

44<sup>th</sup> Annual Byzantine Studies Conference  
San Antonio TX

Business Lunch  
The Byzantine Studies Association of North America, Inc.  
Saturday, October 6, 2018  
12:15-2:00

**Agenda**

1. BSANA 2018 is called to order
2. Selection of Parliamentarian  
Christian Raffensperger
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Business Lunch [Minutes on table]  
Motion: Jenn Ball  
Seconded: Alicia Walker  
[Typos to be forwarded to secretary]
4. In Memoriam  
We note with great sadness the deaths of the following colleagues and ask that we observe a moment of silence in their memory:  
  
Claudia Barsanti  
Charles Brand  
Slobodan Curcic  
Semavi Eyice  
Vasso Penna  
David Jacobi  
Peter E. Pieler  
MaryAnne Saggi  
Mark Whittow  
David Wright
5. Note of thanks to the Local Organizing Committee & to the Programme Committee  
Thanks to students from the University of Texas at San Antonio and special thanks to Dr. Annie Labatt.
6. Governing Board Balloting:  
Thanks to the outgoing board members: Alexander Angelov, Marica Cassis, Amy Papalexandrou, Christian Raffensperger

## 7. Treasurer's Report

(Attached)

Motion: Betsy Williams

Seconded: Jennifer Ball

Additional Motion:

Rob Nelson: To increase the graduate student reimbursement to \$350 and (friendly amendment) and raise the dues for faculty to \$50.

Seconded: Cecily Hilsdale

Motion to accept amendment: Jennifer Ball

Seconded: Ben Anderson

Discussion ensued

Motion passed

Body approves:

To have Lynn Jones to meet with the tax filer to find advice on how much the organization should have in the bank for emergencies. She will report back to the Treasurer.

## 8. Report from the United States National Committee for Byzantine Studies (USNCBS) (Alicia Walker)

### 1. Intercongress Meeting: Sept 21-23, 2018 in Athens

a) Discussion of Plans for the 2021 Congress in Istanbul are progressing, and the details are on the website.

b) July 15, 2020 will be deadline for Free Panels for Congress. Roundtables and Plenary Sessions were approved at the Intercongress meeting.

### 2. The USNCBS and the Congress

The US committee had 4 accepted. Those accepted were noted and will be notified. Those not accepted should resubmit. Participants will be restricted to two activities at Congress. Derek Krueger proposed that round tables be decoupled from plenary themes in future.

### 3. Other AIEB Topics

Progress on various series in Byzantine studies. The AIEB website has been entirely revamped, with new resources on the website. Traffic has increased, and there is particular emphasis on graduate students. This website will assist any national committee in creating a website. The dues raised from 200 euro to 250 euro for national committees.

### 4. The US National Committee and BSANA

The National Committee has been a standing committee of BSANA. According to the bylaws, when the funds are exhausted, financial responsibility for membership will transfer to BSANA – and the treasurer will take control. Costs average \$850/year, with an

additional \$2500 every five years for the USNCBS President to attend the Intercongress meeting. The current balance is approximately \$500.

9. Canadian Committee of Byzantinists (Marica Cassis)  
No report in 2018
  
10. Graduate Prizes:  
**First Prize**  
Shannon Steiner (Bryn Mawr College)  
“Aesthetics of Technology and the Power of Artifice in Byzantine Cloisonné Enamel.”  
  
**Second Prize**  
Christopher Bonura (University of California at Berkeley)  
"The Mystery of Beser/Bashir: New Evidence on the “Boon Companion” of Leo III and for the Transmission of Byzantine and Islamic Apocalyptic Thought."  
  
**Third Prize**  
Jake Ransohoff (Harvard University)  
"Change and Continuity in Byzantine Blinding."
  
11. President’s Report
  - a) Membership and Dues  
Reiterates that paying dues pays for more grad students.  
  
b) Website and ad hoc IT committee  
Fundraising campaign is a possibility because of the importance of the community created by the website, and the expense of revamping it.  
Suggestions: Bundling memberships; automatic renewal; moving to Humanities Commons
  
  - c) Advocacy –  
Concern from BSANA about the Director of DO abolishing position of Director of Byzantine Studies, and having a non-Byzantinist overseeing the field.  
The International Association has petitioned the president of Harvard, the DO executive, and the Director at DO to address the concerns  
There is no report from DO this year as no invitation will be extended until there is a committee established to liaison between the two organizations
  
12. New Business
  - a) Proposed diversity statement

From Young Kim and Darlene Brooks Hedstrom, *Ad hoc* Committee charged by board with drafting statement of inclusion

*BSANA Statement on Diversity and Inclusion*: Working

The Byzantine Studies Association of North America (BSANA) is dedicated to the **promotion** of all aspects of **Byzantine studies and associated fields in all disciplines**. BSANA is deeply committed to fostering an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community of students, scholars, and interested members. As **a non-profit, apolitical, academic organization**, it resists any (mis-)appropriation of Byzantine studies to further nationalist, racist, and/or sectarian ideologies. Therefore, it is our policy to welcome, mentor, and include all scholars and students in Byzantine studies without regard to **academic status, race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability**, perceived or actual health status, marital or family status, **sex, sexual orientation**, gender identity and expression, veteran status, criminal record, and all characteristics protected under applicable federal and/or state law. We affirm that our academic community is strengthened through diversity and inclusion, and we strive for our governance, policies, use of resources, and programming to reflect our commitment to both.

Motion: Jennifer Ball

Second: Thomas Lecaque

Friendly amendment to remove parentheses:

**BSANA Statement on Diversity and Inclusion: FINAL**

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b) Other:

Questions about program: why there were three simultaneous sessions, no Sunday papers, so many rejections, and why people were on the program more than once.

Response from Jennifer Ball: Number of papers consistent in past years; unusual number of people dropped out (12); concurrent sessions are a constant challenge

c) Suggestion to grad students to thank the Jaharis Centre for the graduate student centered funding.

13. Announcements:

a) Leonora Neville: Invites everyone to Madison Wisconsin

- b) Alicia Walker: Medieval Academy of America March 7-9: Byzantine session
- c) Jennifer Ball: Byzantine Textiles Show in New York curated by Warren Woodfin.

14. Election Results:

- Cecily Hilsdale (McGill University)
- Brad Hostetler (Kenyon College)
- Tia Kolbaba (Rutgers University)
- Leonora Neville (U. of Wisc. at Madison)

15. Adjournment:

- Moved: Jennifer Ball
- Seconded: Young Kim