

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES for March 4, 2024

Zoom at 10 a.m.

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	x	Carol Barake	
Vice President, Debbie Martinez	x	Dale Good	x
Secretary, Susan Brackenhoff	x	Janet Heath	x
Controller, Norv Wellsfry	x	Frank Martinez	x
Past President, Ken Cross	x	Kathryn Tobias	
		Vacant	

Committee Chairs	Present		Present
C&M Richard Atkinson	x	Program Co-Chair Darryl Freeman	
Fin/Ad Norv Wellsfry	x	Resource Dev. Mike Pidd	x
Forum Michele Finerty		Scholarship Laurye Brownfield	x
Forum Co-Chair Janet Heath	x	Tech Co-Chair Sarah Ryan-Roberts	x
LRP Ken Cross	x	Tech Co-chair Tom Nelson	x
MDCE Debbie Martinez	x	Volunteer Services Carol Barake	
Nominating Susan Brackenhoff	x		

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr	x	Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Guests: Deanna Hanson	x		
Davd Ferguson	x		

1. **Call to Order** - President Deborah Seiler called the zoom meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 4, 2024.
2. **Approval of Feb. 4, 2024, Minutes** - There were no additions or corrections. Ken moved and Mike seconded the approval of the minutes. Motion passed.
3. **President's Welcome Message** - The spring semester has had a smooth start for the most part. Deborah has been recruiting for RS officers and MALS. It is increasingly difficult to find volunteers. RS does "survive, thrive, or die" because of our **volunteers**. Cathy Minicucci will be doing exit interviews for members who have left their leadership positions.
4. **Reports**
 - a. Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff - Minutes and committee reports for the February meeting were submitted. No deaths of RS members have been reported.
 - b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry - The Finance Committee met to make a few revisions to the budget and fine tune the projections for next year. Our budget will be slightly smaller next year. Our only source of income is our dues. There were 1200 fall paid memberships, 250 spring memberships plus 250 comp memberships this year equaling 1800 members. Next year's budget is based on \$175,000. Budget requests are due April 15. State your request and description of need on form.
 - c. Office Manager: Amber Korb - Amber is working with the Center for Small Business technology students to define a project for exploring a new RS registration system. She has noticed a small improvement in communications with UEI. Cyberstores allows us to process credit cards thru UEI web portal. An annual training update is required. .
 - d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson's Associate Dean Marya Endriga indicated Dianne has been working with UEI to take care of some of the issues we have had. Sac State enrollment has declined. As part of the new effort to increase enrollment, the Black Honors College has been launched and the new Combat U is attracting international and out of state students, as many as 600 students. Students continue to want online classes. An in-person class had to be canceled due to low enrollment but when offered online, the class filled overnight. Gerontology student numbers have dropped. Faculty is totally back after negotiations. The library will house the Black College. Deborah has asked Mark Brown to speak at a future Forum.

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. Annual Report status – Debbie-The proof is ready for review. It will be posted on the website.
- b. Non-renewing Member Survey status - Debbie is meeting with Marian Kile to finalize details.
- c. Post Orientation & Open House Survey - Janet reported the members' greatest area of interest was in culture/society and arts/entertainment. The area of least interest was in languages. She will send out spreadsheets to those committee chairs that might use the information. Rick found two people for his Communications Committee by looking at past career information shown on the survey.
- d. Diversity Proposal update - After months and months of dedication to pull together diverse membership, there has not been a lot of headway. Only 10 members of the AME church are interested in membership. Last September 11, we agreed to offer them a membership deal as well as an RS ambassador. For the Asian community, Diana Gin would be a good ambassador to serve as a liaison. Norv made a motion to approve the liaison position to reach out to the Asian community. Susan seconded. No abstentions and motion was approved.
- e. Program Leaders Workshop, May 17, 2024 - Workshop date has changed to May 31, 2024.
- f. Speaking and tabling events – Spring Membership Drive There are no current plans. Ken passed out RS information at the Gerontology Mentor gathering.

