

# MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING August 5, 2019

Rev 2, Compiled by Bruce Randall, Secretary

Called to order 7:00PM EDT

## Officers, Directors, and Editors in Attendance

Present at Green Bank:

Officers:

President: Ken Redcap,

Vice President: Adrian Howell,

Treasurer: Dennis Farr,

Secretary: Bruce Randall

Directors: Charles Osborne, Steve Tzikas, Ed Harfmann

Directors at Large: David Westman

On Teleconference Connection:

Directors: none

Directors at Large: Keith Payea

Director Emeritus: Jeff Lichtman

Unavailable:

Directors: Wayne McCain

Directors at Large: Jon Wallace, Whit Reeves

Members:

Jay Wilson.

Little Thomson Observatory

Kerry Smith, Anthony Berardi, Billy Amtmann.

York College of Pennsylvania

**A quorum was present.**

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## EMAIL ACTIVITY BY BOARD

Email activities of last year Included for context of meeting (**Appendix A**)

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## AGENDA

### REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

#### Secretary

1. Minutes of 2018 Conference were read.
2. Minutes of 2018/2019 Email Activity were read. (Appendix A)
3. Minutes of 2019 Western Conference were read. (Appendix B) There was a Quorum. Voted Whit Reeves to board to fill in until the next election.
4. Jon Wallace supplied a report on SARA Education Activities. (Appendix C)
5. Email Minutes are unclear on payment of GBO room for Scholarship Students from York College.
  - a. Dennis Farr made a **Motion** to include room cost for students.
  - b. Adrian Howell **2<sup>nd</sup>**
  - c. **Passed** by voice vote
6. Dennis Farr made a **Motion** to accept above minutes.
7. Ed Harfmann **2<sup>nd</sup>**
8. **Passed** by voice vote

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Cost of Western Conference speaker has been settled with Dennis Farr.
2. Bills for Eastern Conference Speaker are not available yet.
3. **Motion** by Dennis Farr: **“The person in charge of the Eastern Conference is authorized to spend up to \$2500 for expenses, not including Green Bank Observatory charges of typically \$4000, at the Vice President’s discretion.”**
4. **Motion Part 2:** **“The person in charge of the Western Conference is authorized to spend up to \$4000 for expenses, including food and guest speaker.”**
5. This is needed so that the Treasurer and BOD does not have to mess with every little detail.
6. Ed Harfmann **2<sup>nd</sup>** the motion.
7. **Passed** by a voice vote

## Treasurer Report

1. 119 members from 2019 have not paid dues.
2. 326 total members, Paid, Life, and Honorary.
3. We average about 90 members lost per year and have about 90 new members per year.
4. SARA assets on books are \$68,441.72 with some Green Bank Conference expenses not paid yet.
5. **Motion** by Bruce Randall to accept treasurer’s report.
6. **2<sup>nd</sup>** by Ed Harfmann.
7. **Passed** by a voice vote.

## More OLD BUSINESS

1. Jon Wallace has asked that a replacement be found for his BOD position. No one stepped forward for the position, so Jon is on the ballot, unopposed, this year. Jon has agreed to continue on the BOD if there are no takers. Jon was hoping for some young people on the BOD.
2. Keith Report on Super SID and grants.
  - a. August 2018 to August 2019 had 53 Super SIDs shipped of which 13 were grants.
  - b. About 1/3 of total go to India, 1/3 go to Africa, with the rest scattered around the US and rest of the world.
  - c. Postage to be changed to \$12 US and \$40 for outside US. Present \$10 for US falls short of expense.
  - d. About \$2000 will be needed for more blank circuit boards this year. Denis Farr commented that this is an authorized expense, so no vote is needed.
  - e. Radio Jove is a NASA project so SARA provides no financial support.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Steve Tzikas reported on the 20 meter telescope.
  - a. Jay Wilson of Little Thompson Observatory, Colorado uses the 20m via a Skynet account for students. Typically this involves about 10 students per year. The mentors in this program would like their own time to use the 20m. They do not want to use “student” time. The mentors altogether use less than 1 hour per year. They would like to buy maybe \$200 of time via SARA. Could SARA handle this? 2 of the 6 mentors are SARA members.

