

Plains Anthropological Society Board Meeting, 75th Plains Conference

6:45 pm, Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Hudson Meeting Room, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck, ND

In Attendance: Mary Adair (Board Member), Todd Ahlman (2018 Conference Representative), Doug Bamforth (Board Member), Don Blakeslee (Board Member), Amy Bleier (2017 Conference Representative), Delaney Cooley (Student Representative), Mike Fosha (Board Member Elect), Cherie Haury-Artz (Board Member Elect), Bob Hoard (Editor Elect), Kacy Hollenback (Endowment Committee), Chris Johnston (Treasurer), Marcel Kornfeld (Editor), Ken Kvamme (Secretary), Wendi Murray (Board Member Elect), Laura Scheiber (Student Paper Committee), Jay Sturdevant (Vice President), Sarah Trabert (President). *Absent:* Bob Blasing (Board Member), Gerry Oetelaar (Board Member), Lance Foster (Board Member)

Events are generally presented in the order they occurred at the meeting

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER (Trabert)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New Board members are Mike Fosha (South Dakota State Historical Society), Cherie Haury-Artz (Office of the State Archaeologists, Iowa), and Wendi Field Murray (State Historical Society of North Dakota)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Trabert)

One of the main issues facing PAS is dealing with its website. Lots of people have problems with functionality and usability. There are constant queries about subscriptions, registration issues, fee structures, submission of abstracts, passwords, logins, etc. A solution appears to be *a better website with a more intuitive design and clear instructions on certain elements such as conference registration*. Another is routing of questions to relevant parties, such as the Treasurer or Webmaster, rather than all going to the President. Since many questions are about the upcoming conference, the organizers should be added to the general email list.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Johnston)

- 2016 was a great year with a profit of over \$12,000. 2017 looks even better with net income of \$30,000, but bills will hit later. Part of this is due to the Lincoln conference which yielded \$20,000 in profit owing to good attendance. Moreover, the website and registration system side-stepped past costs for website creation and a third-party vendor did not take a percentage of profits. Membership dues in 2016 were \$28,000 and in 2017, to date, about \$20,000. The conference will likely add more.

- Johnston handles all PAS finances currently, as well as the website, which is complicated and requires much time. It is intricately intertwined with the PAS membership database. Conference email addresses will allow appropriate contacts who may answer the many questions that people have pertaining to the website.
- PAS gives conference organizers a small loan to support start-up costs. All income, membership and conference fees, go to the same account, but the conference has a separate checking account with the Treasurer and meeting organizers as signatories.
- The Treasurer needs a computer and proposes a laptop. Also needed is *QuickBooks*, an easy to use on-line accounting software system available for \$260/year. These requests were approved by the PAS Board.
- Recommendations were offered and several decisions were made.
 1. The mandatory annual audit was recommended against this year (for a considerable cost savings) – PASSED.
 2. It was moved to renew the current Treasurer’s position for three more years – PASSED.
 3. A request was made to split off website duties from the Treasurer’s position owing to the excessive work volume – TABLED FOR LATER.
 4. A PAS Board-to-Conference liaison may be needed to better coordinate between the organizers and Board, which could lighten the President’s workload. The Board agreed that it would be very useful but no definitive decision was made.
- It was also noted that in future conferences instructions for the website can be given to the PAS webmaster over the phone and with simple instructions regarding its content. The PAS website is located and maintained at the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa.

EDITOR’S REPORT (Kornfeld)

- The search for a new editor has been completed, with Bob Hoard (Kansas Historical Society) selected.
- Robert Cotton is the General Editor for *Plains Anthropologist* at Taylor and Francis, the publisher. They are not very responsive and response times are long.
- Taylor & Francis have developed a new style guide, which is getting better, resulting in fewer errors. Kornfeld proposed that this style guide should be employed as a first reference, followed by the SAA Style Guide, and the Chicago Manual of Style. He argued that the first two should be linked on the PAS website.
- *Plains Anthropologist* needs a high impact factor. It was noted that it is no longer indexed in the Web of Science. Higher quality articles need to be submitted. Younger scholars are discouraged from submitting because of *PA*’s low impact factor.

