

Minutes of the All Star I Fall Governance Council Meeting
Saturday, October 21, 2017
The Guest House at Chester, Connecticut

Present: Larry Yermack, Elizabeth Yermack, Tom Griffiths, David Yermack, Jenny Easter Nelson, Sally Easter Jr., Hal Basdekis, Val Basdekis, Scott Stewart, Ann Etter, Annie Stewart, Lois Williams, Deb Weiner Soule, Ben Soule, Jeff Loewer, Tom Walton, Deb Walton, David Osgood, Carla Osgood, Keith Knox, Dale Stewart, Jane Trudeau, Jan Prochaska, Jim Prochaska and Tricia Coleman

Remote Participants: Dennis O'Keefe, Judy O'Keefe and Tom Coleman

Observers: Matthew Cohen, Michele Cohen, Jill Loewer

Opening Words: "Advice From a Pumpkin," read by Jenny Easter Nelson.

Call To Order: Ben Soule, Convener of the All Star I (ASI) Executive Committee, called ASI Fall Governance Council Meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., noting that this was the 75th year for the All Star I Conference. Ben thanked Jeff Loewer for making this the first ASI Governance Council meeting to be made available remotely through Zoom.

Acceptance of Reports in Attachments A – J and Attachment N:

Ben announced discussion of Attachments A through G and Attachment N –

- A and B. October 2016 and July 2017 Governance Council Minutes (Mary Trudeau),
- C. Children's Program and Planning Report (Deb and Tom Walton),
- D. Registrar Report (Susan O'Loughlin),
- E. Financial Aid Report (Caroline Quijada),
- G. Star Island Annual Fund Report (Cory Easter),
- N. Council of Conferences Report (Lisa Gresser)

The Registrar's Report was commended for its inclusion of historic data and its table of age-group demographics. In response to a question about the Children's Program, Deb Walton said that each member of the Children's Staff was background-checked for SORI in 2017 and in 2018 will be background-checked for SORI and CORI (SORI is the Sex Offender Registry and CORI is the Criminal Offender Registry).

Ben announced discussion of Attachment H – Treasurer' Report and 2018 Budget. In response to questions, Ann referenced her report showing \$49,020.88 in the ASI account, including a Financial Aid Fund balance of \$19,358.70 – noting that we are comfortably within our Operating Reserve of \$17,000 and a Financial Aid Reserve of \$3,000. Tom Walton pointed out that Children's Staff expenses for Volunteer Accommodations will be higher in 2018.

Ann also noted that the 2018 Budget is a "deficit budget," in part because of budgeting for 2018 Auction receipts more in line with pre-2017 Auctions (in

contrast to the unusually successful 2017 Auction), and in part because the ASI fiscal year of October 1 to September 30 has us making the Annual Fund contribution after the fall Governance Council meeting and thus in the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the Auction takes place. There had been a \$20,000 surplus in 2017, but with a \$7,000 shortfall in 2016, the 2017 Budget shows a Net Income of about \$11,000.

Ben called for acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to accept the Treasurer's Report (part of Attachment H).

Ben announced discussion of 2018 Budget. There was considerable discussion of Ann's recommendation that, based on an Auction income of \$20,629 (as listed in the 2017 Budget), the ASI 2017 gift to the Star Island Corporation Annual Fund be \$20,000 (as listed in the 2018 Budget). There was general agreement about the \$20,000 total, but Larry suggested giving part of the money to the SIC Annual Fund and part to the SIC Permanent Trust. Jim Prochaska moved that ASI give \$5,000 to the SIC Annual Fund and \$15,000 to the SIC Individual Financial Grants Fund. Tom Griffith spoke against "designated gifts," and Tom Coleman explained that SIC allocated \$30,000 for financial aid through an allocation formula designed to increase the amount toward the end of the summer should it be necessary. Jim withdrew his motion.

Ben called for approval of the Treasurer's proposed 2018 Budget. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to approve the 2018 Budget.

Ben called for ratification of Attachment J, the ASI Executive Council Discussions and Actions, November 2016 through October 2017. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to ratify the actions of the ASI Executive Council.

Ben called for acceptance of the reports in Attachments A – J and Attachment N. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to accept the Reports in Attachments A – J and Attachment N.

2018 Conference Planning: David Yermack announced the conference speaker as Sarah Somers, and the topic as "Social Justice Advocacy through the Law."