- g. Update on Sac Public Library Program/Hart Senior Center - slow progress on MOU.
- h. SMUD partnership – Frank reported that SMUD has a workforce initiative in order to develop a more skilled workforce in the area. He is working with Carol Barake to meet with SMUD folks. This could become a recruitment tool. A RS Forum session could showcase the initiative.
- i. Committee Volunteer Task Lists - If a committee is in need of more volunteers, contact Deborah. Specifically detail what the volunteer would do. Amber remarked that having a list of volunteer opportunities with a detailed list of duties is needed. Each committee should identify their tasks. An article in the April Recorder will focus on the need for volunteers.
- j. New Member Experience Survey - none

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Forum – Michele - Kenn Altine will present at the March 8 Forum. He has been advised that his dog can join him in Mendocino 1005 to present “Honoring our Commitment to Domesticated Animals”.
- b. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie reported current membership stands at 1779. RS has been collecting demographics for a year. When comparing last year to this year’s data, we still show 90% Caucasian with only 41 African American members. The Senior Resource Fair in Rancho Cordova is on April 24. The CHPPR Annual Conference is April 20 from 8:30-4:30 in the Sac State Alumni Center. Allan Keown, who has been planning our socials in the park, is having health issues. We need a new lead to take over.
- c. Nominating – Susan reported that the interviews for 2024-2025 Board members began today. She reviewed the several months recruiting process with the board. Our executive team is made up of four positions plus the past President. The positions of President, Vice President and Controller were all open. Susan agreed to stay another year as Secretary. So ¾ of the executive board needed to be filled. After multiple recruiting efforts, no one wanted to run for president so Deborah agreed to stay another year. Incredible. How lucky we are! The controller position has been a roller coaster ride of yeses and nos and maybes. We do not have anyone as of yet to interview. The bottom line is that volunteers willing to take on yearlong commitments are few and far between. Committee chairmen have experienced this lack of volunteerism too. Every year it gets harder and harder to recruit members to serve. This dynamic is affecting our organization more all the time. The same is true for other organizations that we all belong to. The responsibility to recruit new leaders falls on every member. Best way to recruit has always been one on one. Presenters could help recruit from their classes. A slide asking for volunteers could be added to the weekly forum announcement slide. Recruiting is a year-long process for all of us.
- d. Program – Darryl is having health issues today and unable to attend. Debbie asked if program evaluations are voluntary. We don’t want to push people away but think that evaluations can be used in a positive way. Ken provides time in class to complete evaluations.
- e. Resource Development – Mike’s report showed total donations for year-to-date were \$50,014. Scholarship donations were \$35,444. Give Something Extra donations were \$14,570. The GSSD, Give Sac State Day, is a 36 hour donation period starting April 19-20. Donations over \$1000 are tagged for appropriate acknowledgement.

- f. Scholarship – Laurye The RS Scholarship applications closed on March 2, 2024, with an estimated forty qualified applications to review and score. Recipients will be presented with their scholarship award and the committee’s signature cookies at our Annual Meeting on May 10, 2024. The committee is actively looking for committee members.
- g. Technology – Sarah/Tom - Lorene Sarne, Marian Kile and Sarah Ryan-Robert met with Steve Grondin on February 14 to talk about improvements for a more efficient workflow for registration. Recent tech support requests mostly involved incorrect or forgotten passwords. The Tech Committee sent out a welcome email to all RS members on February 9 through Constant Contact offering tech support for a variety of issues.
- h. Volunteer Services – Carol is traveling but reported that the two leads for the Sac State ushering program have stepped down. The parking issues became very difficult to handle. An idea for the future is to have volunteers schedule directly with the Theater Department.
- i. Communications and Marketing --Rick reported that 800 members are following RS on Facebook. He suggested that more emphasis needs to be put on our Facebook page. There are a couple of hundred people on the external Facebook page. Laurye complimented the committee on the outstanding Weekly Updates. Rick gave kudos to Hollis Kulwin, Jennifer Kerr, and Loretta Burdeaux. Jim Hodges does excellent work on The Recorder.
- j. Finance and Administration – Norv- Budget requests are due April 15.

8. Working Groups

Summer Program, 2024 - The Summer Program’s theme is “Celebrating Diverse Communities in Sacramento through Art, Music, Food and Culture”. Ideas include showcasing African American black quilters and fashion shows; Mexican music and culture; the Capitol Chinese Orchestra; a recital of Chinese Traditional and Japanese music; Japanese food; Sojourner Truth; and the African Heritage Museum.

Center for Small Business - See above.

9. New or Urgent Business none

10. Key Dates

- a. March 1 -- First Friday Pizza
- b. March 4-5 – Nominating Committee Interviews
- c. March 18 -22 – Spring Break; Campus Closed
- d. March 27 – Nominating Committee submits slate of proposed Board members to the Executive Committee

11. **Adjourn** - Norv moved and Mike seconded for the meeting to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2024 Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff