

RENAISSANCE SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes for October 2, 2023

Dunbarton Cabana Clubhouse

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

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

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

1. Call to Order: President Deborah Seiler called the Renaissance Society Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on zoom.

2. Approval of September 11, 2023 Minutes: Sarah asked that Marian Kile's name be updated. Sarah moved Sept minutes be approved as corrected; Michele seconded. Minutes were approved.

3. President's Welcome Message: Deborah introduced two new committee chairs. Dale Good has accepted the Program Committee Chair position. Tom Nelson has accepted the Technology Committee Co-chair position. Deborah had a chance to meet with President Wood at the Sac State football game. Thanks to Dean Hyson, the RS is firmly on his radar. Ken has also met him. There were 23 RS participants at the Ohana Walk. Our RS picture is now on the ACC wall.

4. Reports:

a. Secretary: Susan Brackenhoff - no report

b. Controller: Norv Wellsfry - Norv reported on the current budget and special funds balances. The RS budget is in good shape despite the fact that we had less money coming in but we had fewer expenses.

The Special Fund has approximately \$20,000. This money needs to be coordinated with Sac State and Dean Hyson is excited to be working with us on this. Endowments - the 1st Nelson endowment is fully funded from the General Fund. The 2nd - which will be the Gerth Endowment - is partially funded. We have \$26,774 in the fund and are trying to move \$40,000 to fully fund it. There is some hold up over the Gerth name. Deborah has signed off on our end, Dean Hyson will follow up to see what is happening on their end. We have \$140,000 in the Scholarship Fund with possibility of a third Endowment this year. Each endowment will reduce scholarship dollars needed by \$3000.

c. Office Manager: Amber Korb - Because membership requests are down, they are catching up.

d. Sac State Liaison, Dean Dianne Hyson, College of SSIS - She is pleased to see our relationship with President Wood increasing. Scholarships are a good way to build a relationship with the University. He had a 100-day goal to meet with everyone but due to some issues (CapRadio Audit) his attention has been redirected. The Native American Center has been moved from the Anthropology department but there is still an anthropologist involved. Ken asked about student enrollment. Dean Hyson said there are lots of reasons for the reduction. Some are due to lower birth rates. In addition, the State of California has removed the requirement for applicants to have a Bachelor's Degree.

5. Decisions and Discussion:

a. Annual Report status – This is Debbie's first time producing the RS annual report. Frank Martinez will assist her. December 1 is the new target date for completion.

b. Diversity Proposal Follow up - Deborah has been trying to meet with some of our community partners to set up this working group. (See notes regarding the libraries)

c. Speaking and tabling events - Deborah will speak to various SIRS chapters on Oct. 13, Oct. 26, and Dec. 21. Debbie attended the Elk Grove Senior Health Fair which was very successful. There were 15 people who signed up for RS information. There is an opportunity with a Veterans group and possibly Ken and Frank might be able to help.

d. Meeting with Sac Public Library - Deborah has been meeting with Sacramento Public Library staff. They are more open now than in the past to work with RS. We have a couple of people who are

willing to provide presentations at the libraries. At the meeting with Dale Good's Program Committee, there was a suggestion to take the one-time presentations to the libraries. This way we could help provide programming for the libraries while they help us with meeting space.

6. Written Committee Reports

Statements of No Report: Long Range Planning

7. Verbal Reports by Committee Chairs

a. Scholarship – Laurye - shared that due to Federal scholarship changes, Sac State has delayed the due date for the scholarship applications for a month. Normally, the info is available in early March which allows time to review, select, and contact students and finalize the awards by the end of April. But if the applications are not received until April, it will compress processing time to a month. Laurye will reach out to Julie to see about getting them earlier but her guess is that we need to observe their deadlines. She will check on the date we will receive the applications and see if we can shorten our timeframe. Last year, 40 applications were received and processed fairly quickly. Marketing will be increased this year unless we see that we need to wait because if there is a large increase, it would affect processing. The other option is to change the presentation date but then the students may be gone then affecting our meeting date. Laurye will reach out to potential new committee members in late October.

b. Technology – Sarah/Tom - Tom Nelson has joined the Technology Committee as Co-Chair. Tom introduced himself as a Sac State graduate with a computer degree. He has been volunteering in the education arena. He serves as the President of one of the PTAs. He is glad to have joined the RS to help in the area of Technology.

c. Volunteer Services – Carol - thanked Ken for his encouragement to the gerontology students to share news of the RS with older relatives and for distributing rack cards. Carol reported on the Food Bank and the Thanksgiving Baskets. Cash donations are appreciated. Baskets are about \$40 each. Please give any extra fresh fruit or vegetables from your garden. She is working with Sarah to see if there is a way to keep a list of the ushers. Carol is meeting with Sarah to see how this would work-possibly as a SIG.

d. Communications and Marketing – Rick - is developing a survey to see how members feel about information in the Recorder. This could indicate how members receive their information.

e. Finance and Administration – Norv - see controller's report

f. Forum – Michele - There is one date open on May 3rd. They are trying to find a speaker. The RS Annual Meeting will be May 10 during the Forum timeframe.

g. Membership, Diversity, Community Engagement – Deborah thanked Debbie for her recent thorough report on RS Open House and Orientation. Debbie shared information about current membership numbers. They are only 3% higher than last year so this may be our new reality. The report also included breakdowns by gender, age and race. The new member dinner will be a catered no-host dinner at the Campus Commons Nepenthe Clubhouse on Friday, October 27. A sponsor is needed for that event. Board members are encouraged to attend.

h. Nominating - Susan reported the nominating committee will convene this month to begin the nominating process. She is seeking names for potential new board members. Please send information to her. Application announcement dates are coming in November.

i. Program – Dale - A volunteer is needed to replace Ken's good work to oversee the Open

House. Dale noted members are asking about making more of the recordings available on the website. Sarah questioned how they would be distributed. There are some logistics issues since the program leaders generally are the ones that have access to the recordings. There was discussion about the program leaders workshop. One idea was to not only equip leaders with technical information but also to help if there are issues within the classroom. Ken shared there was an inappropriate comment in one of his classes and he was able to handle it. Newer leaders may not have the same skills. This should be explored further.

j. Resource Development – Mike- see monthly report. Mike is preparing to send out holiday giving requests.

8. Working Groups

9. New or Urgent Business Debbie said the membership directory will be electronic format only.

10. Key Dates

October 15 – Target deadline for Annual Report

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

11. Adjourn Deborah called the meeting to a close at 11:53 a.m. Ken made the motion to adjourn; Michele seconded it.

12. Next Meeting: November 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.