Sarah Somers is Managing Attorney of the North Carolina office for the National Health Law Program (NHLP), an advocacy organization established nearly 50 years ago. Since graduating from University of Michigan Law School in 1992, Sarah has dedicated her career to connecting low-income and socially disadvantaged communities to their rights, including as a legal aid attorney in Alameda County, California; a lawyer for the Native American Protection and Advocacy Project on the Navajo Nation; and, most recently, as an advocate to protect and advance the health rights of low-income and underserved individuals and families. The theme of Sarah's lectures will be "Social Justice Advocacy through the Law." Her talks will range from specific topics in healthcare law – including as it applies to women's reproductive

health, eldercare, the rights of disabled children, and America's population at large – to general trends in the Supreme Court's treatment of cases filed on behalf of America's disadvantaged communities. We anticipate a compelling conversation about how our society can recommit, through law and action, to helping those most in need and with the fewest resources.

Nancy Wood is unable to serve as Minister of the Week in 2018. Reverend Leon Dunkley, who attended ASI in 2016, will be the 2018 Minister of the Week.

David noted that Louise Williams recruited the speaker, he will be giving particular attention to the Children's Program, and Jennie Easter Nelson is "doing everything else!" David said that he had talked at length with the Waltons about the Children's Program, and he commended Deb and Tom for their attention to detail and their sensitivity to each of the children in the program.

Jennie announced Two New Ideas. The first is that we honor long-time ASI Conferees who have died by having their families bring photographs of the deceased conferee and family for assemblage into a family collage on Sunday afternoon at a table on the porch for hanging from the Dining Room rafters. The second is that the Auction's "flea market items" will be sold at an all-day "All Star Bazaar" on Tuesday leaving "big stuff" for the traditional ASI Auction.

Jennie also said that last summer she observed each activity as it unfolded and updated the activity's related Volunteer Job Description. Once 2018 registration is complete and Chairs have allocated volunteer jobs, each person receiving notification of a Volunteer Job assignment will also receive the Volunteer Job Description.

2017 Conference Report: 2017 Chair, Keith Knox, expressed their special appreciation of the Children's Program Coordinators, the Registrar, and the Housing Coordinator. Keith noted that the Speaker drew at least 65 each day; ASI/Pel softball and soccer games were popular, as was Ultimate Frisby; Children's Chapel drew large crowds, the Clambake and Chokefest broke even; moving Chapel earlier as many nights as possible was well received; Facebook Live was a good variation on Get-Acquainted Games; and Food Service helped create an authentic luau for the Friday Night Banquet. The 2017 Chairs Report is now on the ASI Conference website as Attachment O (Keith Knox and Dale Stewart). Ben called for a round of applause for the Outgoing Chairs.

Deb Walton offered "Thanks to Ben" with presentation of a card, gifts and a kiss!

Executive Committee Issues: Attachments K and L

Archives Committee: Ben proposed the creation of an ASI Archives Committee to include Ben Soule, Keith Knox and Lois Williams. Ben has been keeping three large ASI Archives, tubs filled with paper documents dating to the 1946 Conference List. Keith has continued the electronic record-keeping of the last three years as well as

converting paper documents in the Chairs Box into the ASI Electronic Archive. The Vaughn Cottage Curator met with the Ben, Keith and Lois to discuss the Vaughn Archives Conference Memorabilia holdings. The committee plans to complete conversion of legacy paper archival records to the Electronic Archive at the 2018 ASI Conference, and work with future Chairs to archive conference information. Jennie Nelson and Deb Walton offered old conference lists.

Ben asked for approval of an ASI Archives Committee. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to approve an ASI Archives Committee.

By-Law Change: As per Attachment L, Mathew Cohen, Chair of the ASI Nominating Committee, proposed an addition to the election procedure for Lifetime Members of the Governance Council that disallows nominations from the floor during the election process. The proposed change, *“Nominations for this position may not be made from the floor of any Governing Council meeting”* amplifies the statement in Section 4.2 that candidates for this honor are “non-Chair attendees of the Conference of long-standing commitment who have nominated by the Nominating Committee” and assures that voting is restricted to names put forth by the Nominating Committee.

Ben asked for approval of By-Law Change. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to approve the By-Law Change.

