

ASTC Forum 2020
Committee Reports

Conference

20 September 2020

To: ASTC Board of Directors From: Conference Committee

Re: Committee Report for FORUM 2020, Virtual.

Given the evolving Covid 19 situation, all 2021 plans are tentative and subject to change.

Moving forward, we would like to identify a chairperson (or chairpersons) for each ASTC Annual and Forum. Chairperson(s) do not necessarily have to be current members of the Conference Committee.

ANNUAL 2021: March 13, 2021 at USITT in Columbus, Ohio with a nice lunch after (in lieu of our traditional ASTC member dinner.) This is a Renovation Challenge year. In the event that it continues to be inadvisable to meet in person and/or if USITT is again cancelled, we can consider another Virtual Annual meeting.

FORUM 2021: NATEAC in New York City has been rescheduled to July 17-19, 2021. We have met in conjunction with NATEAC since its inception in 2008, and we could do so again. Date and time of the ASTC meeting and any additional ASTC-only programming to be determined. We are seeking a chairperson to lead the ASTC program for Forum 2021.

ANNUAL 2022: This is our next opportunity to hold a stand-alone meeting. We have often met in conjunction with USITT. This will not be a Renovation Challenge year. USITT 2022 dates and location have not been announced. We are looking for a chairperson to organize the program for our Annual meeting.

FORUM 2022: This is our next opportunity to hold a stand-alone Forum, organized entirely by ASTC. Options previously discussed include Boston, Charleston, Montréal, Nashville, Richmond, VA, South Padre Island, TX and Mexico City. We met in Boston in 1991. We have not met previously in any of the other suggested cities. The Conference Committee has not yet explored topics for the theme for this Forum, but we seek input on topics and sites from members and we would also like to identify a chairperson to be the organizer of this Forum.

Conference Committee Members are: Heather McAvoy, Chair, Michael DiBlasi, Don Hirsch, Chris Purpura, Peter Scheu, Duane Wilson

Heather McAvoy, ASTC

Membership

The report for the membership committee is brief:
We received an application from associate member Alex Robertson for full membership.
The membership committee recommends Alex accordingly.

Best Regards,
Stephen Placido, ASTC

Outreach and Education

This is the newest ASTC Committee and Peter Rosenbaum will be reporting on its creation and first meeting in the first hour of the Forum 2020 meeting.

Info, Comms, & Tech.

I have nothing new to report. Our ongoing back-end data/communications efforts continue to operate and update nominally.

Regards,
Jody Kovalick, ASTC

Codes & Standards

Code Committee Members:

Names in bold represents ASTC.

(M)=Member (P)=Principal (A)=Alternate (X)=Participant (C)=Chair
(O)=Observer

Bill Conner SAF-AXE (P), FDW-AAA (P), ICC (X), ANSI A117.1 (A), ADA-AG (X)

R. Duane Wilson ESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery WG (A), Rigging WG (P), Followspot
WG (O),

ANSI A117.1 (P), TSC-Technical Standards Council (A)

Andrew Gibbs ESTA/TSC-Technical Standards Council (P)

Jules Lauve ESTA/TSC-Followspot Working Group (P)

Kim. Corbett Oates ESTA/TSC-Controls Protocols WG (PC), Floor WG (A), Rigging
WG (P),

Tech. Std. Group(A)

Peter Scheu ESTA/TSC-Stage Machinery Working Group (P), Rigging Working Group
(O)

Jody Kovalick Co-share with Bill Connor on IBC.

Robert Smulling-Chair

Code committee members have raised a number of issues to be discussed. The consensus of the committee is to begin holding quarterly online meetings to discuss and, if appropriate, act on these issues.

Bill Suggests:

I have a number with aisle widths and also want to consider less protection for stages with only LED lighting - eliminating the usual ignition source. The code committee will do a review of ICC and NFPA regs for stages and auditoriums to continue and update the changes based on the 1992 BCMC report. If members have issues they feel should be addressed, send them to the committee. We will also use the survey (of a few years ago that Peter initiated) as a guide.

