

Minutes of the 2014 Annual Business Meeting of the Plains Anthropological Society

72nd Plains Anthropological Conference
Friday, October 31, 2014, 5:00 PM
Bella Vista Room
Chancellor Hotel
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Prepared by PAS Acting Secretary Kacy L. Hollenback

- 1) **Welcome and call to order** by President Mark Mitchell.
- 2) **Agenda and 2013 Business Meeting Minutes handouts, followed by an approval of agenda:** moved by Richard Krause, seconded by Fred Schneider, and approved by those present. Mark Mitchell added an auction of a special item to the agenda.
- 3) Mark Mitchell proposed a **waiver of reading and approval of the 2013 Business Meeting Minutes**, as distributed at this meeting: moved by Richard Krause, seconded by many, and approved by all those present. The minutes have been posted online, and were available for four days prior to the meetings.
- 4) **President's Report:** Mark Mitchell presented.

Plains Anthropologist is caught up with its publication schedule. Marcel Kornfeld will talk more about it later in the meeting. Mavis Greer spent a lot of time on the Left Coast Press/Maney Publishing contract. But things are good.

Membership numbers are up. There are 431 members, including Rebecca Hawkins, a new lifetime member. In general, the numbers are trending upwards.

(Mark undertook a **demonstration of the Society's website** and Maney's website for this portion of the meeting. The entire membership could see the current website. Any references to parts of the site or comments about visuals were in response to what was on the screen). With regard to the Society's website, there are good things and some difficulties. The site is being updated and moved to Iowa. The content is almost identical to the page that was housed at the University of Oklahoma (OU). But over the course of the next year, it will be upgraded. Mavis Greer sent photos to be used on the new site. Members can photos as well. The prior site (OU) is still up. It is the main hit for searches on Google. But a redirect will be established that sends individuals to the new URL (<http://plainsanthropologicalsociety.org>).

Some changes are still needed. For example, the current issue of *Plains* is vol. 222.

A new feature is that members can login through a secure portal with an ID and password. Chris Johnston volunteered to manage this information. Everyone should have been emailed a login ID. There is a password reset feature if needed. Members can use the login on the website for Maney Publishing online access to current and past issues of *Plains Anthropologist*.

The “Log In” or “My Account” section puts members in charge of their personal information and account. It also makes them responsible for keeping their membership current. This responsibility had fallen to the Society before.

Within the My Account portion of the page, members will see their “subscription date.” This basically will tell you when your membership is active. Brad Logan asked at this portion of the meeting about Lifetime Membership. “If you are a life member, does it say ‘death’ for the year?”

At the bottom of the My Account page is a listing about technical and regional specialties for each member. This information is self-reported and will be used by Marcel Kornfeld and future editors of *Plains Anthropologist* to select reviewers for articles. A current problem is that individuals cannot put multiple interests.

According to Mark, the establishment of the new web site will be an extended process for access, correct information, and updating. But it will be a big benefit. Currently almost all the phone numbers listed in the Society’s database are wrong. With this new system, the Society will have better contact information for all of its membership.

With regard to the Maney website. Once members login, they will have access to the last ten years of *Plains Anthropologist*, as well as advanced articles that are not yet printed.

Members in the future will receive emails through the website that are addressed to the user name.

The website will be the only way to store information about members for *Plains Anthropologist* in the future.

At this time, Doug Bamforth commented that the header image on the site’s main page was problematic. “The header’s large size is annoying.” Many individuals agreed that it was indeed too large.

5) **Treasurer’s Report:** Mark Mitchell stated that Adam Grave’s had made a report to the Board. The Board had a number of questions. Adam was not at the Business Meeting.

6) **Editor’s Report:** Presented by Marcel Kornfeld.

“We are caught up. Mark took the wind out of the sails. Each of you should have the last of 2013 at this point. Unless you are in Canada. It is a double issue and too heavy for a bulk mailing. For Canada it has to have customs forms filled out.”

The associate editors are Allison Grunwald and Elizabeth Lynch. Marcel thanks both for their work.

Marcel presented the good news about the journal first. The journal is caught up. For several years, *Plains Anthropologist* has been lagging behind. November's issue should be coming out soon. Additionally, plenty of manuscripts are coming in.

The bad news is that we were not caught up one year ago.

In terms of the "ugly" news, Marcel indicated that there were errors that he regretted, but he could talk about them over scotch. Nieves Zedeño asked if he was buying.

Marcel and the editorial staff are still transitioning to Maney. Email and CD submissions of manuscripts are still in the works, but in the process of being phased out. Because the Society was low on manuscripts, Marcel was liberal in accepting longer manuscripts. In the future he will move to shorter submissions so the journal can accept more submissions.

With the transition to Maney and its new format, we lost a lot of words. In the old layout there were roughly 800 words per page with the double columns. Now it is 500-600 words a page with a single column of text. We have no choice with this. The Board chose the template. But this affects how long each issue is.

