

AAR/WR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
15 March 2024, 12-4:00pm
In-person, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Present: Souad Ali (Arizona Regional Rep), Marie Cartier (President), John Erickson (Past President), Anjeanette LeBoeuf (Queer Advocate), William Martin (Northern California Student Rep), Valerie Miles-Tribble (Northern California Representative), Jake Nagasawa (Regional Coordinator), Janice Poss (Women's Caucus Liaison), Roberta Sabbath (Vice President-Elect), Sakena Young-Scaggs (Vice President and Program Chair), Jacob Perez (Conference Manager, non-voting), Susan Maloney (Honorary Board Member, non-voting), Anna Hennessey (Regional Board Secretary, non-voting).

Notes:

Minutes compiled by Regional Board Secretary Anna Hennessey. All members attend the meeting in-person except for William Martin (Northern California Student Rep), who is present virtually via zoom.

1. President Marie Cartier begins the meeting with greetings and welcome, followed by a short introduction of board members.
2. Conference Manager Jacob Perez gives a conference and registration update. The numbers for the region's conference registrants are very good this year, especially in a post-pandemic year. They are at 105 as of the morning of March 15th with the expectation of more registrations by the end of today and tomorrow. Jacob discussed the possibility of further development with hybrid formats for our conferences into the future and mentioned that Zoom has many capabilities that the region can tap into.
3. Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa gives a slide show with an update on AAR/WR's financial status and 2024 Spring Budget Report. Current Bank Balance is \$16,205.79. The main costs: Conference Manager stipend, catering costs, Zoom costs. The region still has not received AAR's \$2800 Subvention. Jake expects that to come in within the next few weeks. This number also does not include the registration revenue, which is estimated at \$4405. The 2023 conference had slightly less registrants. The outstanding costs include: remainder of Conference Manager stipend, Conference Paper Awards, Keynote speaker honorarium, Queer View honorarium, RC reimbursement, Board Dinner, travel grants, incidentals, totaling \$5455. Estimated balance at the conclusion of the conference will be roughly \$18,850.79. Jake Nagasawa and Jacob Perez noted that catering costs are going up, and catering is the main reason for the dip in the bank account. Jake and Jacob both recommended that we increase registration rates. Vice President Sakena Young-Scaggs asked whether we have had sponsorship in the past for catering and whether we could consider sponsorship in the past to offset the cost of catering. Northern California Rep Valerie Miles-Tribble discussed sponsorship and having sponsor names published in the conference program. Honorary Board Member Susan Maloney remarked that the breakdown of registrants shows that the region serves a large number of contingent faculty, independent scholars, and students.

4. Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa gave a list of candidates for the open positions and the elections at the March 17, 2024 Business Meeting. The region has candidates for the presidential line, the Regional Coordinator, the Northern California Student Rep, the Student Director, the Southern California Student Rep, and the Arizona Student Rep. Past President John Erickson presented to the Board the possibility of having Conference Manager Jacob Perez stay on as Conference Manager for one more year. Erickson presented a motion that the Board increase Jacob Perez's payment as Conference Manager by \$1000. Regional Board Secretary Anna Hennessey seconded the motion. The Board discussed the matter and all agreed that Jacob Perez is an excellent Conference Manager. The Board voted and unanimously accepted the motion.

5. Vice President Elect Roberta Sabbath proposed that the rate for students be reduced to the level of the guest. Jake Nagasawa suggested that the "student" rate currently listed should be for students participating in the conference, and that non-participating students should be considered guests/attendees at the lower rate. Queer Advocate Anjeanette LeBoeuf also suggested that the non-participating students receive a lower rate. Marie Cartier brought up a suggestion that came in over email that non presenting students at the host institution be admitted for free. Valerie Miles-Tribble suggested that there should be some fee for students. Sakena Young-Scaggs also suggested that the non-participating students at the host institution also pay a fee, perhaps \$20. Anjeanette LeBoeuf suggested that there be a 3-tier (Student Presenter \$35, Student Non-Presenter \$20, and Other/Guest \$30). Valerie Miles-Tribble discussed the need for clarification with using the word "guest," which suggests someone who is invited to the conference. Jake Nagasawa stated that the fee structure is typically voted on during the fall meeting. Marie Cartier set out the motion that a new "Student Non-Presenter" fee be set at \$20 and that other fee related issues be discussed in the fall 2024. Anjeanette LeBoeuf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Queer Advocate Anjeanette LeBoeuf discussed the Bullying Policy for AAR/WR's Policy File. Her update is that she needs people to join an ad hoc committee to come up with the definition for the Policy File.

