

## AFA NCA Business meeting: 11/15/23, at 5 pm EST

Present at this meeting: Jarrod Atchison, Eric Morris, Joe Gantt, Rebecca Steiner, Benjamin Voth, John Katsulas, Heidi Hamilton, Kristen Stout, Erika Thomas, David Worth, Adrienne Brovero, Kelly Young.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from last year.

I. Welcome from **Jarrod Atchison**

**Atchison** greets everyone in attendance.

II. Upcoming business meetings, reports, awards, and other old business

Reports from Sponsored and Affiliate Organizations & National Council Officers

- Report from the NDT will occur at NCA meeting from **Adrienne Brovero**. A report from NDT will be posted to the website for people to review at this link: <https://www.americanforensicsassoc.org/business-meeting-agenda-and-minutes/>. Emory University in Atlanta will host 2024 NDT.
- Report from NST will occur at NCA meeting – **Joe Gantt** reports the tournament last year despite unique circumstances (hosted in Santa Ana, CA in a new model for them) it was successful, increased in size in 2023 compared to 2022. The tournament proceeded very smoothly. NST just completed their business meeting for the fall semester about an hour ago. They are putting some wheels in motion for bylaw overhauls, things of that sort to remove some anachronisms out of the by-laws. They started program planning for 2024 conference, to be held by University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. NST is happy to be back there in 2024. Due to California dropping its travel ban more locations are now available to us now to host this tournament than a year ago. We don't have a long slate of hosts committed because now more can bid in that regard. NST is doing well and trying to create some momentum moving forward especially as trying to get past some things that held us back post pandemic.
- NPDA report – **Gantt** reached out to **Ashley Nuckels** at SDSU, have not heard back. NPDA does not currently have a functioning website. There is not a list of current officers to find easily. We will keep trying to track down leadership there. **Dave Worth** is on the call and offers that last year's NPDA was healthy, everyone was happy to be back in person, there is a sense of vigor for that circuit. The executive council just announced the national tournament will be at the University of Utah in March.
- **John Kastulas** provided a treasurer's financial report for the AFA executive committee to review over email this week. A copy is available on the AFA website to view. The document shows the AFA is in a great financial position. Income from dues is stabilized/the same from the previous year. The income from the journal was slightly higher this year by \$700/800. The Alta conference – AFA already made a financial contribution, but that conference has yet to occur yet. **Katsulas** is anticipating another revenue surplus in the upcoming year. We are not gaining interest on any of the accounts.

- **Atchison** acknowledges the recent passing of **Dale Herbeck** – Atchison wants to acknowledge the passing and wants to find a way to honor Dale. **Atchison, Morris, and Young** discussed possibilities for creating an opt-in system on the website to submit obituaries for those in our community who recently passed to be able to circulate to members on an annualized basis at last week’s executive committee meeting.
- **Eric Morris executive secretary report** – the mailing of the fall journal is moving a few months behind. 2024 is an election year for us. It is important for us to essentially create a nomination committee that will fill the slate across all the positions, including regional positions. **Morris** is interested in creating a nomination committee by the end of this meeting. **Morris** wants to have nominations of people from positions for many groups (NDT, NST, NPDA, etc.)  
**Ben Voth** recommends **Chris Medina** and **Paul Strait** and **Dawn Lowry**  
**Atchison** recommends **Richard Pineda** and **Joe Packer**  
**Kristen Stout** says she is willing to serve and recommends **Kaila Todd** and **Jordan Compton** and **Wade Hescht**  
**Morris** recommends **Justin Kirk**  
**Adrienne Brovero** says she is willing to serve.  
**Joe Gantt** commends **Randy Cox**  
**Morris** will take responsibility to confirm if those nominated are willing to serve.
- **Vice President report from Joe Gantt** – we have a great slate of panels and presentations at NCA this year; **Gantt** encourages all on the call to attend. AFA and many other groups have received less time slots at the conference this year. We can anticipate that will continue, there will continue to be a need to defend our slots. One reason we are doing a business meeting online is to preserve time slots for panels and presentations. Our submission rate and rejection rate also help determine how many slots we get. This year AFA will do more to encourage submissions to the NCA conference. NCA also underwent a bunch of staff transitions recently – one reason the convention program came out later this year than usual was because of staff transitions. Another item to report: We are taking the first step to get cross-organizational dialogue going. Tomorrow evening AFA will host a small gathering (7-8 different organizations will be represented in a meeting in a suite) to open conversation about what we can do together, what are common pedagogical goals, what are common challenges as forensic organizations.
- **President’s report from Jarrod Atchison**: The Dodd Frank Act has changed a lot about how accounting has changed with banks. Before Dodd Frank, we had more autonomy with bank accounts. As we transitioned to NDT, that process was not easy and reflects a brand-new accounting infrastructure for how checking accounts will work. There has been time spent trying to figure out how money can get where it needs to go. **Dave Worth** adds that what banks view as adequate documentation has changed substantially. In the future as a 4-year project AFA hopes to do a low-cost developmental conference in the summer, perhaps at Lewis & Clark College in June (or another city if others have interest in somewhere else, no financial proposal has been prepared yet) for leaders of organizations to try to take a few days and meet that

would not be tied necessarily to the expense of attending NCA. It would be solely for forensics and not tied to other scholarly obligations. **Joe Gantt** has been crucial towards this effort.

- **Kelly Young** has moved the AFA from Twitter/X to Threads. **Young** encouraged those on the call to follow us at americanforensicassociation on Threads.
- Professional development committee report –
  1. DSR-TKA Lifetime Award (achievement award) – **Daniel Cronn-Mills** is announced as the recipient – editor of speaker and gavel, 45 articles, 3 books, etc. Amazing recipient of the award. We will publish that to the world.
  2. Distinguished Service Award/s - 2 awards - 2022 and 2023 awards to be given out – **Dr. Kelly Young** from Wayne State is the first recipient. The 2023 winner is **Dr. Matt Gerber** from Baylor University.
- Research standing committee report –
  1. We had a winner for the recent Daniel Rohrer Memorial Outstanding Research Award – **Dale Herbeck** and **Sara A. Mehlretter Drury** in Volume 58 of Argumentation and Advocacy in 2022. It is especially timely given **Dr. Herbeck's** passing.
  2. We to date have not had a nominated about Outstanding Dissertation Award or the Brockreide Award. If you have nominations for these, please send them to **Ben Voth**.
  3. Things are going well with Argumentation and Advocacy – thanks to **Beth Innocenti** who was the previous editor. **Ben Voth** is the new editor, continuing to collaborate with Taylor & Francis. Two issues are going to be released relatively soon. Some challenges we face are that we need respondents who are willing to review the articles. That is a huge way to accelerate the process to move things along. There have been some changes at Taylor & Francis with their submission portal and process for guest editors. It is generating revenue for the AFA. Soon new issues of the journal will be released.
  4. Please encourage more people, especially Directors and coaches, to submit to the Argumentation and Advocacy journal.

### III. New business

- **Ron Greene** will share a written report that will be distributed later regarding the future of Alta conference. As of now what we know is that Alta will happen in 2025, but it won't be at Alta. We do not know the new location.

### IV. Good of the order

Motion to adjourn, Goodbyes from **Jarrold Atchison**