Annual Meeting

JANUARY 31, 2024
NATIONAL SCULPTURE SOCIETY
Annual Meeting
Held by Zoom Conference on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 5 pm (EST)

Board Members Present:
Robert E. Jewell, Treasurer
Lee Hutt, Secretary
Mark Edward Adams
Anne W. Brown
Gregory Glasson
Alicia Ponzio
Robin R. Salmon
LeRoy Transfield
Kent Ullberg
Basil Watson

NSS Staff:
Gwen Pier
Patty Delahanty
Elizabeth Helm

Rose Fredrick Productions:
Rose Fredrick
Terry Rigg
Olive Witwer

In Attendance:
Banafsheh Ahmadzadeh      Eugene Daub      Louis Quaintance
George Anthonisen        Ed Fraughton       Chris Richards
Michael Barrett          Jacque Giuffre     Ken Rowe
Bruner Barrie            Donna Grace       Joshua Ruder
Maria Battista           Carol Harless      Jeffrey Spring
Alison Bell              Sheleen Jones     Paula Stern
Meredith Bergmann        Tuck Langland     Charlotte Szynskie
Babette Bloch            Donella Lay       Spencer Tinkham
Manuelita Brown          Jeanne Moje MacDonald
Mary Buckman             George McMonigle  Andreja Vuckovic
Jeff Canepa              Angela Mia        Yash Waman
Susie Chisholm           Judith Modrak     Louise Weir
LeaAnn Cogswell          Deanna Rae C Montero
Michael Coppage          Cheryl Newby       Steven Whyte
Michelle Crider          Louise Peterson   Eva-Maria Woh
                            Besada Yakoub
Officer’s Reports

Executive Committee – Amy Kann, Vice President (Gwen Pier, Executive Director presenting)
Members of the Executive Committee are Michel Langlais (President), Amy (Vice President), Lee Hutt (Secretary), Robert Jewell (Treasurer), Gregory Glasson, and Dan Ostermiller (past president).

Our Board of Directors met six times in 2023. The Executive Committee met seven times between board meetings throughout the year, providing continued momentum and attention to ongoing business. We worked through a number of challenges and changes to ensure the best outcomes for the membership and the longevity of the National Sculpture Society. Key initiatives we have been working toward are:

- Changing the publication Sculpture Review to Sculpture Quarterly
- The NSS Sculpture Celebration Weekend, to be held in Indianapolis this September.
- Expanding our exhibition program for sculptors nationwide, and
- Researching, interviewing, and hiring a team of specialists to lead us through a strategic planning process later this year.

The NSS Board, staff and leadership are committed to ensuring that we continue to weave equity and inclusion into the fabric of every NSS initiative. Our committees continually strive toward building an inclusive culture through membership, awards, exhibitions, and other programs.

Our outgoing president, Michel Langlais, is missing his first meeting and asked me to read the following.

Dear NSS members,
Being on the other side of the world right now, I asked Amy if she could be so kind as to read you this message. This is my last meeting as your NSS President.

I thank you all, past and present board directors, Fellows, and NSS members for entrusting me with your vote of confidence during these last ten years.

Ten years are a long time, and last year I decided to bring new blood and ideas, so I forced a little bit Greg Glasson’s hand and I endorse him totally as our new president with board directors, new and old who have always demonstrated their commitment to our institution. And of course, with our dedicated staff - Patty Delahanty, Elizabeth Helm and Gwen Pier.

I am leaving NSS in a solid financial position, with a strong leadership and programs new and old which have been expended, like our NSS Ambassador communities which are proving to be the best way to reach out to sculptors nationwide.

I cannot finish without saying a few words about Gwen; for the last ten years we have had numerous meetings at our Manhattan office, a few blocks away from my home. I have
witnessed Gwen’s unconditional commitment to NSS; how she can solve complicated administrative or financial matters and juggle budgets, and also nurture new, young and old members with the same personal care and attention. I hope you realize NSS will never have another executive director like Gwen ... she knows all our secrets!

I thank you all again and can reassure you that I am not disappearing but will stay committed to NSS. And to finish... don’t forget my favorite four words, “We Need Your Help!”

I will now introduce our capable and accomplished treasurer, Bob Jewell.

