All Star 1 Governing Council Off-island Meeting
Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 1:30 pm
Guest House Retreat and Conference Center, Chester, CT

Present: Jeff Loewer (convener); Scotia Miller, Lois Williams (joining via Zoom); Jim Prochaska, Jan Prochaska, Louise Williams, Kim Corfman, Stan Corfman, Sally Easter Jr., Jenny Easter Nelson, Dale Stewart, Keith Knox, Ben Soule, Scott Stewart, Cathy Bertasi, Phil Pierce, Pam Pierce, Bill Tibbs, Kemp Harris, Joy Close, Susan O'Loughlin, Ann Etter, Lisa Gresser, Deb Walton, Deb Weiner Soule, Jane Trudeau, Tom Griffiths, Tom Walton, Elizabeth Yermack, Larry Yermack; with Jill Loewer and Joe Watts (via Zoom), Guests.

Call to Order, Opening Words (Jeff Loewer) –
From the essay "The Loss of the Future" by Wendell Berry, published in 1969:

> "A community is the mental and spiritual condition of knowing that the place is shared, and that the people who share the place define and limit the possibilities of each other's lives. It is the knowledge that people have of each other, their concern for each other, their trust in each other, the freedom with which they come and go among themselves."

Milestones
Milestones shared included the birth of a new grandchild (Pierces); celebration of a new son-in-law (Corfmans); and many others were shared as well. Jim Prochaska is being honored for distinguished lifetime contributions by the University of Rhode Island. We noted Marion Cook's passing (just before All Star One) and the celebration of her life held this fall.

Consent Agenda/Acceptance of Reports

~Approval of Oct 2017 and July 2018 minutes (Lois Williams, Mary Trudeau) – Attachment A - 2017 Fall
~Governance Meeting Minutes, Attachment B – July 2018 All Star 1 Governance Minutes
~Children's Program and Planning (Deb and Tom Walton) – Attachment C – All Star I 2018 Children's Program Report
~Registration (Susan O'Loughlin) – Attachment D – 2018 Registrar's Report
~Financial Aid (Caroline Quijada) – Attachment E – Financial Aid Report for 2018
~Chairs Report (Jenny Easter Nelson, Louise Williams, and David Yermack) – 2018 – Attachment F – Report of the Chairs
~Star Island Annual Fund update (Cory Easter) – Attachment I – Annual Fund Progress Report for 2018
~Council of Conferences update (Lisa Gresser) – Attachment J – Council of Conferences Report

A motion was made (Phil Pierce) and seconded (K. Corfman) to approve the consent agenda. So voted.

1:40 PM Star Island Corporation Report (Joe Watts for Tom Coleman) – Attachment H -
Joe (joining via Zoom) thanked the conference leadership for all that we have done. He recognized the four members of the conference who are members of the SIC board (as noted in

Tom's report). Conference enrollment: Joe noted that we have 'worked our magic' in filling the island. He said, "We know that new issues come forward at the same time…[and] we are very flexible in working with you on what you think your goal is. We want to come up with the right goal for your conference for 2019."

Accessibility: We are proud of all of the work done to make the island more accessible. We are in the process of setting our capital budget. We are hoping to make the rooms on the first floor of Cottage D accessible and available for next year. Joe noted that he feels that we have been pretty successful in accommodating requests. Everyone who needs a first floor room or other accommodation should note this on their registration form and we will do our best to accommodate it. Auction: "We are grateful to All Star One for the significant donation of auction funds to the conference center. "

We thanked Joe and his team for all they have done to support All Star One.

Report to the All Star One Governance Council - Evaluation Results – 2018 – Attachment G (Jeff Loewer, Keith Knox)

Jeff reported that 80 conference evals were received. Many compliments shared. Two areas came out as room for improvement: number of conferees as it related to common spaces, housing, being able to get into an event; and accessibility, ranging from housing issues (either perceived or real) and being able to get around the island. "We got a lot of third party housing notes from other people" who observed what they thought was a housing issue. It is also good to encourage people to speak up for themselves around their needs," Jeff said. Jeff noted that there are three fully accessible rooms, in Cottage A. Other conferences have made small temporary ramps to cottages B and C. Important to note that in our registration as we got no requests for fully accessible rooms.

