

## Minutes of the March 19, 2015 AZAALAS Board Meeting

**Members present:** Grace Aranda, Melissa Birkett, Stephanie Curtis, CJ Doane, Tom Greene, Eilene Janke, Cheryl Johnson, Timothy Martin, Frank McFadden and Jaime White-James

**Members absent and excused:** Pamela Bortz

1. President Jaime White-James called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held via conference call.
2. Minutes from January's meeting were approved as written. Newsletter Editor Grace Aranda is taking minutes in Secretary Pam Bortz's absence.
3. Grace reported the membership roster now has 136 members. The member listserv was purged recently and prompted a few procrastinators to renew.
4. Treasurer Stephanie Curtis provided the financial report: savings \$877.06; checking \$9,843.03, and money market \$4,079.26 for a total of \$14,799.35.
5. The summer fun event was discussed. Flagstaff will be hosting this year and Past President Tom Greene, Northern Board Rep Melissa Birkett and President elect CJ Doane have discussing the possibilities with Technician Board Rep Eilene Janke. Bearizona, a drive-thru wildlife park is a good possibility as is the Grand Canyon Deer farm. The suggestion has been made to include a meeting place like Wheeler park downtown for a picnic. Another idea to add some fun was scavenger hunt which would end with the picnic.
6. Our next video conference was discussed. Jaime has found a researcher, Dev Ferguson, from the Phoenix area who will be speaking on Stress and Aggression in Mice. Jaime will forward a picture and bio to Grace for the flier and webpage. Jaime will be working with Becky at UAC to set up all the details of the video conference and information will be distributed.
7. The 2015 National AALAS meeting will be Nov 1-5. Abstracts for posters are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. We may be having extra meeting between now and November to discuss information on volunteering. There will be an AREA program going on with local schools and will include 125 junior and senior high school students. CJ and Eilene offered to help with connections and arrangements. Usually lunch and backpacks are provided for these students from national and their sponsors. Tim mentioned that this years AALAS Foundation idea is Blank Canvas Be the Hero. This years opening ceremony might be something from the Herp Society Museum Collection.
8. Eilene reported that national had contacted her about being a contact on a grassroots legislative group that is starting up. As TBR she is our branch contact and will distribute any information that comes her way. Also, our D8 Trustee Amber Carte is trying to send out timely information about each branch's activities to be shared amongst District 8 and possibly shared with National. If you haven anything you would like included, let Eilene know.
9. Southern Board Rep Cheryl Johnson mentioned that the Spring LATG class is set and UA is joining ASU to take on some of the class teaching. A weblink is provided for anyone interested and schedule is posted on the website homepage. Anyone with questions can contact her.
10. Jaime mentioned that we need to find our nominee(s) to attend this years Leadership Academy at the National AALAS meeting. It's a workshop to teach leadership skills to

up and coming members who want to learn more about AALAS and how things run and so its great for folks considering becoming leadership in their branches. Each branch can nominate 1 person and an alternate to attend. If anyone knows of a good candidate who will be attending the national meeting pass the name along to Jaime. Our candidates need to be registered for the meeting so someone already planning to attend is best.

11. Central Board Rep Tim Martin reported on the D8 Council. Hawaii has decided to change their affiliation from Southern Pacific to Desert with AZ, NV and UT so as to not be minimized among the larger California branches. The Council summer meeting will be coming up in August possibly in Salt Lake since it will likely be the site of the 2016 D8 meeting. More information to follow. Any issues you would like brought up to the Council, let Tim know.
12. An idea was brought up that Arizona AALAS might look into doing science fair awards next year. SwAEBR already awards cash and awards at 4 science fairs around the state so we do have contacts. It would be a great way to get our organization out there for a good cause. Sponsorship doesnt have to be huge, SwAEBR purchased their awards for about \$300 and then cash awards of \$25 each for 2 (middle/high) school per fair would be alright. We could also do a certificate and check only which would cost less. Board decided it sounded like a great idea for next spring.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.