**Finance and Audit Committee** – Robert Jewell, Treasurer and Chair
The Finance Committee members are Bruner Barrie, Richard J. Moylan, Susan Potje, Jeffrey Spring, and Michel Langlais, ex-officio.

The Finance Committee met twice in 2023. In addition, we invited our investment team at UBS Financial Services to report to the full board and the executive committee throughout the year. The investment team at UBS keeps in close contact with the NSS offices and the full finance committee via email regularly with regard to market conditions and any potential changes to the NSS investment portfolio. They actively manage our portfolio on a continual basis and are responsive to changes in the economy and to our concerns and questions. We examine our asset allocations, review portfolio holdings, and are advised of recommended changes in keeping with market fluctuations. The NSS annual draw on investments never touches principal.
After a very challenging year in 2022, the portfolio was up 15% at year-end 2023, or 1.78 million dollars in return. Our annual rate of return over the past five years has been 8%, so we’ve been able to add to principal in spite of withdrawing funds to cover NSS program expenses.

In addition to our portfolio of restricted and endowment funds held at UBS, NSS is the beneficiary of three trusts held at JP Morgan; two were established by our first major benefactor Archer Huntington and the third by past president, Charlotte Dunwiddie. Investment income from UBS and revenue from the three JP Morgan trusts accounts for more than half of the income in our projected budget. Program fees, membership dues, and donations make up the difference and help cover our overall expenses.

The Finance Committee determines a budget for the review and approval of the full board, considering policies and programs that impact spending and revenue. At our December 2023 meeting the committee focused exclusively on a draft budget for the forthcoming year. We recommended, and the board passed, an annual budget for 2024 of $885,430, with a proposed deficit of $95,230.

Some significant changes resulting in added expenses this year are:

- The Annual Awards Exhibition will travel from South Carolina to Indianapolis.
- NSS Sculpture Celebration Weekend will be held in Indianapolis.
- New Sculpture Quarterly magazine.
- Strategic Planning session is planned to begin in May.

The annual audit begins in February every year. Our senior auditor, Paul Brace, a principal at Rogoff & Company, reports their findings and presents a draft financial statement to the board in the spring.

We are optimistic that friends of the organization will continue to participate in growing numbers and support the National Sculpture Society in its mission to promote sculpture at a very high level. With your help, we look forward to a break-even bottom line in the current fiscal year.

That concludes my report.

**Secretary’s Report – Lee Hutt**

The membership numbers for the National Sculpture Society as of December 31, 2023 are as follows:

- Associate Members: 533
- Fellows: 111
- Patrons: 33
- Additional: 57
- Sculptor Members: 113
- Honorary Fellows/Members Emeritus: 11
- Allied: 29
- Total: 887

This is a 7% decrease for membership numbers from 2022.
The locations where the names and places of residence of NSS’ members may be found are as follows:

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It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of the following members:

- **Dora Natella**, Fellow on April 11, 2023
- **Shirley Thomson-Smith**, Member Emeritus on August 28, 2023
- **Robert Glen**, Corresponding (Foreign) Member on October 28, 2023
- **Harold T. Holden**, Elected Member on December 6, 2023
- **Tanya Ragir**, Fellow on December 29, 2023

Let’s have a round of applause to celebrate their lives.

**Standing Committees of the Corporation**

- **Ambassadors Committee** – **Mark Edward Adams**, Chairperson
  (Donella Lay, incoming board member presenting.)

The committee members are the ambassadors of the NSS Communities. There are seven of us across the country:

- Arizona Community – Deanna Montero
- Carolinas Community (North and South Carolina) – Dan Kraus is retiring as ambassador and a few other people in the Carolinas are considering stepping into the position.
- Idaho Community – Daniel Borup
Indiana and Midwest Community – Gregory Glasson
NorCal Community (northern California) - Lance Glasser
SouthCal Community (southern California) – Mark Edward Adams
Texas/Oklahoma Community – Donella Lay
Utah Community – Michael Aaron Hall

Some highlights of last year were:

- The Idaho community hosted its annual Sculpture Jam - a modeling competition, September 15-16 at the Idaho Art Lab in Saint Anthony, Idaho. Three cash awards were presented to the top three winning competitors.

