

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

November 6, 2023 at 10 a.m.on Zoom

Officers	Present	Members at Large	Present
President, Deborah Seiler	x	Carol Barake	x
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	a

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

Liaisons/Guests	Present		Present
Website Jennifer Kerr		Weekly Update Hollis Kulwin	
Weekly Update/ Constant Contact Loretta Burdeaux		Sac State Liaison, College of SSIS /Dean Dianne Hyson	x
Recorder Jim Hodges		Office Manager Amber Korb	x
Guests: Jackie Lamb Bob Hall	xx	Bob Benedetti, Former Board member	x

1. **Call to Order: President Deborah Seiler** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **Approval of Oct. 2, 2023 Minutes:** Laurye moved, Ken seconded, all approved the Oct minutes.

3. President's Welcome Message: Deborah introduced Renaissance member Jackie Lamb who may be interested in becoming a MAL Board member. Later in the meeting, Bob Hall, another potential MAL Board member, joined on zoom. Deborah's calendar has been filled with the New Member Dinner, Major Donor Member Event and the Alumni Dinner. She has been reaching out to Sac State

leadership to establish an excellent relationship. She attended the President's Circle, the President's Box football game, First Lady Idara Wood's luncheon and the President's Breakfast. Deborah recognized Bob Benedetti for his efforts, along with Allan Keown, to schedule the Renaissance Clubhouse for the New Members Dinner.

4. Reports

- a. **Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff** - Susan thanked committee chairs for sending monthly reports directly to her so they can be saved in a common file in PDF format. Occasionally, when reports are sent in Google Docs, the ability to make them pdf and forwarded on can create corrupted files in different computer systems. When possible, please send reports in Word. No Renaissance member deaths were reported this month.
- b. **Controller: Norv Wellsfry** -Reported that our financial condition is in good shape. with revenue at or above where we wanted it to be. The 1st quarterly report was received and reflected the downturn in the stock market and the effect on our numbers. He is still involved in finalizing the Gerth endowment that is being funded by \$40,000 from the scholarship fund. Deborah will be signing a letter to complete the transfer of funds. In the future, Renaissance will only need to raise money for 5 out of our 7 scholarships. Any funds collected over the needed amount for scholarships will go into the building of a third endowment. Last year we collected \$10,000 above the \$21,000 needed. We also had a \$15,000 donation. The endowed scholarship accounts receive a 4% return.
- c. **Office Manager: Amber Korb** - Renaissance Fall Directory has been sent out. She is assisting with the holiday dinner on Dec 8, the Program Leaders' Workshop on Dec 15 and Open House on Jan 26. A banner for tabling events has been ordered.
- d. **Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS** - Dean Hyson recently returned from a Deans' conference attended by Deans from across the US. There are humanitarian crises in many places and conversations need to be had about these issues. Social injustice was a problem discussed and ways of handling it on any campus. Ideas were shared on how to move from crisis management to strategy management in the higher ed world. UEI has many layers that need addressing and improving, such as our difficulty in finding financial information. It is a slow process. Dale expressed concern about the State of California no longer requiring a bachelor's degree for employment. Dean Hyson responded that Sac State is investigating ways to offer education for the upper echelon of management especially in cases where the employee may not have a degree equivalent to their employers' needs. Enrollment numbers are fine with online classes filling first. Faculty staff threat of strike remains. The endowed scholarships are important to our relationship with Sac State.

5. Decisions and Discussion:

- a. **Annual Report Status:** Debbie has reached out to those who need to provide information.
- b. **Diversity Proposal Follow-up:** Deborah is meeting with the Sacramento City Library to discuss offering programs at their locations. This provides an opportunity to share diverse programming to local communities. Lists of potential programs have been prepared to offer the libraries. Deborah spoke with a representative from the Hmong community about offering programs for the "elders" who may not have had many learning opportunities in their lives. Deborah is also exploring Renaissance membership with diverse groups such as the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

- c. **Speaking and Tabling Events:** The Elk Grove Community Holiday tabling event last year was very successful garnering 15-20 potential member names. Deborah spoke to the Roseville SIR group (Sons in Retirement) about a potential Renaissance Club within their organization. She mentioned a combined spring function with SIR as suggested by their representative, Jim Gragg.
- d. **New Member Dinner:** Suggestions for next year were to pair an old and a new member together for hospitality reasons. The 65 attendees had good reviews of the event. Renaissance nearly broke even.
- e. **Meeting with Sac Public Library** on Oct 18: Maryellen Burns and Deborah created a list of speakers and presentations appropriate for library events. The new library director wants to be the one who selects the programs. We will negotiate to have an allotted 10 minutes to discuss the benefits of Renaissance.

