

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Draft Minutes

Thursday July 9th, 2026, 9:00

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Jackie Lamb	x	Carol Stanford	
Vice President, Sean Tracy	x	Anne Rewell	x
Secretary Janet Heath		Marian Sheppard	x
Controller, Dave Ferguson	x	Mike Blixt	x
Asst. Controller, Thom Gilbert	x	Mahnaz Khazari	x
Past President, Deanna Hanson	x	Bob Silva	x
Past Secretary Susan Brackenhoff	x		

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
Communications & Marketing: Richard Atkinson	x	Program Chair: Sandy Britton Deborah Martinez	
Finance & Administration: Dave Ferguson Asst. Controller Thom Gilbert	X x	Resource Development Chair: Mike Pidd	x
Forum Chair: Anne Rewell, Sigrid Bathen	x	Scholarship Chair: Sue McGinty	x
Volunteer Services Chair: Pam O'Brien	x	Nominating Chair:	
Membership Co- Susan Wheeler, Michael Blixt	x	Tech Co-Chairs Kevin Collins, Tom Nelson	x

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Dr. David Lang, Liaison	x		
Weekly Update/Constant Contact: Hollis Kulwin, Teri Stone, Loretta Burdeaux		Website: Teri Stone Facebook: Kathy Hart	
Recorder, Carolyn Monson	x	Office Manager: Amber Korb	x

- **Call to Order** -President Jackie Lamb called the meeting to order at 9:07 am at Clara Studios.
- **President's Welcome Appointment of Sean Tracy as Vice President** -Jackie introduced Sean Tracy, a newly retired, new RS member, and new program leader. Sean has a background in strategic government planning and has served on other volunteer boards. -Dave moved and Mahnaz seconded Sean Tracy's appointment as Vice President. No discussion. Motion passed.

Board Orientation – President

- **President's goals and objectives for 2026/27-** Jackie led a brief review of the RS goals and objectives for the coming year. The goals are based on recent conversations with a dedicated focus group. Folders with reference documents were provided to Board which included an RS quiz.
- **Sac State Update,** Dr. David Lang, SSIS Liaison --David Lang: SSIS is expanding their interdisciplinary options with a new interdisciplinary sub-department, a Public Affairs degree, and an AI Governance degree. A partnership with the fire department creating a Fire Science program is being planned. A new 90–120-unit degree program would include a more hands-on, pre-professional approach. Other initiatives: 1. encouraging the development of more 1-unit classes so students can sample different subjects 2. working on a faculty podcast about movies 3. An out-of-state enrollment push is planned. 4. expand interest in a downtown campus and planning to purchase buildings soon with the grant from Meta. SSIS will have an online Town Hall on August 28. Dean Lang will send Jackie an invitation to distribute to the board. The new Associate Dean is Shane Nordyke.
- **New Committee – Connections- President** A new “Connections Committee” will be formed with the purpose “to sustain and increase the number of ways that Renaissance Society interacts with its members and with CSU, Community Partners. Additionally, the committee will serve as a coordinating and clearinghouse for social activities, partnerships and engagements with other organizations and community groups. Two subcommittees will function as Internal Connections and the External Connections”.
- **Approval of Minutes – Janet Heath (substitute Susan Brackenhoff)** -Dave voted to approve the June 8, 2026 minutes and Deanna seconded. Membership voted to approve the minutes.
- **Reports**
 - **Secretary** – Susan Brackenhoff said that four deaths of RS members have been reported since last Board meeting: Bob Lang, Alan Candee, Kay Cawood and Bob Seyfried.
 - **Controller** – Dave Ferguson reported that RS has a cash reserve of \$95,000 and a cash balance of \$130,000. Last year, Sacramento State charged RS \$30,000 for computer use. Year-end financial figures will be available at the end of this month. He also announced that the new part-time employee will provide technical support on Fridays, including support for the Forum.
 - **Office Manager** – Amber Korb reported that final donation totals will be available soon.

Five volunteers are participating in the Senior Planet training program, with implementation planned for the spring. The program offers more than 300 classes at no cost. There are currently 700 paid RS members. RS will have 144 programs and 22 new leaders in the fall.

New Business

- Progress on the 40th anniversary celebration- There will be multiple events throughout the year to commemorate our 40th year. Possible plans include a bus trip to a winery, a BBQ and speakers. The Iron Hub in Shenandoah Valley offers wine tasting, food and lecture for under \$100 which would include bus transportation. Fifty-five to fifty-six spaces are available on a rented bus. A low-cost BBQ would be another event open to all RS members for a small fee.
- Appointment of Chairs – Program Committee -Sandy Britton and Debbie Martinez are the new program committee co-chairs.
- Volunteer Opportunities- Mentor Lunches with Food Pantry -A RS member suggested a new initiative to Jackie where a member would take 2 students to lunch monthly and form a mentor relationship. Ryan Choi from the ASI food pantry would select the twelve students who would be hosted by six RS members.
- Special funds committee update (Deborah, Deanna, Susan, Jackie) The committee is looking into an all-day event in October. The new Cap Radio location could hold a large crowd and rents for \$5000.
- Progress on MOU- nothing to report.
- Nominating committee to become active all year long
- **Committee Reports by Committee Chairs and discussion:**
 - Program – Sandy Britton, Debra Martinez are the new co-chairs. The summer programs are going extremely well. The new two-week advance registration system works efficiently.
 - Technology – Tom Nelson/Kevin Collins – Tom said the new passwords changeover is complete. He has been working on the Senior Planet project. Some members are having trouble getting online parking passes. Amber will assist.
 - Scholarship – Sue McGinty no report
 - Forum – Anne Rewell- Unfortunately a scam email appears to have been sent by Sigrid Bathen. Please delete it immediately. The Forum lineup for Spring is already half complete.
 - Resource Development – Mike Pidd said the major donation figures are coming in. He will be sharing information about donation opportunities at the August Discovery Day.

- Communications & Marketing – Rick Atkinson – has two new volunteers to assist with the publishing of the Weekly Update. He is still trying to find a writer for back up. There are plans to update the picture on the RS brochure.
- Volunteer Services – Pam O’Brien said the program leaders should be asked if they want to participate with the Friday collection envelopes for ASI Food Pantry. A better tool for tracking the donations needs to be implemented. There is a full complement of volunteers for Discovery Day. Reservations for tables are coming in from both on and off campus.
- Membership – Susan Wheeler/Mike Blixt – Mike reported there are 23 members on the Membership Committee. A recent meeting to establish a strategic plan was attended by 11 members. Our RS members need to purposefully talk to nonmembers about the benefits of RS. As many as 9 touches may be necessary to bring in new members. Bring people to Discovery Day. Suggestions were made to appeal to students’ grandparents and to add a membership appeal to the Forum recording. Mike encouraged us to stretch our membership goal over 200.
- **Recognition of Retiring Board Members** –Jackie presented an appreciation certificate of appreciation and an orchid to three members who have completed their terms on the RS Board: Deboarh Seiler, Carol Barake and Susan Brakcenhoff.
- **Key Dates**
 - Discovery Day and Open House = August 14th. Board members should attend.
 - Next Board Meeting- August 3rd 10:00 am at Clara Studios
 - Next Executive Committee Meeting July 27th

Adjourn: Sean made a motion, seconded by Dave to adjourn. Approved.