Jody Suggests:

I would like to suggest an effort to clean up language in NFPA and IBC regarding "contiguous" or "appurtenant" space and require fire separation ratings. I would also like to suggest an effort to redefine the "50 foot rule" to be defined by the lowest elevation of sprinklers or the highest elevation "combustible materials" (what I would define as batten out trim.) The goal of this would be to eliminate the need for rigging pits and to allow a walkable service grid above the stage for equipment maintenance. Both of these could be arguable "safety issues." But, this would maintain the volume of combustible load to below the 50' already defined in the code. This would also clear up several ambiguities we've run into recently with the 50' being defined by something other than the underside of the roof deck.

Duane Reports:

A117.1 The new cycle has just began. Three task groups have been formed and are working on three subjects; assisted toileting and bathing facilities, which will likely not affect our work; Assisted bathing, again likely not to affect our work; and Adult changing tables, which is likely to at some point in the future affect public restroom design in our buildings. As of now no meetings are scheduled,

NEC The 2023 NEC cycle has also began. New requests for code changes/additions have just ended and the code making panels will begin their work in a month or so. The 1st draft meetings occur in December and will be online this time.

ESTA task groups E1.72 on Stage Floor Machinery and E1.64 on Machine Controls are meeting online and working on their respective documents. The next scheduled ESTA Standards meetings will be in mid October and the meetings will be online.

Andy Reports: ESTA/TCS Nothing to report. See WG and TG reports above.

Robert R. Smulling, ASTC

PR Content:

To the Membership:

The last issue of ASTC:Notes was sent out on 18 June 2020. The issue went to 1,711 addresses. 402 (28.2%) were opened. We continue to see traffic to articles on the website long after the newsletter.

Current Publications Committee Members:

Kent Conrad, Andrew Gibbs, Robert Long, Kim Corbett Oates
Robert Shook, Michael Parrella, Alex Robertson, Paul Sanow

In addition, Peter Scheu, Kyle Smith, and Don Hirsch continue to provide excellent service as our Editorial Board.

Michael Parrella and Robert Long continue to work on the Did You Know pieces, with a goal of monthly issues to increase social media and general traffic. Two articles have been published since the last newsletter, and at least one more will be sent out prior to the next issue in December. These are short pieces of 300-500 words and an excellent way to provide guidance on a focused subject.

Now that the committee has greater responsibility for website content, we recently announced the availability of a series of videos of ASTC Founding Members in a panel discussion. These videos were posted last week via email and will be available on the website in the Members Only area. Again, thanks to Susan Lustig, Duane Wilson, Robert Long, and most critically Alex Robertson for their efforts on this project. At the last Business Meeting we unveiled a series of revisions to the website due to changes in web templates and hosting. Those changes have been completed and we believe all the bugs are worked out.

We expect a nice selection of articles for the fall issue, with a target date of 15 December. New articles are due 23 November. We can always use more.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Sanow ASTC

Ethics and History:

Under the new bylaws, the Ethics committee is formed on an ad hoc basis, only when the ASTC Board is made aware of an issue. Jack Hagler reports no activity. Likewise, the History committee has been disbanded and Robert Long appointed Historian, reporting to the ASTC Board. Robert has nothing to report at this time.

CFO Report

Because of the Covid restrictions, this year's annual and Forum meetings are being held online. This has resulted in considerable savings. I am happy to report that our financial position is very good. Given historical averages, we have on hand in our checking account and unrestricted CD's sufficient cash to finance 2 years of normal expenses for the annual and forum meetings. This includes the expenses of one Renovation Challenge at USITT.

Below is a list of ASTC accounts and the current balances:

ASTC total cash assets equal: \$79,699.22

Checking	\$46,287.67
Unrestricted CDs	
CD1928	\$3,105.40
CD1932	\$3,123.70
CD9427	\$3,054.13
CD9428	\$5,074.32
CD9429	\$3,037.85
CD9430	\$5,097.13
Restricted CD	
CD1931	\$10,919.02

ASTC also has tangible assets of between \$5,000 to \$,6000.

These assets include conferencing equipment, online video and audio, as well as projection.

Conference booth equipment, banners and swag.

Office equipment:

Respectfully Submitted,
R Duane Wilson, FASTC