



**ASOR Executive Committee Meeting
Residence Inn Alexandria Old Town/Duke Street
Alexandria, VA**

**February 3, 2019
9:00am-12:00pm**

In attendance: Richard Coffman (Chair); Susan Ackerman (President); Sharon Herbert (Vice President); Tim Harrison (Past President); Heather McKee (Treasurer); Ann-Marie Knoblauch (Secretary); Andrew Vaughn (Executive Director), Jane Evans, Joe Seger, Gary Arbino (guest).

Discussion Items (9:00am-12:00pm)
Called to order 9:01 AM

New topic: Report from Building Campaign Cabinet working dinner from previous evening. (Sharon)

- The fund stands at \$1,370,000 in pledges and donations.
- What's left is the need for a robust building endowment to maintain that building, and money to mold it
- Strategy: "450 (donors) for 450(K)"
 - Fashion a letter to everyone, hope for new donors.
 - Anonymous donor will match pledges and gifts 2 for 1 for big and small gifts.
 - Andy noted we will need about \$500,000 (which would yield of about \$25,000 per year) for an endowment for the building. This should cover taxes (if not tax exempt), maintenance and expenses.
 - Susan expressed optimism of meeting this fund-raising goal, ASOR has a very high rate of giving from its members.

- Sharon will draft a letter (signed by Susan Andy and Sharon) to “find a friend” to give to ASOR.

1. Potential Board-Elected Board of Trustee Candidates (Susan)

- 2021 (members terms started on Jan 1, 2019) we are short one board elected board member.
- Joe asked whether we are constrained by the by-laws with how many board elected trustees we can have in any class; Susan indicated up to 12 trustees elected by the trustees –four each year for 3 years terms
- Discussion centered generally around cultivating underrepresented groups and people of color, especially as trustees but also other positions of leadership in ASOR, as well as Middle Eastern communities of scholars and people with public interest in archaeology

2. ASOR CHI

2a. Update: Department of State funding (Andy)

- Andy noted the State Department funding ended on Jan 31. We have been encouraged to submit another unsolicited proposal to the Dept of State.
- It is important for ASOR to diversify its funding in this area to continue CHI initiatives.

2b. Update: Whiting Foundation Grant (Andy)

- Andy noted that work has stopped on a Whiting Foundation Grant to scan literary texts from the 19th and 20th cent and newspaper articles in Mosul that not available elsewhere. About 15,000 items have been scanned so far.
- Determining the best way to spend the money left.

2d. New Initiatives: Proposal from VTS (Andy and Susan)

- Andy: Virginia Theological Seminary’s president has a discretionary fund and is willing to provide ASOR with \$50,000-100,000 to do work in Iraq with rapid assessment of archaeological sites.
- This would be a routine gift of cash, to do work that is furthers our mission. It is aligned with our gift acceptance policy.
- However, section 2.11 of the policy states:
- **2.11** *As an overarching policy, ASOR will not accept routine or non-routine gifts (as defined below) that (a) violate the terms of this Policy, (b) jeopardize ASOR’s status as a tax-exempt organization under federal or state law, (c) are too difficult or expensive to administer, (d) are inconsistent with,*

and do not further or support, ASOR's Bylaws, Policy on Professional Conduct, other Policies, Mission, Programs, and Strategic Plan, (e) are from entities or individuals with whom ASOR, in its sole discretion, declines to be associated because it would not be in the best interests of the organization, (f) are from entities or individuals with operations or philosophies that ASOR, in its sole discretion, determines are inconsistent with or violate the ASOR Policy on Professional Conduct, (g) are from anonymous entities or individuals who refuse to identify themselves to the organization even if their identities are not to be publicized to the membership at large, or (h) could damage ASOR's reputation.

- The committee discussed at length the connection of this funding with the public sale of two Assyrian reliefs by VTS last year.
- Ultimately, the EC advised Andy to tell VTS that the committee was split as to whether to accept the gift, and suggest that the money be given to another non-profit organization.

2e. New Initiatives: Penn Cultural Heritage Center (Andy)

- Andy took part in conference at Smithsonian, presentation by Art Crime area of FBI and Homeland Security, where it was pointed out that the art world does not have to abide by the Patriot Act. As a result, the sale of art can be used to launder money.
- Andy wants to work with Brian Daniels (Penn Cultural Heritage Center) to work on legislation that would extend banking secrecy laws to the sale of art.
- The EC was enthusiastically supportive of this initiative, Jane offered to serve as a liaison, as a member of the ASOR CH committee, pursuant to discussions with the chair of the CH committee

2c. New Initiatives: NEH Preservation and Access Grant (Andy)

- This grant application would be for the purpose of preserving the digital materials gathered from 2015 to 2018 by ASOR and the CHI using State Dept grants. The digital materials would be maintained and made available.

Meeting Adjourned 11:33 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie Knoblauch