Discussion:

Jane Trudeau: Suggests SIC should give guidelines to conferences around use of accessible rooms. Jeff: charts of the island are showing access and outlets; this is given to registrars. Deb Walton spoke about use of Cottage A rooms: she has tried to fill the room with people who, according to her perception, might enjoy staying there. But many people don't want to be there and want private bathrooms. So the reality is that few people ask for those rooms. Several people noted that the bathroom access is a real issue for people - not stairs so much. Deb Weiner Soule noted that from an accessibility standpoint it is important to not make assumptions about peoples' requirements and needs but rather allow them to ask for what they need.

Discussion regarding enrollment numbers: important to work on location of programs and activities where we can and do everything we can to accommodate as many people as possible. Deb Walton noted that the full week attendees were not the issue, but the 40+ overnighters pushed the numbers over the limits in many places. "What a blessing to not have to tell people that they can't come." Ben Soule: "I think we have passed the tipping point on numbers. I think we are stretching the staff and ourselves with the numbers we had this year." Bill Tibbs: "We had good weather and it helped us - if the weather had been bad it would have been a different

story for sure. Jeff Loewer: “While the number of conferees in our memorandum of understanding with the SIC was 302, (which was budgeted for 2118 bed nights) this was just a forecast filling goal and we were not required to meet it.” Louise Williams: “It is easier for those of us who are accepted to the conference; for those who would be turned down, it would be a difficult and challenging experience...so encouraging us to lean in the direction of abundance is a plus for us all.” Jim Prochaska reminded us that some of these concerns (waitrae) are management issues...and we are not the only conference that is hitting the 300 mark. We are helping SIC hit their financial marks and this has been a blessing for the island.
Moved (Tibbs) and seconded (K. Corfman) to accept the report, so voted.

2:10 PM Archive Committee update (Keith Knox) – Attachment K
Keith has scanned almost 4,000 pages of archival materials. The question now is how to put them on line, and in what form. Also should some of them not be public - what are the privacy issues that might be contained in some, being managed? Ben Soule: We want to encourage exploration of the archives once they are more accessible. The history is fascinating.
Moved (E. Yermack) and seconded (Pam Pierce) to accept the report of the committee, so voted.

2:15 PM Treasurer’s report and Budget (Ann Etter) – Attachment L
Ann reminded people that she is open to suggestions on how materials are presented to the Governance Council. We came out ahead of our forecast for budget. She asked for questions on the materials:
- How much money do we have in the bank? (Response): More than the $20K reserve; Ann thinks that we have more than $40K as we have not yet paid out anything to the island for auction proceeds.
- What about Speaker support: what should we be budgeting for speakers? (Response): This past year cost more than anticipated (L. Williams). Ann added that she thinks we do need to look at increasing coverage for speakers. There are many things we don’t have choice on. But for speakers, not all are local and not all have the same family structure.

Ann said that Auction proceeds have historically gone to the island except for a few years. But costs are going up; “At some point something is going to have to give. The cost of having the speaker on the island will go up. We increased our fees a few years ago and we are still easily in the margin, but it is more expensive to have a speaker that travels a distance with family members.”

Question (Deb Weiner Soule): Are you recommending that we withhold monies from the auction to support the financial aid fund? Response: Yes, but there is the matter of how we advertise the art auction and whether we need to more clearly state the possibility that monies might be held back to support financial aid or other needs.

Jim Prochaska: thinks we should have a speaker fund just as we have a financial aid fun. Stan Corfman: I would oppose that fund. If there is going to be deeper investment in a speaker we have to be clear and then disinvest in something else. Ann: we have had $2K for the speaker

fund, but an additional $1K for the Chairs' Discretionary fund for other needs. In the case of having a speaker and their family, that could be used for a variety of needs. Stan: We should be clearer about who runs the art auction and what the funds are being used for. Larry Yermack: We should make a portion of the auction proceeds be a gift to the permanent trust.

Moved: (L. Yermack) and seconded (Phil Pierce): 20 percent of the annual art auction proceeds be designated directly to the SIC Permanent Trust.

Discussion: Several commented that we are getting into earmarking monies for various causes. Phil Pierce: I would like to see funds earmarked for something our conference needs, like road improvements. Ben: We are in a situation that we have been trying to avoid, which is making motions on the fly. It would be sensible to withdraw the motion, make it clear in your head and others, and come back with a clearer sense of what your intention was when you made the motion. Jim Prochaska: I would suggest that this go to the Executive Committee. There is no need for this to be voted on right now. Stan: I think this lacks clarity and this needs more consideration than we are giving it.
Motion to table (Tom Griffith), Seconded (Jenny Easter Nelson). Larry Yermack commented that he was willing to withdraw the motion with the understanding that the Executive Committee put this on their agenda for the coming year.

