

# **Plains Anthropological Society Board Meeting, 76th Plains Conference**

6 pm, Wednesday, October 24, 2018  
La Quinta Inn & Suites, San Antonio, Texas

## **Welcome & Call to Order**

President Jay Sturdevant opens the meeting.

*Board Member Attendees:* Mary Adair (Vice President), Doug Bamforth, Don Blakeslee, Mike Fosha, Chérie Haury-Artz, Chris Johnston (Treasurer), Ken Kvamme (Secretary), Wendi Field Murray, Jay Sturdevant (President), Sarah Trabert (Past President). *Not in attendance:* Lance Foster

*Other Attendees:* Todd Ahlman (conference host), Brendon Asher (new board member beginning at second board meeting of Oct 26), Robert Hoard (Editor), Evelyn Pickering (Student Affairs Committee representative), Lauren Ritterbush (new board member beginning at second board meeting of Oct 26), Laura Scheiber (Student Paper Award Committee), Courtney Ziska (new board member beginning at second board meeting of Oct 26)

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

## **Introduction of New Board Members**

Brendon Asher (Blackwater Draw National Historic Landmark), Lauren Ritterbush (Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Kansas State University), Courtney Ziska (History Nebraska - State Archeology Office)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **President's Report (Sturdevant)**

The President's roles include answering emails, polishing the website, and getting a PAS table cloth for the Registration Desk at the annual meeting. The President represented PAS at the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in St. Charles, Missouri, and assisted with the preparation of the conference guide. No major issues rose during the past year.

### **Treasurer's Report (Johnston)**

All details are in the annual Briefing Packet. In summary, the PAS is doing well with \$100,000 in resources and good membership numbers. All revenue comes from dues and conference earnings. The major expense is the publication of the journal. \$5000 have been earned in royalties, fees for downloads, and subscriptions. There are two endowments, the PAS and the Donna Roper fund, both with Wells Fargo. We worked with an accountant enabling a tax return to be set, which clarifies income and expenses.

It is recommended that no audit be undertaken this year. The last one was in 2015 and, in essence, they only delivered what can be seen on our expense sheets. The Treasurer recommended that an annual audit should not be undertaken and the Board voted agreement. The tax form will be sent to the Board for review.

### **Editor's Report (Hoard)**

Seven articles and other items are on-line for 2019. There is hope for a fall journal issue, number 247, only 7 weeks late as well as Memoir 248. The lateness is due to the publisher. The current rejection rate is 15%. Hoard queried whether this is a high figure? Most who have been asked have said "no" and suggested that it may be low.

Seventy-seven individuals were invited to do reviews of which 54 accepted (70%). There is difficulty in finding reviewers.

The journal employs the Society for American Archaeology Style Guide

The contract with Taylor & Francis, the publisher, goes through 2020. They are non-responsive, making it difficult to get things done like the posting of the Style Guide. We should therefore place it on the PAS website. The question is whether we should switch to a different publisher? Taylor & Francis is much less expensive than Wiley. Many libraries are dropping Taylor & Francis. Other publishers (Wiley, Blackwell) are more expensive and libraries are dropping them too.

We have a page limit with Taylor & Francis. If we up the page limit PAS will have to pay for those pages regardless of whether they are used.

An ad-hoc committee consisting of Adair and Hoard was formed to examine publishing issues.

### **Membership Report (Murray)**

There are 465 PAS members, the most in 8 years. Most, 58%, are from five states. The principal issues have included address issues, membership renewal, and password changes. All have been resolved and none have proven to be large issues.

We should consider a membership survey and strive to increase student numbers. Membership renewal can be a means to acquire data for potential peer reviewers.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **By-laws (Adair)**

The language has been changed to employ gender-neutral terms. These changes need to be voted on by the membership at the upcoming Business Meeting.

### **Endowment (Trabert)**

PAS needs a better mechanism for accepting endowment funds through the website. This capability will await the new website. Presently, all funds are acquired at the conferences. The Endowment Campaign was therefore not pursued this year.

The Treasurer (Johnston) chimed in. Initially there was \$100,000, with \$53,000 from the previous campaign plus \$2,300 from the last meeting. The balance (\$44,700) is a board-approved expenditure from monies in our general fund (checking account). Monies were invested in December, 2017, as Exchange Trade Funds (ETF). The investment peaked at \$103,000, but it is now below \$100,000 due to the recent market decrease. We need to wait over the long term to realize gains. The PAS fund is approximately \$100,000 and the Roper fund is about \$75,000. The Board voted to let the PAS endowment sit for 5 years. The PAS also needs to decide what we want and how to spend the fund, etc. Donations can be received at any time, but it is often unclear to which fund donations are made. Options need to be updated on the website. Currently, monies go to PayPal after which they are moved to the fund. No time limit has been set for the Roper fund distribution at this time. It was decided to wait and see how the fund grew.

