

**NSSA Executive Committee
Conference Call Minutes, 9/11/12**

Chris Leighton (Secretary), 9/11/2012

Present: Julie Borchers (JB)
Chris Leighton (CL)
Bruce Gaulin (BG)
Jaime Fernandez-Baca (JFB)
Tonya Kuhl (TK)
John Tranquada (JT)
Norm Wagner (NW)

Absent: Flora Meilleur (FM)
Thomas Proffen (TP)

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from 8/1/2012 (All).
2. Set date for next conf. call (BG/CL).
3. ACNS 2012 finances (JB).
4. Next ACNS – discussions with ORNL (BG/JFB)
5. Prizes: Emails of thanks to nominators/notification of rollover policy (BG).
6. NSSA info from facility submission sites (BG/CL).
7. ICNS 2013 booth/co-sponsorship (TP).
8. Candidates for open exec comm positions (All).
9. Advocacy efforts for LANSCE/HFIR (All).
10. An NSSA badge (JFB)
11. AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

1. Approval of minutes

CL proposed adoption of the minutes from 8/1/12, seconded by JFB. All in favor.

2. Date for next conference call

After some discussion this was set for 11:30 am (CST) on October 9th. CL will send an email reminder on October 8th.

3. ACNS finances

JB reported that we are essentially still waiting for a financial close-out from MRS, and notification of the magnitude of the expected surplus. She will contact MRS for an update. CL mentioned that he had been asked to provide a final report on the DOE grant to MRS and JB agreed to send several files to CL for this purpose.

4. Next ACNS

BG and JFB discussed that JFB had discussed this with Bierschmitt who was positive, indeed enthusiastic, about ORNL hosting this event. JB agreed to contact ORNL to urge them to secure a site quickly. BG also plans to make contact with ORNL on this issue. It was discussed that Knoxville is the likely site, although there may be other options.

5. Prizes: Emails of thanks to nominators and notification of rollover policy change

BG needs a complete list of nominators, which CL does not have. TP was asked to provide this by email.

6. NSSA information from facility submission sites

This is under consideration by BG and CL and will be rolled over to the next call.

7. ICNS 2013 booth/co-sponsorship

Due to TP's absence this was rolled over to the next conference call.

8. Candidates for executive positions (discussed out of order)

First, JT clarified that in addition to the positions of President, Comms. Sec., and Member. Sec. being open, Treasurer was in fact open too. With this noted, extensive discussions then took place in order to compile a list of candidates.

NW and TK were then excused prior to an extensive discussion of potential candidates for President. The result of this discussion was the identification of Norm Wagner, Collin Broholm, and Tim Lodge as ideal candidates, again in the order in which they should be approached. It was again agreed that only two candidates should run, and that the candidates for President should be approached before those for the other three positions.

9. Advocacy efforts for LANSCE/HFIR

The safety incident that occurred recently at LANSCE was discussed in some detail. It is understood that a stand-off is now in effect and that accelerator operations have been shut down. It was noted by TK that this may now affect their neutron school scheduled

to begin this week. The LANSCE website lists October 1st as an earliest possible date for resumption of the (suspended) user program. The issue of whether any NSSA action, such as a letter of support, would be appropriate at this time was discussed at some length, and it was concluded that this is not so. BG nevertheless agreed to contact Mark Bourke to verbally offer NSSA assistance if required/appropriate.

The general issue of continuation of NSSA's advocacy efforts was also discussed. An OMB visit was discussed, as well as the complex interplay between DOE, OSTP and OMB. JT noted that Jim Murphy had been appointed as the new head of scientific user operations at DOE, and that the opening of some dialogue with the NSSA could be a good idea. This was agreed upon by several committee members. BG resolved to do this. The Exec. Comm. also discussed the general issue of support for x-ray vs. neutron instrumentation, specifically in the context of the weak neutron presence at the recent SNUG meeting in Santa Fe attended by TK.

10. An NSSA badge

JFB reviewed the origin of this idea, as recorded in July's minutes. After some discussion the committee eventually agreed that an item such as this ought to be dealt with by the facilities as opposed to the NSSA, for a number of reasons.

11. AOB

None raised.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	JB	ACNS 2012 financial close-out	8/12	3
2	BG/JB	Next ACNS (BG and JB will contact ORNL re site selection and local chair)	8/12	4
3	TP/BG	Prizes: Emails of thanks/Notification of rollover policy. BG needs list from TP.	(combined 8/12)	5
4	BG	Follow up with facilities with respect to them adding a NSSA checkbox to their proposal submission forms. The checkbox would trigger information about NSSA being sent to the proposer.	9/09 Renewed 4/12	6
5	TP	ICNS 2013 Booth/Co-sponsorship. (TP will prepare options and costs)	8/12	7
6	BG	Contacting Exec Comm candidates	9/12	8
7	BG	Advocacy efforts. BG will contact Bourke (LANSCE) and Murphy (DOE)	9/12	9