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

- a. Resource Development: Mike - The major donor event went very well. Thank you to Deborah and Jim for offering their hospitality in their home. Three scholarship awardees were present. Chris Budwine, a major donor, offered a heartfelt impromptu speech on the value of education. She agreed to write an appeal letter at the end of the year. A student violinist played for the event. Mike's photography was used for the invitation. A Thanksgiving appeal will be sent to members.
- b. Scholarship: Laurye - Good news is that the due date for the scholarship applications is March 2024. This allows time to be prepared for the end of the year meeting. The unexpected news is the effect of the endowments creating two additional separate scholarships. This is a problem for the committee and students. Because it uses a rubric, a student could win two scholarships. Laurye will be meeting with Rebekah and Julie later this week.
- c. Technology: Sarah and Tom - Technology committee is focused on creating a file management system. Committee chairs responded that they would definitely like to have this available. They are looking at two platforms. Laurye has already started a google drive for sharing folders and archiving documents. We need something uniform that will require guidelines and standards. The committee is open to ideas on file sharing. The other technology that is on the horizon for replacement is the registration system. IRT is suggesting we look into a commercial system. There is a cost of \$8 per member per year to pay for CCE. Ken suggested we look into the contract with IRT. Debbie stressed that this is the backbone for Renaissance in how members register and how we take classes. The Resource Development Committee is also looking at donor software replacement that could possibly handle membership. Amber reported that a new "purchased system" registration system might be in the works. How these new possibilities all work together is very complicated.
- d. Volunteer Services: Carol - The annual ASI Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive is underway. Renaissance would like to earn the Golden Plate award again this year. Food baskets costs have increased to \$50 per basket. An online link to give directly to the drive now has a box to indicate when an Renaissance member is contributing. ASI's goal is \$8000. Over \$900 was collected on Friday. Deborah and Carol attended an ASI meeting where Renaissance was recognized as a major food pantry donor. We are trying to determine a monthly tally of Renaissance contributions. Pat Paul reports volunteer hours for the university theater program. She would like to use a registration system to schedule her volunteers but the current system is not usable. Ushers are concerned about parking permits for non-Friday performances.
- e. Communications and Marketing: Rick asked that we look at the questionnaire he sent out

regarding the Recorder newsletter and provide feedback. He supports written institutional knowledge that can be referred to as needed.

- f. Finance and Administration: Norv - See controller report.
- g. Forum: Michele - Her committee is working on the 2024 spring lineup. Jaime Mason, the speaker who canceled due to sickness, has been rescheduled. A laser pointer that was ordered did not operate and was returned. She complimented her committee for their continued hard work.
- h. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Debbie - The Communications & Marketing Committee has been using Eventbrite to register for some events. There is no charge for registering under 25 people but for 25-100 people there is now a charge of \$9.99. She suggested purchasing the \$29 monthly fee for unlimited registrations. Our membership numbers are running about even with last year-103%. Encourage everyone to suggest RS memberships as a great Christmas gift.
- i. Nominating: Susan reminded everyone about the Renaissance election procedures: President, VicePres, Secretary and Controller have one-year terms. Officers may opt to continue but if there is another interested person running for that office, the normal interview process will be conducted. Members at Large are elected for two-year terms. Desirable qualifications were read. A slate of officers will be presented in April, elections will be in May.
- j. Program: Dale - The Spring 2024 Friday Speaker Series is full. A December 15 Program Leaders' Workshop is in the planning stages and Deborah has created a draft agenda for the workshop. Diversity training is important for program leaders as well as Renaissance Board members. A large number of ideas for diversified programs have been created. Ken still needs a replacement for his tremendous work on Open House. Consideration in scheduling hybrid programs has to be given to some classrooms since they work better for hybrid classes than others. Janet is finding it difficult to find tech hosts for Forum presentations. She asked Tom to consider working with Sac State students to find assistance.

8. Working Groups No report

9. New or Urgent Business No report

10. Key Dates

November 1 – Deadline for applications to teach and all catalog submissions

November 15 – Spring registration opens

November 17 – Deadline for TG Holiday Food Drive

December 8 – Classes end

December 8 – Holiday Dinner at Engrained

11. Adjourn: Dale moved, Mike seconded, all approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2023, Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Susan Brackenhoff