- b. Dennis Farr suggested that the other 4 mentors become SARA members and open accounts with Steve Tzikas. This is the least expense and requires no BOD action.
  - c. As members they could make a donation to help fund 20m operation.
  - d. The 20m is NOT to be used for research. It is to be used to train people on observation and data collection. Studies are OK.
  - e. It was suggested that those that use any significant time on the 20m should write short papers for the SARA Journal.
- 2. Bruce Randall suggested we need some rules for email meetings. Robert's Rules of Order do not always work for email. Bruce is to work on this. Proposed name is "Sarah's Rules of Order".
  - 3. David Westman has worked with American Astronomical Society so that SARA members can be amateur affiliate members for \$52 per year. Data access is available to SARA members who join for \$25 per year. These rates are considerably below the professional membership.
  - 4. David Westman is working on next Western Conference. Proposed location is Socorro, NM, near the VLA.

A **Motion** was made by Bruce Randall to adjourn meeting. Motion was **Seconded**, and **Passed** by a voice

## Appendix A

### **MINUTES OF THE SARA BOARD EMAIL'S    June, 2018 to August, 2019**

Compiled by Bruce Randall, Secretary, August 2, 2019

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**June 23 to July 2:** Update and correct 2018 minutes.

**July 2 to July 7:** VLF Summary and John Cook as honorary member discussion.

Vote For: KR, AH, DW, JW, EH, DF, KP, BR, ST. Passed

**July 7 to July 9:** Minutes Approval Vote

Vote for: DF, BR, JW, DW, AH, ST, WM, EH. Passed and posted on web site.

**July 11:** Dennis Farr set up an Amazon account and informed BOD.

**July 21:** Dennis Farr **motion.** Request we spend \$300 for Adobe Acrobat for Journal publication.

2<sup>nd</sup> DW.

This motion withdrawn in discussion after Ed H. pointed out other tools.

**July 24:** Steve Tzikas published an article about SARA and Radio Astronomy in the "AL's Reflector".

**July 29 to July 31:** Steve Tzikas started discussion of setting up account on 20 meter dish at Green Bank.

Cost is \$60 per hour. Many observations are done in less than 10 minutes. Steve will be gate keeper.

**Motion** by Wayne McCain:

I move that the SARA Board authorize Steve Tzikas to establish an official SARA Permanent Account for use of the GBO 20-m Radio Telescope and that a minimum of \$300 be the initial amount deposited (more if required by GBO as a minimum). This motion shall also authorize Steve to be in charge of developing the details of how the account is administered to SARA members or others as approved. I move that this action proceed with haste and the procedures necessary be put in place ASAP such that our use may commence NLT 1 October 2018. Furthermore, that this activity become a part of SARA's official STEM support activity and be advertised as such.

**Motion** 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Randall.

**Vote:** for WM, JW, DW, CO, EF, AH, DF, BR, KR. Passed & Steve Tzikas is in charge of 20m

**Aug 1 to 24:** Steve Tzikas is managing account setup

**Oct 7:** David Westman setup SARA Western Conference for March 23 and 24, 2019 at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Center Green conference facility in Boulder, Colorado.

**Dec 4:** Kathy Hagen is stepping down as Journal Editor as soon as a replacement is found.

**Dec 7:** SARA plans for showing at Hamcation. Cost \$800

**Dec 14:** Ordering of more SARA Shirts. XL and XXL sizes are out.

----- Start of 2019 -----

**Jan 2:** End of CD's discussion. Dennis Farr changed to using memory sticks (Thumb drives) for conference proceedings after informing BOD. Cost is close enough to the same BOD action not required. Dennis is managing this.

**Jan 3:** Stuart Rumley resigned from BOD. This is addressed at Western Conference in March.

**Feb 12:** Dave Cohen and Bogdan Vacaliuc are working with Kathy Hagen as Journal Editor.

**Mar 23:** BOD meeting at western conference. Separate Document for details  
Whit Reeves filled BOD slot.

**May 30:** Motion by Dennis Farr to give 2 scholarships to conference for college students.

2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Lichtman.