- The Northern California Community organized a group of twelve NSS sculptors to exhibit at the Reno Tahoe International Art Expo in Reno, Nevada, September 14-17th. The show was open to members of NSS Ambassador Communities in CA, NV, and all states adjacent to Nevada. The host institution, RTIA, has invited us back in 2024.

- The Midwest Community, in Indiana, was very active in anticipation of the NSS Sculpture Celebration Weekend in Indianapolis this September. As a sort of “warm up” the Herron School of Art and Design hosted an exhibition November 8, 2023 – January 20, 2024 that showcased the work of fifteen regional sculptors. Organized and curated by the National Sculpture Society's Indiana ambassador Gregory Glasson and IU Indianapolis' own Jacob Dobson (who is also an NSS member), the show highlighted a variety of techniques and technologies in contemporary figurative sculpture. As a result of the popularity of the exhibition, the art school is having serious discussions about instituting figurative sculpture classes.
The Texas Community organized studio visits, docent led museum-visits, and foundry demonstrations.

Images of these and other Ambassador Community events are on the NSS website.

**Education Committee** – Alicia Ponzio, Acting Chairperson

**Laura Ziegler Participation Scholarship**

Jurors: Benjamin Victor, Toby Mendez, Susie Chisholm. Christina Szakonyi received the scholarship. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the June Celebration events.

**Richard McDermott Miller Modeling Competition**

In March 2023, Benjamin Victor, Toby Mendez, Susie Chisholm served as the jurors for the Richard McDermott Miller Modeling Competition.

They selected the following competitors: Taylor Anne Apostol (MA) - Zofia Chamera (MD) - Samuel Davis (VA/NY) - Zoe Dufour (CA) - Eddie Holecko (CA) - Justin Kendall (NY) - Quintin McCann (UT) - Kelly Micca (PA) - Maia Williamson (NY) - Maria Willison (TN)

On June 3rd, the competitors modeled from life at the New York Academy of Art. At the competition’s end, NSS Fellows Kate Brockman, Chad Fisher and Basil Watson selected the three award winners:

*Zoe Dufour* received the Richard McDermott Miller Prize of $3,000.
**Samuel Davis** received the Roger T. Williams Prize of $1,500

**Quintin McCann** received the Walter & Michael Lantz Prize of $750

Bequests from Charlotte Geffken and Roger T. Williams, as well as a gift from the Green-Wood Cemetery (Brooklyn, NY), funded travel scholarships for each of the competitors. Each competitor received a one-year Associate membership with the National Sculpture Society, underwritten by The Robert J. Spring Endowment and MAF Foundation. Thank you to our supporters.

This year, the National Sculpture Society co-sponsored the NSS Sculptor Residency at Chesterwood. Margaret Cherin, Interim Director at Chesterwood, and NSS Fellows Gwen Marcus and Dan Ostermiller reviewed the applications. **Edward J. Fraughton** was the inaugural NSS Sculptor-in-Residence for the month of June 2023 at Chesterwood. On June 25, 2023, Fraughton led an informal discussion at Chesterwood which was recorded and shared on social media platforms. Fraughton described his time there as "magical in the sense that it confirmed where I am relative to all I have been struggling to accomplish in life. There, I felt Daniel Chester French’s presence, his passion, that he might have been happy to welcome me as a kindred spirit."
**Events Committee Report – Greg Glasson, Chairperson**

*Committee*: Emily Cato, Jacob Dobson, Charles Hyde, Donella Lay, and Tuck Langland

NSS hosted two Virtual Programs in 2023:

1) Clint Howard, President and Owner of Pyrology Foundry in Texas, gave us a tour of his full-service foundry with state-of-the-art facilities. Over 200 people RSVPed for this event, which was held in June.

![Pyrology Foundry](image1)

2) In November, the NSS Southern California Community, with ambassador Mark Edward Adams, hosted "A Conversation with Peter Brooke." Peter is the Creative Supervisor at Jim Henson's Creature Shop and an Elected Sculptor member of the NSS.