7. Vice President Elect Roberta Sabbath discussed the issue of security at UNLV during the 2024 conference. Honorary Board Member Susan Maloney summarized the issue, which is that in December 2023 there was a shooting at UNLV and that there is a concern for extra security for the AAR/WR during the conference, in part because religion is a hot button issue right now. Roberta has been in communication with UNLV security about the possibility of hiring a security member to serve the region specifically since UNLV does have security but the security is not specific to the regional conference. Marie Cartier stated that there is an ask for \$2300 for an armed police officer who would be assigned to the conference and began discussion on the matter. Jake Nagasawa stated that he was speaking from a procedural perspective and that this money was not approved for the year during the November 2023 Board Meeting and that \$2300 is a large amount of money for the AAR/WR's bank account (10-12%). Marie Cartier added that the EC was made aware of the issue two days ago and had previously been discussing it, though it requires a Board vote. John Erickson acknowledged the trauma of gun violence and validated the concern. He suggested that there are a number of security members on campus, but also discussed the concern of liability if the region were to not get the security guard. Northern California Student Rep William Martin emphasized what John Erickson said and stated that he

has seen associations having their own personal security in addition to the security at the hosting information. Regional Board Secretary Anna Hennessey suggested that this be a private ballot and that she and Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa collect and tally votes on pieces of paper. President Marie Cartier brought up the multiple complexities of the issue, including, some problems that could arise with having an armed police officer present at the conference. Cartier proposed that in the future, this become a line item for the AAR/WR's November Board Meetings. John Erickson agreed with this. Valerie Miles-Tribble questioned whether it would be possible to have a security guard who is not a police officer with a gun who could be appointed to the conference. Roberta Sabbath responded that the campus police handle this and that they suggested this option. Susan Maloney said that she believes all of the campus security handle a gun. John Erickson asked whether the rate could be negotiated. Regional Board Secretary Anna Hennessey asked whether there was any violence at the recent protest at UNLV. Roberta stated that it was a protest, not violence. Marie Carter clarifies the voting matter. The matter today is voting on getting an armed campus police officer who would be shadowing the events of our conference, beginning the evening of 3/15 at the Queer View event. The cost is between \$1500-\$2300. Northern California Rep William Martin discussed civil discourse and also how protests are happening. Arizona Rep Souad Ali brought up the context of Arizona State and said there had been some violence. Marie Cartier motions: Is the Board going to approve a budget item for an armed security guard of \$1500-\$2300 for the conference? Sakena Young-Scaggs seconded the motion. Women's Caucus Liaison Janice Poss brought up the possibility that UNLV could be a higher risk due to the location of Las Vegas. Valerie Miles-Tribble corrected the motion to state that it is a non-budgeted item. The Board voted with private ballots (paper in a box) and William Martin voted through email sent to Regional Board Secretary Anna Hennessey. Anna collected the votes. Marie Cartier closed the meeting for 5 minutes so that Anna could count the votes. Marie stated that Anna not give the tally of the votes since the matter is sensitive to some Board members, and just to state whether the motion passed or not. Hennessey counts the votes and the motion does not pass. The Board does not get the additional security for the UNLV conference.

8. Discussion of AAR National's new OA. Marie Cartier introduces the topic and states that the Board must have an answer to give to AAR National by the end of the AAR/WR's 3/15/2023 Board meeting. Marie states that Regional Coordinator Jake Nagasawa and Past President John Erickson will be in charge of the discussion. Jake Nagasawa begins and says that the OA is similar to the old one, though there are four main points that are different: 1. The region would transfer its money to an account that would give someone from AAR National access to the account and would have signatory powers. 2. The titles and roles of AAR/WR's Executive Committee would change. The role of Past President would be eliminated. "Chief Regional Officer" would be the new name of the RC. The other members would be the same, though additional Board members would not carry voting power. 3. The regional website would be hosted through AAR National. 4. Voting for any of the elected officers for the Board would go through AAR National.

John Erickson updated the Board on recent communications with AAR National. Jake Nagasawa updated the Board on communications within the Regions meetings about AAR's work on the issue of the OA. Anjeanette LeBoeuf, who has also attended the AAR Midwest Regional conference, emphasized that the AAR/WR region is quite robust. Susan Maloney discussed subsidiary bank accounts and how those typically work. She also explained the history of

AAR/WR's previous relationship with WESCOR. Valerie Miles-Tribble discussed larger structural changes going on with AAR National and how those may relate to the changing of the OA for the AAR/WR and other regions. Marie Cartier suggests drafting language to use in the meeting with AAR. The Board worked on the language together. Marie Cartier Polled the Board on the main points of the ne OA.

John Erickson drafted a letter to the AAR about AAR's proposed new Operating Agreement in real time with AAR/WR's Board. Marie Cartier suggested that as many members of the EC meet after the conference to finalize the draft before sending to AAR. Sakena Young-Scaggs motions to send the letter written by the Board to AAR after AAR/WR's EC has reviewed the letter. John Erickson seconds the vote. The motion passes unanimously.

9. Arizona Regional Rep Souad Ali states that March 9-16, 2025 is the spring break at ASU; thus, the AAR/WR will hold its 2025 Annual Conference sometime during that week.

10. President Marie Cartier closed out the session.