

AS1 Annual Meeting 12/2/23–Minutes (Zoom)

Present:

Hal Basdekis, Val Basdekis, Elissa Best, Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, April Castoldi, Ray Castoldi, Deb Cohen, Matthew Cohen, Michele Cohen, Stafford Cohen, Stan Corfman, Barb Denno, Sally Easter, David Epstein, Ann Etter, Bill Gimpel, Chris Gimpel, Lisa Gresser, Ken Hallows, Jeff Hendrick, Keith Knox, Connie Lentz, Dug Miller, Scotia Miller, Susan O’Loughlin, Steve Parr-Soler, Nuria Pastor, Pam Pierce, Gabriel Prochaska, Janice Prochaska, Shelly Powsner, Phil Quatrochi, Jill Robbins, Cyndy Simms, Ben Soule, Dale Stewart, Annie Stewart, Steve Skrovan, Ali Walton, Deb Walton, Joe Watts, Deb Weiner, Lois Williams, David Yermack

Consent Agenda/Acceptance of Reports A – I

Motion to accept made & seconded.

Discussion: None

Votes to accept: All votes in favor

Approval of Oct 2022 and July 2023 Minutes (Katy Biron) – [A – AS1 Annual Governing Meeting October 22 2022](#), [B – AS1 Governance Meeting July 5 2023](#)

Registration (Susan O’Loughlin) – [C – 2023 Registrars Report](#)

2023 Chairs’ Report (April and Ray Castoldi) – [D – All Star I 2023 Chairs’ Report](#)

2024 Chairs’ Report (Matthew and Michele Cohen) – [E – All Star 1 2024 Chairs’ Status Report](#)

Star Island Corporation Report (Caroline Quijada) – [F – SIC Board Report from 2023](#)

Star Island Annual Fund update (Louise Williams) – [G – 2023 Annual Fund Progress Report](#)

Council of Conferences Report (Ann Etter) – [H – 2023 Council of Conferences Report](#)

Conference Evaluations (Matthew and Michele Cohen) – [I – All Star 1 2023 Conference Evaluation Summary](#)

Executive Committee Proposal (Keith Knox) – J – Dealing with Inappropriate Behavior

Motion to approve made and seconded.

Brief discussion of issues, including whether executive committee should consider drafting its own covenant of behavior.

Vote: 38 yes votes, 0 No votes

Star Island Status and Future Plans (Joe Watts)

Joe noted that 2023 was a good season overall, but that attendance has continued to be below targets since the pandemic. They will be creating a marketing & outreach team for AS1 w/ folks from our conference plus staff, and will want 5 or 6 people to join that team.

Staffing was better in 2023; they were fully staffed even at the start of LOASII, and encouraged folks of all ages to apply for EOS. Big improvements in food service in 2023.

Covid policies: had 45 known cases in 2022, had about half that many in 2023; policies shifted to personal responsibility and less about mandates, and that will likely continue into the 2024 conferences.

Board recently approved new Strategic Plan 2024-2028—more details coming soon. They had a net loss this year but are still in a strong place financially. Budget will be approved in January. Acknowledged the need to pay better wages, maintain staffing & offer excellent services. Room & Board will increase 4.5% this year. Expanding financial grants program—a few years ago SIC offered 30K across all conference, this year they offered 80K, and they are budgeting slightly more for 2024. No discounts/incentives since 2019 but they are bringing some back in 2024.

Highlights of the 2023 Conference (April and Ray Castoldi)

Music! The goal was to give people more opportunity to participate, particularly with social hour music—this went really well. How can we do that in other areas? It was also nice to have a theatrical performance. Bringing back the Quadrathlon was great, high levels of participation. Special words on the Fourth of July were well received. Overall a great conference.

2024 Conference Planning Status (Matthew and Michele Cohen)

Speaker is all set and plans are underway and going well. Working with SIC on recruitment initiatives. Matthew went over recent attendance stats and encouraged current AS1 conferees to work on recruiting in their communities. It was noted that there still may be an 'understanding' that AS1 is hard to get in to; how can we identify those who may have not been able to attend in the past, how do we break this stereotype

Elections (Dale Stewart) – [K – 2023 Nominating Committee Report](#)

Motion to approve made & seconded

Discussion: None

Votes: All voted yes

Nomination from the floor for the open position on the Healing & Rec committee. Jan Prochaska was nominated and is willing. Motion to accept: made & seconded. No objections, nomination accepted.

Treasurer's report and Budget (David Yermack) – L – [2023 Treasurer's Report](#)

Enrollment is the key to our success. Strategy in the past has been to break even and use auction funds for financial aid or donating to SIC. But the lower attendance in recent years has presented challenges. David presented a budget for 2024 and made three proposals:

1: AS1 to donate 8500 to Star Island Annual Fund

2: Restore the size of our Financial Aid Fund back to last year's level (bookkeeping adjustment)

3: Increase Adult registration fee from \$100 to \$130; increase youth registration from \$80 to \$105; reformulate the 'family maximum' concept so that we will waive the registration fee for third and additional children (under 18)

Brief discussion re: whether family maximum rate is need, some concern expressed re: cost for family of 4 but others indicated they thought there were other ways to address financial needs for those families

Motion to accept the budget made and seconded.

36 Yes Votes

0 No Votes

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron