

## Minutes of the 2015 Annual Business Meeting of the Plains Anthropological Society

**73<sup>rd</sup> Plains Anthropological Conference  
Friday, October 16, 2015 5:00 pm  
Sheraton Hotel, Iowa City, Iowa**

- 1) **Welcome and Call to Order** by President Amy Bleier
- 2) **Approval of Agenda:** Laura Schreiber asked if she could announce the student paper award at the meeting. Mark Mitchell moved to approve the agenda, Kacy Hollenback seconded, all approved.
- 3) **Waiving of Reading and Approval of 2014 minutes.** So approved, no corrections suggested.
- 4) **President's Report** by Amy Bleier. Overall, we had a good year; our membership is up, we are still in a period of transitioning into the 21<sup>st</sup> century (the digital age), and in the transition to Maney Publishing. We have a new membership database online and instructions on log-on procedures are available at the membership table. We do appreciate everyone's patience as we move into this new era. Amy wished to acknowledge Chris Johnston and Sarah Trabert for their work over the last year and help with the new system and in addressing requests, questions, etc. in a timely manner.
- 5) **Treasurer's Report** by Chris Johnston. Chris introduced himself to the membership and explained his election last December. Total assets are \$146,790.84; but the money is split between a general fund and the endowment. The 2014 conference organizers in Arkansas were able to generate \$15,555 for the society and new royalties from Maney Publishing totaled \$4,346 from 2014. Chris discussed the expense summary and pointed out the \$4500 cost for the annual audit and stated that this was a huge amount of money. He suggested that the membership vote on a motion to change the bylaws on the requirement for a financial audit, it is not required by the IRS or state of Nebraska.

A member asked if audit was required for nonprofit status and Chris said that it was not.

Chris stated that although the society is financially stable that he had some recommendations for the future to prevent further losses in revenue, including the creation of an annual budget and encouraging members to renew on time. He also stressed that we need to boost our membership and that everyone needed to go out and recruit one new membership to double our revenue.

A member asked if we have an influx of money from last year, why can't we have donuts at this conference? Chris stressed that this is because there is a difference between conference and society funds.

There was a motion to approve the report, it was seconded, and all were in favor.

- 6) **Plains Anthropologist Editor Report** by Marcel Kornfeld. Marcel explained that his handout was a short version of the report given to the board. He introduced and acknowledged the associate editors, Allison Grunwald and Elizabeth Lynch. One important event for this year is that Maney was recently purchased by Taylor and Francis, which is a large group that publishes a lot of anthropology journals. This is potentially a good thing, but we don't know what their bottom line will be just yet. So far, we have the same contact people since Taylor and Francis bought the staff from Maney.

We seem to be in really good shape, we have a lot of articles in different stages from initial submissions to accepted to in progress, etc. The November issue might be a little behind but the galleys are on display on the Plains table. We need more advanced articles up on the website for people to read online, but this is likely to change over the next 6 months. We are also looking for a new editor and we need someone that can overlap with current editor for six months. This means that by the next conference we need to have chosen an editor.

Marcel thanked the authors and reviewers for their work over the past year and opened the floor for questions. Mark Mitchell reminded the membership that they should go online and populate the specialty fields on their profiles as this would be very helpful for identifying reviewers. A member asked about the number of pages in the journal and the choice to publish fewer articles. There was a question whether an option might be to publish articles online or ask for more pages. Marcel says we don't know what the Taylor and Francis process will be like and that the quote from Taylor and Francis for the per page cost is significantly less than Maney meaning that we might be able to publish extra pages to make up the difference.

There was a motion to accept editor's report, it was seconded, and all approved.

- 7) **Nominations Committee** presented by Amy Bleier. Fifteen people were asked to run for the board, six were placed on the ballot, and three were selected. The new Board Members are Kenneth Kvamme, Don Blakeslee, and Doug Bamforth. This year we used an electronic voting system using Qualitrix software. Some people requested to receive paper ballots, but most participated in the online voting. Although there were some glitches, the general feedback indicates that many people prefer the online voting method to avoid buying a stamp. Amy stressed that the transition to the digital era is important and that there was no going back as this saved the society \$900 since we didn't have to mail out ballots.
- 8) **Recognition of Outgoing Members** by Amy Bleier. Mark Mitchell, Bob Brooks, and Matt Hill are outgoing members; Amy will stay on as ex-officio.

- 9) **Student Paper Award Report** by Laura Schreiber. Thank you to everyone for supporting the competition and for remaining dedicated over the past decade, especially Matt Hill for updating the award information on the PAS website. Laura announced that anyone interested in serving as a judge for the competition should get in touch with her and that the committee was actively looking for a student representative.

All participants continued to receive two complimentary banquet tickets and students are judged in two categories, undergraduate and graduate. The prize money continues to be \$200 for undergraduates and \$300 for graduates along with invitations for publication in PA. Students can now present papers in both the competition and in organized symposia. All listed advisers were contacted to make sure they approved and read over the paper submissions. Judges continue to act as reviewers for the papers and students get feedback; further publication is based on editor's recommendations. Students have one year from their win to submit for publication.

This year we had seven students participate and all were graduate students. We would like to see more undergraduates enter the competition and mentorship is key to this award and mentors should continue to ask that their students should submit their work.

