

**NSSA Executive Committee
Conference Call Minutes, 3/27/13**

Chris Leighton (Secretary), 3/30/2013

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

Absent: Ron Jones (RJ)
Tonya Kuhl (TK)

Agenda:

1. Adoption of minutes from 2/26/2013 (CL/All).
2. Date for next conference call (SR/All).
3. Neutron News: Distribution list (ML).
4. Advocacy efforts: Letter to Murphy (BG/JT/JFB/SR).
5. Advocacy efforts: LANSCE user program/sample handling (SR).
6. Advocacy efforts: Letter to NIST director (SR).
7. APS 2013 booth progress (ML).
8. ICNS: Advertisement, NSSA poster (RJ/JFB).
9. Email distribution lists (RJ).
10. ACNS 2014: Local chair, venue, program chairs (SR/All).
11. New member-at-large appointment (SR/All).
12. AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes were adopted with no corrections and no objections.

2. Date for next conference call

After some discussion **Wednesday April 24th at 11 am (central)** was agreed upon as a suitable time for the next conference call. CL will email a reminder on Tuesday April 23rd.

3. Neutron News: Distribution list

ML and RJ reported to the committee that this issue is still being dealt with. Some discussion amongst the executive committee conformed that receipt of Neutron News is not uniform for our members. ML and RJ will continue to work on this.

4. Advocacy efforts. Letter to Murphy

SR reported that he has received a draft of this letter from BG and JT and that SR will circulate to the committee for further comment and correction.

On a related note, SR relayed the essence of a call from Jim Rhyne regarding the status and perception of neutron scattering in the US. JT also reported to the committee on the BESAC report with which he was recently involved. JT summarized the findings of the report and the classifications recommended for each of the DOE neutron facilities, as well as their comparisons to synchrotron sources and DOE nano centers. A substantial discussion took place amongst the executive committee members, covering issues such as the neutron user base vs. the x-ray user base, the visibility of the neutron community, concerns over the recommended rating for LANSCE, the line-item budget costs for LANSCE operations, and the issues that NSSA could potentially play a positive role with. The utility of having the NSSA website serve as a repository of sorts for scientific highlights from the various North American user facilities was discussed. It was agreed to set this sort of website expansion as an agenda item for the next conference call.

5. Advocacy efforts. LANSCE user program/sample handling

SR reported no new information on this topic.

6. Advocacy efforts. Letter to NIST director

SR reported on discussions with Dan Neumann of NIST regarding the status of the guide hall expansion due to sequestration and continuing resolution issues. It was concluded that a supportive letter to Willie May (Associate Director of Laboratory Programs), could be useful at this juncture. SR agreed to draft such a letter, with assistance from NW. It was also discussed that SPINS and DCS are no longer in the user program at NIST, in part due to reduced funding for CHRNS from NSF. SR and NW will also give consideration to how to also raise this issue in the letter mentioned above.

7. APS 2013 booth

ML reported that this was a success and that 60-70 new members had joined at the booth over the course of the meeting. JB suggested that in future years we commit to the space earlier in order to obtain a higher profile location in the exhibit hall. She also suggested that the facilities all use identical templates for their posters. SR suggested

the inclusion of the Canadian facilities next time, with agreement from several members of the committee.

8. ICNS: Advertisement, NSSA poster

ML reported that the NSSA is committed and fully paid as an exhibitor. Space has been assigned and ML has forms to complete for ICNS. The issue of how the booth will be manned was discussed and it was noted that only 5 attendees will be present from ORNL, while zero will attend from ANL. NW raised the possibility of travel support grants for academics (students, post-docs, and junior faculty) already planning to attend. After some discussion, a motion to spend a sum of the order of \$5k on such grants was advanced by NW and seconded by JB. The parameters were set at \$500 to \$1000 per grant, for poster/oral presenters, decided upon by an ad hoc committee, announced by email to the membership, and requiring a letter from the advisor. The motion was passed unanimously. NW agreed to set up a website for applications and to convene an ad hoc sub-committee to select successful applicants.

9. Email distribution lists

Due to the absence of RJ this was not discussed this month.

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

JB reported that Jaime Fernandez Baca had been appointed as local chair for the Knoxville ACNS. MRS is set to begin planning as soon as the national Spring MRS meeting is complete. The subject of suggestions for program chairs was then broached. CL recapped the suggestions from last time and it was agreed that suggestions from the committee should be sent to CL before the next conference call.

11. New member-at-large appointment

SR reported that Chris Wiebe had agreed to serve in this capacity, and it was resolved that CL will copy him on all email correspondence from now on.

12. AOB

MC mentioned that in order to get the bank account set up in his name (as Treasurer), several forms needed to be signed by the organization President or Secretary. CL agreed to do this.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	ML/RJ	Neutron News distribution issue	1/13	3
2	BG/JT/JFB/SR	Advocacy: Letter to Murphy	9/12	4
3	ML	Advocacy: Website expansion/highlight repository	3/13	5
4	SR/All	Advocacy: LANSCE user program	1/13	6
5	SR	Advocacy: Letter to May (NIST)	3/13	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/NW	ICNS: Booth; travel awards	3/13	8
8	RJ	Streamlining email distribution list process	2/13	9
9	All/CL	ACNS program chair suggestions – Send to CL	2/13	10