All Star I Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy (Attachment K): Deb and Tom Walton initiated discussion on the Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy as proposed by the Executive Committee. Deb noted that there have been youth alcohol incidents in recent years and said, “If we have a policy, it has got to be manageable and enforceable.” Tom noted that the policy seems aimed at youth attending Social Hour, when the issue of concern is underage drinking during All Star I conference week. Tom and Deb pointed out that “Loss of curfew privilege” would be unwieldy to manage and would not be viewed by teens as a consequence.

Ben asked for approval of deleting the “Loss of curfew privilege” bullet point from the list of Consequences. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED to approve the change.

Jan Prochaska announced that the Star Island Corporation (SIC) Board is working on an alcohol and other drugs policy that will cover Under-age Conferees, Adult Conferees and Pelicans, and Joe Watts will be announcing the SIC policy at the January SIC Chairs and Registrars Meeting. The SIC policy will supersede our Conference policy, but Joe is pleased that we are taking an initiative. Jim Prochaska noted that, to be effective, punishment needs to be immediate, severe and unavoidable. He asked that we consider encouraging that youth commit to not drinking alcohol for their week at Star Island. Also touched on was Bystander responsibility, the need for consequences to be swift and sure, and the need for consequences to apply to everyone (with due consideration to circumstances).

An Amendment was proposed: Item 2 in the Policy section be expanded to read, "Consequences for a verified violation of the Star Island Corporation Drug and Alcohol Policy and the All Star I Conference Code of Mutual Respect and Safety."

Noting that the policy was unclear on the sequence of actions upon learning of a possible incident, Tom Walton moved: "Insert, in the Code of Mutual Respect and Safety, prior to the first bullet point the following after "I understand that the consequences for breaking the Code of Respect and Safety will include one or more of the following:

- "The Children's Program Coordinators will meet with the youth and a parent to verify the code violation.
- Verification of the breach will be reported to Conference Chairs, and one or more of the following will occur:"

Ben asked for approval of the motion. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED approval. The Revised ASI Alcohol and Other Drug Policy is attached as Addendum A.

Deb Walton proposed a motion that would add language to the Code of Respect and Safety, "I understand that I have a responsibility to the All Star One community to report to the Children's Program Coordinators any behavior which I become aware of which conflicts with the Code of Mutual Respect and Safety." The motion was TABLED.

All Star I Nominating Committee (Attachment M): Matthew Cohen presented the Nominating Committee Report, as follows:

Nominating Committee: Matthew Cohen and Keith Knox leave the committee; Adrian Sicam and Dale Stewart are nominated to join Lisa Gresser, Annie Stewart and Tricia Coleman on the committee.

Healing and Reconciliation Committee: David Osgood leaves the committee; Lois Kitz is nominated and Shelley Powsner is renominated to join Kathy Dehaven, Angel Russek, Chris Bernd and Elissa Best on the committee.

Financial Aid Committee: Jamie Brewer and Jenny Easter Nelson are renominated to join Caroline Quijada and George Robbins on the committee. Ann Etter and Susan O'Loughlin are ex-officio members, and Jenny Easter Nelson is recused for one year as Chair 2018.

Governance Council: Lois Williams, Elee Bernd, Tom Griffith, David Yermack, Shelley Powsner, Steve Skrovan, Liz Erickson, George Robbins and Louise Williams are Life-time Members. Eric Yermack, Joy Close, Cathy Bertasi, Jeff Loewer and Theo Griffin are Term-limited Members. Mary Trudeau is Recording Secretary. Joy Close leaves the group. Scotia Miller is nominated and Eric Yermack is renominated for a Term-limited membership. Jeff Hendrick and Liz Hendrick are nominated for Life-time Membership.

Executive Committee: Ben Soule leaves the committee; Stan Corfman and Keith Knox are nominated, and Sally Easter and Eric Yermack are renominated to join Dennis O’Keefe, Cathy Bertasi, Jeff Loewer, Lois Williams and Jan Prochaska on the committee. Ann Etter and Susan O’Loughlin are ex-officio members.

Treasurer: Ann Etter is renominated as Treasurer.

Ben asked for approval of the slate. Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Governance Council VOTED approval of the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Off-Island Meeting 2017: Tricia Coleman reported that the Chester Guest House has been reserved for the All Star I Governance Council Meeting on October 20, 2018, with a commitment for 22 Saturday night guests.

Closing Words: “Waken in me the sense of joy” by Ted Loder, read by Jan Prochaska.