Ann Etter, resuming her report, made a motion that $22K of the art auction proceeds be given to the Annual Fund of the SIC, the remainder be split between financial aid and the operating fund. Seconded: Stan Corfman. Discussion: Ann suggests that $3K go to financial aid and $2K to the conference's operating fund, but she said she would like to withhold specificity on those allocations pending decisions on the 2019 conference attendance cap. Bill Tibbs: It is important for us to be clear to those contributing to the auction that funds may be directed to other conference needs. Louise: to be a healthy, vigorous conference it takes money on the margins. We should be clear about it but we should not be shy about what we need to fund a great conference. Stan requested that, going forward, we include a balance sheet in the Treasurer's Report. Tom Griffiths: I will vote against the motion because we have not been clear about the marketing issues (information to those bidding at the auction, re: where the proceeds go) and we haven't provided that information this year.
The chair called for a vote on the motion regarding allocation of auction funds as noted above, which was 17 in favor, 8 opposed. So voted.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report (Jeff Loewer) and S (Pam Pierce): so voted.

BREAK - 2: 50 PM

3:02 PM - **Report of the Subcommittee on Selection of Future Chairs** (Keith Knox) – Attachment MM

Keith introduced the report with a brief recap of the history that led to formation of the Governance Council and opening our governance system to those who have not served as chairs, and referenced attendant potential complications of those who could potentially chosen

as chairs being mixed into the process of electing them. The subcommittee Keith chaired to reflect on these issues held meetings, reached out to others, came back and then made a proposal (attached). Keith noted that the subcommittee's recommendation is primarily the same as what as been done in the past, with a few key modifications:
- concept is that there would be an open meeting, followed by a closed session for those who could choose chairs, none of whom could be nominated to serve as chair. Keith then Moved that the GC accept the proposed guidelines. Seconded: Ben Soule.

Discussion: Stan Corfman commended the subcommittee on a fabulous job. Tom Walton: to clarify, the selection process stays with past chairs. Keith: yes, except that lifetime members who are on the GC but not in the field of nominees to be chosen may also participate. Chairs elect are also included in those who may vote. Jim Prochaska: this is a good and important correction. I would also like to consider that parents and relatives of those being nominated leave the room. And this is one of the most important decisions we make. We need to slow this down. Bill Tibbs: important to recognize the clause about checking with those to be nominated. The City of Cambridge, Bill noted, has a very good document on the voting method to be used for decision-making.

Proposed Amendment:
Moved (Jim Prochaska) and seconded (Pam Pierce): to amend the document by adding item 3 G under nominations as follows:

> "3G. Family members of those being nominated would be asked to absent themselves during discussion about the nominee."

Discussion on the proposed amendment: Does this include all relatives of one of the people? Response: specificity is tricky. Keeping it at 'family' is better. Ben: this should not be written in the motion, but it should be used as a practice. Because of the difficulty to define this. (Unidentified comment): And they might want to stay. Phil Pierce: I'm in favor of writing it down. Bill Tibbs: this helps clarify. Deb Walton: we should give people the choice as to whether they stay or leave. A vote on the amendment was taken; it passed with 1 no vote.

Discussion returned to main motion as amended.
Request for clarification: do all parties being nominated have to be on island? Response from Keith: Yes (and this is current practice.)

Proposed Amendment:
Louise Williams Moved the following Amendment to Item 3E:
"It is preferable but not essential that nominees be present on the island."
The motion was seconded by Scott Stewart.

Discussion on the proposed amendment:
Kim Corfman: The idea about the current practice is that if the individuals aren't there, there will be other years. And does that make a huge difference? Louise: yes. There are some years that are better than others. I just want a little flexibility. Stan: Stated his opposition to the

motion: if people are off island you are relying to heresay and having them there is an important part of the process. Cathy Bertasi: I think that whoever is chosen would be done a disservice around the selection process. Keith: I think it is important that they be on island. They should be known and available during the process, so it is a check to have them on island.
The vote was 1 In favor, all others opposed. The motion was defeated.

The body returned to debate on the main motion as amended.
Lisa Gresser: What about people serving on the term-limited governing council? Keith: Life members are included as long as they are not standing for chair. They can vote but term-limited Governance Council members cannot vote.

The Chair called for a vote on main motion as amended; it was unanimously voted.

