

Plains Anthropological Society Board Meeting, 74th Plains Conference

5:30 pm, Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Husker Room, Holiday Inn Downtown, Lincoln, NE

In Attendance: Kacy Hollenback, Lance Foster, Jay Sturdevant, Mary Adair, Chris Johnston, Marcel Kornfeld, Susan Vehik, Don Blakeslee, Amy Bleier, Delaney Cooley, Gerry Oetelaar, Sarah Trabert, Ken Kvamme, Doug Bamforth, Bob Blasing, Mark Muniz

1. Welcome & Call to Order (Hollenback)

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Introduction of New Board Members: Sturdevant, Foster, Adair

4. Distribution of 2016 Briefing Packet

5. Waiver of Reading and Approval of 2015 Business Meeting Minutes (Hollenback)

This was passed

6. President's Report (Hollenback)

- **Website:** It was noted that it is hard to find things on the website and that it needs work
- **Student Affairs:** They are doing great things. They raised funds for poster awards and one workshop
- **President's work:** Vast e-mails received almost daily.
- **Endowment Fund Raising Campaign:** How should we invest? How should we proceed?
Goal: 75% of the membership will give \$75 by the 75th annual meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report (Johnston)The main point was a \$3,000 asset set for the Conference Fund. This year is a trial year. The conference asset will be bumped up to \$5,000 based on the 2016 conference profits. Johnson explained the \$5,000 avoids a penalty fee, but it remains an asset.

- The budget was described
- Each issue of *Plains Anthropologist* costs \$2,000-\$2,500 or \$6 for each copy
- Website fee is \$400 annually
- Bamforth noted we do not have a full year budget cycle to see what a real budget looks like
- Hollenback suggested a fund to support a PAS booth at other conferences
- A Financial Handbook is in progress
- Johnston recommends no audit this year. The Board can require an audit at any time as indicated in the Bylaws

- Johnston proposes putting financial summaries on-line instead of in the journal. Blakeslee moved and Bamforth seconded this idea, followed by approval.

8. Editor's Report (Kornfeld)

- Publisher was switched. First new publisher issue will be in May. It was noted the August issue did not arrive until September. There will be a Memoir before Christmas. There was some discussion of advertising, impact factors, and the journal's top 10 articles. Kornfeld noted a submissions slowdown, but there are enough papers now to fill the journal through 2018, into the term of the new editor. Rejection rates are less than one-third. He commented that we should have 20 articles "on-line." Kornfeld complained that authors do not do revisions, and that few reviewers reject, with most requesting "major revisions" instead. Blakeslee suggested that guidelines should encourage reviewers to reject rather than "beat around the bush."
- Kvamme noted a low journal impact factor of 0.19, which might be part of the low submission problem. Young scholars in particular need to publish in highly visible places. It was generally agreed that we need a higher rejection rate and that all should be encouraged to cite *Plains Anthropologist* articles (in part to improve its impact factor).
- Kornfeld proposed that a title "Editor in Chief" is better than simply "Editor."
- **Editor Search:** Richard Kraus and Elizabeth Lynch have submitted applications for the Editor position. Lynch has editorial experience with *PA* now and with *American Antiquity*. Kraus' ability with computers and the internet (both critical to the position) was questioned.
- Kornfeld observed that institutional support for editorial positions will be unlikely in the future and queried whether the PAS could support the Editor position. Foster suggested hiring an adjunct. Trabert suggested making the position monetarily desirable. For example, a class might be "bought out" for \$10,000 per year or an assistant hired for \$25,000 per year.
- Adair observed that the upcoming Memoir cost \$5,000, paid for by Hollenback through subventions. Discussion then turned to whether PAS pays for memoirs generally. There should be one per year, as the Bylaws indicate. However, they must remain within a 400 page limit. The author must pay for pages beyond that limit. Bamforth moved to accept this and Blakeslee seconded, followed by approval.

9. Membership Report (Oetelaar)

- There are four basic categories: Individual, Student, Joint, Lifetime
- One current problem is that some people do not receive their issues on time so they have paid twice.
- Another current issue is members from Nebraska must pay sales tax.
- Adair questioned whether we enforce membership in order to present at the annual meeting? Consensus is that one must be a member to present. It is in past meeting minutes. It was observed that at the present meeting one had to register first to submit a

paper, but one need not be a member. In effect, conference organizers have the final say about who can present.

