

**Society of American Travel Writers  
Western Chapter**

**Business Meeting  
April 25, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
Inn & Spa at Loretto, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Christine Loomis
  
- Volunteering (Christine Loomis)
  - This meeting was extremely challenging and personally coordinated most of the meeting. Stan Wawer was only member to respond to request for volunteers.
  - Meetings are a difficult task and everyone really needs to help. This is a very challenging time for meetings and Chapters don't receive the same level of support from destinations. This meeting was treated as a regular meeting.
  - Every Chapter is having trouble getting meeting sites. Meetings are very important, however, they must be changes to future meeting such as reducing the number and getting more sponsors.
  - We need a new Sites Chair. Marlene Greer did not renew SATW membership so is no longer Sites Chair. Michelle Rodriguez took her place, however, she didn't receive any help or training and then was asked to help National, so quit.
  - Amy Geiger with Fairbanks CVB introduced herself as potential for next meeting.
  
- Operating Budget
  - Chapter finances looking good.
  - Made \$1,043 with meeting and awards. Some expenses still coming.
  - Will lose \$1,000 operating this year. However, checking has \$14K.
  - Should make \$3K on investment fund. Investment account has more than any other Chapter.
  - Board looking to get insight as we continue to make money off investments, how to use next year.
  - Thanks to Gordon Thorne and finance committee.

- Wenzhou, China Convention (Stan Wawer)
  - David Lang and Stan Wawer will co-chair
  - Core convention is October 24-29
  - Pricing not yet been set. Projecting around \$1,700-1,800 Actives, \$2,200-2300 Associates.
  - Registration supposed to take place May 1.
  - Hotel is Shangri-La
  - China Eastern Airline will be inquired as to possibility of paying for upgrade
  - Pre/post tours look phenomenal
  
- Phoenix Awards (Laurie Armstrong)
  - Held since 1969. Recognizes conservation/preservation efforts by organizations.
  - Application currently being accepted through June 15.
  - Please think of nominees. Can not nominate own destination. However, think of those who could nominate.
  - Awards also lifts up name of SATW.
  
- Meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Lori Michimoto, April 25, 2016*

*Approved by Chair Christine Loomis,*