- A general complaint against the journal is the turn-around time for publication, up to a year. Taylor and Francis hold things up. One reason is that the style in each article has been in a different format. Following style guides should address this issue. To speed things up, advanced on-line posting of “Advanced Articles” could be undertaken. A goal is to have 10-20 articles on-line before their hard-copy publication.
- Membership enrollment issues have been another problem. It can be difficult to obtain back issues depending on when in the year a member “signs up.” Those joining later in the year can have trouble receiving back issues. This frustration leads to their leaving PAS. The problem may be that Taylor and Francis needs to print additional back copies when such requests are made, causing a 6-8 month lag between joining and receiving back issues. It must be decided whether PAS will permit receipt of back issues or not. Bamforth proposed an “ad hoc committee for back issues,” when members enroll late in the year, to decide on how to solve this issue. Its composition is to be discussed at the later Board Meeting on Friday.
- Most learned societies require membership to present as a lead author at the society conference. Presenting at the PAS conference can be associated with a non-member fee significantly higher than a member fee to encourage membership.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (Otelaar, absent)

No issues

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Paper (Scheiber)

Four student papers were submitted this year (usually about seven are submitted). The process is going well. Winners often do publish in *Plains Anthropologist*. About 57% publish, but not exclusively in *PA*. The onus is on the student and his or her mentor. They are permitted one year to do so. Several students actually present twice, once in the student paper session and again in an organized session. An early committee report of the competition details (e.g., the winners) is impossible because of late student submissions (often the Monday of the conference week).

Native American Student Award (Sturdevant for Foster)

Two awards were granted this year, one undergraduate and one graduate. The students receive a check and the money may be employed for anything. The goal is to pay out such awards through the endowment fund. Adair commented that we do not know if these awards promote further work or careers in anthropology. On the other hand, in the student paper awards students actually present, participate in the conference, and occasionally publish. The awards should be in the same amount.

There was discussion of combining all student committees in order to reduce the number of committees, but this proposal was rejected because the domains addressed are very different.

Endowment & Endowment Campaign (Trabert & Hollenback)

The PAS Treasurer (Johnston) met with Fidelity and with Wells Fargo consultants and discussed investing in Exchange Trade Funds (EFT), diversified allocations of stocks and bonds. All yield about 7-8% annual returns on investments. Fees are 1.35% per year. Mutual funds have higher fee rates and require a buy-in fee. With EFT there is no penalty for withdrawal. Fidelity has a single office in the Plains and requires extensive documentation when client officers are changed (the general case with PAS). Use of Wells Fargo, with its many Plains offices, and investment in EFTs was recommended. Moreover, a “somewhat risky” level of investment was proposed for a greater annual return (60% stocks with the remainder in bonds). Adair urges a riskier strategy in the current Bull Market with a 70%/30% split. All funds in the PAS savings account and a substantial portion of the checking account are to be invested. Kornfeld urged that most should be invested. Ultimately, Johnston proposed a moderate risk of 65% invested in stocks with the remainder in bonds, investing the all from savings and a moderate sum from checking. This was agreed to and passed by the Board. Two members will have access to the account, the President and the Treasurer, which should be entered into the PAS By-laws.

Donna Roper Endowment (Adair). The purpose of this endowment is to fund research in Kansas and Nebraska for anyone, whether avocational, student, or professional. A committee was proposed to review proposals. The question also arose of how funds will be managed. It was suggested that this fund follow the PAS strategy of EFT investment. Currently, there is about \$100,000 in the fund, from sale of Roper’s possessions, after medical expenses. Hollenback proposed investing the entire sum for three years or so, letting it grow using a more aggressive strategy of 70% in stocks and the remainder in bonds. It was decided and approved by the Board to use the same investment strategy as the PAS Endowment Fund, but to wait until June, 2018, after which Roper’s mother’s estate will be settled and added to the fund.

Back Issues (Trabert)

The current storage facility for *Plains Anthropologist* is not climate controlled and it is filthy. Back issues should be given to the tribes. It requires 2-3 hours to put together a complete set. Should we charge for shipping? Thus far, only two tribes have been given back issues. Bamforth proposed writing each of the tribes to ascertain which actually wants them. PAS should pay for shipping. This was approved by the Board. Lists of tribes are available and TPOs will be contacted first. Trabert agreed to put the sets together.

Website (Adair & Johnston)

- The design or model of a new PAS website has been generated and should be implemented. The Southeast Archaeological Conference website was used as a model.
- It was proposed to hire a webmaster to handle this site. A dedicated person and stipend is needed to make changes to the site, particularly for annual conference needs which are also managed through the website. Currently, \$500 per year is paid to the Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa, where it is housed, for its maintenance. A webmaster can work with the Iowa people who maintain the site.

- A motion was made and approved for (1) Johnston to check with Iowa to ascertain whether hiring a webmaster fits within the current contract with Iowa, and (2) to send the new website model to Iowa for a cost estimate.

Distinguished Service Award (Bamforth)

Making this award is currently performed haphazardly. The process should be formalized with nomination forms on the PAS website. Besides this form, candidates' CVs and letters of support should be submitted. There was general agreement.

