georgia Andreou (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Kate moved.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accepts the recommendations of the Executive Committee and the CCC, and elects Georgia Andreou chair of the Committee on Archaeological Research and Policy, for an initial 3-year term (January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026).

Unanimously approved.

Financial Matters Part 1 (9:15-10:00)

1. Treasurer's Report (Emily Miller Bonney)

Emily presented a positive report with the presented budget to actual. Assets up by \$1 million based on strong return on investments and generous donors. Audit shows net assets are up by \$164,000 from last year; cash we can use to fund programming. Other asset growth reflect improvement in restricted and Board-designated funds. ASOR is in a good financial state. It is nice to steady improvement.

2. Discussion of Budget to Actual (Exhibit A), Notes to Budget to Actual (Exhibit G), Net Investment Report (Exhibit C), and Audited Financials for FY2023 (Andy Vaughn)

3. Finance Committee Action Items (Emily Miller Bonney and Andy Vaughn)

- a. Action: vote to receive audited financials

Chuck moved.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, receives the audited financials submitted by the Romeo and Wiggins (ASOR's external auditors).

Unanimously approved.

- b. Action Item: Motion to Establish Thomas/Bishop Endowment (see language in Exhibit E)

Sarah moved.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, establishes the Thomas/Bishop endowment as outlined in Exhibit E.

Unanimously approved.

- c. Action Item: Motion to amend Investment and Spending Policy (see Exhibit D)

Carolyn moved.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, amends the Investment and Spending Policy as outlined in Exhibit D to include the Thomas/Bishop endowment.

Unanimously approved.

- d. Action Item: Motion to approve Policies and Procedures as forwarded from Finance Committee (see Exhibit F)

Andy noted that the need better to articulate our policies and procedures came about as part of our federal grants. Policies need to be approved by the Board (already done). Procedures describe how we do things. The policies are public on our website; and the procedures are available, but not published on ASOR website. This document (Policies and Procedures) requires annual review by the Finance Committee (but not the Board) and will updated each spring. Policies continue to require Board approval; procedures do not require Board approval and will be reviewed by the Finance Committee each Spring.

Sarah moved.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee and, on recommendation of the Finance Committee, approves the Policies and Procedures as forwarded from the Finance Committee (Exhibit F)

Unanimously approved.

Andy and Carolyn recognized Britta's work in putting this document together.

There was discussion of ASOR's "rainy day" fund.

ASOR 2025 and Development (10:00–10:15) (Lynn Swartz Dodd and Sheldon Fox)

Lynn thanked the Board and provided a report on FY23 giving, an update on the current fiscal year, and the ASOR 2025 Initiative (case statement available online). She also thanked the Development Committee members for their hard work.

Annual Fund: The FY23 goal was surpassed: \$125K was goal and we were \$12K over it. Lynn recognized the hard work of Andy and the ASOR staff. 465 members gave to ASOR last fiscal year, which shows that people believe in the work ASOR is doing.

FY24: So far, more than half of officers and a good number of trustees have given to Annual Fund (\$73,963.50 total). There are also \$230K in pledges (not just AF).

In the midst of times of unrest, Lynn acknowledged those who continue to give to ASOR and see the good work happening. She noted the importance of work in North Africa and fieldwork opportunities for students. ASOR also has a solid foundation of named funds and provided 43 fieldwork scholarships. March Madness this year was dedicated to the Annual Meeting, and this is reflected in the number of younger people at the conference. Lynn recognized Carolyn and Ann's efforts in hosting the Hansberry Society, and we are excited to have the Hansberry Society members involved with ASOR. The Legacy Circle & Friends dinner was a success. The Legacy Circle has reached the goal of 40 members.

ASOR 2025: 2025 is ASOR's 125th birthday. This goal of this fundraising initiative is \$5 million to provision ASOR for the future.

Sheldon mentioned the appeal that went out this fall. He explained the mailing and different pledge forms. The blue form is a multi-year pledge. He encouraged membership in Legacy Circle; these gifts are part of ASOR 2025 if they are quantified. He asked Board members to think about this before the Spring Board meeting.

Break (10:15–10:30)

Committee Reports, Reports from Overseas Research Centers, and Discussion/Action Items (10:30–11:15)

Based on Executive Committee discussion on 11/17, items 4, 5, and 6 are included for consideration with a request for feedback from Trustees. No action will be taken at this meeting.

1. CCC Activities (Chuck Jones)

Chuck was pleased to be able to attend almost all of the committee meetings at the Annual Meeting. He noted the work behind putting together this hybrid meeting. Chuck acknowledged the hard work committees (particularly ECS and DEI) and also the ASOR staff. He commented on the growth of the committees and service of committee members.

2. Publications (Chuck Jones)

- a. Reappointment of *BASOR* Editors (second 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)

Carol moved.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and with the recommendation of the Committee on Publications and as well as the unanimous endorsement of the Chairs Coordinating Council, reappoint Susan Cohen, Marwan Kilani, Jana Mynářová, and

Regine Pruzsinszky to a second three-year term as editors of *BASOR*, to run January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

Unanimously approved.

- b. Appointment of *JCS* Editors (initial 3-year term January 1, 2024–December 31, 2026)
Chuck noted that this is big change from the years of service in this role by Piotr Michalowski. These new editors are all outstanding scholars. One of the new editors, Seth Richardson, has been Editor of *JNES* and knows UCP system.

