

MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING July 24, 2022

Compiled by Bruce Randall, Secretary

Officers, Directors, and Committee chairs in Attendance on Zoom meeting.

Vice President : Rich Russel
Secretary: Bruce Randall
Directors: Charles Osborne
Ed Harfmann
Steve Tzikas
Directors at Large: Wolfgang Herrmann,
Jon Wallace,
David Westman
Keith Payea
Committee Chair: Tom Crowley for grants and IBT

Unavailable:

Officers: President: Dennis Farr.
Treasurer: Brian O'Rourke
Directors: Tom Jacobs
Founding Director: Jeff Lichtman

A quorum was present.

EMAIL ACTIVITY BY BOARD

Activities of last year Included for context of meeting.

Jan 14, 2022 Deborah Scherrer as Honorary Life Member?

Deborah was the prime mover behind SuperSID and supported Western Conference at Stanford. One email list has her as life member there is no record elsewhere. This BOD voted to makes this official. Vote passed, 10 votes FOR out of 10 available votes.

Meeting Called to order at 14:00 EDT by Vice President Rich Russel

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Vice President

Eastern Conference Status – on track

- Proceedings – completed – dropbox link will be sent with zoom notice
- One presenter can't make it so we have one open slot.
- Brian who handles registration and payment is out with health problems, so Chip and Dennis are stepping up to sort this out.
- Zoom invites – sent multiple times
- Door Prizes have been selected and will be sent to winners the week after the conference.
- SARA Store conference pricing had problems of member vs non-member pricing. This is now fixed.

Election:

Draft ballot put in May-June Journal

All positions have a nominee in final ballot! Revised ballot moves Jay Wilson from Board to Vice President position.

Need to get revised ballot to members. Brian has tools to email all members. Brian is out. Rich is looking at possibilities.

Ballots to be in by July 30 at 9 PM EDT. July 31 will announce results.

Overall: Conference preps are in great shape!

YouTube Update

- a. SARA has released 11 video tutorials to You Tube
- b. Some have had over 200 views.

SARA Facebook page: Melinda Lord has access. We need to get passwords, etc.

Tracking Mount Initiative Update – not discussed at meeting

Sunday Bruce to present PPT of board meeting minutes

After conference we will edit videos of conference and post on YouTube site.

What have we done in 2022??

- Drake Lounge has been very successful.
- Scope in a Box has been successful.
- Super SID doing well.
- SARA Store. Need to separate SARA Store from Treasurer. Load on treasurer is too great. We need a store manager.
- We may need a membership coordinator separate from treasurer.
- Goals of YouTube videos is to get more tutorials up. Conference videos will be broken up into individual talks on YouTube.
- Spring Conference went well.
 - April 16, 2022 On Zoom
 - Coordinated by David Westman. Great Job!
 - Keynote Speaker: Dr. Darcy Barron
 - Polarization of the Cosmic Microwave Background.
 - Frequencies to 300 GHz. Requires VERY dry environment
 - Excellent talk on problems where wavelengths or so small instruments are more like infrared than radio.
 - Papers on FRB's, Pulsars and many other interesting subjects.
- Journals have large page count and now have observation reports and history page.
- Proceedings for Eastern Conference are done and out to distribution.