Student Affairs (Cooley)

- The Student Poster Prize should be better regulated and funded by PAS, much like the Student Paper Award. A question is whether faculty should be co-authors? This year, four of the six entries have faculty co-authors. The prize awards are currently \$100-\$200. Many think the conference should run the Student Poster Award session, not students. It was noted that PAS currently supports the Student Paper Awards and the Native American Student Award. Conference organizers should work with the Student Affairs Committee. Moreover, the winner of the Poster Award should also receive a pair of banquet tickets, as do other awardees.
- There should be a Student Workshop at each conference, which organizers should sponsor. Funds could be raised to cover lunches (about \$300). Currently, conferences generate excess funds that go to PAS, so money apparently is available.
- The PAS Board agreed to financially support these endeavors.
- There was a brief discussion concerning how to get new student members. Kvamme suggested free registration for student helpers at meetings (already frequently employed by organizers) and a lower rate for student registration fees.

Travel Grants (Trabert)

The question was posed whether this committee should be disbanded given that such grants are rarely offered. The Board agreed.

Conference Guide (Kvamme)

Kvamme distributed about 70% of a new conference guide based on his experience in co-organizing the 2014 conference in Fayetteville, AR. He indicated his contribution would be completed by early December, but noted his inability to contribute to two newly changed areas in how the conference is managed.

1. All financial matters and funding issues are now under the PAS umbrella whereas previously they were the responsibility of the organizers. The PAS Treasurer is now directly involved.

2. The PAS now has a website that can manage and present conference details and accept registration and other fees. Previously, these details, including website, were managed by conference organizers.

The Treasurer and Webmaster (Johnston) and Sturdevant (2016 conference organizer in Lincoln) were therefore added to the committee to contribute details in these areas to the new Conference Guide. Bleir (2017 Conference Committee) and Murray (2017 Conference Committee and Board Member elect) volunteered to also contribute, and Haury-Artz (Board Member Elect) volunteered to do a final proof-read. These individuals agreed that completion of a new Guide should be possible by early in the New Year.

Resolutions (Blakeslee)

Discussion centered on recently deceased PAS members and notable anthropologists, historians, archaeologists, and others who contributed knowledge of the peoples of the Plains. In the future, an e-mail message should be sent to the membership for names that should be remembered at the annual meeting. The full list of resolutions may be found in the minutes of the annual Business Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Sponsored SAA Session (Bamforth)

Our focus is to get the names “Plains Anthropological Society” and *Plains Anthropologist* “out there.” For a special SAA session on Great Plains archaeology we need generic topics that will be of interest. A “hot” topic will be best and recruitment of “big names” will aid attendance and visibility. Graduate student participants will not tend to generate interest. Bamforth promised to keep the Board “in the loop” as progress is made.

Current & Future Conference Updates

- **2017 Bismarck** (Bleier). Prior to the conference, 259 pre-registered. The current count is over 300. The organizers expect to “land in the black.” The silent auction is expected to help.
- **2018 San Antonio** (Ahlman). The meeting is scheduled for the last week in October at the La Quinta Inn and Suites, five minutes from the river walk and the Alamo. The rate will be \$129 plus tax per night, with parking at \$8 per night. The reception will be held near the hotel. Tours might include San Antonio Missions or perhaps the Gault site.
- **2019 Conference Proposal** (Scheiber). The University of Indiana, Bloomington, was proposed, in partnership with the Glen Black Lab, the American Indian Studies Research Institute, and Mathers Museum. A field trip could go to Angel Mound (Mississippian site), Rock House Hollow (paleoindian-archaic), Buffalo Trace, or Profits Town (historic French). Links with the Midwest Archaeological Conference are possible. Proposed dates are October 15-19 or earlier. A decision will be made by the membership at the annual Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- A *W.R. Wood Outstanding Publication in Anthropology* was discussed. CRM reports and publications are eligible. The membership may nominate works to the Board. An annual certificate will be awarded.
- Kornfeld proposed that PAS should get various publishers to advertise in *Plains Anthropologist*. This could generate significant income, perhaps \$500 per ad. He proposed identifying presses that tend to publish topics in the Great Plains. They might be incentivized if PAS were to give awards to the presses or their editors.
- Kvamme observed that Native Americans are permitted to attend the Southeastern Archaeological Conference free, and suggested doing the same at the PAS conference to encourage tribal interest and participation. The response was positive, but was tabled for later discussion.
- Blakeslee proposed adding Amazon to the PAS website for books so that anything purchased through Amazon will yield a percentage to PAS. No additional action was offered to this proposal.