![A Conversation with Peter Brooke, NSS](image2)

If you missed either of these virtual events, links to recordings are available on the NSS website.
Annual Sculpture Weekend
In June we held our Sculpture Celebration Weekend in New York City, with an awards luncheon at the Century Association, the Miller Modeling Competition at the New York Academy of Art, and a 130th Birthday Party for the National Sculpture Society on Saturday night at The Compleat Sculptor.

The NSS Sculpture Conference and Exhibitions will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana. We look forward to seeing you there in September!

Exhibitions – Robin R. Salmon, Chairperson
Committee: John Belardo, Amy Kann, Janice Mauro, and Sandy Scott

In 2023, National Sculpture Society presented the following exhibitions at its Manhattan Gallery:

**Melting Pot:** February 20 - April 28, 2023, 21 works of sculpture

**Altered Realities:** May 22 - August 4, 2023, 17 works of sculpture

**First Idea Show:** September 4 - November 3, 2023, 18 works of sculpture
Jury of selection: Rosetta, Gary Staab and Cameron Shay

90th Annual Awards Winners Exhibition:
November 20, 2023 – January 26, 2024, 16 prize-winning works
Jury of Awards: Kirsten Kokkin, FNSS; Scott Penegar, Sculptor and Stephen W. Motte, Curator of Collections and Interpretation - Florence County Museum, Florence, SC.
In 2023, NSS presented the following exhibitions at Brookgreen Gardens, SC:

**Honors Exhibition**
Featuring works by 2021 & 2022 NSS grant winners in the Rosen Museum Galleries
- Steven Whyte (Stanley Bleifeld Memorial Grant, 2021)
- Brett F. Harvey (Alex J. Ettl Grant, 2021)
- Jeremy Bradshaw (Marilyn Newmark Memorial Grant, 2021)
- Eric Serritella (Stanley Bleifeld Memorial Grant, 2022)
- Elizabeth N. Jordan (Alex J. Ettl Grant, 2022)
- Wendy Klemperer (Marilyn Newmark Memorial Grant, 2022)

**90th Annual Awards Exhibition:**
- August 5 – October 22, 2023
- 41 works by contemporary artists were selected from 302 submissions.

In 2023, NSS presented the following Community Exhibitions:

**NSS California Community/RTIA Show**
- September 14 – 17 at Reno Tahoe International Art Show (Reno, NV)
- 11 works by Northern & Southern California Community in addition to sculptors residing in states adjacent to Nevada.
- Heidi Wastweet served as the curator.

**NSS Midwest Figurative Sculpture Invitational**
- November 8, 2023 – January 20, 2024 at Herron School of Art + Design, Indianapolis, IN
- 22 members of NSS, past and present, exhibited work.
In 2023, NSS presented the following Online Exhibitions

- **Fellows Online Invitational** – Debuted May 2023
- **Elected Online Invitational** – Debuted November 2023

**Performance in Sculpture** at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Florida continues through June 2024.

The committee has scheduled several exhibitions extending through 2025 including the **2024 Annual Awards Exhibition** which will travel this year from Brookgreen Gardens, SC to Indianapolis Art Center in Indiana. The **2024 Young Sculptors Exhibition** will open at the NSS Gallery in February as well as the next **Honors Exhibition** at Brookgreen Gardens. Please check the NSS website for all your exhibition news and updates.

**Honors and Awards** - Basil Watson, board member and awards juror, presenting.
Members of the Honors and Awards Committee are Amy Kann, Kate Brockman, Alicia Ponzio, Emily Bedard, and Darla Jackson. The Society’s Honors and Awards were presented at an Awards ceremony in New York City on June 2, 2023, which is part of the Sculpture Celebration Weekend.

**Medal of Honor**
The Society’s highest award, presented for notable achievement in and for encouragement to American Sculpture, was presented to **Richard Blake**, past president of the NSS.

