

**NSSA Executive Committee
Conference Call Minutes, 2/26/13**

Chris Leighton (Secretary), 2/27/2013

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

Absent: Flora Meilleur (FM)

Agenda:

1. Adoption of minutes from 1/25/2013 (CL/All).
2. Date for next conference call (SR/All).
3. Neutron News: Article and distribution list (ML/RJ/JFB).
4. Advocacy efforts. Letter to AONSA (SR)
5. Advocacy efforts: Letter to Murphy (BG/JT/JFB/SR).
6. Advocacy efforts. LANSCE user program/sample handling (SR).
7. APS 2013 booth progress (RJ/ML/JFB).
8. ICNS advertisement, NSSA poster (ML/JFB).
9. ACNS 2014: Local chair, venue, program chairs (SR/All).
10. New member-at-large appointment (SR/All).
11. AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

1. Approval of minutes

CL proposed adoption of the minutes from 1/25/13 (after no corrections were suggested), seconded by SR. All in favor.

2. Date for next conference call

After some discussion **Wednesday March 27th at 11 am (central)** was agreed upon as a suitable time for the next conference call. CL will email a reminder on Monday Feb 25th.

3. Neutron News: Article and distribution list

ML reported to the committee that the article on the outcome of the executive committee elections had been submitted to Neutron News and that he expects a proof of the article to be forthcoming. The issue with distribution of Neutron News to the NSSA membership has not yet been resolved. CL will send the contact details of the person he interacted with at Taylor and Francis to ML.

4. Advocacy efforts. Letter to AONSA

This is now completed and BG mentioned that AONSA seemed to be happy with the result. ML plans to post to the website as a news item with an appropriate link.

5. Advocacy efforts: Letter to Murphy

BG still plans to draft this, and he anticipates that a draft will be circulated prior to the next conference call.

6. Advocacy efforts. LANSCE user program/sample handling

SR reviewed the overall situation and the Exec Comm's previous resolution to monitor this situation. SR reported that he was copied on an email communication from Roger Pynn detailing his experience as one of the first users since the re-opening of the user program. The policies in place were found to be very restrictive with regards to sample handling. TK mentioned that she had in fact been forced to decline available beamtime due to the impractical nature of her sample handling requirements in light of this policy. It was noted that the current cycle at LANSCE end on 3/3/13 and that it would be wise to see what will be done with these new policies for the next cycle before taking any action. SR also reported that he had spoken to mark Bourke regarding other matters and that he would follow up with another email offering NSSA support. Issues of involving users in adoption of policy and the possibility of the current measures expanding to other facilities were discussed.

JB enquired as to whether any of the committee had any opinions on the likelihood of funding problems for HFIR or LANSCE related to sequestration. It was noted that the current opinion at ORNL did not suggest serious cause for concern along these lines.

7. APS 2013 booth progress.

It was discussed that JFB has this matter in hand and that JT is dealing with the financial aspects. ML will take over for JFB in terms of planning for staffing the booth. JB mentioned that she has a list of NIST volunteers for this purpose, which we she will share with RJ/ML.

8. ICNS advertisement, NSSA poster

Following up with TP to determine what still needs to be completed with regard to ordering and staffing a booth/poster board was noted as an action item for RJ. JT will work with MC regarding finances for this. In terms of sending the advertisement email to the membership, RJ reported on the issues involved with mass emails of this type. In the current system the members user IDs are linked to the email address used at the time of joining the NSSA, a piece of information that is being updated by hand. It was discussed that the web service provider we use could be approached to resolve this and develop a new and improved system. RJ resolved to do this. Financing of the website was discussed by JT.

9. ACNS 2014: Local chair, venue, program chairs

SR summarized the current situation and called on JB for an update. JB reported that she had been in contact with Jackie Manchas of MRS and Al Ekkebus of ORNL, and that potential venues/hotels in Knoxville had been discussed. Manchas is following up on this. The impact of the government cap on funding for attendance of a single conference was raised as a potential problem for the meeting. It is unknown how this would affect the typical DOE additional support award for instance. This point was discussed at length by several members of the committee and it was resolved that this point would need to be clarified. JB also reported a verbal offer of support at the level of \$20k had been offered by DiMeo of NCNR.

Regarding a local chair, it was discussed that this has not yet been pinned down although both Ekkebus and Bierschmitt are considering the various possibilities. Potential candidates for program chairs were discussed. The importance of a pair based in hard/soft matter was emphasized. Prior chairs were reviewed for context. It was agreed that JB would send a list of prior chairs to CL to circulate in order to stimulate suggestions for possible candidates. A number of the member-at-large suggestions (see item 10 below) were discussed as program chairs and XXXXX and XXXXX were additionally suggested as possible candidates. SR raised NW as a possibility and NW agreed to give this serious consideration. SR reminded the committee that this issue would need to be resolved in the next couple of months.

10. New member-at-large appointment

TK excused herself at this point in the meeting. It was reviewed that NW had been asked to continue as a member-at-large and that he had agreed to do so. A vote took place to propose to continue TK in this position and passed unanimously. Similarly it was agreed that FM would need to be replaced to make way for a new member-at-large and that FM should be thanked for her service.

The names discussed during the last conference call were reviewed by CL, who also reported the names suggested to him by email by various members of the executive.

These included XXXXX. The issue of Canadian representation was raised by SR and further emphasized by CL and BG. The balance between hard and soft matter was also discussed in detail. As a final resolution, SR was charged with approaching XXXXX.

11. AOB

None raised.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	ML/CL	Neutron News distribution issue	1/13	?
2	ML	Advocacy: Letter to AONSA (post to website)	2/13	?
3	BG/JT/JFB/SR	Advocacy: Letter to Murphy	9/12	?
4	SR/All	Advocacy: LANSCE user program	1/13	?
5	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	-
6	ML	APS 2013 booth	11/12	?
7	RJ	ICNS booth/poster plans	2/13	?
8	RJ	Streamlining email distribution list process	2/13	?
9	JB/SR	ACNS: Local chair, venue	11/12	?
10	JB/CL	ACNS: Program chair suggestions (JB will send prior chairs to CL; CL will solicit suggestions for potential chairs from exec. Comm.)	2/13	?
11	SR	Member at large appointments: Contacting Wiebe	2/13	?