

Minutes of the American Bamboo Society General Membership Meeting

18 October 2024

The Meeting was called to order by President Luc Boeraeve on 18 Oct 2024 at 1200h at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, MO.

Recognition of Current Officers:

Luc Boeraeve	President, International Director
Ian Connor	Vice President, PNWC Director
David King	Secretary, At-Large Director
Co-Treasurers	Carole Meckes (TBSC) and Bill Hollenback (PNWC)

Quorum: With 398 voting ABS members, the quorum of ≥ 40 was determined to be not present.

President's Address to the Membership: Luc Boeraeve summarized the last year and described next year's goals. Refer to the Board minutes from 17 Oct 24 on Bamboo.org.

Treasurer's Report:

YTD Income \$27,063.19; Expenses \$23,156.11. ABS Net Worth \$119,665.84.
Cash balance \$20,181.84, and there is \$ 101,374.00 in the Charles Schwab brokerage account.
\$5000 for grants were forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation in 2024.
2024 Budget is **attached**.

Secretary's Report: (David King)

A summary of Board actions since the last Annual Meeting is **attached**.

At-Large election results: John Kohler, ABS Life Member from PA is the new At-Large Director for 2024-2027.

Currently Recognized US Chapters (8 total):

Qualifying for a Director – FCC, LGCC, MSC, PNWC, SCC, SEC, TBSC

Not Qualifying for a Director (based on membership count) – HC

Chapter Dissolved in 2019: NEC; Chapter Dissolved in 2022: NCC

LGCC: Judge Edwards re-elected.

PNWC: Incumbent Ian Connor is Acting Director until PNWC Board meets in December.

TBSC: To be decided at a Chapter meeting after the ABS conference.

Ned Jaquith Foundation Report: Nancy Oberschmidt: 8 grants have been awarded for 2024, totaling \$26,790.

Announcement of International Events:

2025 - WBC 13: The presumptive location of the next World Bamboo Congress is in Brazil.

2025 - A Bamboo Expo in the US is in the works for autumn 2025, likely in Florida.

Future Annual ABS Meetings: For the latest info, go to bamboo.org, the ABS website.

2025 - Greenville, SC, hosted by the ABS.

2026 and beyond - The ABS Conference Planning Committee is evaluating options.

Comments/Questions from the Membership: None offered.

Adjournment: The 2024 ABS Annual Membership Meeting was adjourned at 1245h.

Respectfully submitted,



David King
Secretary of the American Bamboo Society
secretary@bamboo.org

ABS Financial Report thru 2024-10-01					
Expenses:	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	2024 Actual Expense	2025 Budget	Net worth FYE as of 2024-10-01
Administrative Expenses	\$773.84	\$800.00	\$937.55	\$1,000.00	Assets
Advance to Host Chapter	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Capital One \$0.00
Arts & Crafts Awards & Advertising	\$1,423.99	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Chase Checking \$19,536.81
Auction Expenses (2022 \$223)	\$77.03	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	PayPal \$645.03
Credit card/bank/Paypal expenses	\$814.98	\$700.00	\$687.95	\$800.00	Brokerage Need year end total \$101,374.00
Grants (Transfer to NJF)	\$5,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	Total Assets: \$121,555.84
Annual Meeting Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	
Insurance (Director/Officer)	\$1,546.29	\$1,500.00	\$1,498.00	\$1,500.00	Liabilities
Journal Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Chapter Dues Owed \$1,275.00
Magazine Expenses 4 issues)	\$5,438.84	\$7,000.00	\$5,754.43	\$8,000.00	check outstanding \$615.00
Social Media	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	Capital One credit card \$31.70
Source List Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Total Liabilities: \$1,890.00
Taxes/fees	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	
Travel expense reimbursement	\$925.00	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Current Net Worth: \$119,665.84
Dues passed through to chapters	\$5,185.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,155.00	\$4,500.00	
Website	\$471.14	\$1,000.00	\$1,205.46	\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses:	\$23,156.11	\$29,020.00	\$14,238.39	\$46,520.00	
Income:	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	2024 Income	2025 Budget	
All Memberships including chapter dues	\$12,830.00	\$15,000.00	\$14,200.00	\$16,000.00	
Auction income	\$3,489.00	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	
Advertising /Commerical Membership	\$6,900.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,095.00	\$5,000.00	
Brokerage Income (Div, Int)	\$2,854.75	\$2,000.00	\$2,250.81	\$3,000.00	
Chapter Advance to LGCC Host AGM		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
Annual Meeting Income				\$18,000.00	
Sales: Magazine	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Sales: Species Source Lists	\$730.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	
Donations	\$106.85	\$650.00	\$160.21	\$250.00	
Royalties (Publications)	\$52.59		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Credit Card Rewards				\$50.00	
Misc. Income				\$0.00	
Total Income:	\$27,063.19	\$29,650.00	\$21,706.02	\$47,300.00	
Income minus Expenses:	\$3,907.08	\$630.00		\$780.00	

Secretary's Summary of Online Board Meetings held since the previous Annual Membership Meeting

Date of report: 17 Oct 2024

Summary of Online 2024 Board Activities in roughly chronological order:

1. Daphe Lewis stepped down as Southeast Chapter Director, and Lawton Rogers will complete her Board term.
2. A FAQ page on bamboo.org was started.
3. The ABS ended 2023 on a positive note with good financial footing.
4. An ABS Mission Statement was crafted:
The American Bamboo Society is dedicated to expanding the understanding, appreciation, and utilization of bamboo. Through research, advocacy, education, and community outreach, the Society promotes the benefits of bamboo as a renewable and sustainable resource in horticulture, agriculture, art and industry.
5. At-Large Director Jenni Li resigned and was replaced by Autumn Ramsay to fill out Jenni's term. Jenni was also the ABS Advertising Chair.
6. The 2025 ABS Annual Meeting and Conference is planned for Greenville, South Carolina in mid-October. The tentative theme is "In the Groves". John and Michelle Tkach have been doing groundwork. A basic outline includes a 3-day program with tours of bamboo groves near Greenville.
7. ABS will become a sponsor of the World Bamboo Organization at the \$1000 per year level.
8. ABS membership reached 400 by 1 Sep 2024.

Respectfully,
David King