

**NSSA Executive Committee  
Conference Call Minutes, 04/20/15**

**Katharine Page (Secretary), 04/27/15**

**Present:** Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)  
Patrick Woodward (PW)  
Katharine Page (KP)  
Mike Crawford (MC)  
Chris Wiebe (CW)  
Norm Wagner (NW)  
Ron Jones (RJ)  
Mark Lumsden (ML)

**Agenda:**

- 1) Adoption of minutes from 03/17/15 (KP/SR/All)
- 2) Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)
- 3) LANSCE follow-up (SR/CW/All)
- 4) NIST letter campaign follow-up (SR/ML/RJ)
- 5) MRS and Gordon conference sponsoring follow-up (SR/MC)
- 6) Members at Large (SR/ALL)
- 7) ACNS 2016 planning update (PW/All)
- 8) Joint AONSA, ECNS, NSSA meeting (SR)
- 9) AOB

**Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):**

**1. Approval of minutes (KP/SR/All)**

The minutes from 03/17/15 were adopted with no corrections and no objections.

**2. Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)**

It was agreed that the date and time for the next conference call will be Tuesday, May 26, at 11 AM Central Time.

**3. LANSCE follow-up (SR/CW/All)**

SR sent a letter on behalf of NSSA on March 20, 2015 to Kurt Schoenberg outlining the importance of continued user program operations at the Lujan Center. A response has not been received. It was decided that a new section of the NSSA webpage shall be constructed for community activities including support/advocacy letters and notifications/links to letter writing campaigns. ML will create the page and deposit the LANSCE letter there. SR will contact the current LANSCE User Group (LUG) Chair, Albert Young, to check on the status of LANSCE and the Lujan Center.

#### **4. NIST letter campaign follow-up (SR/ML/RJ)**

The request for NSSA to sponsor a letter writing campaign to the Department of Commerce (DOC) in support of NCNR funding increases at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was further discussed (the fiscal year 2016 budget request from the DOC includes a \$11M increase for the NCNR reactor). Earlier discussion had reasoned that such a letter writing campaign falls under the responsibilities of the NIST user group. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was decided that a letter of support will be written to [REDACTED] the Appropriations Committee members, emphasizing that neutrons scattering facilities are critical national resources and expressing the importance of neutron research. SR will draft these letters in the next few days. RJ articulated there are many neutron scattering members outside the NIST user group who are invested in the state of neutron scattering in the United States, and contended we should encourage the participation of our membership in the congressional letter-writing campaign. It was agreed ML will send the NCNR User Group request and links to example letters to our distribution list.

#### **5. MRS and Gordon conference sponsoring update (SR/MC)**

The recent payments for sponsorship of the MRS Fall Meeting Symposium BBB (Liquids and Glassy Soft Materials--Theoretical and Neutron Scattering Studies) and the inaugural Gordon Research Conference on Neutron Scattering were discussed. SR will follow up with organizers of the sponsored sessions to confirm NSSA acknowledgement is made at the meetings. PW is processing the new members list generated at the MRS 2015 Spring Meeting booth.

#### **6. Members at large (SR/All)**

SR contacted [REDACTED] to inquire about their interest in serving on the Executive Committee. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The incorporation of a student/postdoc member was further discussed and the committee agreed to try out the new role in a two year appointment. The process of identifying suitable student/postdoc candidates was discussed. Ideas included recruiting from the ACNS 2014 poster winners, taking resume submissions from current executive committee members, and running an open nomination submission. It was decided that the process will be further discussed at our next meeting and nominations and resumes will be collected from committee members in the interim. It was also decided that the new committee body will be tried before considering specific bylaw changes (*ie.* specifying number of members-at-large and a specific student/postdoc position).

#### **7. ACNS 2016 planning update (PW/All)**

SR and PW participated in a conference call with Brent Fultz and MRS staff on April 17. The committee is converging on the Queen Mary in Long Beach for the conference venue. The Queen Mary can host 400 persons in its largest meeting room, and can accommodate 150 persons in each of its remaining four meeting rooms. Room rates range between \$129 and \$169 per night. MRS is confirming tentative dates of July 9-14, 2016 with Queen Mary. MRS is also looking into excursion and banquet options:

possibilities discussed include the Queen Mary and the Getty Center. It is expected that MRS will sign an agreement by the end of the month with Queen Mary. NNSA will then sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the MRS.

Program chairs will need to be selected for ACNS 2016 in the near future. Typically one is chosen with condensed matter expertise and one is selected with soft matter expertise. PW shared a list of past program chairs 2010 and forward. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was decided that SR shall contact him to gauge his interest. A list of hard matter candidates was conferred and discussed. It was decided that discussion would continue at the next meeting. Committee members are encouraged to send suggestions to KP to be included in the reminder message for next meeting.

MRS staff provided an estimate of \$15,000 in outstanding funds due to NSSA from the 2014 ACNS meeting. A closeout is required in preparation for NSSA's 2015 Tax Forms. SR will request a report of funds and transfer of balance from the MRS.

#### **8) Joint AONSA, ECNS, NSSA meeting (SR)**

SR received a message from the secretary of the Asia-Oceania Neutron Scattering Association (AONSA), inviting NSSA participation in an impromptu meeting of Neutron Scattering Society presidents at the 2nd Asia-Oceania Conference on Neutron Scattering in Sydney, Australia, in July. A representative will be attending from the European Neutron Scattering Association (ENSA). RJ will look into possible plans to attend. CW and ML represented the NSSA at the last occurrence of this meeting at the European Conference on Neutron Scattering (ECNS). It was discussed that such a meeting should be convened in Los Angeles at the 2016 ACNS Meeting and that invitations should be sent as soon as meeting dates and a venue are selected.

#### **8. AOB**

None raised.

**Action items**

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	SR	LANSCE follow-up with LUG leadership ██████████	04/15	3
2	ML	Create a community activities webpage and post LANSCE/Lujan support letter and links to NCNR letter-writing campaign	04/15	4
3	SR/ML	Draft letters to Department of Commerce Appropriations Committee and Undersecretary in support of proposed NCNR investments (SR)  Forward letter-writing campaign request from NCNR Users Group to NSSA members (ML)	04/15	4
4	SR/MC	Follow up with Fall MRS and Gordon Conference symposium organizers regarding sponsorship recognition	03/15	5
5	SR/KP/All	Follow up with ██████████ regarding interest in joining the Executive Committee as a member at large (SR)  Send suggested candidates for a student/postdoc member at large to KP (All)	04/15	6
6	PW/KP/All	Send suggested candidates for hard matter ACNS program chairs to KP (All)  Include list of potential program chairs in reminder for next meeting (KP)	03/15	7

7	SR/MC	Follow up on transfer of ACNS 2014 funds from MRS	01/15	7
8	RL	Consider attending joint AONSA, ECNS, NSSA meeting in Sydney	04/15	8