

**SOCIETY OF AMERICAN TRAVEL WRITERS
WESTERN CHAPTER - BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 22, 2021
VIRTUAL via Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. PST by Chair Eric Lindberg

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Eric asked if there were any new members participating to be introduced, but there were none. Eric then introduced new and current board members & officers. New to board as of October 2021: Joann Hudson (Associate Rep), and Mary Beth Bond (2nd Vice Chair). He also thanked outgoing WC board members Gaylene Orr and Doug McKenzie for their years of service.

REMARKS FROM THE SATW PRESIDENT

Eric introduced SATW President Larry Bleiberg, who had joined the meeting. Larry noted it has been a very 'interesting' year due to the continuing COVID pandemic but that he was glad that some Chapter and Council in person meetings had been held this past year, and that the October convention in Milwaukee had 200 registrants and was taking place with many precautions in place. He thanked the members for their continuing support and active involvement in SATW.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Meeting Sites Report:

Eric noted that it has been difficult to find host sites, as destination budgets have been cut over the past 2 years due to the pandemic. He noted that there were still a few possible sites for 2022 but encouraged members to make suggestions of destinations that may be interested in hosting our group.

Financial Report: Eric provided report on behalf of Treasurer Ellen Clark, who was absent

- There was no WC meeting this year so no meeting expenses or income.
- Western Chapter paid \$8248 to SATW for cost of videotaping PD sessions in El Paso in 2019, which had been previously approved. WC board also previously approved (on 10-14-2020) contributing \$500 in 2021 to the DEIA/Editor's Council initiative to provide funding for anti-bias training through The National Training Institute on Race and Equity. All SATW chapters & councils contributed the same amount to this program, which was made available online to all SATW members.
- Western Chapter reserve fund account balance as of Sept 22, 2021, is \$119K, a record high. Eric noted these funds technically belong to SATW since WC is not an independent entity.
- Eric provided special thanks and recognition to the WC Finance Committee members Gordon Thorne, Carol Beck-Edgars and Laura Daily who have done a great job on monitoring the investment of these funds.
- Eric noted that this is an exceptionally large fund balance compared to other chapters and asked for suggestions on how we might use some of the funds for the benefit of chapter members. Carol Waller suggested that we consider using some funds to help offset destination costs to host a Western Chapter meeting in 2022, and based on positive feedback from meeting participants to this idea, Eric said he would follow up with the board.

NEW BUSINESS – Q&A

- Laurie Armstrong Gossy, Milwaukee Convention Co-Chair gave an update on the convention
- Other topics discussed included SATW org name on press cards, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. PST

Respectfully submitted, Carol Waller, Chapter Secretary. Approved by Chapter President Eric Lindberg