

ARLIS/NA Membership Meeting
May 5, 2008; 8-10 am
Denver, Colorado

Call to Order: Deborah Ultan-Boudewyns called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

President's Report

The meeting opened with Deborah Ultan Boudewyns' report on the year. She noted that the society's year began with work to address the Reassessment Task Force recommendations. During the year we addressed the recommendations of six other Task Forces as well; including the Nominations, Awards, SEI Implementation, VRA Collaboration, Committee Policy Standards, and MemberClicks Implementation.

The board's focus has been to implement changes recommended by the various task forces. She notes that progress was made in aligning these activities with the Society's Strategic Plan. Deborah emphasizes that the Society relies on members to be leaders to make this kind of progress, and she complements and thanks the leaders of each of these Task Forces who propelled them forward and kept them on task.

Highlights of Task Force Activities related to our Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Goal 1: To increase the effectiveness and support the professional growth of art librarians and visual resources professionals.

New initiatives in this area include the approval and initiation of two new awards: the Alternative Voices Speakers Fund to fund a speaker from traditionally under-represented ethnic or racial groups at the annual conference, and the Merrill Wadsworth Smith Travel Award in Architecture to fund travel for an architecture librarian to the annual conference. In addition, ARTstor has initiated a conference speakers' fund to which they will contribute \$1,500 annually.

Strategic Plan Goal 2: To foster the creation and dissemination of information, resources and standards in the field of art information and art librarianship.

The Communications & Publications Committee has actively moved on several initiatives including making backfiles of *Art Documentation* available in PDF on the ARLIS/NA website, server hosting, evaluation of peer review implementation for *Art Documentation*, moving to electronic publication options, archiving of publications electronically, RSS feeds from the website, e-commerce options, etc.

The Archives of ARLIS/NA will move in the coming year to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where they will be processed, stored, and accessible. This is an improvement over the current situation where they are merely stored.

Strategic Plan Goal 3: To be an advocate for our members, the profession, and ARLIS/NA.

This year the society approved the addition of a Introductory membership level and a reduced student membership level in an effort to gain new, young members and bring more librarians into our society.

Strategic Plan Goal 4 SP To strengthen and increase the effectiveness of ARLIS/NA's activities and operations.

Several initiatives addressed the effectiveness of our activities and operations. We adopted and implemented MemberClicks for our membership database and conference registration. We added a Technical Advisor to our Communications & Publications Committee. The Executive Board initiated its restructuring to better serve the functions of the society. The Professional Development Committee also underwent restructuring, adding subcommittees for mentorship and for education. Round Tables will become Special Interest Groups, allowing for greater flexibility and spontaneity. The Policy Standards Committee advised new standards and these were approved and adopted. There were many new initiatives related to the annual conference. These were called Denver Firsts and included:

- First conference sponsored by Mountain West Chapter
- Committee meetings interwoven through conference
- ArtTECHtonic – webcast interviews on technology subjects
- Exhibits “no-conflict” time to allow more relaxed visits to the Exhibits Area
- Web 2.0 Kiosk to help members with web 2.0 technology.
- Virtual poster sessions to complement actual sessions.
- Meet the vendors program to introduce members to our exhibitors.
- Complimentary breakfast at the membership meeting.

Deborah concluded her remarks by announcing the locations of upcoming conferences: Indianapolis in 2009; Boston in 2010; Minneapolis (a joint conference with VRA) in 2011; and Toronto in 2012.

Headquarters Report – Elizabeth Clarke

Elizabeth Clarke spoke briefly about the importance and value of the society and reminds us that Clarke Associates, Inc. is here to support ARLIS/NA and will continue providing services that are required and to fill gaps where needed. They look forward to a productive year with the society.

Treasurer’s Report – Fran Scott

Fran Scott provided an overview of the Financial Summary. Some highlights include a slight reduction in membership revenues; though on a brighter note, student membership is up. She notes that there will be a proposed dues increase to address the downturn in revenue and to meet new project needs as well as inflationary pressures. There has not been a dues increase in ten years. There have been strong increases in our gifts income. And the market performed well this past year, bringing an increase to our portfolio; though it is not expected to continue into the coming year. The Atlanta Conference made \$17,000 for the society. As far as expenses for the year, the administrative expenses came in a little under budget, while publications expenses came in a little over. Taking expenses and income into account, we ended up at the end of the year with a net gain of \$53,000.

Secretary’s Report – Rebecca Price

Rebecca provided an overview of the board’s activities. The board met twenty times by telephone or email. We held a midyear meeting in Minneapolis. Minutes, Action items and motions have all been posted to the ARLIS/NA website for review.

Summer Educational Institute Report

Amy Lucker, outgoing co-chair of SEI provided the report. This coming summer SEI is being held at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. It is fully enrolled with 45 attendees and there is a waitlist. In 2009 SEI will be held at Simmons College in

Boston. Two new co-chairs are coming on board: Alix Reiskind for ARLIS/NA and Jeanne Keefe for VRA.

The VRA and ARLIS/NA boards approved raising the teaching honoraria to \$150 per teaching hour. The schedule has been revised and can be found on the SEI website. The Kress Foundation is giving a two-year grant to underwrite the attendance by current library students. This first year it is being given on a first-come first served basis at \$400 each for four students. Next year it will be awarded via a competitive process and will provide full tuition for two students. An Advisory Group, led by Sherman Clark, has been set up to look at future directions for SEI.

