

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Draft of July Minutes****Monday, July 7, 2025, 10 am****Clara Studios Auditorium, 1425 – 24th Street, Sacramento**

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deanna Hanson	X	Richard Atkinson	x
Vice President, Ralph Paladino	X	Carol Barake	X
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	X	Marian Sheppard	X
Controller, Dave Ferguson	X	Janet Heath	
Asst. Controller (vacant)		Jackie Lamb	X
Past President, Deborah Seiler	X	Bob Silva	x

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Communications & Marketing Richard Atkinson Co-chair (none)	x	Program Ralph Paladino, Jackie Lamb	X x
Finance & Administration Dave Ferguson Co-chair (None)	X	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd Co-Chair (none)	X
Forum (vacant)		Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	X
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath Co-Chair (none)		Scholarship Co-Chair Sue McGinty	X
Membership Susan Wheeler	X	Tech Co-Chair Kevin Collins	X
Membership Co-Chair (vacant)		Tech Co-Chair Tom Nelson	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff Co-chair (none)	X	Volunteer Services Carol Barake Co-chair (none)	x

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS, Marya Endriga, Interim Dean		Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Website Jennifer Kerr	
Recorder Carolyn Monson	X	Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Senior Clerk Lorene Sarne	x	Board Liaison: Diana Gin	

1. **Call to Order:** President Deanna Hanson opened the meeting at 10:04 am in our new location at Clara Studios Auditorium. We will gather here for future Board meetings except for August which will be on zoom.

2. **Approval of June 2, 2025, minutes:** Hearing no corrections, Deborah made the motion, seconded by Dave, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. **President's Welcome:** Deanna thanked the Membership Committee and especially Allan for the June member picnic. Susan W said they will schedule the spring picnic earlier next year. Deanna announced her priorities for 2025-26.

President Deanna Hanson's Priorities for 2025-2026

1.	To help Committees recruit co-chairs and other members
2.	To continue to sustain and build relationships with CSUS leaders
3.	To help develop membership building tools and ideas
4.	To help promote ways of developing new program leaders, ideas for classes and forums
5.	To support Renaissance Society fund development
6.	To ensure Renaissance Society stays on budget

4. **Self-Introductions:** Everyone introduced themselves and shared a little about themselves beyond Renaissance life. This was helpful due to the many new Board members in attendance.

5. Reports

Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff - Pauline Caple, a member since 2013, passed away in April. Pauline worked at the CA Regional Center serving special needs children. Her obituary said she was an "Enthusiastic Student in RS".

Controller: Dave Ferguson – reported our finances are in good shape and we may even have a surplus.

May Eleven Months Financials (Preliminary):

o Revenues: \$188,560

o Expenditures: \$130,871

o Cash Balance: \$236,298

A new insurance policy covering property and the Board will replace the outdated State Farm policy as soon as payment and signatures are final. Dave was thanked for his persistence with the complicated insurance issue. Deanna is working with a pro bono attorney who is writing a liability waiver for programs with travel. She will forward the waiver for review. Approximately \$27,000 has been spent on IT and credit card fees.

Office Manager: Amber Korb - Membership renewals are coming in nicely. Plans are firming up for Open House. Carol is helping to coordinate the necessary volunteers. Community partners, including our new theater partners, have been contacted. Amber has table arrangements. More T-shirts than tumblers have been requested. There may be a possibility of an on-line RS store if there is a volunteer. However, sales tax issues must be considered. **Everyone wished Amber a happy birthday.**

Sac State Liaison: Dr. Marya Endriga, Interim Dean of the College of SSIS is in Ireland with her new grandchild.