- At the present meeting non-member registration was \$200, which is more than student membership plus registration.
- Oetelaar lamented that our current system “is a mess.” Some individuals have IDs within a membership database while others with a conference registration database. It is very difficult to sort these out and compare. Bamforth inquired why we require membership to present; Oetelaar countered that it forces an increased Society membership. The overall problem lies in a separate database system for membership and a second database for conference registration. People register for each and sometimes utilize different e-mail addresses.
- Blakeslee observed that student membership is \$36 and suggested that institutions give memberships, for example, as part of teaching assistantships. Oetelaar observed that students do not want paper journal copies and that they already get them free through libraries as PDFs.

10. Standing Committee Reports

- Archives** (Kvamme). Required materials were submitted to the PAS Archive at the University of South Dakota Special Collections, as described in the written report. It was decided to put required notices as indicated in Bylaws on website rather than in journal.
- Back Issues Distribution** (Bethke & Oetelaar). Back issue orders need more postage. There is also a Canadian tax that must be addressed, a flat fee for up to six issues. The Oklahoma Archaeological Survey and Amanda Regnier are thanked for storage of back issues.
- Conference Handbook** (Kvamme & Sturdevant) Kvamme is updating old handbook (a real mess) based on 2014 Fayetteville meeting, but Sturdevant will also do so because conference funding is now supported for the first time by PAS, rather than by local meeting organizers.
- Endowment & Endowment Campaign** (Hollenvack & Trabert). It was established in 2003 that it would fund Native Americans/First Peoples, student papers, and poster awards. In 2015 the fund went to its own account, which currently holds \$53,290.03. A minimum of \$100,000 is necessary in order that the account can be worked (based on received interest). Several ideas were discussed for promoting the fund.
 - People can be attracted if there is money for research, such as radiocarbon dates
 - We should try to recruit in the form of estate planning, like NPR style giving
 - We want 75% of membership to give \$75. The PAS can match up to \$25,000
 - We want the entire Board to donate to the fund.
 - Gifts can be given for giving, such as field notebooks, water bottles, tote bags. To save on shipping they could be picked up at the next conference.
 - Logos were discussed. Hollenback’s students have many ideas, including cups with arrowhead designs. Another is the “PLAINS” logo of the journal. Foster suggests several kinds of logos over the PLAINS logo.

- Johnston noted that many people already have given tens of thousands of dollars to the endowment and it has just sat. There has been little interest in it.
- Hollenback looked into Wells Fargo accounts which offer good rates for moving money and also suggested we could talk with financial advisors. Johnston suggested hiring someone to manage the money, an “investment service.” He queried whether we should stay with Wells Fargo or move to an investment service.
- Currently, student awards are paid for out of general funds. What to do about this should be discussed further via internet communications.
- We need to decide how to invest money. A new web page will cost, \$1,000 for a new web design. The web page should also include links to Plains granting institutions.
- Estate funds might be specified to support some particular topic or region.
- The Donna Roper Fund: should a distinct committee be established or should it be placed under the Endowment Committee? A motion was made, seconded, and approved for an Ad Hoc Committee for a Donna Roper Fund.

f. Resolutions (Blakeslee)

Currently, there are no criteria for recognition of “significant” individuals when listing recently deceased. We should be more inclusive and honor tribal members who have passed away. We should also include avocational archaeologists and former state archaeologists. It costs us nothing to do so. Those we honor should also be placed on our website. Several recently deceased were named, including Mackermore (sic?) (Elder of the Wichita Tribe), a cultural anthropologist at a Kansas Community College (whose name was not remembered at the time), Gayle Carlson, Jim Potter, Bill Longacre, Bill Butzer, Jim Hester, A.C. Swedlund, Warren Caldwell.

g. Student Affairs (Cooley)

Annual Workshop had 15-24 students. Number of posters is down. The Student Affairs Committee is responsible for its own finances. It raised \$500. The student lunch cost \$400. Field journals were made for the Student Poster Competition. They cost \$100. Certain facts were revealed:

- Students do not generally interact with student media. It is planned to contact departments directly to encourage participation in the conference, especially undergraduates.
- Student Affairs Committee and Student Poster Competition should be included in a handbook.
- Only 3 posters were submitted for the competition, but 2 dropped because they were co-authored and students did not want to omit their co-authors.
- Kornfeld suggested simply giving money to students to encourage their participation in the conference. Oetelaar suggested some sort of reimbursement. Kvamme noted that the Computer Applications in Archaeology (CAA) conference, primarily European, increases registration fees for non-student

members by 5-8 percent to generate a bursaries pool that students may apply for (typically more than \$10,000), although it is only available to student presenters. Adair and Kornfeld argued for donating a lump sum for students, while Oetelaar suggested that people with good paying jobs should pay more.

