1. Call to Order – Laurie Zolo (7:40AM)

2. Approval of Minutes of 2013 Business Meeting – Laurie Zolo

   A correction to the 2013 minutes was offered from the floor by Susan Hill. In the 2013 minutes Melanie Harris was inaccurately listed as leaving the Board. They will be corrected.

   **Motion: To Approve the corrected Minutes of 2013 Business Meeting**

   **Vote: Aye - Unanimous**

3. Memorial Minutes – Laurie Zolo

   A moment of silence was held in memory of the following members who passed away* in 2014:

   Ellen Aitken Ian
   G. Barbour
   Richard Gelwick
   Vincent Harding
   J. William Harmless
   William Hordern
   Robert C. Lester
   Daniel B. McGee
   Glen Stassen
   Frank Stalfa
   Johannes Swart

   * Correction [April 16, 2015]: The AAR executive office mistakenly included former member Estelle Archibald in the Memorial Minutes read at the 2014 AAR Business Meeting. Our sincere apologies to Ms. Archibald for our error.

4. President’s Report – Laurie Zolo

   In her report President Zoloth summarized the advances and accomplishments that have been attained during the 3 years she served on the Board as Vice President, President-elect, and President. These included:
a. Responding to the labor struggle between Hyatt and its workers in Chicago, and creating a labor policy to guide the AAR should such situations occur again;
b. Creating a new policy regarding security at the AM;
c. Establishing a socially responsible investment policy that avoids investments in guns and ammunition and initiating consideration of withdrawing investments in all fossil fuels and conflict metals;
d. Pursuing 3 key goals: 1) increasing democratic diverse participation in the AAR; 2) increasing membership; and 3) increasing attention to climate change;
e. Creating new lines of connection between AAR Committees, the presidential line and the Board;
f. Increasing diversity among committee membership;
g. Providing ongoing support to the AAR’s many and vitally important regional organizations;
h. Welcoming and helping to orient new members to our AM (Board member Kristy Slominsky’s leadership was particularly effective in this area);
i. Partnering with other organizations (e.g.: NEH, NHA) to defend and advocate for the important role that scholarship in religion should be playing in contemporary discourse;
j. Establishing a new Task Force to address ongoing concerns regarding contingent religion faculty;
k. Establishing the AAR Membership Task Force;
l. Focusing the attention of the Academy on climate change, the principle moral problem of our time, by asking the Board to reflect directly on the issue, and by making climate change the unifying theme of this AM. Fully 1/3 of our sessions and plenaries are on religion and climate change. “At a time of such despair it is heartening to see us working on this project, making the meeting more sustainable, partnering with organizations like PRRI in the production of a national survey on religion and climate change, and welcoming to our conference 2 Nobel Peace Prize winners and President Carter who will address us on these key issue.”
m. Salaita incident: In late September the Board was asked by members to respond to an ongoing situation involving academic freedom and hate speech. After weeks of discussion the Board could only agree on the need for a policy regarding what sorts of issues the AAR will weigh in on, and how we will go about doing so.

President Zoloth ended her report by thanking the board for all of its hard work and dedication to the members, and by thanking the AAR staff who each make wonderful, thoughtful and patient contributions that enrich our field.
5. **Executive Director’s Report – Jack Fitzmier**

Executive Director Fitzmier reported on the state of the Academy including the good news that 9837 people registered for the AM. He reported that the meeting is going well, and that there are over 1300 events scheduled during this weekend. That these events go so smoothly is due in large measure to the staff, who deserve our thanks.

New AAR initiatives include the Membership Task Force, and the Contingent Faculty Task Force. Incoming President Tom Tweed’s theme for the 2015 AM will be how we value religion in various publics and sectors. In addition he is leading a research seminar whose aim is to develop a code of ethics that governs research.

To date we have not had a policy on when the AAR will speak about something and this is worrisome. Many ACLS organizations have such policies. With 10,000 members and lots of opinions, when we’re asked to speak we need guidance.

The AAR’s new governance structures put in place in 2011 have completed their first full cycle. Many of these things are working fantastically (e.g. the new program committee structure) and there are some things that will require some fine tuning.

The AAR pursues several quiet programs that are designed to extend the influence of members’ scholarly work to key areas in the public sector. These include programs with the FBI, Prison Chaplains, and the State Department.

The AAR’s finance report indicates that the AAR remains in excellent financial condition. In 2013, we had a modest negative number, though this year we have a small surplus which is supplemented by the excellent performance of our endowment investments.

**Questions:**

Q: *As an international member, how does the AAR see its relationship to overseas members?*

A: 12% of our members are international with the bulk of them coming from North American countries. We have an international connections committee (chaired by Amy Alloco) whose mission is to look at ways the Academy can increase its outreach to and support for international members. We’ve become a member of IAH, and are hopeful that decision will encourage additional exchanges with members of other organizations attending our meeting and our members going to their meetings. There’s a reception for international members, and experimentation is underway involving jointly
sponsored events at meetings (where for example, an international organization is invited to sponsor a session at the AM). Additionally, the Membership Task Force is looking at ways the AAR might appropriately increase the percentage of international members.

ED Fitzmier concluded his report by noting that the AAR’s relationship with SBL continues to be strong and healthy. We are going to be formalizing some of the things we do together (e.g. book exhibit, jobs center, etc.) in the near future as it is time for us to renew our memo of understanding.

6. **2014 Election Results – Jack Fitzmier**

   The winners of the annual AAR elections are:

   Eddie Glaude Jr., Vice President  
   Michael McNally, Secretary  
   Asma Afsaruddin, At-Large Director

7. **Treasurer’s report – Linda Moody**

   Treasurer Moody reported three actions that the Board has taken:

   a. *Socially Responsive Investment Policy:* The Board has put in place a “socially responsible investment policy.” We’ll be tweaking it and reporting back to the members as it develops;
   
   b. *Strong Budget:* The Board has put in place a strong budget for this year, complete year with slight balance. She thanked the AAR’s Director of Business and Finance Deborah and Associate Director of Finance Jane Smith for all of their hard work and attention to detail which keeps us solid financially;
   
   c. *Membership Task Force:* We are looking at ways to support the initiative of the new membership task force through budgeting process.

8. **New Business**

   No new business.

9. **Thanks to departing Board Members:**

   Roberto Sargenera  
   Warren Frisina  
   Laurie Zoloth

10. **Adjournment**