Denver Conference Report

The members stood in ovation for the four co-chairs of the conference planning group: Peggy Keeran, Tom Riedel, Jeanne Brown, and Mary Graham. Peggy Keeran presented the report. This is the first time the Mountain West Chapter has hosted the conference – 571 members and guests participated. Many new initiatives were tested (as noted above in the President's Report). Peggy concluded her remarks by acknowledging the work of all the volunteers from the local chapter.

Indianapolis Conference Preview

Ursula Kolmstetter and Sonja Staum are co-chairs for Local Arrangements. Tony White and Eileen Fry are co-chairs for Programming. We will be staying at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott. The opening celebration on Friday evening will be held at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. A reception will be held Sunday evening at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) and the membership meeting is planned for Monday morning. Tours are planned for Bloomington and Columbus, Indiana. Others will be added. They present a short video with highlights of Indianapolis. They encourage us to think of movement and change. **stART** your engines.

Guest Speaker, Lorie Roy, President ALA

Lorie Roy, President of ALA, gives a keynote address to the membership. She notes that one can see videos of her on youtube.com (via the ALA website). She is a professor of library science at the University of Texas, Austin.

Ms. Roy begins her talk by complementing ARLIS/NA members on their ability to dress and accessorize, and then turns to the focus of her talk: how libraries stay vital over time. She encourages us to continue our reorganization and strategic planning and emphasizes that change is necessary to remain relevant to the profession. The society needs to be meaningful to its members each day.

In reference to our own plans for a possible dues increase, Ms. Roy talked about a recent ALA dues increase. The members were told what the organization was going to do with the money. Members most desired that ALA be an advocate for the profession and that the money raised by the increase go to initiatives identified through the strategic plan. In reference to the question of how to be meaningful to your members everyday, Ms. Roy recommended maintaining transparency. The members need to know how and why decisions are made and what the intended outcomes are. Programmatic priorities within the strategic plan help direct decision making processes. Members' wishes need to be brought into the strategic plan that ensures that the directions and goals of the organization are relevant to the members. In relation to our own reorganization, Ms. Roy

notes that other libraries are also reorganizing: streamlining organizational structures, focus on responsiveness, striving to be adaptable and nimble.

Scheduled announcements

Alternate Voices Speakers Fund

In an effort to bring a greater diversity of voices to our annual conferences, a fund has been set up to support travel expenses and a small honorarium for a speaker from a traditionally under-represented ethnic or racial group to speak at our conference. A committee, composed of the Diversity Committee Chair, the ARLIS/NA liaison to the ALA Committee for Diversity, and the two current conference program co-chairs, will be established to support the selection of the speaker.

International Relations Study Trip – Netherlands

Hugh Michel Nijhoff announced that this fall there will be an international study trip to the Netherlands. The trip is sponsored by the International Relations Committee, which is working with ARLIS/NL. Amsterdam is UNESCO World Book Capital this year and there have been numerous developments in Amsterdam libraries and archives of late. Plans are that the group will stay at the Lloyd Hotel, formerly used by emigrants as they left Europe, but now a hotel for cultural groups. Registration for the trip will be up on the ARLIS/NA website with an application deadline of July 1st. A \$300 deposit is due by August 1st. They are planning on an attendance of 10-20 travelers. There are plans underway for the 2009 trip to have Germany as their destination with hopes that it timed to take place the week before the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Open Forum for Questions and Concerns

Question: The financial report shows that *ART Documentation* costs are increasing. What is the Board doing or planning to do to hold those down? Roger Lawson responds to the question. He notes that this has been a topic of discussion throughout year and there are several ways we are addressing the increasing costs. Moving printing and distribution to US address will decrease costs of production and postage. The Publications & Communications Committee and editors have also discussed the layout and other factors that increase costs. They felt that production costs were not as much a problem as postage costs.

Question: Has there been consideration of *ART Documentation* becoming an electronic journal? Roger Lawson responds: Yes, we have had this discussion. There is no question that back issues will be offered as electronic texts via PDF from the website. The Communications & Publications Committee is continuing to consider adding an –e-journal option and there is support for it becoming purely an e-journal.

Introductions and Acknowledgments

Our outgoing Executive Board Members, Ann Whiteside (Past President), Fran Scott (Treasurer), Sue Koskinnen (Liaison for Communications & Publications), and Marilyn Nasserden (Canadian Liaison), were all recognized for their hard work and dedication.

Our incoming Executive Board Members, Amy Lucker (Vice President / President-elect), Rijn Templeton (Treasurer), and Barbara Rominski (Liaison for Communications & Publications), and Liv Valmestad (Canadian Liaison), were welcomed on the board.

BJ Irvine acknowledges the hard work of Deborah Ultan-Boudewyns, our outgoing President.

Ken Soehner, the new President, speaks to the membership. He, with the new board, is looking forward to hearing suggestions and concerns of the membership. He understands his role as to deliver as much value as possible to the membership.

Ken Soehner adjourns the meeting at 9:45 am.