Submitted by: Phillip J. Jones  
pj27jones@yahoo.com; pjj01@uark.edu  
479-575-3081 (office); 479-575-6656 (fax)

Officers for 2013 were Chair Phillip J. Jones (University of Arkansas), Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Akins (Washington University), and Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Tracey Boswell (Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art). Ellen Urton (Kansas State University) was past-chair. Tom Young (Philbrook Museum of Art) was elected in September as the new vice-chair/chair-elect, effective January 2014, at which time Boswell became chair and Jones past-chair.

Central Plains held a spring meeting in Omaha (June) and a fall meeting in Northwest Arkansas (November). Fourteen members attended the business meeting in June and sixteen attended in November. The fall meeting included a tour of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

The chapter accomplished some noteworthy items in 2013. Webmaster Mikael Kriz finished the major revisions of the new web site, which was published by the middle of the year. Secretary/Treasurer Akins established a PayPal account to enable members to pay their dues and registration via a different method. She also moved the chapter’s financial assets in March to US Bank. In spring the officers surveyed the members on their use of social media, ideas for new directions, and desirability of hosting two meetings per year. The chapter inaugurated a Facebook page and a Flickr account to extend its reach in the social media. The officers began revising the by-laws of the chapter. This endeavor is pending and should be completed by April, the deadline set by ARLIS/NA. These accomplishments support elements of Goals I, II, III, and V of the Strategic Plan 2011–2015.

Suzy Frechette (St. Louis Public Library) compiled reports from the membership early in the year and composed Issue 49 of The Irregular, the chapter’s official newsletter. The issue is available online at http://centralplains.arlisna.org/newsletter/no49.pdf and offers a snapshot of the various activities of the chapter’s members.

As indicated above, several projects are in progress. Work remains on social media: Central Plains must determine which social media are appropriate to the chapter’s mission and implement and sustain these choices. The chapter continues to wrestle with the number of meetings to hold per year. Responses in the survey indicated that the majority of members favored one meeting per year; however, that majority was muted at the discussion in Omaha. As with any organization, Central Plains must find ways to promote its membership and build a vision for the future. It is likely that these discussions will continue at the next chapter meetings, which are currently set for Kansas City (June 2014) and St. Louis (late 2014, possibly November).

The chapter has no matters to bring before the Executive Board.