

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITERS
WESTERN CHAPTER - BUSINESS MEETING**

May 1, 2019

White Stallion Ranch, Tucson, AZ

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair-designee Christine Loomis. (designated by Chair Eric Lindberg who was unable to attend)

RECOGNITION AND THANKS

Christine recognized new members, and those who are current board members at Chapter and national level. She also thanked Nancy Vaughn for all her work as Sites Chair in arranging this location, and those involved in helping host and sponsor the meeting, including the White Stallion Ranch, Tucson CVB, Phoenix CVB and Charleston CVB.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Financial Report: Christine provided on behalf of Treasurer Erik Elveford, who was absent

- Western Chapter reserve fund account balance as of March 31, 2019 is \$96,301, which is significant.
- WC Board recently voted to allocate \$5000 from its reserve funds to support the next Western Chapter meeting in some fashion as a member benefit. Options could include underwriting costs to attend for members, hiring a meeting manager, funding PD or some combination of the above.

Funds to support national convention PD videotaping:

Christine reported that the WC board had previously approved and spent \$7,512.57 for videotaping the Professional Development (PD) sessions at the annual meeting in Barbados in September 2018, which were now posted on the SATW website for the educational benefit of all society members. She said the WC board also voted to provide up to \$10,000 per year for the actual cost of videotaping of the Professional Development sessions at the 2019 and 2020 annual national SATW conventions to be posted on the SATW website as well.

WC Sites Committee Report: Nancy Vaughan, Sites Committee Chair

Nancy Vaughn said her committee had some potential options for 2020 & 2021. Stan is currently in discussions with Oklahoma City for 2020, and there is another possible destination for 2021. Discussion was held on how to increase value of the WC meetings for members and various options were discussed, including the possibility of having upcoming meetings be held jointly with other chapters (Eastern, Central or Canadian) to bring new networking opportunities to Chapter members. WC members were very supportive of that concept of combined Chapter meetings.

SATW PRESIDENT UPDATE: David Swanson

- SATW Board approved new three-year (2019-2021) Kellen contract with revised scope of work and 10% increase in fees. Fees had not increased in past four years and scope of actual work performed by Kellen was not being reflected accurately.
- SATW Board approved \$12,000 additional fee to Kellen to handle Chapter & Council finances/accounting functions.
- SATW Board is working on revisions to SATW By-laws that will streamline and shorten them. Changes to be presented to members for approval on May 14, 30 days prior to voting. These would include changes in some membership categories, adding a new membership category, Affiliate, that would be open to companies (like REI) who want to connect with travel writers, etc. Chapter members reacted very positively to the idea of adding these types of Affiliate members.
- Recently completely Member Survey and results are now posted on website. There are some interesting generational differences on aspects of SATW such as value of how the org is currently structured, etc.
- SATW Board encourages Chapters to hold meetings only every other year, recognizing this would potential require a By-Law change at the Chapter level. David asked WC members their input on continuing with Chapters and most of the input was affirmatively yes.

- SATW has launched its new website, which has been well received by members. Still a work in progress.
- The SATW Discussion Board for members has been discontinued and the SATW Facebook group page will now be the member discussion platform. The SATW Enewsletter will also continue as a communication channel with members.
- SATW will establish a “SATW Certified Blogger Credential Program”

CANDIDATE REMARKS

Larry Bleiberg, who is a candidate for SATW President-Elect, made remarks to the group about his long involvement in and passion for SATW and his interest in continuing to serve the organization in this important leadership role.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Waller, Chapter Secretary. Approved by Chapter President Christine Loomis