

**AAR/WR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**4 December 2020, 3:00-5:00pm**  
**Online Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Souad Ali (Arizona Regional Rep), James Berry (Southern California & Western Region Student Director), Marie Cartier (Southern California Regional Rep), Yuria Celidwen (Women's Caucus Liaison), John Erickson (Vice President Elect), Anna Hennessey (President), Anjeanette LeBoeuf (Queer Advocate), Susan Maloney (Honorary Board Member, Advisor, and Facilitator, non-voting), Thien-Huong Ninh (Northern California Regional Rep), Hester Oberman (Interim Regional Coordinator), Joseph Paxton (Conference Manager, non-voting), Emily Silverman (Interim Vice President), and Sakena Young-Scaggs (Diversity and Inclusion Advocate)

**Absent:** Jacob Perez (Northern California Student Rep)

**Notes:** Marie Cartier present from 3:20-5pm, Yuria Celidwen present from 3:15-4:20pm, James Berry switched to audio at 3:50pm.

Minutes compiled by Anna Hennessey

1. President Anna Hennessey begins the meeting with greetings and welcome: short introduction of board members.
2. Vice President and Program Chair Emily Silverman gives an update on the status of the units and their panels for AAR/WR's 2021 Virtual Conference. She explains that most of the units have sent in excellent panel listings and that she is only waiting for a few before sending a finalized panel listing to Conference Manager Joseph Paxton. She has also been exploring new modes of interaction for the social aspects of the conference since it will be a virtual conference. There will also be one or two Wild Card sessions at this year's conference.
3. Conference Manager Joseph Paxton updates the board on his planning and implementation for the 2021 Virtual Conference. He explains that the AAR/WR will get a Zoom business account and that he will be in communication with unit chairs to organize zoom rooms for the individual panels, as well as for the larger events (Plenary/Keynote address, Presidential address, and Caucuses).
4. Regional Coordinator Hester Oberman updates the board on AAR National's discussion with Regional Coordinators and Officers about regional conferences taking place in 2021, as well as about the future of the regions in general. In late November, Oberman attended both a meeting held by AAR National for the Regional Coordinators, as well as one for regional officers more broadly, and she explains that AAR National is exploring a new vision for rethinking the AAR and its regions. AAR National would like to be respectful of the uniqueness of each of its regions.
5. President Anna Hennessey notifies the board of AAR/WR's Executive Committee's suggested fees for participants at the 2021 Virtual Conference. Due to the new context of the virtual

conference, as well as to the pandemic and financial hardship suffered by many in the United States and abroad, the fees will be lowered from previous years and will be as follow:

-Full Professor	\$50.00
-Assistant Professor	\$40.00
-Adjunct Professor	\$20.00
-Independent Scholar	\$20.00
-Student	\$15.00
-Guest	\$15.00

Hennessey calls the motion to confirm the new fees. Vice President Elect John Erickson seconds the motion. The motion passes: 11 in favor, 0 not in favor, 0 abstention.

6. Anna Hennessey opens the floor for the board to ask questions specifically about planning for the 2021 Virtual Conference to Conference Manager Joseph Paxton, Vice President and Program Chair Emily Silverman, or members of the Executive Committee. With no initial questions, Silverman explains that she is researching how to engage participants of the conference and create networking opportunities for them at the event. Questions about the conference arose later in the meeting (see #10 below).

7. Regional Coordinator Hester Oberman gives an update on AAR/WR's 2020-2021 budget. At this time, the AAR/WR maintains over \$20,000 in its bank account. There have been no expenses since the close of the 2019-2020 year. The fee for AAR/WR's Conference Manager will be the main fee for the year (\$1000). Oberman filed the regional financial report with AAR National over the summer 2020.

8. President Anna Hennessey reads a statement to clarify past minutes affirming Susan Maloney's appointment in 2013 as Honorary Board Member. The statement reads as follows:

"It has come to our attention from a review of past meeting minutes that they are incomplete regarding Susan Maloney's appointment in 2013 as Honorary Board Member. Fortunately, two of our current board members, Souad Ali and Emily Silverman, were both on the 2013 board and have confirmed that Souad Ali put forth the motion that Susan Maloney be appointed as lifetime Honorary Board Member. The motion passed unanimously with AAR/WR's board in March of 2013."