- Conference has about 35 paid participants now.
- DOOR PRIZES: Jay Wilson has donated some door prizes. SARA is supplying 2 Scope in a Boxes, 2 Radio Jupiters and 2 Super SIDs.
- Need to work out distribution of Conference proceedings without Brian.
- We need to get IRS form 990 to IRS. Brian may have done already.
- For 2023 we need to try for in person conferences both Spring and Eastern.
- We need Membership chair
- Jon Wallace is retiring as Education chair after 10 years so we need a replacement.
- 2023 plan is to have virtual conference along with in person.
- David Westman will try for VLA for 2023 Spring and Vice President will try for Green Bank for Eastern.
- We could advertise on SARA List for open Membership and Education. President does final appointment
- Treasure Report not available. Allocations?? \$6K Grants.
- Scholarships. Foreign will require requester address legal??
- Secretary Report:
 - 4000 minutes on 20 meter telescope in error meeting 5 hrs / yr typical
 - \$73K+- SARA assets for last year.
 - 1 hour 40 minute 2021 meeting.
 - 2021 Minutes approved
- David Westman did a Spanish language presentation for the Mexican Network of Radio telescopes in May of 2022. This was very well received.
- Paul Oxley passed on April 5, 2022
 - Paul had been on SARA board and Served as Vice President.
 - Paul was often on the List Serve emails with technical input.
 - On List Serve he sometimes stirred up a little friendly controversy!
 - Bruce Randall is working on short write up for SARA Journal.
- We discussed a possible Bylaw change of all Directors vs 4 at Large??
 - Tom Crowley commented on possible legal requirement as 501C3
 - Directors would then not have to go to annual meeting in person.
 - Tom liked to have a COMMITMENT to attend Green Bank.
 - David Westman likes all Directors the same. Virtual attendance is required
 - Wolfgang's research after the meeting showed it is OK to do a virtual meeting per Alabama law. We are incorporated in Alabama.
 - We should settle this by end of year.
- Stephen Tzikas, 20 meter report: We use 5 hours per year with 20 members using it.
- Committee Reports:
 - Tom Crowley, Grants: \$6000 per year is available without board involvement. Grants often uses SARA projects, such as Super SID or Scope in a Box.. Large exception was \$5000 for a college project base for 5 meter dish.
 - Wolfgang questions if we need monthly report on Grants??
 - Jonathan Pettingale, Super SID. The status of the SID monitors is excellent. Parts are still readily available, orders are usually satisfied within a week of an

order being placed, depending on whether I have some ready built or not. I build in batches of 10, so as the stock gets low, I restock. Prices of components have been going up, so the “profit” margin has been going down. It is about 20% at the moment, down from 30%. The Society is still making money on every sale; I see no reason for any price changes at the moment.

- **Tom Crowley: IBT.** Kit – dish. User supplied 18”dishes the are best. More modern stuff does not work. Tom puts together 8 to 10 kits per year.
- **Tom Crowley, List Serve.** 1114 members on list serve.

OLD BUSINESS and NEW BUSINESS addressed in above discussions.

Meeting recap and Election results to be given by secretary on July 31 at conference.

Motion made by Rich Russel to adjourn meeting, seconded by Bruce Randall, motion passed by voice vote of the Board at 15:14 EDT.

Appendix 1 SARA Education Coordinator Report – 2022

This year I was able to do the following:

1. Answered questions about radio astronomy projects. I tried to encourage people to take some time to look over the beginner resources so they could decide what they wanted to pursue. I also wanted to thank and commend people on the list-serve who helped many of the people I sent there for help. We have a great resource there and the people really make it worthwhile – thank you all!!
2. I gave my presentation virtually to just a couple of groups via Zoom. Volume of interest dropped dramatically.
3. I have shared the presentations I have stored on Google Drive with just a few people/groups this year looking for radio astronomy presentations. I want to thank Ed Harfmann for updating his presentation, which I added to the Google Drive I have for these presentations.

An important note about next year:

I regret that I am asking the board to find another Education Coordinator. I have been the coordinator for 10 years now and find that I no longer have the time nor expertise to adequately deal with inquiries from people seeking help. Luckily, I have found that most people can get quite good help and advice from the SARA Listserv and as a result, requests for my help have dropped dramatically. While trying to write an article for the journal for beginners, I found that there is so much information about radio astronomy systems and so many ways to observe that I no longer can keep up and thus gave up trying to write the article. Additionally, my home is completely surrounded by woods so I am unable to observe and/or try different methods. It is for these reasons and many more that I respectfully ask to be replaced for the coming year. I will continue to serve on the board until my term expires and will try to help anyone who wishes to fill the Education Coordinator’s position.

Thanks again for all your support this year and over the past 10 years of my term!

Sincerely,
Jon Wallace