

ASOR Board of Trustees Meeting  
Topaz Room, Westin San Diego Hotel  
9:00AM – 12:00PM  
November 23, 2014

Present: B.W. Ruffner, Richard Coffman, Raymond C. Ewing, Susan Ackerman, Sharon Herbert, Sheldon Fox, Beth Alpert Nakhai, Hanan Charaf, Laura Mazow, Steve Ortiz, Gary Arbino, Ann-Marie Knoblauch, Jim Strange, Sheila Bishop, Vivian Bull, Joe Seger, Øystein LaBianca, Ed Wright, P.E. McAllister, Tim Harrison, Steve Dana, Andy Vaughn, Lynn Swartz Dodd, Larry Geraty.

Guests: Matthew Adams, Peggy Duly, Andrew McCarthy, Barbara Porter, Selma Omerefendic (Assistant Director).

Absent: Sidnie White Crawford, Catherine Duff, Barry Gittlen, Rachel Hallote, Michael Hasel, W. Mark Lanier, Robert Massie, Orlyn Nelson, Robert Oden.

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Call to Order by Chairman of the Board at 9:10 am.

**BE IT RESOLVED** TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion items:

1. Follow-up from the Syrian Heritage Initiative Breakfast (Susan Ackerman). A discussion ensued to evaluate the relationship of the Syrian Heritage Initiative, advocacy in general, and ASOR's Mission and Strategic Plan which is in effect through Dec 31 2015, and which states that ASOR should maintain the highest ethical standards...by participating actively in the ethical issues and public policy. Both CAP and the Cultural Heritage ad hoc Committee have roles to play in this discussion.
2. Remaining Issues of Concern: Ethics Working Group Guidelines on Professional Conduct (Lynn Swartz Dodd)

***The Board directs the Executive Director to report on what other learned societies are doing regarding***

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board approves the Minutes of the November 24, 2013 Board Meeting. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report (Richard Coffman)

For FY 2014, ASOR generated a slight gain of \$1624 in unrestricted assets available for operations (*i.e.*, unrestricted net income).

Richard Coffman answered the three key questions regarding ASOR's FY 2014 financial performance, to wit, as of June 30, 2014, (i) ASOR had approximately \$2.1 million in the bank, (ii) of the \$2.1 million, ASOR had \$475,000 of unrestricted cash available for operations, and (iii) ASOR's net worth (*i.e.*, net assets from all sources) increased by \$302,000 in FY 2014.

ASOR's FY 2014 investment results were solid once again. ASOR Fellowship Accounts generated a collective gain of \$101,054 (+18.7%), while the Endowment Accounts generated a collective gain of \$96,619 (+18.3%). By way of comparison, the S&P 500 was up 24.6% for the same twelve month period.

By way of an independent check on the investment performance of the ASOR Endowment Accounts, Sheldon Fox recently provided comparative endowment asset research data from a sample of foundations with average assets of approximately \$20 million each.

For the 12-month period ending June 30, 2014, the range of overall net returns for the foundations approximates

A Revised FY 2015 Budget incorporating the grant was presented as an exhibit to the Finance Committee report. An updated revised FY 2015 budget incorporating the recently awarded \$156,000 for work in Iraq will be presented at the Spring Board meeting.

The draft FY 2014 Form 990 was reviewed and approved by the Finance

6. Board Trustee Appointments (Susan Ackerman): We will add one Board designated Trustee next year to make it 4-4-4 class.

Nominations for Board Designated Trustees are:

- a. Peggy Duly: a native Californian with an interest in Anthropology and Archaeology who started at Pomona College. She had a career as a Research Associate in Clinical Chemistry lab at UCSD. She is a longtime supporter of projects. Her career not in Anthropology but her heart is in Anthropology.
- b. Susan Laden is serving as publisher of BAS. She was Herschel Shank's first employee and left in 1994 and for 10 years she worked for Equus magazine, published Baba Ga News (on Jewish values for 4th and 7th grade congregational

9. Committee Appointments (from the Chairs Nominating Committee of the Chairs Coordinating Council)

**BE IT RESOLVED** The Board approves the motion of the Chairs Coordinating Council that Chuck Jones serve a second three-year term as chair of the Committee on Publications (January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2017).

10. Other Business

The President gave an update about the plans of ASOR to make a public statement of support for the so-called Syrian Antiquities Act -- Preserve and Protect Act. Susan Ackerman has taken the prerogative to establish a committee on Cultural Heritage that will advise the President. She asked them to be prepared to advise on advocacy efforts re: HR 5703.

**Reports:**

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11. Chair of the Board (B.W. Ruffner) suggests that he may be too busy to be an effective Chairperson and that we should look for another, perhaps more engaged, candidate.
12. AIAR (Matthew Adams): Almost 7 months since taking the directorship. Currently have 15 Stipended Fellows and 36 Associate Fellows. New crop of fellows selected yesterday promise to cover our broadest range of subjects, yet. Announcing new Lydie Shufro Summer Fellowship - 2 months. Soon to announce another 2-month fellowship. Announcing a new tradition: 4th of July BBQ for American Excavators and Friends. Everyone is invited.

has a full complement of fellows and programs for the coming year. In addition to the fellowships, there are two Cyprus scholars. Encourage people to apply to CAARI!

14. ACOR (Barbara Porter): Glenn Corbett is now in Chris Tuttle's previous position. ACOR signed USAID \$4million grant for specific cultural resource management activities. The Director of Jordanian Antiquities attended the 2014 ASOR Annual Meeting and participated in a session of Jordanian dig directors. Great scholars are coming to ACOR this year. Hanan Charaf is coming as a CAORC multi-country scholar. Thanks to P. E. McAllister for funding the Directors' Exchange: Matt Adams is coming in late January to Jordan. Barbara Porter will not attend the April Board Meeting. Visit ACOR's refreshed website. Like us on Facebook.
15. Andy Vaughn reported that the April 2015 meeting will be held in Houston at the Lanier Theological