Annual Report 2016
Retirees’ Special Interest Group

Submitted by: Margaret N. Webster, mnw3@cornell.edu

Margaret N. Webster and Leigh Gates Co-coordinators

The ARLIS/NA Retirees’ SIG held its inaugural meeting during the joint ARLIS/NA ~ VRA conference in Seattle. Although this meeting occurred from 7-8 am on March 11 in the Pine Room of the Westin Hotel, nineteen members contributed to a lively caffeine enhanced meeting. Eumie Imm Stroukoff, Jennifer Friedman, and Eric Wolf joined the group as guests. Joan Benedetti moderated the meeting and Carol Terry was the recorder.

Eric Wolf, chair of the Documentation Committee, mentioned that he is interested in capturing oral histories from a number of ARLIS/NA members of this group who have served in significant roles in the Society over the years. He also mentioned that members of this group might play an important role in working to gather these histories. Jennifer Friedman, chair of the mentoring subcommittee of the Professional Development Committee, suggested that members of this SIG could contribute by providing case-by-case mentoring to ARLIS/NA members who are involved in or have a problem with specific issues or tasks. Eumie Imm Stroukoff attended as the Vice President/President Elect of ARLIS/NA.

Joan Benedetti, the founding co-coordinator, stepped down at the end of the meeting. Margaret Webster will continue for another year; Leigh Gates has joined her as co-coordinator. A big thank you to Joan for her work in making this SIG a reality.

Carol drafted the minutes, and Margaret compiled the list of attendees. Margaret and Leigh requested that Robert Kopchinski establish a distribution list for this group to facilitate discussion and communication; this has been accomplished. Everyone who expressed an interest in joining the SIG became a member of the list. Newly retired or retiring members have been welcomed during the course of the year.

Martha González Palacios of the Development Committee has requested help from the SIG to help with establishing the planned giving program. She will provide a report to guide discussion during the 2017 meeting in New Orleans. Eric Wolf has continued to be interested in involving members of this group both with the oral history project and more generally with the historical documentation of the society. He and his successor, Jamie Lausch Vander Broek, will present at our meeting in New Orleans. There continues to be interest in proposing a session for the New York conference in 2018. A possible topic might be a panel discussion about preparing for retirement.

As this second year comes to a close, both Margaret Webster and Leigh Gates are stepping down as co-coordinators. Unfortunately, neither will be able to attend the ARLIS/NA conference in New Orleans. Lee Eltzroth has graciously agreed to chair our meeting in New Orleans. It will be critical to firm up the leadership of this group for 2017-2018 during this time.