- Discussion then migrated to how difficult it can be to estimate conference income and it was noted that some conferences go broke (relevant to the idea of “giving money away”). It was observed that the planned endowment would not be large enough for giving awards and paying for travel at the same time.
- A move was made, seconded, and agreed upon for an ad hoc committee in student travel funding.

h. Student Paper Award (Schieber)

This year there are 4 papers and 5 participants. Six or 7 would be best. They are not doing posters. Having students present in regular sessions could cause conflicts and make it difficult for observers to view them all. Banquet tickets are a large incentive, yet student numbers are down.

- Hollenback asked whether the Student Affairs Committee could encourage and advertise to students for their greater participation. It was noted that students want to participate in “real” sessions, and many, in fact, do this (instead of the student paper session). Participation may also be low because students prefer SAA or AAA meetings to aid in their quest for jobs.
- Kornfeld, as Editor, has noticed that dozens of students do submit to the journal, but few or none are worthy of publication.
- Schieber noted that the PAS Facebook site did not well advertise the student paper session
- Hollenback suggested permitting multi-authored papers for consideration in the student papers session. She also encouraged a survey to learn more about what students want.
- It was noted that only the first author gets tickets (2 total) for the banquet. Each submission gets 2 tickets.
- Most students interact by e-mail. PAS also has a List-serv, not on Facebook.

i. Website Design (Johnston)

There have been many complaints about the design of the PAS website. When reaching the page, many can see only the logo. Johnston has received no input, however. He should be e-mailed with suggestions. Cooley called for new tabs for the Student Affairs Committee.

11. Old Business

a. Electronic Publishing of Meeting Minutes and Committee Reports

Meeting minutes do go on-line. Reports by the Editor and Treasurer should also go on-line (the reports are required in print form according to the Bylaws).

b. Forthcoming Conferences

- a. 2016: Lincoln, NE** (Sturdevant). The conference may realize \$9,000 in profit. Johnston, as PAS Treasurer, was instrumental in handling finances (unlike previous conferences). He was able to sign the costly hotel agreement, which is difficult for federal agency employees or others to do as representatives of the PAS.
- b. 2017: Bismarck, ND** (Tim Reed, Fern Swenson, Amy Bleier, organizers) This is the 75th meeting. There are new pubs and restaurants in town, plus a new museum expansion. Hotel rates are excellent: \$89 for one, \$94 for 2 people. Dates are October 4-7.
- c. 2018: San Antonio, TX** (Todd Ahlman, Director, Center for Archaeological Studies in San Antonio). There will be a 300 year centennial conference hosted by the Texas Archaeological Society the last week of October in San Antonio. He proposes hosting the Plains conference there the same weekend in a different hotel. Hotels will cost \$200 per night, and we can negotiate for breakfast and parking. It was suggested that we book a hotel now to lock it in and that we might be able to book a less expensive student hotel.

12. New Business

- a. Official Email addresses for officers** (Hollenback). It was moved, seconded and accepted that safer and standard e-mail addresses would be assigned to officers. These addresses would stay with the office “forever” (e.g., *President@plainsanthropologicalsociety.org*)
- b. Discontinue “CRM Award” Committee.** It was suggested that instead of an award that perhaps webinars or courses might be offered, such as “Introduction to NAGPRA” or “NEPA.” People could pay and log in. The format might be a lecture followed by a question and answer period. Perhaps the Student Affairs Committee would be interested?
- c. Sponsored SAA session** (Bamforth). A booth at the SAA meeting was suggested, along with publicity posters. “Swag” could be offered and a projector could show slides. A symposium should be proposed every year. Perhaps such a session could focus on “hot” topics. An incentive might be \$500 toward travel if someone proposes such a symposium. The question arose concerning how we could get a session sponsored by the PAS at the SAA meeting. Bamforth agreed to check into this and draw up a proposal.

13. Prioritize 2016-2017 Work Plan Items (Item tabled)

14. Recognition of outgoing board members. Bleier

15. Adjournment