



executive council minutes

The Meeting of the Executive Council of the Grateful Dead Studies Association, Conference Call, December 7, 2019.

Minutes by Jan Wright and Nicholas Meriwether. Approved February 20, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. (PST), with all members of the Executive Council present: Nicholas Meriwether, President; G. Ganter, President-Elect; Kurt Torell, Vice President; Jan Wright, Secretary; and Beth Carroll, Treasurer.

1. Incorporation

Meriwether reported that the Association's attorney had recently emailed with the news that IRS approval of the Association's 501c3 status might be as soon as March 2020. California registration of the Association has been approved; Federal completion is awaiting final steps by the attorney.

2. Newsletter

Meriwether reported that the first newsletter had been completed and PDF copies will be emailed soon to all of those who attended

the organizational meeting in February 2019. The graphic for the banner, which was specific to the location of the organizational meeting, had proved impractical due to the need for constant change, which would affect the branding of the newsletter; it has now been changed to match the banner on the website, which is a collage of band and concert photographs by Robbi Cohn, who has given permission for the use.

3. Conference

The votes for conference sites favored the Midwest. Discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of the national PCA/ACA as a host conference shifted the consensus: Advantages are the prominence and positioning that the national platform would provide and the variety of its meeting sites; the interest expressed by PCA/ACA administrators was also reassuring. Disadvantages are the costs of membership, travel, and housing, and the length of time until the next meeting.

The Council agreed that waiting until 2021 in order to secure an area at PCA/ACA would be advantageous. The Association constitution requires a meeting every year, but since the incorporation is still in process, a meeting cannot be held this year. The Council requested that Meriwether approach PCA/ACA administration to request the creation of a Grateful Dead area for 2021; if that application is rejected, he will apply to the Midwest PCA.

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4. Supporters

Council unanimously agreed that there was the potential of the Supporter category being perceived as not inclusive. Other professional associations omit the category and use a tiered system of donors. Discussion followed and Council agreed to omit the Supporter language from the constitution and bylaws and adopt a tiered system as part of the Association's development plan. The updated language will be ratified at the Executive Council meeting in February. Meriwether will keep everyone apprised of updates via email in the interim.

With no further business to discuss, the Council adjourned at 9:30 a.m. (PST).