### **Donna Roper Fund (Adair)**

\$75,000 was deposited last February. The fund rose for a while, but it is now below \$75,000. It was decided to let the fund sit for a while and to make decisions about it in the future. Only the interest on the fund will be employed for awards.

Each of our endowment funds carry a \$300 quarterly fee from the Wells Fargo money managers (it is actually a percentage, but it is close to \$300). Changes may be made to the investment mix at no cost.

### **Back Issue Report (Trabert)**

38 back issues have been sold. Currently, back issues lie in a storage shed in Norman, Oklahoma. The PAS has reached out to tribes to ascertain whether they would like to receive sets of back issues. About a dozen tribes have elected to do so. The tribes actually want back issues and read them! The Board has previously approved the covering of shipping costs to the tribes, as media mail. In Oklahoma, back issues are brought to the tribes by vehicles. PAS needs to dispose of

back issues, and soon. It represents a loss of revenue, but not very much as sales have always been low.

It is in our contract that PAS can only sell pre-2014 back issues, when Maney (now Taylor and Francis) started publishing the journal. Only older issues are sold. In receiving back issues, Trabert does not want partial sets, only complete ones.

### **Distinguished Service Award (Bamforth)**

The DSA committee approved the nomination of Christopher Lintz. Bamforth noted that Lintz has conducted an enormous amount of work in many domains of archaeology via CRM reports, working with tribes, promoting preservation, etc.

Trabert observed that as PAS moves away from an academic focus it is entirely appropriate to reward other forms of service.

### **Student Affairs (Pickering)**

Next year this committee wishes to get more involved in recruitment, perhaps by using the more popular social medium of *Instagram*. They raised \$350. Tabert suggested a presentation at the conference on the use of social media. It was noted that *Instagram* and *Twitter* are now generally preferred over *Facebook*. More regular postings would be desirable. Moreover, honors theses, Master theses, dissertations, names of researchers and professors, etc., should be promoted on the website. In addition, postings about field schools, internships, scholarships, travel grants, and the like, should be posted.

### **Student Paper Award (Scheiber)**

Judges sometimes read the student papers but may not be able to attend the conference. The deadline is the Friday before the conference and papers often arrive as late as the Monday before the conference. The committee waits as long as possible. The students submit from a small collection of universities. The committee would like to broaden this pool. Few students submit because they are not ready for this level of commitment. Most submitters are graduate students. Awards are not always given if the quality of papers is low.

Four papers were submitted this year, all solid. Some could be published. Besides an award of free registration and banquet tickets, discounts should perhaps be given on field trips. Johnston noted that all free offerings must somehow be paid for and observed that free registration is not a real cost. Students must be members to submit. More incentives might encourage student attendance.

It was suggested that PAS contribute \$100 to each student to encourage their attendance. This year 51 students have registered thus far. That would mean \$5,100! It was also suggested that funds should be given to members of the Student Award Committee.

**Native American Student Award** (Foster-absent; reported by Sturdevant)

There was only one applicant from the Navajo Nation and University of Oklahoma, who works in human genetics. This individual is at the University of Oklahoma and has won the award once before, but for a different degree. Should a third award be given? The main issue is that the number of applicants is too low. How do we reach a broader sampling of students? We need more advertisement, to urge professors to promote the award, and we should reach out to THPOs. Social media may also be employed. An award of \$1,000 was moved and seconded.

The question then arose of tribal membership. Applicants must include a tribal enrollment card. This should be reconsidered because many Native people are not card holders. The problem is that many non-Indians may claim to be Indians. These are complex issues, which were tabled for committee resolution.

**Travel Grants** (Trabert)

The committee cannot agree where funds should originate. In what amount for student and for Native Americans? Johnston moved that \$5,000 should be set aside in a fund for travel, which was passed. However, no rules were established. They need to be developed and approved by the Board before this fund is utilized.

**W. Raymond Wood Outstanding Publication** (Kacy Hollenback):

No movement has been made on this endeavor and no award is to be made this year. There are presently no guidelines. It was suggested that the SAA Book Award guidelines could serve as a model. The winning piece should be *Plains* related with possible categories being books, contract reports, or an article. The categories may be rotated.

**PAS Conference Guide** (Kvamme)

The Guide for organizing future conferences has been completed. It is thorough and comprehensive in all domains currently at issue. While most of it was written by Kvamme, several individuals contributed significant inputs to its final form, including Jay Sturdevant, Chris Johnston, Amy Bleier, and Wendi Field Murray. This work was, of course, built upon an earlier version created in 1996 by a team led by Mary Adair. Kvamme recommended that the PAS Secretary should be the keeper of the master document and be responsible for any updates, to avoid the confusion of multiple versions.

