



NMAAS Board Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2023 10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Physical Meeting Location: Explora Children's Museum

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3560956121>

1. Call to Order

Babu asked the members to introduce themselves and their positions.

2. Roll Call P= Present A = Absent Z= Zoom

Sumali, Anton Z Past President	Knoll, Malva A Secretary	Showalter, Margaret A Director at Large Summer Science Camp	Aubele, Jayne A Teacher Awards	David Schultz P Vice President
Chalamala, Babu P President	Thrall, Deb P Treasurer	Vladislav Sevostianov A Editor Journal of Science	Rock, Rod A Liaison NMHU	Cecilia Hernandez A Liaison NMSU
Diane Peebles P President Elect	Liu, Zhiming Z Director At Large	Brandvold, Lynn Z Jr. Academy Director	Ellen Loehman A Webmaster	Oscar Martinez Z Liaison AFRL
Anna Llobert P Liaison LANL	Syed Mubarek P Liaison UNM	Steve Gomez P Liaison Santa Fe Community College		

4. Agenda and quorum (Babu)

The board has a quorum, and followed the agenda as printed.

5. Secretary's Report (Babu)

Lynn called for approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2023 meeting. (Lynn, David) Motion passed.

6. Treasurer's Report (Deb Thrall)

Deb provided a budget which was projected for the members. She discussed the budget line by line. Deb did not move \$2000 to the Endowment as approved at the last meeting due to poor money market reports. There was no Spring report for Community Foundation. Deb has not checked membership, but Babu and Lynn have recently paid. Currently the membership is rolling from date of payment. Deb requested that Babu investigate how NMAAS might track membership. David requested that every member has automated announcements. Babu appointed David to serve with him in an ad hoc committee to investigate how to regularize communication to membership and request due payments. Deb reported that there have been no Sandia employee donations through United Way this year. Deb requested that Babu or Anton look into what is creating this problem.

A LANL grant written by Deb and Malva for teacher awards was denied. Los Alamos concentrates on Northern New Mexico schools and NMAAS does not concentrate on that geographic area.

Deb paid the Secretary of State corporation dues for two years, and filed documents with the IRS. Deb is stuck in the process of getting a New Mexico TAP form for taxes on-line. There is a difference in the Jr. Academy of Science budget since several written checks have not been cashed. Lynn will contact the students about cashing their checks.

The treasurer's report morphed into a general discussion about the finances and membership of NMAS.

Babu feels the two national laboratories have not had exposure to NMAS to encourage members to donate through United Way. The staff at both laboratories need more information about the work of NMAS to encourage donations. Anna feels it is important that the staff receives information about value added, i.e., what they receive from the Academy. Anna volunteered to help with the current NMAS membership lists and can work on the value-added statement.

Deb is willing to chair a committee on helping to develop a "Value-Added" message for NMAS. Steve Gomez suggested that increased dual credit options for high school students could use help from NMAS advocacy. NMAS operates as a 501 (c) 3 without state support. Lynn commented that the NM Legislature supported a "Visiting Scientist" lecture program sponsored by NMAS for many years in the past. It might be time to re-introduce that program, although travel costs in a large rural state such as New Mexico are high. Zhiming recommended NMAS consider an on-line program.

Anna recommended that NMAS should review its mission and then solicit help from the governor and legislature. The current grant application to Sandia Laboratory requests money for support of Junior Academy of Science. Anna and Steve thought money might be available through EPSCoR funding and even USDA funding. Oscar will investigate DOD programs for these efforts.

David feels the talk should include these items: 1. List of members. 2. Talking points in a brochure. 3. Maintaining a diversified board 4. Clearing House of Science Programs state-wide. 5. How do we operate NMAS using only volunteers. 5. Do we need a paid staff member or an executive secretary?

Babu wants to raise the awareness of NMAS and determine how to encourage other state employers to donate to the efforts of the academy.

Deb suggested that the August meeting become a consent agenda so time could be devoted to future planning for finances and membership. Oscar suggested using professional help to facilitate a meeting of the NMAS Board. He will investigate opportunities to make this occur. Syed recommended working for programs that help move high school students into higher education.

Anna suggested looking into getting a Public Education Department PED person re-introduced onto the NMAS board. She also suggested that meetings only four times a year is a deterrent to getting these goals accomplished. A sub-committee could formulate the groundwork to be addressed by the board. She also requested that the board have a mailing list where they can communicate. Deb offered to set that up through the website. Babu will initiate the formation of such a committee.