3:30 PM - **Cash Management Recommendations** (Ann Etter) - Attachment LL
Ann noted that T shirt monies were not handed to her on leaving the island, and some loose checks were discovered at the beginning of AS2; the cash was lost. It was determined that this was T shirt money which was gone and never made it back to Ann. The issue was further compounded by the USPS losing the envelope in which the (formerly) missing checks were mailed. New accounting procedures have been developed; Ann has drafted an email to members of the conference stating that T shirt money is gone.

She noted that if a check was written by an individual, it should not have been cashed and if it was cashed, Ann wants to see how it was endorsed and cashed. We are asking people to send a new check or, if they gave cash, to consider sending a new check. It is normally about $2K raised for these purposes, we have enough monies so we are not in dire circumstances as a result of this loss.

Discussion:
Phil Pierce: We should encourage people to pay T-shirts with checks in the future.
Jeff Loewer indicated that the island has a process of handling money and they have had many conversations about this matter. Larry Yermack: Does the island assume responsibility for our shortage? Response: No, and we have no way to determine what we gave them.

2019 Conference Planning (Joy Close, Susan O'Loughlin)
Joy expressed gratitude for the loving and thoughtful community and support that they have already received from 2018 chairs and others. Donna Washington, speaker, has been secured. She is an international teacher and story teller. The theme is "Who Are you?" - Joy and Susan will be discussing format for the week. "We hope it will be dynamic and interesting for people." the speaker is also interested in working with the senior teens, possibly Pels, and others, about how we tell stories.

Additional information: Maybe a masked ball; Nancy Wood will be back as minister. Joy and Susan are trying to anchor vital volunteer positions. They don't want to program in a way that will create conflict...playing with it all. Keith: Have you had thoughts on how many you think

should be at the conference? Joy: we have been struggling with this...we don't want to say no, but we want it to be a good experience for everyone in terms of accessibility, housing, and the overall island experience. (More information will come after Joy and Susan's discernment).

3:40 PM - **Ratify Actions of Executive Committee** (Lois Williams, Jeff Loewer), Oct 2017 to Oct 2018 – Attachment M

Jeff expressed appreciation for Lois Williams' work on the Executive Committee, particularly with taking minutes. It was a pretty quiet year for the Exec....worked on codifying actions. Youth Alcohol compliance was 100 percent in agreement (they us other matter around youth came up around island boundaries, which had been dictated by age. A couple of youth asked for access on the basis of their children's program groups, providing access to the whole island for Junior Teens. This was happily resolved so that access is determined by the youth's group rather than age.

Moved: Pam Pierce and Seconded: K. Corfman, to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee. So voted.

Elections – Attachment N – Report of the Nominating Committee (Lisa Gresser)

Lisa referred to the report offered to the Governing Council. The committee met in June, July and September. Nominees:

Nominating: Annie Stewart and Lisa Gresser nominated for a second term.

Healing/Reconciliation: Betsy Berg, Deb Weiner Soule

Governance Council: Gabrielle Prochaska; Jeff Loewer.

Life members of Governance Council: Stafford and Debbie Cohen

Secretary: Pam Pierce.

Treasurer: David Yermack, beginning 2019 (Ann Etter will resign a year early as she will become a Co-Chair).

Executive Committee: Shelley Powsner, Gabrielle Prochaska, Cathy Bertasi.

Moved by the Nominating Committee and, Seconded (Stan Corfman) to elect the slate.

Discussion: Was there discussion in the Nominating Committee about having 2 people from the same family on the Executive Committee? Response (Lisa Gresser): Yes, the NomCom had the discussion but there is nothing to prohibit such action.

Vote: unanimously carried.

Other Business

Louise Williams: Wondering if there is thought about having the meeting in a different location in the future. Jeff shared that Tricia Coleman will not continue to coordinate arrangements. Deb Walton: It has been very difficult to find a location that works for everyone. Deb Weiner Soule added: Difficult to find a place that is between Vermont and Maryland (mostly, equally between) that has private bathrooms, good food, access to alcohol, and is affordable. Louise: This place is expensive and flying here is expensive. Deb Weiner Soule and Deb Walton, along with Louise, agreed that they will work on this.

Louise expressed gratitude to the Exec and to Jeff Loewer for being an excellent Convener. The Governing Council added its gratitude.

4:00 PM - the Chair called for a motion to Adjourn. So voted.

- Debbie Weiner Soule, Acting Secretary