

ARLIS/NA
Annual Membership Meeting
Minutes
Monday, April 30, 2007
North Ballroom
Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta, GA

1. Call to order (Whiteside): Ann Whiteside called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.
2. President's report (Whiteside): Ann Whiteside informed the membership that the President's full report is located in the annual reports section of the ARLIS/NA web site. The Society is currently undergoing a process of transition. Whiteside stated this past year was filled with challenges, faced by a nonprofit organization staffed by a volunteer work force, and with ambitious projects based on the membership's comments. These projects included a review of communication and technology; the affiliation agreement process; the Assessment Task Force's report about the Society's structure and functions; and the implementation of online publications. Some other projects include the VRA and the ARLIS/NA Task Force and its recommendations for collaborative projects; the work of the Publications, Membership, and other committees to investigate new ways to provide services to members; and the 3rd annual Summer Educational Institute at Reed College in June 2006. The Executive Board of ARLIS/NA is attempting to address the financial impact of the annual conferences and yet still provide stimulating, exciting conferences with content-rich sessions. McPherson Clarke, ARLIS/NA's management firm, lost several employees over the past year resulting in a difficult transition year; they are working to address service gaps. Whiteside stated the Society needs to change to meet the changing needs of the profession. The Executive Board, its committees, and its groups have been rethinking the structure and functions of ARLIS/NA. Whiteside thanked all of the chapter officers for signing the agreement forms. She stated it was an honor to serve as President of ARLIS/NA and thanked the Executive Board members for their hard work and support. She concluded her report by thanking the membership for a wonderful experience.
3. Headquarters report (Clarke): Elizabeth Clarke stated that Headquarters' report is located on the ARLIS/NA web site. She thanked Ann Whiteside and Executive Board for their support during a very challenging year for the management company. Some of the challenges included the fact that Derek Crosley passed away during the year and that the Internet service provider went bankrupt. Some bright spots included the implementation of MemberClicks, an interactive online directory that can be managed by the membership. Clarke mentioned she is looking forward to supporting the Denver Conference Planning Committee, as well as working with the other conference planning committees on the selection of future venues. Headquarters had three new staff members this year: Sue Singer replaced Bonnie James as financial manager; Craig Fleming handles all administrative tasks for ARLIS/NA, and Debbie Apfeld replaced Sue Rawlyck as conference coordinator. Clarke thanked the Atlanta Conference Planning

- Committee and the Headquarters staff for their hard work this past year. She concluded her report by encouraging the membership to contact her directly with any concerns or complaints.
4. Treasurer's report (Scott): Fran Scott referred the 2006 Treasurer's report and the Investment report from April 2006-March 2007. Both of these reports, as well as the auditor's report, are in the members-only area of ARLIS/NA web site. The Society had a full audit of its finances this year. It was a profitable year for the Society; total investment funds increased by 6.4%. Financial highlights include the fact that revenues have increased by 8% and conference sponsorship doubled. She pointed out a new line item reflecting profits earned by SEI, which is split between VRA and ARLIS/NA. Publication expenses continue to increase and will be readdressed in the upcoming budget year. Expenses for the Banff conference were 28% lower than previous conferences, reflecting a good profit.
 5. Secretary's report (Imm-Stroukoff): Eumie Imm-Stroukoff stated that the Executive Board was busy this past year with 36 motions and 73 action items since the post-conference Executive Board meeting in Banff. The board met in person during the conference in Banff and at the mid-year meeting in Minneapolis, as well as holding five conference calls and weekly email meetings. All of the minutes, actions, and motions, as well as notes from the conference calls, are posted in the members-only section of the ARLIS/NA web site. Imm-Stroukoff stated that it was a pleasure to work with the Executive Board and Headquarters and an honor to serve the ARLIS/NA membership.
 6. Atlanta Conference report (Still): Sandra Still presented the Atlanta Conference Planning Committee's report. She thanked members of the conference planning committee as well as Kathleen List, who was the chapter chair and finance chair, for their hard work on the conference. The conference had 500 registrants, 20 sessions, 6 workshops, and multiple tours. Still thanked the Executive Board and Headquarters for their support.
 7. Denver Conference preview (Riedel): Tom Riedel stated that the ARLIS/NA MW chapter is excited to host the next annual conference. The conference will be held in Denver from May 1-5, 2008. Riedel outlined Denver's history and showcased some of the city's highlights including the Denver Art Museum's new wing, the Denver Performing Arts complex, the LoDo district with its outdoor cafes and shops, and the city's architecture and public art by world-famous practitioners. Riedel also highlighted the city's many parks as well as the spectacular scenery of the region. Jeanne Brown and Mary Graham are the program co-chairs. For information about the conference and program, please consult the conference web site at: <http://arlisna-mw.lib.byu.edu/denver2008/>
 8. Announcements: Elaine Paul announced that the ARLIS/NA and VRA Task Force on Collaboration has created a survey regarding collaborative opportunities between the two organizations and encouraged feedback. The survey deadline is May 1, 2007. The membership may also email Elaine Paul or Ed Teague. Betsy Peck Learned in her role as Chair of the Distinguished Service Award encouraged the membership to submit candidates for the award. Criteria and guidelines are located on the ARLIS/NA web site; the deadline is January 9, 2008.

