

**NSSA Executive Committee  
Conference Call Minutes, 8/7/13**

**Chris Leighton (Secretary), 8/9/13**

**Present:** Julie Borchers (JB)  
Chris Leighton (CL)  
Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)  
Mike Crawford (MC)  
Norm Wagner (NW)  
Tonya Kuhl (TK)  
John Tranquada (JT)  
Bruce Gaulin (BG)

**Absent:** Mark Lumsden (ML)  
Chris Wiebe (CW)  
Ron Jones (RJ)

**Agenda:**

1. Adoption of minutes from 7/11/2013 (CL/All).
2. Date for next conference call (SR/All).
3. Neutron News distribution issue (ML/RJ).
4. Advocacy efforts: DOE letters (Murphy/Dehmer/Apps. Comm.) (SR/BG/JT/JFB).
5. Advocacy efforts: Website expansion/highlight repository (ML/All).
6. Advocacy efforts: LANSCE user program/sample handling (SR/All).
7. Finances/tax reporting issues (MC)
8. ICNS "debriefing" (ML/NW).
9. Email distribution lists / Linked In (RJ).
10. ACNS 2014: Progress (JB), program chair invitations (JB), support from ORNL (JB), DOE (CL), LANSCE (SR).
11. Plans for NSSA prizes, awards and fellows (SR/All).
- 12 Travel support for Fall 2013 MRS (MC).
13. AOB

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

**1. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from 7/11/13 were adopted with no corrections and no objections, moved by SR, seconded by CL.

**2. Date for next conference call**

After some discussion **Wednesday Sep 11<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon (central)** was agreed upon.

### **3. Neutron News distribution issue**

Not discussed. Due to the absence of RJ and ML.

### **4. Advocacy efforts. DOE letters (Murphy / Dehmer / Appropriations Committee)**

SR reported that the modified letter to Murphy was completed and is being passed via email to some other members of the committee for review. Some discussion took place (JT, SR, BG) of whether the letter should also go elsewhere, the current climate for funding of x-ray and neutron sources, and the prospects and plans for the SNS second target station. It was noted that a thank you letter to May at NIST would be worthwhile. The NCNR budget apparently featured a near \$2M additional fund for manufacturing projects, which positively impacted ongoing instrumentation efforts. It is hoped that the prior letter from the NSSA played some positive role in this. SR resolved to consider the wording of such a letter, conferring with appropriate colleagues.

### **5. Advocacy efforts: Website expansion / highlight repository**

The main item was skipped due to the absence of ML, but JT raised the related issue that he had received an invoice for salary for a McMaster graduate student. It was determined that this was essentially an error, based on extending the former appointment of Fritsch into a new year, under a new student. A long discussion took place regarding whether such additional support for web development was worthwhile and required. It was resolved that the invoice should be put on hold for now, pending a discussion involving ML in particular. BG raised the possibility of an appointment starting January 2014, i.e. in the following semester.

### **6. Advocacy efforts. LANSCE user program/sample handling**

No new input was available from the committee, aside from the comment from TK that LANSCE had posted a job opening for a new assistant director.

### **7. Finances/tax reporting issues**

MC concluded after discussions with JT that he will go ahead and file the tax return himself, by the deadline of Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. MC and JT discussed some matters relating to the completion of the required schedule A. JT plans to send an earlier version of this to MC. MC is also going to follow up with some legal advice regarding these processes. The committee approved an expense not exceeding \$500 for this purpose. That the expenses for travel to DC for advocacy were considered lobbying in federal terms was also discussed. JB offered that Pat Hastings at MRS could potentially be a good resource to ask about knowledgeable law firms in this area. Finally, NW reported that no requests

for reimbursement from travel awards for ICNS had been received yet. If this continues over the coming weeks he will send email reminders.

#### **8. ICNS debriefing**

Not discussed due to the absence of ML.

#### **9. Email distribution lists / Linked In**

Not discussed due to the absence of RJ

#### **10. ACNS 2014: Progress, program chair invitations, support**

JB informed the committee that the MOU was completed and is with SR for a signature. The profit sharing issue was agreed upon amicably, with 2 % to MRS and the remainder shared 60/40 (NSSA/MRS). The hotel has been secured. With regard to program chairs, XXXX is in place but XXXX declined. An offer to XXXX is pending. If a positive reply is not received then XXXX will be approached. With regard to financial support, CL reported on email conversations with Thiyaga at DOE regarding support for the ACNS, which yielded less positive comments than in prior years due to budgetary constraints. CL has determined that Thiyaga can be contacted again in Jan 2014 to re-open this issue. SR still plans to contact LANSCE on this issue. JB will be contacting Ekkebus at ORNL shortly. SR also resolved to discuss this with Rhyne at DOE, of course including full disclosure of earlier discussions with Thiyaga.

#### **11. Plans for NSSA prizes, awards and fellows**

SR and BG recapped the likely timing. A solicitation for nominations in the Fall is desired, with at least committee chairs in place. A deadline in December will then leave adequate time for announcements in January, well ahead of the ACNS. The make-up of the various committees was reviewed and CL was charged with forming a list of last-years committees as a starting point for discussion. The number of fellows to award was considered reasonable at about one dozen, and consistent with the by-laws of the society.

#### **12. Travel support for Fall 2013 MRS**

MC advanced the idea of travel support for the Fall MRS symposium on neutron scattering. A number of issues were discussed including; availability of finances, the need to be fiscally conservative in view of ACNS budget uncertainty, the precedent set for other meetings, the possibility of matching funds, and the possibility of being a sponsor for the symposium itself rather than offering individual travel awards. It was resolved that this is an item that requires further discussion in general and will likely not be resolved in time for the Fall MRS. This will be placed on the agenda for future calls.

The committee did agree however that a link to this symposium should be advertised on the NSSA website.

**13. AOB**

None raised.

**Action items**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Action item</b>	<b>Agenda date (mo/yr)</b>	<b>Agenda Item # for next meeting</b>
1	ML/RJ	Neutron News distribution issue	1/13	3
2	SR/BG/JT/JFB	Advocacy: DOE letters (Murphy/Dahmer/Appropriations Committees) , plus May.	9/12	4
3	ML	Advocacy: Website expansion/highlight repository. Potential hiring of grad student support.	3/13	5
4	SR/All	Advocacy: LANSCE user program	1/13	6
5	MC	Finances/tax reporting issues	5/13	7
6	SR	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	-
7	ML	ICNS "debriefing"	7/13	8
8	RJ	Email distribution lists / Linked In network	2/13	9
9	JB/SR	ACNS 2014: Progress; program chair invitations. Support from ORNL (JB) and LANSCE (SR)	4/13	10
10	SR/CL/All	Plans for NSSA prizes, awards and fellows. Selection of committees.	7/13	11
11	MC	Travel support for other meetings.	7/13	12