Standing Committee Reports

8. Newsletter / Website (David)

The newsletter was completed by David and Ellen posted it to the website. The email version was sent in an abbreviated format with live links to the articles so that the headlines for all articles appeared on the first page.

9. National Youth Science Camp (Margaret Showalter)

Margaret reported by email: We had a total of 6 applicants. Pat Duda and I reviewed and ranked all applicants to identify the two delegates and two alternates. Our top candidate, and only senior applicant, declined the offer saying she had other commitments. Our second and third choices both accepted and are making plans to attend camp. This information has been shared with David for inclusion in the next newsletter.

After three years of virtual camp, camp is returning to an in-person format this summer which likely helped with recruitment. Another significant change to the application process was allowing juniors to apply. The Academy made that change as they have found it to be harder to get seniors to commit to the full camp as many colleges are expanding their summer commitments for incoming freshmen. This change benefitted NM as 5 of our 6 applicants were juniors. And our lone senior applicant, despite being the most highly qualified, did decline the offer to serve as a delegate.

10. NM Junior Academy of Science (Lynn Brandvold)

1. New Mexico is divided into six regions for holding Science Fairs. In past years all six regions held fairs and a regional scientific paper competition was held in conjunction with them. But 2 years ago, Eastern and NMSU stopped supporting a science fair in their regions, which reduced the number of students doing research projects. This of course has reduced the number of NMJAS competitors.
2. There were enough competitors to hold competitions in 3 regions, San Juan, 4 Corners and Central.
3. Totals: 6 in the Junior Division and 12 in the Senior Division.
4. At the two regional competitions awards were given for 1st Place (\$250), 2nd Place (\$200), 3rd Place (\$150) and a 4th Place (\$100) was added.
5. The State competition was held in person in Socorro on April 14. There were 9 students in the Senior Division and 6 students in the Junior Division. Awards were made for 1st Place (\$400), 2nd Place (\$300), 3rd Place (\$200) and a 4th Place (\$100) was added. The total for the awards was \$5100.
6. Thank you notes were sent to the 6 individuals who judged at State.
7. The website has been updated.
8. A report to Sandia was due by April 28 and it was submitted on April 26.
9. A renewed grant request to Sandia is due by May 26. However, I don't want my name on the grant proposal as the contact person as I will be resigning at the end of the year. The proposal at this point is pretty much boiler plate, Malva has contributed valuable input and I can submit the proposal. I just don't want to be responsible next year.
10. I have directed the research paper competition every year for the last 20 years and think it is time someone else took over.
11. I have attached a Financial Report.

Deb suggested contacting Cynthia Connelly at NM Tech for help with replacing the JAS director.

11. Teacher Award – Lecture Series (Jayne Aubele)

This program begins at the start of the new school year.

12. Journal of Science (Zhiming for Vlad)

Zhiming reported that there were only a few submissions for last year but is optimistic about 2023. College students are encouraged to submit their research results to the Journal of Science.

13. Public Relations Committee (Diane Peebles)

See the discussion in the section of Treasurer's report.

14. Liaison Reports (Highlands, ENMU, NMSU)

Cecilia was not present for NMSU. There were no other reports.

15. Annual Meeting

Diane will begin planning during the summer for the annual meeting. EPSCoR does not have NSF funding yet for a combined meeting.

11. New Business

David recommended that the board make a list of organizations that should have representation on the board. It could be set up such that the organization seeks the replacement of any member who retires. The board might need a discussion of the by-law's requirements for memberships. This item will be addressed in Babu's ad hoc committee.

12. Old Business

One item from the last meeting was not addressed today. In January, Zhiming noted policy changes including the loss of two new Chancellors and current provost. He suggested a letter from the NMAS President requesting appointment a new regional director for Science Fair.

Action Items:

Malva will send NMAS documents to all new board members. (by-laws, calendar, officer duties)

Lynn will talk to Cynthia Connelly about a replacement for the director of the Junior Academy.

Deb will create a board @ NMAS email for communication through the website. Prior to the August meeting

Babu will create a Strawman developed by the ad hoc committee for consideration of the items discussed today.

13. Adjourn

The date for the next NMAS board meeting is August 26, 2023 at the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History Museum. The annual meeting will be held in November. Deb moved to adjourn the meeting; Anna seconded the motion.