9. Acknowledgements and thanks (Whiteside): Whiteside thanked chapter officers and moderators of the divisions, sections, and round tables for their work during the year.
10. ARLIS/NA Assessment TF report (Whiteside): Lynda White, Rebecca Price, and Ann Whiteside facilitated an open discussion about the Assessment Task Force report. The Assessment Task Force was charged with reviewing necessary functions of the Society and recommending the best method to conduct those functions. The task force interviewed focus groups and individuals, conducted surveys, and made comparisons with other organizations, and then outlined the recommendations made by these groups. The task force examined communication between the Society's groups, the Executive Board, and the membership. They discovered that the membership does not know about the activities of the Society's groups. The membership values ARLIS/NA for its networking and ability to learn from colleagues. The task force recommended using discussion groups as a model to transform the Society. The Executive Board structure was also examined. The task force recommended having functional Executive Board members to focus on chapters, communication, education, and technology and that would not be geographically-based. This would free up the Executive Board to focus on the bigger picture. ARLIS/NA needs to prepare for the under-50 generation of new librarians. A chapter council or interest group could be an opportunity for younger members to have impact on the Society. The task force and Executive Board would like to ensure that the membership has an ample opportunity for feedback. Whiteside thanked the task force members for their hard work and encouraged the membership for feedback on the suggested recommendations.

Comments from the membership:

Suzanna Simor suggested offering free memberships to students or having tiered memberships to welcome new members; stressed that the regional representatives are important for communication; and stated that meeting colleagues in person at the conferences is most important part of her membership. Simor stated that the Society is falling behind on new initiatives and applauded the student affairs group. Jill Patrick proposed that the Society retain the Canadian representative and add a Mexican representative. Kim Collins stated that technology should facilitate how new attendees get information about the Society and its groups. Sherman Clarke mentioned accommodating technology and change in the control of the interest groups through RSS feeds, Wikis, and blogs. Eileen Fry stated that changes are necessary and the membership needs to get out of a comfort zone. Conferences should be more challenging, and the Society should look outside of the membership for more innovation ideas and deal with issues in new ways. Susan Flanagan suggested that a space be reserved for a new member in each committee. Heidi Hass commented that transforming the regional representatives to those with functional roles on the board was an excellent idea. Sara Carter stated that the ARLIS/Snap group is a good example of flexibility and the future of the Society. Kitty Chibnik commented that the Society needs to think about its mission. Is this a professional association? What are the functions of a

professional association? Does the Society want to be educational in scope or provide job opportunities? She stated that the Society needs to separate how we do things and why we are doing things. Roger Lawson commented that the Society needs to expand roles to bring in new members. Jeanne Brown stated that she approved the idea of functional officers and that there may be a need for some kind of leadership training role. B.J. Irvine stated that the Society is an international, not a national, group and needs to maintain international diversity. Mark Pompelia responded by encouraging members to look at the entire Assessment Task Force report as recruitment on an international basis is encouraged in the report. Elizabeth Clarke stated that Kitty Chibnik's comments about the Society's mission were very important. Laura Schwartz applauded the energy of the new members and asked if there was some way to recruit them to leadership positions. Mark Pompelia suggested forming a group of younger and newer members for technological issues and implementation. Susan Walsh suggested having a president and secretary within each ARLIS/NA group to take on the leadership role for group and disseminate information. Moira Stevens expressed concern about changing the DSRTs into informal groups by noting that some members receive funding for the conferences in their role as moderators of the DSRTs. Joy Kestenbaum spoke about public policy and advocacy; she inquired about the history and accomplishments of ARLIS/NA. She discussed empowering the membership so the entire Society can affect changes. Ted Goodman stated that Members-at-Large, on the board of the ARLIS/NA New York chapter, are responsible for certain functional areas. He suggested expanding the Executive Board of ARLIS/NA with six to eight members-at-large to represent different constituencies such as students. Joan Benedetti commended Ann Whiteside for her constant communication on ARLIS-L as President of the Society; she stated that Ann Whiteside has reported to the membership in her monthly reports in an unprecedented manner for an ARLIS/NA President. She also stated the importance of formal reports for the membership. Steven Allen Patrick mentioned that a 35-year ARLIS/NA timeline was created for the Atlanta conference web page and expressed the hope that someone will continue working on this timeline. Rebecca Price thanked the membership for their comments.

11. Recognition of Outgoing Executive Board members (Whiteside): Ann Whiteside thanked the outgoing board members Margaret Webster, Eumie Imm-Stroukoff, Carole Ann Fabian, Heather Ball, and Leigh Gates for their hard work. B.J. Irvine thanked Ann Whiteside for her effective, dynamic leadership and commitment. The membership gave Ann Whiteside a standing ovation for her work as President of ARLIS/NA.
12. Incoming Board members (Whiteside): Ann Whiteside welcomed incoming board members Ken Soehner, Rebecca Price, Cate Cooney, Elizabeth Schaub, and Amy Trendler.
13. President's report (Ultan Boudewyns): Deborah Ultan Boudewyns thanked Ann Whiteside for her service during the year. She stated she will continue using the same communication models as set by Whiteside, as well as establishing other communication methods as well. Ultan Boudewyns stated that the Society is at a momentous juncture and that the organization is transforming. The membership

will need to implement bold initiatives and undergo self-examination. She thanked the membership for reviewing the assessment report and providing feedback. The mission, goals, and vision of the Society will need to be reviewed to succeed as a professional organization. The Executive Board will be establishing a framework for next steps to implement the Assessment Task Force's report's recommendations. Ultan Boudewyns stated it was an honor to accept the role of the President.

The membership meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by Eumie Imm-Stroukoff
ARLIS/NA Secretary