

# ABS Board Meeting: 26 July 2026

Called to Order @ 11:00am Pacific

Quorum ( $\geq 7$  voting Directors minimum, out of 13 total):

Directors present (5): Connor, Banks, Meckes, Sansome, King [Not a quorum]

Directors absent (8): Pierce, Edwards, Barrett, Rogers, Boeraeve, Kohler, Sanders, Ramsay

Others Present: Juan Martinez (Guatemala)

## Quick recap

The meeting focused on reviewing the previous minutes, discussing preparations for the upcoming ABS conference in Houston, and addressing the transition of magazine production responsibilities. Carole updated the group on conference logistics, including t-shirts, badges, silent auction books, and finances, noting slow registration but sufficient funds. Juan offered to help with t-shirts and suggested selling some Spanish-language bamboo books at the event. The board discussed potential locations for the 2027 conference, considering Hawaii, Virginia and Guatemala as options. Michael detailed his desire to step back from publishing the magazine and explored options for automating the mailing process with the current printer, Camelot Printing, while maintaining proofreading by multiple people. David and others discussed the possibility of nonprofit mailing rates and sales tax exemptions. Landy briefly reported no new updates on Hawaii conference efforts. Juan shared developments in Europe regarding the formation of a European Bamboo Foundation and progress on construction norms. The next board meeting was scheduled for 23 August 2026.

## Next steps

### Carole

- Prepare auction sheets for the 39 books and fold them into the books, then pack them into boxes for the silent auction.
- Mail out membership checks to the chapters once the printer is fixed.
- Create a webpage to tease the silent auction books, linking to the list of available books.

- Contact Jennifer Bailey to check her interest in hosting the 2027 conference in Virginia.
- Send the ABS logo to Juan for the t-shirts.

## David

- Research the possibility of obtaining nonprofit postage rates for the ABS magazine.

## Michael

- Obtain a price from Camelot Printing for automating the mailing process and share it with Carole.

## Ian

- Send the name and details of Jules Janssen to Juan for potential review of Janssen's work regarding European bamboo norms.
- Send photos of the Simon Velez bamboo structure in Manizales, Colombia to Juan. Luc Boeraeve also offered photos as well.
- Follow up on nominations for at-large board positions, aiming to have names within a week.

## Juan

- Bring 5-10 (Spanish language) books to sell at the conference, keeping the funds.
- Bring some t-shirts from his region to the conference, ensuring they have the ABS logo.

## Landy

- Update the board on any developments regarding the Hawaii conference situation in the coming week.

# Summary

## Houston Conference Planning Updates

The team reviewed previous meeting minutes and discussed the Houston conference preparations. Carole reported on t-shirt and badge options, with plans to meet with Bill from Round Rock about t-shirt design and costs. Audiovisual equipment will need to be rented. She mentioned having 39 books for the silent auction and plans to page on *bamboo.org* to promote them. Juan offered to bring

t-shirts from his region and books in Spanish for sale, with Carole agreeing to provide Juan with the ABS logo to add to his t-shirts. The team noted slow registration numbers at about 10 paid registrations so far, with Carole confirming the event's finances were stable despite no current sponsors.

## 2027 Meeting Location Discussion

The group discussed potential locations for the 2027 meeting, with Ian expressing concerns about the lack of clear direction for future plans. Carole suggested contacting Jennifer Bailey in Virginia about hosting the conference at her ranch, where she has a Henon grove; Juan proposed Guatemala as another option. The team also briefly discussed a potential Hawaii location and a recently mentioned nursery in Hawaii, though no decisions were made about any specific venue. Landy has been able to contact Dani Ramos, who now lives in Hawaii.

## Mail Automation Discussion

Michael discussed his long-standing effort to retire after 45+ years of arranging printing and mailing of ABS publications, mentioning his recent attempts to automate mailing processes with their current printer near Albany, New York, which he has used for about 45 years. Michael also highlighted the challenges of proof approval, international mailing and managing back issues, suggesting that while automation is possible, the current setup with their established printer remains effective.

## Magazine Production Automation Strategy

The team discussed automating aspects of their magazine production process while maintaining human oversight. They identified proofreading as a critical human interface function that should involve 2-3 independent proofreaders to catch errors that might be missed when authors review their own work. The group agreed that while some proofreading could be done remotely, having physical copies for review remains valuable, and they established that the current process of having Carol and Michael review PDFs of the publications before sending them to the printer could continue, with additional proofreaders like David stepping in when needed. Mark Sanders was absent but will clearly need to be involved in these issues.

## ABS Printing and Mailing Options

Approximately 200 copies per quarterly issue of BAMBOO Magazine are printed for mailing. The group discussed printing and mailing options for ABS. Michael

suggested members could find local printers near them, though Camelot Printing was recommended as a reliable current option. Ian proposed retaining Michael as a backup while transitioning responsibilities to others, and Michael offered to help with proofreading and printer oversight during the transition. The discussion also covered reduced postage fees for nonprofit organizations, with David noting that while ABS has nonprofit income tax exemption, he would need to research California's sales tax requirements for printing services in case any further savings could be realized. The group explored the benefits of bulk mailing versus first-class mail. Michael noted that bulk mailing was previously used for their magazine but is no longer practical due to timing issues, particularly for international shipments. Ian suggested considering local printers in Oregon as an alternative to their current printer Camelot, particularly highlighting the importance of human interface in their printing needs. Michael discussed getting pricing from Camelot Printing and coordinating with Carol for implementation.

### Nominations Update and next Board Meeting Date

The group addressed nominations for the two expiring At-Large positions, currently occupied by David King and Mark Sanders. Ian and David acknowledged they need to identify more candidates, particularly from the Northeast region. The team scheduled the next meeting for August 23rd at the same time, though they noted challenges with the current time slot due to different time zones affecting attendance for some members.

### European Bamboo Community Formation

Juan reported on the formation of a European bamboo community that began after the European Bamboo Expo in May, where he suggested creating a WhatsApp group to develop construction norms. The group has grown to include experts from multiple continents working on various aspects of bamboo construction, with some members already collaborating with governments to develop official norms. Ian shared details about a significant bamboo structure built 25 years ago in Colombia for an international exposition, which is still standing and open to the public.

By consensus, the next scheduled ABS Board meeting was set for August 23, 2026 at 11am Pacific, 2pm Eastern.

*Abstracted by Zoom AI, edited by David King, Secretary, ABS*