Adjournment: Before adjourning the meeting at 5:03 to a standing ovation, Ben shared remarks, as presented in Addendum B.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lois Williams, substituting for Mary Trudeau

Addendum A:

Revised All Star I Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy

1. All Star I policy restricts access to social hour for all youth under the age of 21, with the exception of youth participating in a conference-sanctioned activity.
2. Consequences for a verified violation of the Star Island Corporation Drug and Alcohol Policy and the All Star I Code of Mutual Respect and Safety will be strictly enforced by the All Star I conference governance.
3. An explanation of consequences for policy violation will be sent to all junior teens, senior teens and young adults participating in the Children’s Program and their families and sponsors prior to the conference. These will be reiterated upon arrival at Star.
4. Teens will be asked to sign a policy statement similar to the one below acknowledging the new guidelines during their first group meeting. (Adapted from the All Star I Children’s Program Code of Mutual Respect and Safety.)

Code of Mutual Respect and Safety

On Star Island we are committed to be a community of people who love, aid and support each other, welcome and celebrate diversity, and maintain a nurturing environment. As part of realizing this mission we strive to ensure the existence of a safe community for all. It is my responsibility to adhere to the laws of the State of New Hampshire and Star Island Corporation regulations during my week on Star Island; including but not limited to the use of alcohol, illegal and non-prescribed drugs.

I understand that upon reason to believe that a violation related to the use of alcohol and other drugs has occurred, the Children's Program Coordinators will meet with the youth and a parent to verify the code violation. Verification of the breach will be reported to Conference Chairs, and one or more of the following will occur:

- The youth will meet with a representative of conference leadership – an ASI Chair, a Conference Trouble Shooter, or a member of the Healing and Reconciliation Committee
- The youth will lose independent living privileges and must room with parent or sponsor for the rest of the week.
- The youth will be reported to Star Island Corporation management.
- The youth will lose the privilege of attending All Star I the following year.

Addendum B: by Ben Soule, Outgoing Convener, ASI Executive Committee

Before I call for adjournment, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to express thanks. I've been the Convener of the Executive Committee of this Council for two-and-a-half years and will soon be stepping aside as my term on the Committee is ending. I took the job reluctantly because it is the kind of job at which during my lifetime I have not been successful. But I accepted it under the condition that I would be asking for and expecting help from many other people. And I am glad to say that you responded to that request, and in doing so I feel that together we have brought the conference to a better place during this time. So I want to thank all the people with whom I worked during this time. First, I need to express a huge amount of gratitude to Deb Weiner Soule. She has a steel-trap institutional memory, having been both the first Convener of the Executive Committee and a founding member of the Nominating Committee. She also has a strong instinct for knowing the right way to do things. And then there is a very long list of other leaders with whom I worked: two treasurers, two registrars, two Governance Council Secretaries, six Chair People, the Housing Coordinator, the Children's Program Coordinators, the Nominating Committee, the Healing and Reconciliation Committee, the Financial Aid Committee, our Annual Fund Representative, the Roles and Responsibilities Task Force, and most of all, the other members of the Executive Committee. The Committee has worked many hours on conference calls and behind the scenes, trying to find the best path forward so that our conferees will be treated with respect, and fairness, and kindness. And I want to thank all of the members of the Governance Council for continuing to show up and engage in the work we do together, out of the love we all hold for our conference and our Island. In addition, Joe Watts has been very helpful with numerous calls and on-Island conversations about issues of interest to both our conference and the Island.

During my tenure, I am most pleased with several accomplishments: the work spearheaded by the Roles and Responsibilities Task force to more carefully define what our conference leaders do and how they interact with each other; bringing the jobs of Housing Coordinator and Children's Program Coordinator to the same status as other elected conference leaders; starting the process of evaluating our elected conference leaders to create a feedback mechanism so that we can improve our service to the community; revamping the Admissions Policy to bring it in line with the current state of the conference; and starting the work of examining the place of alcohol and other drugs in balancing the need for the safety of all conferees and the wish to have an enjoyable week for all. I hope the conference will continue to work on this over the coming years. We also had to work quietly behind the scenes to restore right relations when rifts occurred between members of our conference.

So it has been an honor to serve this conference of which I have been a part since before I can remember. It has been a valuable challenge for me, often gratifying, and even a pleasure on occasion. And I leave knowing that the conference is in good hands. It is one of our strengths that we are able to draw upon so many capable people with so many valuable skills. Let us all carry our conference forward in the Spirit of Star.