

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes
1/8/25–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Matthew Cohen, Beth Corsa, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Phil Quatrochi, Scottie Stewart, Plasha Will, David Yermack

December minutes approved.

Registrar's Report: Beth Corsa–did some training with Susan, Mark Wooley is new registrar.

Registrations will open on Jan 15th.

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

Nothing new to report. David reminded us that chairs can apply for a grant for special events from SIC.

2025 Conference–Chairs Report: Phil Quatrochi

Nothing new to report.

Discussion: Making meeting minutes available

Katy will reach out to Annie Stewart to make a plan to make past minutes available on our website (in yearly July-to-June groupings)

Next Meeting: Feb 5, 2025–8 pm EST

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

February 5, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Matthew Cohen, Beth Corsa, Jenny Nelson, Shelley Powsner, Phil Quatrochi, Plasha Will, Ali Walton, David Yermack

January minutes approved

Registrar's Report: Beth Corsa

Beth now has full access to the systems that she needs.

We have about 123 adults registered so far, plus 20 youth & 3 infants

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

Nothing new to report.

2025 Conference–Chairs Report: Phil Quatrochi & Ali Walton

Initial schedule is done, working on children's program staff and key volunteer jobs.

- (a) SIC is offering a pilot project–Beloved Community Equity Grant–to be considered we need a committee of 4-6 people willing to make a multi-year commitment (1 hour per month, 1-2 hours during the conference). Two folks expressed interest right away but more would be needed.
- (b) Need to designate an additional person to be the Annual Fund rep; Louise Williams is willing to do it but would like another person to assist. A few names were suggested; Andy will reach out the first person suggested and let us know if they are willing.
- (c)

New Business: SORI checks are needed for children's program staff. In past year's island staff have assisted, but they have asked the conferences to take this on. Beth will send a list of staff to Andy Bristol and he will coordinate.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2025, 8:00pm ET

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

March 5, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Beth Corsa, Ken Hallows, Jenny Nelson, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Phil Quatrochi, Scott Stewart, Plasha Will, David Yermack

February minutes approved

Registrar's Report: Beth Corsa

233 conferees registered so far, including 43 kids. There are also some requests for overnight guests.

Email about financial aid will be sent out soon.

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

Nothing to report this month.

2025 Conference–Chairs Report: Phil Quatrochi & Ali Walton

Planning is going well & registration numbers are encouraging.

They continue to reach out to folks about volunteer jobs.

New Business:

Shelly Powsner and Steve Skrovin have found a possible speaker for 2026: Jennifer Verdolin, an animal behaviorist, who has worked with gorillas in Uganda.

Next Meeting:, April 2, 2025, 8:00 pm ET

Note: Subsequent meeting after 4/2 will be on 4/30 instead of 5/7

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

April 2, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Matthew Cohen, Beth Corsa, Ken Hallows, Jenny Nelson, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Scott Stewart, Ali Walton, David Yermack

March minutes approved

Registrar's Report: Beth Corsa

We have 304 folks registered—which includes 11 COGS (conference overnight guests)
Breakdown: 232 adults, 72 children (including young adults).

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

Nothing to report.

2025 Conference—Chairs Report: Ali Walton

Chairs have been reaching out to new Shoalers, sending out Porch News.

Next Meeting:, April 30, 2025, 8:00 pm ET

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

April 30, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Matthew Cohen, Beth Corsa, Ken Hallows, Jenny Nelson, Phil Quatrochi, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Scott Stewart, Plasha Will, David Yermack

April 2nd minutes approved

Registrar's Report: Beth Corsa

We are full! Registration is currently at 322 (which includes some folks who are partial week) and now keeping a waitlist.

Breakdown is 242 adults, 80 children.

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

Higher enrollment numbers are very good news.

The required liability insurance has been purchased.

David has an upcoming meeting with new registrar Mark Wooley to talk about financial aid and how new processes will work.

Equity Grant—we assembled a committee to try to implement & award two grants for new shoalers. Grants cover 100% of stay for the first year.

2025 Conference–Chairs Report: Phil Quatrochi

Our speaker, Ron Abramson, is very busy given all the issues going on with immigration, but he is still planning to attend.

Gabby is working on ordering T-shirts, ordering may need to happen early this year because of impending tariffs.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4th–8 pm

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

June 4, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Matthew Cohen, Jenny Nelson, Shelley Powsner, Scott Stewart, Ali Walton, David Yermack

4/30/25 minutes approved

Registrar's Report: Ali Walton (for Beth Corsa)

Conference is full: 323 people total (63 are not full week, including several new families). Total bed nights is not as high as some other conferences even though we are dealing with more people. There are more COG's (conference overnight guests) than usual this year, with some being new(ish) families with young children. This is a newer issue that we may need to watch. We want to encourage new families to come, but need to keep an eye on trends re: partial week attendance for newer conferees, because in the long run it is not healthy for the conference to have folks who may not be as committed. It is also hard on island staff and Pels (and our registrar, housing coordinator, and kids' groups leaders) when people are coming and going mid conference.

2025 Conference–Chairs Report: Ali Walton

Schedule is done, children's programming done, we are ready to go!