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**Herbert Adams Memorial Award**
Presented for outstanding achievement to **Cristina Córdova**
Henry Hering Award
For outstanding collaboration among architect, owner, and sculptor in the distinguished use of sculpture in an architectural project, to the Royal Air Force Bomber Command Memorial in London, England. Award recipients:

Philip Jackson - Sculptor
Colin Dudley, DFC - Sculptor
Richard Kindersley - Inscription Artist
Liam O’Connor Architects and Planning Consultants - Architect
The Bomber Command Association (Jim Dooley representing) - Owner

The Alex J. Ettl Grant
Jurors: LeRoy Transfield, Marc Mellon and Rosetta
For outstanding ability as a sculptor for a body of work, presented to Warren King

The Marilyn Newmark Memorial Grant
Jurors: Nina Akamu, Jacquelyn Giuffre and Michael Keropian
For an outstanding body of work by a sculptor specializing in animal sculpture, to Fan Yu

The Stanley Bleifeld Memorial Grant
Jurors: Janice Mauro, Heidi Wastweet and Blair Buswell
For a sculptor with outstanding ability who has created a body of work inspired by nature which includes works of sculpture in bas-relief and in the round, presented to Dave LaMure, Jr.

Augusta Savage Grant
Jurors: Amy Kann, Richard Blake and Basil Watson
Awarded annually for Excellence in Sculpture to a talented emerging sculptor who self-identifies as Black or African American, presented to Sherwin Banfield
**The Dexter Jones Award**
Jurors: Amy Kann, Anthony Antonios and Don Everhart
For an outstanding work of sculpture in bas-relief by a young sculptor to **Evan L. Morse**

**Sculpture House Annual Award**
Presented for support of figurative sculpture to **Gary Weisman**

**Special Citation for Lifetime Achievement**
Awarded to **Ed Dwight**

**Sisko Memorial Award**
Presented for distinguished service to sculpture through programs sponsored by the National Sculpture Society to **Lee Hutt**
Membership – Leroy Transfield, Chairperson
Committee: Michael Bergt, Angela Mia, Joshua Koffman, and Lee Hutt

The Committee considers all applications for Elected Sculptor membership. It reports to the voting membership the name of candidates it recommends for election.

Congratulations to the Elected Sculptor Members class of 2023. They are:

- Babette Bloch
- Rikki Morley Saunders
- Bobbie Carlyle
- Eva-Maria Wohn
- Ott Jones

On January 11, 2024, the Board recommended seven elected Sculptor Members for advancement to Fellow. Ballots regarding their nominations were sent to all Fellow and Board members. I’m delighted to say that the following received the necessary 2/3 vote to advance.

Congratulations to:

- Richard Becker
- Jacqueline Giuffré
- Steven Whyte
- Peter Brooke
- Ken Rowe
- Mick Doellinger
- Benjamin Victor

Details about the various membership levels are on the NSS website. Applications for Elected Sculptor Membership are due on April 1, 2024.

Editorial Advisory Committee – Robin Salmon and Anne Brown, Co-chairpersons
Images of the four issues of Sculpture Review that were produced in 2023 are being projected on your screens.

The big news is that the last issue of Sculpture Review was published in December 2023, and the first issue of our new magazine, Sculpture Quarterly, will be published in March, starting with the Spring issue.
We would like to thank the 2023 editorial advisory committee, many of whom served for several years and whose names are posted here on screen.

- Margaret Nicholson, Chairperson
- Gordon J. Alt, Co-Editor
- Anne Brown
- Eugene Daub
- Lee Hutt
- Michel Langlais (ex-officio)
- Tuck Langland
- Robin R. Salmon, Co-Editor

The incoming 2024 editorial advisory committee is made up of Board members from different areas of the country with a variety of expertise in the writing and publishing field. We have already met twice with the new publishing team.

- Anne Brown (Utah), NSS Patron.
- Lee Hutt (Massachusetts), NSS Fellow.
- Greg Glasson (Indiana), NSS Fellow.
- Michael Keropian (New York), NSS Fellow.
- Michel Langlais (Florida), NSS Fellow.
- Susan Potje (Arizona), NSS Patron.
- Robin Salmon (South Carolina), Allied Professional member, Curator of Collections at Brookgreen Gardens and co-editor of Sculpture Review.

We are very excited to introduce you to the new publishing team, Rose Fredrick Productions.

