Meeting Minutes

1. Open Meeting, Call to Order (Sara Tompson, President)

Members attending: Sara Tompson, Stephanie Sheldon, Jay Bhatt, Susan Wainscott, Zac Painter, Bette Finn, Kim Beets, Andy Shimp, Li Zhang (joined at 5:30 pm).

Call to order at 5:04 pm Central by Sara Tompson.

2. Approval of the Agenda for this meeting (Stephanie Sheldon, Secretary tally vote)

Motion to approve agenda was made by Zac / seconded by Jay.
Motion included amendment to move Webmaster earlier in program, as needed, in case Sue needed to leave the meeting before the agenda item was reached. Motion carried.

3. Discussion: Shall this meeting be the Annual Business Meeting, or shall we hold that at Conference in October? -- Recommended practices do not explicitly say hold at conference, but assume (Consensus, or vote if required)

Consensus = Wait until October and hold annual meeting at the conference. Also want to allow opportunity for more members to attend annual meeting, whether it’s in person or virtual.

4. If Annual Business Meeting, Approve Minutes of last year’s meeting (Stephanie)

N/A Since this isn’t an Annual Business Meeting.

5. President’s Report (Sara, et al.)

A) Activities

Sara attended several meetings, including Conference Planning meetings, and posted notes on Connect. Sara is hopeful about possibilities considering that SLA is exploring 9 online platforms for virtual conference options, studying them in-depth. As an example, Sara experienced the virtual Library Journal Day of Dialog which included breakout sessions and vendors room. It provided the conference experience virtually.

Regarding Engineering sessions at conference: Sara’s colleague Lorri most likely won’t be able to attend in person; they were presenting a session on resilience engineering. Sara heard that Daureen Nesdill isn’t sure she’ll be able to attend in person; Daureen is one of the TRAIL presentation panelists. Doing the sessions virtually may make these programs more likely to happen. SLA anticipates running the virtual sessions during same time as they’re currently scheduled in person.
Whether SLA Annual Conference will occur in person in October is questionable. Everything is up in the air. SLA is hearing a lot of feedback from members who prefer to do the conference virtually. Taxonomy already decided to go all virtual. As noted above, platforms for a robust virtual experience are under review by SLA staff.

Discussion re: tag-ups. Some other communities are doing virtual tag-ups. Attendees thought it would be good to try doing tag-ups ourselves. Kim suggested midday timing such as an informal lunch. Discussion included trying round table topics like unconference model. Jay suggested OER (open education resources) topics in engineering; may particularly affect university settings but more awareness in non-university settings would be helpful, too. Tentatively aim for July 8; July 15 back-up date; 11 am Pacific/1 pm Central/2 pm Eastern. Sara will check SLA GoToMeeting availability; Sara & Kim will tag-up later for planning.

B) Structure review

No discussion.

C) Conference Planner report

Jay asked about how to handle awards if we don’t meet in person. Jay would like to reward awards this year to continue momentum. Possibilities include mailing the award; taking a screenshot picture; virtual presentations. There was consensus about getting plaques. Sara could get plaques from local vendor in town; they already have SLA logo on file. Sara can pay for it and get reimbursed from SLA.

D) Membership – Open to all now; #226 per Online Membership Directory 6-3-2020

226 in Engineering; membership hasn’t gone down much. Nowadays everyone can join everything.

6. President Elect’s Report (Kim Beets)

Many Thanks to Sara for all she’s doing with the restructured approach. Kim ordered “the best swag ever” – dancing blue robots that with the SLA-ENG logo in the middle. If there’s a new logo by the time we hand them out, we’ll call them “vintage.” Kim purchased 250 toys; they are in storage at her workplace.

Kim is moderating the Standards Update program. Most of the regular standards vendors are scheduled, including a first-time appearance with AASHTO. None of the speakers have said they won’t come, but we haven’t specifically asked them either as we’re all waiting to see how the public health situation develops. Kim will follow-up with the speakers in August to confirm
their participation. Kim anticipates that we’ll still be able to conduct this session regardless of whether it happens virtual/in person/combination.

Kim asked everyone to keep thinking of ideas for next year. Although COVID-19 makes everything fluid at the moment, we’re already midway through 2020 and 2021 will be here before we know it.

7. Secretary’s Report (Stephanie)

Nothing new to report.

8. Treasurer’s Report (Zac Painter; we chose to retain a Treasurer at least for this year, though no longer required)

Zac agreed to stay on as Treasurer to help with the transition with funds. He hasn’t heard anything about Petroleum funds or the merger process. There is approximately $17,000 in the account; this includes the combined Engineering and Aero funds. Zac can still log into Wells Fargo and see an account. Thought it was supposed to be taken away in March. Sue said Sci-Tech said the same thing. HQ may be busy with virtual conference options and less concerned with funds at moment.

9. Committee Reports

A) Awards (Sara, Bette Finn, Jay Bhatt; Stephanie for Mandel Award)

We announced awardees on Connect.

Aerospace George Mandel Memorial Award: Zac Painter is being awarded Mandel for his many contributions to the field, with publishing, supporting Aerospace and Astrophysics at Stanford, and with his engagement and leadership with SLA, particularly as Engineering Treasurer and President of San Francisco Chapter. Dr. David Mandel has agreed to support funding for the award named for his father once again.

Engineering Community’s Librarian of the Year Award: Neeraj Chaurasia accepted the award.

SLA Engineering Community’s Library Student Travel Stipend: Sarah Francis accepted the award.

Continuing Education Award won’t be awarded this year. Sarah Francis was the only nominee for IEEE but she was awarded the Library Student Travel Stipend. Plus, the IEEE award is based on travel, which is uncertain this year.
SLA Engineering Community
Open Members Meeting
June 11, 2020; Go to Meeting

SLA HQ is handling sponsorships, so we do not yet know if AIAA, IEEE, SPIE, etc. are on board to contribute financial support for our awards this year. HQ staff have been informed about Dr. Mandel’s sign on to support.

B) Professional Development Point Person (Li Zhang)

Continued discussion about doing periodic informal get-togethers with some leading topics, but also agreed to keep it informal so there’s less pressure for organizers.

C) Webmaster (Susan Wainscott)

Sue continues to update the webpage as she’s notified about changes.
- Updated awards committee members.
- Needs to update leadership page.
- Updated past award winners.
- Changing “About” pages to be more user-friendly instead of default syntax.
- Attendees agreed for Sue to edit text, changing instances of “Division” to “Community.”
- Sue will update webpage with 2020 award winners

D) Archives (David Brackus)

David Brackus was unable to attend. We’re unable to confirm the location of the archives. Rumor that some boxes are in HQ building in Virginia. However, many of our records are online. In particular, the Sci-Tech magazine is archived online.

10. Any other business, including desire for informal tag ups online?

No other business topics were discussed.

11. Next meeting

TBD, other than the July informal tag up.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kim Beets / seconded by Li Zhang. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm Central.