In terms of submissions, the journal is covered to the early part of 2016. Marcel currently has 30+ manuscripts. All will go on the advanced articles page that members can access with their login and password on the Maney website. 10-20 of these should be available in the next 6 months. Marcel indicates at this time that we don't want 300 advanced articles like QI (*Quaternary International*).

Marcel, referencing the number of submissions by year in his report and the associated graph, noted that two of the submissions in 2014 were Memoirs. Therefore, the graph and numbers appear to be down from 2013 (from 36 to 27). In reality this is not the case. Each memoir counts as only two submissions in the system. Yet the Memoirs are made up of multiple individual articles. So 2014 actually saw an increase.

Bob Hoard asked Marcel if authors can submit supporting information for articles as online content, similar to *Science*. Marcel indicated that he would ask Maney. Mark Mitchell commented that he did not think this was in the current contract with the publisher.

Marcel, noted that despite the loss of overall number of words, the journal now has more color. Approximately 19 color pages in each issue. The articles will have to be grouped in a certain way, however, because of color blocks of printing.

Someone commented that if the journal is running short on words, why not pull book reviews. There was a general round of applause. Marcel responded, "I'll take that under consideration." But he quickly added that he thinks shorter articles will fix a lot of the problems.

Someone asked why the change in format. Marcel summarized that there were a limited number of templates we could go with. The journal needs to be small for mail. The idea of supplemental

data is a good one. Marcel indicated that we could host it on the Plains website and not on Maney if it is not allowed. But he urged that we get through the transition first.

Mark Mitchell noted that articles could be 8,000 words all inclusive, which would be 16-20 pages. There was some grumbling in the audience.

Mary Adair noted that the journal used to have articles and reports, which were longer and shorter respectively. Returning to this format might solve some of this.

Marcel indicated that he has already adopted this very strategy. He asks the reviewers to ID the type of submission and then asks the authors if they will agree to the designation. Specifically, his categories are: article, comment, report, memoir, and note (the latter is a suggested category).

Marcel doesn't want to make it too complicated. We do not want to see the journal become a newsletter. We want analysis and good figures.

7) Report of the Nominations Committee: Mark Mitchell reported for Mark Muniz.

Muniz, Rob Bozell, and Bonnie Pitblado asked 15 individuals to run. There were a great and diverse 6 candidates. These included Bob Blasing, Edward Knell, Gerald Oetelaar, William Reitze, Frederic Sellet, and Sarah Trabert. The voter participation rate was 40% (158 ballots out of 430). This is pretty steady with years past. The elected candidates of 2014 were Blasing, Trabert, and Oetelaar.

Mark recognized the new board members and outgoing board members.

8) Resolutions of the 72nd Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas. Amy Bleier presented for Mark Muniz.

“Be it resolved, the Plains Anthropological Society expresses its sincere thanks to the organizers of the 72nd Plains Anthropological Conference, in particular our conference host, the University of Arkansas. We thank Conference Organizers Jo Ann Kvamme, Kenneth Kvamme, and Marvin Kay. We thank the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, specifically Director George Sabo III, for hosting the Thursday evening reception. We are grateful to session and symposia chairs, and to the banquet speaker, Daniel E. Sutherland. Thank you to the Chancellor Hotel for providing the venue for the 72nd Annual Conference. Finally, we thank conference sponsors: Plains Anthropological Society; Archeo-Imaging Lab at the University of Arkansas; Nebraska Association of Professional Archaeologists; Paleoindian Research Lab at the University of Wyoming; Department of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas; Graduate School and International Education at the University of Arkansas; College of Arts and Sciences, Research and Development at the University of Arkansas; Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; Department of Geosciences at the University of Arkansas; Arkansas Archaeological Survey; Elliot Werner Publications; Spatial Archaeometry Research Collaborations; and the Graduate School of the University of Arkansas. The logo, used with permission, is a tracing of rock art at The Narrows in the Arkansas River Valley.

We remember friends and colleagues, who passed away this year, including: Richard Carillo, Les Davis, Cynthia Kordecki, Mark Lynott, Mary Jane Schneider, Greg Sundborg, and Alan Woolworth.”

9) **Student Paper Award Report:** Presented by Laura Scheiber.

This year’s judged included the committee chair, Laura Schieber, as well as Kent Buehler, Scott Brosowske, Kacy Hollenback, Edward Knell, Marcel Kornfeld, and Bill Reitze.

Each student participant received two complimentary banquet tickets.

This year, the entry form required students to list their mentors. Laura contacted each to check and make sure he or she had read and approved of the paper. There had been problems in the past with a lack of proof reading, etc. Papers were submitted electronically and then shared with the committee via Dropbox.

The undergraduate award is \$200 and the graduate award is \$300. The committee discusses whether or not winners should be invited to submit to *Plains Anthropologist*.