### **Resolutions (Blakeslee)**

Discussion centered on resolutions and acknowledgements that were necessary to present at the Friday Business Meeting. The full Board offered inputs for the later presentation (see Business Meeting, 2018 notes).

### **Website (Adair)**

Movement on the new user-friendly redesigned website has been difficult. The developers in Iowa have not been pressed. The template for what the various pages should look like was again passed around, but it is the same one from the previous year. \$5,000 was to be paid to the developers, but it has not yet been paid. Adair had asked the developers for a draft of the current status of the new website, but she received no response. Ms. Angela Collins is doing the work.

Johnston commented: The Iowa link came about because they did the *Mid-Continental Journal of Archaeology* website in 2014. He argued we should look for a new company.

Sturdevant emphasized the importance of the PAS website because it is the point of interaction with the membership. The new website needs to be completed.

Adair suggested that PAS give Iowa another chance. We need to be firm and set specific dates for delivery. If they are not interested or do not respond we should get a new website developer.

*Webmaster:* PAS should create a webmaster position that sits as a member of the Board. The individual will update the website and help with the conference. The position would be a liaison between the conference and the PAS website developer with a focus on conference postings and job postings. Most website work appears to be in the period prior to the annual conference where there is great need to launch the conference website. The webmaster position would also handle all social media, including postings made during the conference. It was suggested that perhaps such a position need not be on the Board. Whatever the case, we do need a point person to see the development of the new PAS website. Other tasks would include the posting of theses and dissertations. Perhaps a student could be attached as a helper. Web design should be undertaken by committee with the webmaster then coordinating with the web developers.

### **Future PAS Meetings**

The 2019 PAS meeting will be held in Bloomington, Indiana, October 16-19. This will be the farthest east of all meetings. The location will be at the convention center downtown. Indiana University has 40,000 students in a town of 80,000. The Hyatt Hotel has 40 rooms and there are 3 hotels nearby for \$139 per night. The field trip will be to Angel Mounds owned by the University of Indiana. A reception will be held at the Glen Black Labs, which holds good Indiana collections. The banquet speaker will be Tim Pauketat. The University is strong in archaeology,

ethnography, and ethnohistory. Facebook and Instagram pages are already promoting the conference. This conference is not using any University resources.

A Plains Conference Meeting Proposal for 2020 was made by Doug Bamforth, to be hosted by the University of Colorado at Boulder. They are looking at hotels now and there appear to be several options. They are considering field trips at Lindenmeier or perhaps to historic mines.

Lynelle Peterson may be able to host in Billings, Montana, in 2021. Mike Fosha suggested the possibility of a Rapid City meeting in 2022 or 20223. Sarah Trabert suggested Oklahoma City as a possibility in one of those years as well.

San Antonio Meeting Update: The committee included Todd Ahlman, Alison Hadley Hilburn, Jodi Jacobson, and Mark Howe. Two hundred individuals preregistered, including 51 students. They will present 132 posters and papers. The tour of the Gault site hosted 22 people and the Mission tour had 10 people. Financially, the meeting will turn a profit. An innovation of this meeting is a cell phone app developed for the conference at a cost of \$3,000.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Johnston suggested for discussion that board meeting times should be changed to occur earlier in the Wednesday prior to the meeting, but it was pointed out that this would then conflict with tours that occur on that day. Alternatively, they could take place on Saturday afternoons, even though this could cause travel complications. A major advantage of a different schedule is that the Board could then interact with the membership at the annual Early Bird Party, and such interaction is deemed important.

The question of obtaining a table at the Society of American Archaeology (SAA) meeting was discussed. Should PAS procure a table at that meeting in order to promote the Society and its membership? The tables are very expensive. Perhaps they could be obtained every 3 years? Another possibility is the Society for Historical Archaeology meeting. It was noted that it might be difficult to staff tables at small meetings because few PAS members may attend. It was suggested we could pursue a table at the SAA meeting in Austin in 2020, but a decision was tabled until the next Plains Conference. The membership Committee will further pursue the matter.

### **Student Poster Competition**

Student posters may contain multiple authors, but the lead author should be the student entering the competition. Faculty may not be co-authors, but can be given credit on the poster. Each student entrant receives two banquet tickets. Chérie Haury-Artz is creating guidelines for a poster competition to be passed among the Board.

**Selection of Future Board Members (Fosha)**

Outreach to underrepresented parts of the Plains should be undertaken by Board members. People need to be selected and agree to run for the Board. If these individuals are selected only from populous areas it tends to bias Board membership. The selection committee should seek to draw candidates from diverse areas. It is recommended that guidelines for candidate selection should be written.