Margaret Beck worked hard to avoid double scheduling the judges for presenting their own work during the paper competition and the committee wanted to thank the mentors and conference organizers for their assistance.

- 10) **Resolutions:** Prepared by Susan Vehik, read by Amy Bleier.

Be it resolved, that the Plains Anthropological Society expresses its thanks to the organizers of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Plains Anthropological Conference. We thank our conference host, the University of Iowa. We express our thanks to the conference committee co-chairs, Matthew E. Hill, Jr. and Matthew G. Hill and to committee members Margaret Beck, John Hedden, Cindy Nagel, Marlin Ingalls, and William Whittaker. The Society thanks all the many other volunteers who assisted with the conference. The society is grateful to session and symposia chairs and to tour leaders John Hedden, Cindy Nagel, Marlin Ingalls, and William Whittaker. We thank also the staffs of the University of Iowa Center for Conferences and the Sheraton Iowa City Hotel for their support services, especially Heather Kruse and Katie Johnson. We also thank Amy Bleier, Dale Henning, Shari Knight, Kelly Flinn, Chris Johnston, Marty Mehlert, and Beverly Poduska for their contributions.

The Society thanks our banquet speaker, James M. Skibo. We also thank the Sheraton hotel for providing the conference venue. We appreciate the conference's sponsors and contributors: Anonymous, Beta Analytic, University of Iowa Department of Anthropology, Center for American Paleolithic Research, Cooley Auto Sales, Ethnoscience, Inc., University of Wyoming Paleoindian Research Lab, Fred Schneider, QLC ArchaeoLINK, University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, University of

Oklahoma Department of Anthropology Coldiron Endowment, University of Utah Press, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Susan Vehik, Iowa State Department of Anthropology, R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc., Archaeological Conservancy, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Elliott Werner Publications, Iowa City Downtown District, and Marshalltown Company.

Be it resolved that the Society thanks outgoing board members Amy Bleier, Robert Brooks, and Matthew E. Hill, Jr., and Past President Mark Mitchell. The Society also thanks our archivist Doris Peterson and Luann Wandsnider, the Society's registered agent in the State of Nebraska.

Be it resolved that we extend our thanks for the hard work done by our editor, Marcel Kornfeld and Treasurer Chris Johnston.

Lastly, be it resolved the Society expresses its condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Larry Agenbroad, George Brox, Hester Davis, Will Husted, Allan Lynch, Charles McGimsey III, Art Rohn, Donna Roper, Karl Schlesier, and Fred Wendorf.

- 11) **New Business:** There was one item of new business; making changes to the bylaws. These proposed changes were announced and the Board is unanimously behind the suggested revisions. One change was to add "electronic communication" to the references where mailing is listed in the bylaws. This would not prohibit people from receiving paper announcements. A second change was to restructure the membership categories to better reflect our contract with Maney Publishing.

One additional proposed change to the bylaws regarded Article V, Section 7: Kacy motions to amend the bylaws to read that an audit will be decided based on the discretion of the board. Kacy argued that the society would save money if an audit was no longer required annually. Discussion of the proposed changes followed and a question was asked if the membership should also have a say on whether an audit is necessary. Mark Mitchell pointed out that the financial report is available to any member that requests to view it and that member could recommend that the Board pursue an audit to identify or resolve any possible problems. An audit would no longer be needed every time there is an election of the Treasurer. Following the reelection of an existing Treasurer or the election of a new Treasurer, the Treasurer and Board can decide if no audit is necessary, if a partial audit is needed, or if a complete audit by a CPA is warranted. The full audit can be made available to the membership. The Board may also make a recommendation for an audit even without the Treasurer's suggestion as it is the Board's responsibility to initiate this process.

There was a motion to vote on this change to the bylaws, it was seconded, and all approved.

A general discussion followed regarding the bylaws changes. A member wanted more details on why the conference couldn't be better supported by the society to supplement the conference costs if there is a shortfall. Chris Johnston said that the board is actively discussing the financial connections and that this discussion would be tabled to get back to the other bylaws changes.

A motion was made to vote on all the bylaws changes, it was seconded, and all approved.

## **12) Forthcoming conferences**

- 2016 conference will be in Lincoln, Nebraska Oct 12-16 (Jay Sturdevant)
  - The downtown Holiday Inn near Haymarket has been selected for the venue, the price will be \$124 with breakfast, \$129 for breakfast and parking
  - Tours may include Platte River Valleys and Homestead National Monument
  - Highlights on NPS Centennial, 50<sup>th</sup> of NPHA, Social History of River Basin Surveys
- 2017 conference will be in Bismark, South Dakota Oct 4-7 (Tim Read)
  - The Radisson Hotel has been selected for the venue
  - The State Historical Society has expanded their facility with three new exhibit galleries—lab space and collections to show off to membership
  - 2010 Knife River Flint Quarries tour was very popular, and will likely be one of the 2017 tours
- Nominations for the 2018 conference?
  - Wyoming is a possibility, might be announced later
  - Tucson? Possibly. Nieves said she would like to take what she learned last time to the next conference

Motion to adjourn, seconded, all in favor.