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

Had a meeting with Mark Wooley about financial aid, as there is a new system this year where folks apply directly to the island. Island requires adjusted gross income and takes family size into account, this funded 4K of our 15K in requests. Formula applied the same for every conference. In the past, everyone who applied got 50%, this year folks can indicate the percentage (some asked for more, some asked for less). Feels like a good step forward. AS1 funded every request that we received.

Andy & Matthew met with John Bynum to discuss updates to the Covid19 policies.

Only significant change is that conferees are 'encouraged' to test (not 'expected' to).

If there is a small Covid outbreak, conferees can isolate in the first aid station (there are 3 bedrooms).

On island meeting–Mon 6/30 at 1:45 pm

Next Meeting: on island!

Next online meeting will be: August 6 at 8pm

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

August 6, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Matthew Cohen, Beth Corsa, Ken Hallows, Jenny Nelson, Shelley Powsner, Phil Quatrochi, Steve Skrovan, Scott Stewart, Ali Walton, David Yermack

6/4/25 minutes approved

Registrar's Report: Beth Corsa

Report given on island was: 327 total people this week (331 including the McCloys)

38 new conferees

260 full week conferees

67 COGs (usually average is around 40 COGS)

2025 Conference Chairs Report: Ali Walton & Phil Quatrochi

Overall everything went well. Ali put a lot of time/effort into talking with folks about volunteer assignments before assigning them, and volunteers came through and did a great job. We got lucky and had some cancellations so that we could fit everyone in who wanted to com (but only 8 cancellations, which is fewer than usual). Conference Services did a great job, sometimes working very late for us. Ali and Phil sent a thank you to all the Pels and set up a snack bar tab. Children's program went well also.

Moving forward, we need to discuss the impact of having partial week attendees, especially those with kids, as it is hard to get them oriented and integrated later on in the week.

This year the chairs invited the Pels to come to everything, and they did! There were a few complaints about this on evaluations but overall the response was positive from conferees and Pels. One consideration is that having Pels at social hour means that we may have to buy more food/drinks.

2026 Chairs: Shelly Powsner and Steve Skrovan

Website for this year's speaker: <https://www.jenniferverdolin.com>

She is an animal behavioralist who wrote "Wild Connections" and "Raised by Animals", and she spends a lot of time working with gorillas in Uganda. She also has a podcast called Wild Connections

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack (see budget details at end of minutes)

Conference actually turned a 3K surplus this year due to huge enrollment (38K in reg fees); and many people donated items that we normally would have reimbursed for (we had in-kind donations for almost %k, including Cory E donating 3400 in beer). Financial aid went well and with new processes in place, SIC covered some of the financial aid that we would have covered. We beat our planned budget by 10K

The one area of concern is that the auction raised 17K, which is less than past years.

So we may need to think strategically about possible changes/adjustments to the auction in the next years.

Later this year we should also discuss whether we will increase registration fees next year.

New business:

- Adding minutes to AS1 website: Katy will work on putting former minutes together in batches and having Annie S put them on the website.
- Deb Walton is stepping down from coordinating housing and the children's program as of 2027. Discussion about challenges in filling these roles.
 - Do we need job descriptions for these coordinator positions? Deb has put together drafts but they should be reviewed & formalized
 - How do we want to define the Housing Coordinator role? Is there compensation tied to the role?
 - For both roles: Should we have a set term for each job? What about a feedback/evaluation process?
 - Nominating committee is looking for candidates, but it will take some time and we want to set clear expectations for candidates.
- Meeting schedule: we are currently meeting monthly; bylaws say we have to meet at least six times a year. We will continue to schedule on a monthly basis but convenor has discretion to cancel meetings where agenda is small/not urgent.

Next Meeting: September 3rd at 8pm

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron

AS1 Executive Committee Minutes

September 3, 2025–8pm (EST)

Present:

Katy Biron, Andy Bristol, Joy Close, Matthew Cohen, Jenny Nelson, Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Steve Skrovan, Plasha Will, David Yermack

August minutes approved

2026 Chairs: Shelly Powsner and Steve Skrovan

Planning is going well. Since 4th of July is prior to the conference—we may need to pick a different day to celebrate the 4th.

Treasurer's Report: David Yermack

All on track, financials are good because we had such good attendance. Full report coming at annual meeting next month.

New business:

- Andy to ask Beth to send out an email to announce the 2026 and 2027 dates, since conference will start later than usual
- We want to encourage folks to stay for the full week when possible; do we want to prioritize those who want the full week, maybe use a later confirmation date for partial week stays; possibly set a mid week date that is the last day to join;
- Katy to gather past five years of minutes into pdfs (by year) and share then with Annie for the website.
- Folks are working on gathering job descriptions for Treasurer, Registrar, Housing Coordinator, Children's Program
- Question: do we want to offer compensation for chairs in upcoming years? General consensus is yes; we will mention this at the annual meeting and look at it further in coming months.
- Planning for Fall Meeting (10/4/25)--Andy is gathering reports from everyone, date is set for 10/4/25

Minutes submitted by Katy Biron