There had been discussion last year amongst the committee and board about whether students would be allowed to participate in the student paper award session AND organized symposia. While both groups agreed that this was a good idea, it fell to the discretion of conference organizers and was not the case this year.

The judges provide written comments to the winners and students who request feedback. If a paper is invited to be submitted to *Plains*, the judges served as a first round of review, but the editor reserves the right to get more.

In the past, 10 winning papers have been published in the Society’s journal.

In 2014, there were 5 submissions. All were graduate students. Three students were from the host institution (University of Arkansas). One was from Southern Methodist University (SMU), and one was from Nebraska.

10) **Old Business:**

At the 2013 business meeting, concerns over copyright were raised with regard to *Plains Anthropologist*. Members should read the material provided on the Maney Publishing website for *Plains Anthropologist* (<http://www.maneyonline.com/page/authors/copyrightandpermissions>). There is a table that clearly describes copyrights of authors.

Someone asked about dissertation chapters. They were instructed to ask Mark.

11) New Business:

A motion was proposed to increase the cost of a lifetime membership to the Plains Anthropological Society. This was followed by a discussion of the motion.

The lifetime membership category for the Plains Anthropological Society needs to be addressed. The cost of such a membership was raised 2 years ago. The membership committee had a number of discussions related to this topic. The SAA lifetime membership costs \$29,000. Plains currently has a \$1,000 price tag. Plains is generally on the low end. The committee has proposed to increase the cost of lifetime memberships to \$2,000. The board approved to send this proposal to the general membership for discussion and a vote.

There was a call for a vote by Mark Mitchell. Moved by Mavis Greer and seconded by Nieves Zedeño.

Mary Lou asked who the society was doing this for? What is the benefit to Plains versus the individual?

Fred Schneider asked how many current lifetime members there are. Mark Mitchell replied 29. Mark indicated we get about 1 a year.

Tim Reed asked how many rate increases there have been.

Someone stated that the regular annual membership fee is \$65.

Matthew Root argued that a rate increase will decrease the number of new lifetime members.

Mark Mitchell noted that the joint lifetime membership would remain the same. The cost _____ + \$250.

Someone asked if there could be a 10 year membership.

Someone else asked if the board discussed other numbers. The answer is yes. Proposed rates ranged from \$1500-\$5000. \$2000 represented a balance between the society and individual.

Ken Kvamme asked if lifetime membership rates could be pro-rated by age?

Mark indicated that if the current proposed change were approved, the effective date would be now (i.e., immediately).

Tim Reed stated if this were the case “a run” would be a real consideration. He purchased his the last time because it made sense to before a price hike.

Amy Bleier explained that when lifetime memberships were proposed it was with the idea that those who bought them would then contribute to other funds (e.g., the endowment fund).

At this time an amendment to the motion was proposed by Paul Picha to make the change effective on January 1, 2015. Tim Reed seconded the motion and suggested an email reminder be sent to the general membership. The amendment was approved (by voice acclamation), then the amended motion was approved with a vote. 32 voted “yea.” 19 voted “nay.” 5 abstained.

12) **Treasurer Call for Nominations:** Mark Mitchell informed the membership that nominations would be accepted until December 1, 2014. Individuals should submit CVs to the new president.

13) **Forthcoming Conferences:**

- a) 2015 Iowa (already accepted). The Doctors Matt Hill summarized the plans for the 73rd Annual Plains Conference in Iowa City, scheduled for October 14-17, 2015. It will be held at the Downtown Sheraton. They are fairly far along with the planning. They are currently working on organizing field trips. Matt and Matt regret to inform us that the University of Iowa dropped to the number two party school in the United States. They will need help to regain the title.
For field trips, there is a proposed pre-Woodland Rockshelter. There will be a mid-week walking tour of historic bars. They are still working on the Saturday field trip.
- b) Steve DeVore discussed the 2016 meeting in Lincoln, NE (already accepted). The 74th annual Plains Conference will be held in mid-October. They are proposing the same hotel as last time. They are thinking of using the engineers’ cantonment and a homestead for the field trips.
- c) Amy Bleier made a presentation for acceptance to hold the 75th annual Plains Conference in Bismarck, ND. There had been a proposal for a joint SEAC meeting in Tulsa for 2017. The board rejected the proposal after discussion about the importance of the 75th anniversary of the conference. Fern Swenson was going to make the proposal, but she had to cancel her travel plans. The 2017 meeting would be held the first or second week of October. They are thinking the Radisson Hotel downtown. There is lots to do in the area. American Airlines now flies in to Bismarck as well. They would showcase the renovated and expanded Heritage Center. A proposal for acceptance was made, moved and seconded. The proposal passed.

14) **Auction of Special Item:** A special auction was held to raise funds. Marcel brought 82 copies of *Plains Anthropologist*. Bidding was started at \$40. Bidding quickly reached \$100 (by Carl Falk). Tim Reed won with a \$105 bid.

15) Meeting adjourned.