Our chapter remains strong and fairly active, despite the difficulties of covering a large geographic region and the inability of members to travel to all chapter meetings and events.

Spring chapter meeting: The spring chapter meeting held at the annual ARLIS/NA conference in Washington, D.C., was well-attended and included some new members and many old timers.

Fall chapter meeting: The fall meeting, held Friday September 12, 2014, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, was a joint meeting of the ARLIS/NA Midstates chapter, the VRA Midwest chapter, and the ARLIS/NA Twin Cities chapter. It was very successful, including tours of local and campus libraries and collections.

Membership: Because of several of our members’ move out of state for new library positions, we replaced a member on the chapter Nominations Committee (Kristina Keogh), and held an election for a new Secretary/Treasurer (Melanie Emerson) during the spring. With the move of our incoming (2015) chapter Chair, Annette Haines, to California, we held another special election. Rebecca Price, Architecture, Urban Planning and Visual Resources Librarian at the University of Michigan, was elected Chair, taking office in January. Although Melanie Emerson is moving to the Ricker Library, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, she will remain as chapter Secretary/Treasurer.

Social networking: The chapter continues to publish an excellent newsletter bi-annually, posted on our chapter website. We have added a Google Map to our chapter website which pinpoints the location of our members’ libraries.

Outreach: Chapter members have unsuccessfully to-date tried to network with Dominican University Library and Information Science Program students who may be interested in art librarianship. We will continue this effort throughout the year. We also are trying to find contacts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science program (GLIS). We are identifying listservs at regional library schools which may be appropriate means of outreach to students.

Alison Hausladen from the Ryerson Library, Art Institute of Chicago, represented the Midstates Chapter at a workshop, Navigating Career Opportunities in Libraries, Research, and Knowledge Management, sponsored by the University of Illinois at Chicago Richard J. Daley Library and the GLIS at the University of Illinois.
Finances: Our chapter finances are healthy, and we were able to make modest donations to events when asked such as the 2014 SEI held in June. At our spring chapter meeting, we decided to reinstitute charging a minimal fee for events and meetings to ensure that our bank accounts remain healthy, which we did for our fall chapter meeting in Madison. Our Secretary/Treasurer is investigating online payment methods for handling membership dues. Recommendations were made at our fall chapter meeting but have yet to be implemented.

Travel awards: Amanda Meeks was awarded the 2014 William C. Bunce ARLIS/NA Midstates Travel Award. She is an active volunteer at Read/Write Library in Chicago and presented at the ARLIS/NA annual conference in several capacities. Applicants are currently being taken for the 2015 Bunce Travel Award for attending the annual ARLIS/NA conference in Fort Worth.

No applications were received this year for the 2014 SEI ARLIS/NA Midstates Travel Award, despite reissuing the call and extending the deadline for the award.

Chapter bylaws: The Midstates Chapter Bylaws were updated and approved by the ARLIS/NA Executive Board.

Our chapter has been approached by the ARLIS/NA Ohio Valley Chapter concerning co-hosting the Art Libraries Section Satellite Meeting of the 2016 IFLA Congress, which will be held in Columbus, Ohio. The Art Institute of Chicago was contacted and has expressed interest in serving as a venue for presentations, receptions, tours, etc. A proposal to IFLA is being written.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Gates, out-going Chapter Chair, ARLIS/NA Midstates
Feb. 20, 2015