6. Committee Reports/Discussion

Program Committee – Ralph Paladino/Jackie Lamb - Subcommittees are being formed to address several topics including evaluations/feedback and closed classes. The co-chairs met with program leaders from closed classes. Griffin O'Shea is a new RS member who created a new website for the Program Committee. This has been reviewed by the Program and the Technology Committees. The site, vetted by Amber and Lorene, will only contain information without any RS data. Lorene reported there are 128 programs for the coming semester with a significant increase in new program leaders. A "new leaders only" workshop will be held in October followed later by a workshop for all program leaders. A mentor leader program is being considered. Some concerns had been raised about some program leaders lacking a depth of knowledge in their subject as well as inadequate technology knowledge but unwilling to have a tech host for their class.

Communications and Marketing –Rick Atkinson - Thanked Carolyn Monson for assuming the duties of The Recorder editor/publisher. Links are being built into the Weekly Update to present a less cluttered look and still offer more information about coming events. Amber will bring a supply of RS business cards to Open House for use by board members. A new RS rack card is in progress.

Finance and Administration – Dave Ferguson – See above.

Forum – A new chair and co-chair are needed to fill these open positions. Janet Heath and Lynda Cassidy will continue to provide their talents both preparing for, publicizing and ensuring everything is in place for Forums. All fall Forums dates have been filled, and the Spring plans will begin soon.

Membership – Susan Wheeler – Chaired her first membership meeting. A co-chair for the committee is needed. Susan called everyone listed on the Membership Committee to ascertain their interest in continuing on the committee; 22 people indicated an interest in continuing on the committee. She asked for help in putting up equipment at events and Amber is researching a new "pull cart" to help transport tents and materials. Susan will enlist help from Mike Agron will further analyze membership data.

Resource Development – Mike Pidd – Suzanne Nye has stepped down. Mike would like a new co-chair to bring fresh ideas to the committee. He credited Nancy Findeisen for pioneering this committee. Mike announced there are only a few more shirts available for a donation.

Scholarship – Sue McGinty/Laurye Brownfield – This year applicants can follow a QR code to find the RS scholarship application. There will be a signup table at Open House to recruit new scholarship committee members.

Technology –Kevin Collins/Tom Nelson –This month Kevin Collins replaced Sarah Ryan-Roberts as co-chair. Tom will continue as a co-chair and Sarah, who has exceptional technology skills, will remain on the committee. Bob Silva, who has an extensive tech background, has joined the committee. The committee, with a great deal of help from Eric Levinson, has drafted the specs for a new registration system for when that becomes necessary. Tom, Kevin and Eric would like input from Board members and will send out this initial draft. Contact Kevin with ideas. This will be a long-term process. Tech training for co-hosts began in June.

Volunteer Services – Carol Barake –Lecturer Jenny Stevenson has begun recruiting the 75-80 mentors she will need for her gerontology students this fall. Mentors may meet their mentees in person or on zoom. Additional information about the mentor program will be in the August newsletter and in Weekly Updates. The ASI Food Pantry will be offering a Thanksgiving dinner again this fall and will need volunteers. ASI will be hosting a table at Open House.

7. **New or Urgent Business** – Lorene asked all committee chairs to look carefully at the catalog to double check that the information is correct. Please contact her ASAP with any changes or updates.

8. Orientation

- a. What questions do you have about serving on the Board? With little time to address this, it will be brought up again in August.
- b. What do you think our (RS) priorities should be? This will be discussed during August.
- c. Deanna shared her priorities for 2025-2026 (shown above). These, along with each Committees' priorities, will be discussed further during the August Board meeting. Deanna announced she does not plan on attending all committee meetings but is available if a committee chair would like her attendance.
- d. Deanna is also working with Jennifer Kerr to produce a section on the website featuring our partners and their events. Please let Deanna and Jennifer know if there are any corrections, additions, changes needed to the website.
- e. Each Committee should be prepared to discuss their priorities/goals, meeting dates and any help they may need for the year. The purpose and goals for each committee as well as meeting dates will be included on the website.

9. Key Dates

- a. Orientation and Open House – August 8, 10:00
- b. Program Enrollment – August 11
- c. Classes Begin – September 2

10. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

11. **Next Meeting:** Monday, August 4, 2025, at 10:00 am on Zoom