Vote: JL, KR, DW, WM, EH, KP, DF, BR, CS. Passed. Dennis to coordinate.

**June 23 to 25:** Report by Steve Tzikas shows low usage of 20 meter telescope. Green Bank discussion needed at BOD meeting.

**Jul 17 to 21:** Sign up and test of "Blue Jeans" teleconferencing system. Looks good.

**Aug 1:** Jon Wallace emailed Education Report for conference, as he will be unable to attend.

## Appendix B

# Minutes of SARA BOD meeting at 2019 Western Conference

Bruce Randall, Secretary with notes from David Westman 4/22/2019

23 March - 24 March, 2019, at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) Center Green conference facility in Boulder, Colorado

### **BOD Meeting March 24, 2019**

#### **In Attendance:**

Ken Redcap, President

Adrian Howell, Vice-President

Bruce Randall, Secretary (By Phone)

Dennis Farr, Treasurer (By Phone)

David Westman, BOD

Steve Tzikas, BOD (By Phone)

Whit Reeve, Supporting Member

#### **Informal Discussion before we had a Quorum by Phone Call Ins.**

We discussed the Astronomy on the Mall event and decided that Tzikas and Adrian Howell should handle SARA presence at that event. This can be and was done by President's appointment.

Then we discussed what a quorum should be and decided that since Stuart Rumley resigned, there were 11 Board members, and that meant that a quorum was six members. About that time, we received calls from Steve Tzikas, Dennis Farr, and Bruce Randall, and which made six, which was a quorum.

#### **We Now have a Quorum.**

We had a discussion was about problems of streaming video from needed for conferences. Network Fire Walls often present problems for streaming video. Is a dedicated U-Tube channel a possibility? Dennis Farr proposed we need to buy a network bridge to help. This needs Chip Sufitchi's input.

**This is an open item for the Eastern Conference in August.**

Many thanks to Lori Wingate for supporting conference call for this meeting and support for this conference.

We need to make a budget for the 2 conferences. The western conference should be \$4000 and the Eastern Conference should be \$5000.

**This is an open item for the Eastern Conference in August.**

Whit Reeves is making a data base of Journal articles from 2014 on. This needs to be on SARA's web site with a link published in each Journal. Bogdan Vacaliuc, Dave Cohen and Chip Sufitchi need to coordinate with Whit on this.

David Westman proposed Whit Reeves become the director to replace Stuart Rumley.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Randall. Voted and approved by all present.

**Whit Reeves is now on the SARA Board.**

Proposal to adjourn by David Westman

2<sup>nd</sup> by Whit Reeves

Approved by all.

## **Appendix C**

### **SARA Education Coordinator Report – 2019**

This year I was able to do the following:

1. Compiled a list of beginner resources and they were posted to the website. Thanks to those who contributed!
2. After trying to answer many questions about SDR radio astronomy, I built, gathered data, and experimented with a SDR radio telescope. I then wrote up a step-by-step article so others could easily do what I had done. This was also posted to our website.
3. Re-wrote/ updated my radio astronomy presentation – I am in the process of converting it and then I will upload to my Google Drive to share with people looking for presenters but unable to find one along with Ed Harfmann's presentation.
4. Did several radio astronomy presentations including at the Maine State Ham Convention and the Southern Maine Astronomers.
5. Have volunteered to try a Skype presentation for a group in CA this November and may be willing to offer that in the future (depending on my experience).
6. Mentored someone in SDR radio astronomy and loaned them my equipment to try. They got hooked and bought their own equipment. They are working on their Astronomical League radio astronomy project.
7. Answered many questions sent through the Education link

#### **Other Items:**

1. I have gotten very few responses to my request for information which has appeared in several journals. I think the idea of maintaining a mentor and tech database is no longer necessary. It appears most people prefer to just list their questions directly to the list-serve. As a result I will no longer ask for updates to these lists.
2. I have been getting a LOT of 'Russian' (looks Russian but I am not a Russian language expert) language spam – have others been seeing this as well? I was told to ignore it and delete the e-mails which I have done each time.