After reading the statement, Hennessey asked Arizona Regional Rep. Souad Ali and Vice President and Program Chair Emily Silverman to confirm the verity of the statement. Both Ali and Silverman recollected the event and explained that the motion had passed swiftly in 2013 and with unanimous support from the 2013 AAR/WR Board such that Susan Maloney be appointed as lifetime Honorary Board Member.

9. Anna Hennessey gives an update on the status of AAR/WR's Policy File, explaining that a board review of the file should be held at the Spring 2021 Board Meeting held the weekend of the 2021 Conference. Hennessey makes several preliminary points about the Policy File. These points included:

- The Policy File has outdated information on a number of items. For example, the document states that AAR National uses member ID numbers. The AAR no longer uses those, it uses email addresses. Changes to this type of information must be approved by the board and updated as soon as possible.
- The Policy File needs new information on roles of board members, such as what it entails to be a Conference Manager in the context of a virtual conference.
- The current AAR/WR Board should carefully review the file and make sure that it is changed to include details about who handles accounts and has access to usernames and passwords. Hennessey emphasized that there should always be two or more people with the username and password for the website, for example.
- Hennessey pointed to a problem with how “Powers” are listed for AAR/WR’s Officers in the Operating Agreement, and how this could be remedied by amending the Policy File. In particular, the section of the Operating Agreement (Section 4.2.F.i “Powers”) states that “The Regional Coordinator is the chief executive officer of Regional Group and has the authority and power to sign contracts in the name of the Regional Group.” Hennessey explained that members of AAR/WR’s Board and EC realized in the spring of 2020 that this language was problematic and that the board should add language in the Policy File to make it clear that the Regional Coordinator needs to work in close conjunction with the rest of the EC. The Regional Coordinator should also not be the sole board member with access to usernames, passwords, and account information.
- Honorary Board Member and Facilitator Susan Maloney addressed the board on this matter and emphasized that the board should understand its important role in reviewing the Policy File and making changes to it. She discussed how problems and stress arose for some members of the EC in the spring of 2020 due to confusions about the roles of officers. Language can have an impact on people’s lives, and documents such as the Policy File should be carefully reviewed to make sure that the statements are clear and true.
- Hennessey stated that the board should conduct a full review of the Policy File in March 2021 and that she will send a copy of the Policy File with suggested changes to the full board beforehand. All members should review that and be prepared to approve of an updated version of the Policy File at the next board meeting.

10. Hennessey closes the main agenda points and opens the meeting up for questions, comments, or celebration, as would be the custom had the board met in person.

Final remarks before the close of the meeting included:

- Queer Advocate Anjeanette LeBoeuf inquired into the possibility of having the region start a journal, something that had been discussed previously with former Vice President Roy Whittaker earlier in 2020. LeBoeuf expressed interest in working on this project. Vice President and Program Chair Emily Silverman encouraged LeBoeuf’s idea and also stated that the region could possibly begin by publishing paper abstracts on its website from the different units.
- Southern California Regional Rep. Marie Cartier asked about the budget for the Queer Caucus and other such events. Conference Manager Joseph Paxton stated that the budget for AAR/WR’s caucus events would be the same as in previous years, and that each caucus (Black Caucus,

Graduate Student Professional Development, Women's Caucus, and Queer Caucus) would receive \$250. Diversity and Inclusion Advocate Sakena Young-Scaggs inquired into the dates for the Black Caucus, discussing issues in previous years with the caucus occurring on the Saturday evening of the conference. Joseph Paxton confirmed that he would be working on the programming for all of the caucus events to ensure that they matched well with both the time preferences of the caucus event organizers and with the timing for the conference as a whole.

-Southern California Regional Rep. Marie Cartier inquired into whether community people can come to caucus events without paying for the conference, which has been the case in the past. Conference Manager Joseph Paxton confirmed that this is the case.

-Queer Advocate Anjeanette LeBoeuf inquired into the extent to which the board needs to approve of expenses being made, such as that of the funding for the Conference Manager. Hennessey stated that AAR/WR's Operating Agreement allows the Executive Committee to hire and fire various individuals for the conference, including the Conference Manager, but that clarity is needed on the approval of this and that the board should review this in the Policy File.

-Vice President and Program Chair Emily Silverman discussed the logistics of several units, which have different board members who are also unit chairs.

Honorary Board Member and Facilitator Susan Maloney notes that the time is up for the meeting. Board members say goodbye and President Anna Hennessey closes the meeting.