**Rose Fredrick Productions, Inc. (RFPI)**
- Rose Fredrick
- Terry Rigg
- Olive Witwer

Fredrick shared, “This has been quite an honor to have been selected to do this. We are thrilled to be working with you all... my biggest fear is that there are so many articles and people to write about that I just don’t know if I’ve got enough years in my life to get to everything... What we’re trying to do is bring a very beautiful art magazine to you. I remember years ago, somebody said
‘artists read pictures and look at words.’ I think that’s really important. We’re trying to just really make it beautiful... something that you want to hold in your hands and flip through and share."

**New Business - Gwen Pier, Executive Director**

**Election of the 2024 Board of Directors**

Nominations for possible board members were received in response to the call sent to voting members in August 2023. The Executive Committee considered all nominations in September and presented a slate to the full Board. The Board approved the slate and ballots were sent to all voting members. The incoming board members for 2024 are:

**Officers**
- President: Gregory Glasson (IN) - Fellow
- 1st Vice President: Susan Morrow Potje (AZ) – Patron
- 2nd Vice President: Marc Fields (NY) – Allied Professional
- Treasurer: Robert Jewell (AZ) - Patron
- Secretary: Lee Hutt (MA) - Fellow

**Directors**

- **Incoming Class of 2027**
  - Nilda Comas (FL): Fellow
  - Amy Kann (PA): Fellow
  - Donella Lay (TX): Patron
  - Olga Nielsen (DE): Fellow
  - Jeffrey Spring (NY): Allied Professional

- **Class of 2026**
  - Kate Brockman (PA): Fellow
  - Anne Brown (UT): Patron
  - Michael Keropian (NY): Fellow
  - Robin R. Salmon (SC): Allied Professional
  - Basil Watson (GA): Fellow

- **Class of 2025**
  - Renee Harper Audrey (NJ): Patron
  - Janice Mauro (CT): Fellow
  - Alicia Ponzio (CA): Fellow
  - Cheryl Newby (SC): Patron/Allied Professional
  - LeRoy Transfield (UT): Fellow

It is always the goal of the nominating committee to fill seats on the board with members from different communities and backgrounds, in an effort to best represent the membership nationwide. The twenty nominees are from fifteen different states.
Electronic and paper ballots were gathered and counted this week; I am happy to report that seventy-nine (79) members voted in favor, with none against and none abstaining. The 2024 board is now officially elected.

Special thanks go to Board members in the Outgoing Class of 2023 for their contributions:

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<td>Mark Edward Adams (CA)</td>
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<td>Richard J. Moynan (NY)</td>
<td>Patron</td>
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<td>Kent Ullberg (TX and CO)</td>
<td>Fellow</td>
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<td>Wesley Wofford (NC)</td>
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Thanks as well to outgoing officers Amy Kann, Vice President, and Michel Langlais, our (now former) president. Their leadership has steadied our course on numerous occasions. Michel dedicated himself 150% to the success and growth of the NSS. In the non-profit world, it is sometimes said that an ideal Patron gives either time, talent or treasure. Michel gave all three, and he gave generously on numerous occasions. His devotion to the organization was nothing short of extraordinary.

Finally, a warm welcome to the new Board! I will now turn over the screen to our new president, Greg Glasson.

**GREG GLASSON’S ACCEPTANCE**
I would like to thank Michel for his outstanding service to the Society of ten years - the longest serving president in NSS history. During the past decade, our environment changed dramatically with the COVID pandemic and significant social changes. Michel led the NSS efforts flawlessly through this period as we addressed these many challenges.
During Michel’s tenure -- and particularly during the pandemic -- the NSS expanded its online and social media presence so that the sculpture community could stay in touch with the many programs and services offered by NSS. Michel was instrumental in helping launch the NSS Ambassador Community program and his leadership was paramount as NSS transitioned our magazine to the Sculpture Quarterly, to be published with the help and expertise of Rose Fredrick Productions. We are honored to work with them and welcome them as our new publishers.

On behalf of the Board, Management and NSS members, thank you, Michel, for your strong professional standards and your endless support of the NSS and its members. I am honored to have your endorsement to serve our membership as the next president.

I’d also like to thank everyone in attendance for your continued support and confidence in the National Sculpture Society. We value your participation and hope to see you at the NSS Sculpture Weekend Celebration in Indianapolis this year, September 19-22. I will be thrilled to warmly welcome you to my new hometown.

- Adjourn