ARLIS/NA was represented at the American Alliance of Museums 2013 Annual Meeting and Museum Expo that took place in Baltimore, MD, May 19-22nd by Lee Viverette.

The AAM conference generally takes place directly after the annual ARLIS/NA meeting each year which is ideal as issues and concerns raised at our conference are fresh in the mind of the ARLIS/NA liaison to AAM. The 2013 AAM conference was focused on advocacy for museums and critical issues confronting the museum field. Prior to the conference AAM had undergone a complete restructuring of the organization and a name change. The American Association of Museums is now the American Alliance of Museums. The name was chosen to better reflect the nature of the organization in a global world and to highlight the need for collaboration and cooperation between countries, professional organizations and institutions.

Many sessions and programs were relevant to overlapping interests of ARLIS/NA members and AAM members such as collections stewardship, development and grant writing, digital humanities, etc. It was clear that many opportunities for collaboration exist between ARLIS/NA and AAM.

In order to support the ARLIS/NA strategic plan objective of identifying opportunities for collaboration and dialogue by fostering partnerships and affiliations with other professional organizations, I attended the business meeting of the Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries and Museums. (CALM) This group exists to foster communication between AAM, ALA, and SAA. Shared concerns include the repurposing of library space, the trend of academic organizations absorbing museum libraries, shrinking library budgets, and the status of federal funding.

It seems logical and appropriate at this juncture for ARLIS/NA to reach out to this group and gain official representation in CALM along with SAA and ALA. This collaboration can only serve to add strength to all of our affiliated organizations and raise the profile and visibility of ARLIS/NA within the structure of AAM so that we may and advocate collectively for common interests.

Lee Viverette will attend the 2014 AAM conference in Seattle May 16-21 and represent ARLIS/NA if needed.