Carol moved.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Board accepts the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and with the recommendation of the Committee on Publications and the Baghdad Committee as well as the unanimous endorsement of the Chairs Coordinating Council, recommends that the Board appoint Seth Richardson, Petra Goedegebuure, and Paul Delnero to a three-year term as the editors of *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, to run January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

Unanimously approved.

3. CHI activities (Jane DeRose Evans and Andy Vaughn)

Jane reported that this has been a very active year. The committee is helping with Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) letters. She encouraged people working in the area to write to CPAC to support this effort. The committee is advising Andy on the types of grants for CHI work and has formed a subcommittee to help with this. The committee is also working on a job description for a grants manager.

Nancy asked about how the CH session went and the size of the committee.

Susan asked about the MOUs. Kate spoke about MOUs and the fact that there are other forces pushing back. Volume matters and it is important. Lindy agreed and noted the importance of participation by US scholars.

Solange asked about the situation in Sudan, and suggested collaboration with AMSAR.

Sheldon commended the work of the committees who produced ad hoc reports on Governance and on How to deal with contested territories in ASOR's publications and meeting presentations, and also the DEI Committee's land acknowledgment report. Please read these reports and offer feedback. These will be discussed in February Executive Committee meeting.

Break 10:00-10:20

4. Ad Hoc Committee on Contested territories language (Sharon Herbert)
5. Ad Hoc Committee on Governance (Emily Miller Bonney and Sharon Herbert)

10:20

Sheldon and Sharon would like to return to discussions of the Land Acknowledgement statement. (Deferred from above.) Sharon also spoke to increasing staff and Andy and Lynn acknowledged the work of current staff.

6. DEI Land acknowledgement statement (Erin Darby and Sharon Herbert)

Sharon recognized the work by DEI committee in their research on land acknowledgments as well as the report submitted by the committee.

Erin stated that this is not the year to roll out the land acknowledgement. The committee is focused on North America and asked the Board and committee chairs to consider the document prepared by the DEI Committee. The EC will discuss rigorously in February and bring actionable items to the May meeting.

There was discussion of land acknowledgements including responses from the descendants of indigenous communities, and what is done in Canada. There were concerns about how land acknowledgement would impact ASOR's work in the Levant and other areas with contested territories, and whether land acknowledgements misrepresent how people interacted with landscapes in the past (fossilizing a community and concretizing particular moments in the past).

Erin noted that a land acknowledgement is but one way of thinking about how we engage with descendant communities. Other options include educational initiatives and other ways of engaging.

Sharon acknowledged that the DEI committee did a great thing by starting this conversation

7. News from AIAR (Jamie Fraser)

Jamie started with the Albright on October 11. There is also a New Assistant Director, Michael Johnson, who had previously been the Program Coordinator and also a Fellow. Michael's wife Emily is the AIAR librarian. There are 12 total staff—9 local staff who are full time and 3 part time. Staff have been able to respond rapidly to the situation. After October 7, the Albright was on lock down, all residents and fellows were evacuated, and staff stayed home. After 10 days, people were able to return to work. AIAR has now resumed normal operations.

Jamie shared personal stories of staff and fellows at the Albright.

Kate asked about support for staff who cannot make it to the center. Jamie reported that the finance manager works from home in West Bank. The chef, Hishram, cannot work remotely, but is being paid.

8. News from CAARI (Lindy Crewe)

Lindy reported that the CAARI residence and library are operating at full capacity. Refurbishments to building have been a major expense. While fuel and electrical costs are high and hostel prices have risen, it is still affordable for students. CAARI has resumed offering a special rate (10% discount) for ASOR members. Fellowships are currently open. The treasurer's report shows the budget to be over in both spending and income, so balanced. The in-person and virtual lecture series continues. Archaeological workshop (25 papers) last summer. US Embassy fellowships for research, outreach, and exchange. Continue to work with local orgs. Exhibition at Cyprus museum. Attended CAORC directors meeting; met for 1 week in Senegal.

Sheldon announced that the Spring Board Meeting will be May 4-5, 2024 in Alexandria, VA. The meeting is in person, on recommendation of Development Committee while ASOR 2025 is ongoing. There are some funds available if trustees have budgetary needs.

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Board of Trustees Members

Sharon acknowledged the service of outgoing Board members, Pearce Paul Creasman, Melissa Kutner, Sue Laden, and Tim Potts, and the service of Peggy Duly before her untimely death in August 2023.

Andy drew attention to the Donor Impact packets showing the impacts of ASOR fellowships and grants.

Sheldon suggested moving to executive session for upcoming discussion. Sheldon explained what an executive session is and how it works.

Jane moved to go into Executive Session; Emily seconded.

10:55am: The ASOR Board of Trustees entered executive session.

11:47am: The Board left Executive Session.

Sheldon thanked all of the Trustees, the ASOR Staff, President and Executive Director.

Andy and Carolyn thanked Sheldon.

Carol moved, Alex seconded.

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASOR Board wants to thank the ASOR Team (Arlene, Jared, Marta, Katherine, Britta, and ASOR interns and volunteers) and the Program Committee.

Unanimously approved.

11:51am: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie Knoblauch, with assistance from Marta Ostovich