

Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter



Volume 33, Number 1

June 2007

President's Message

Aron Crowell

Thanks to all members who participated in the Association's recent election. I'm delighted to serve as the new aaa President and join you in welcoming new board members Daniel Monteith (University of Alaska, Southeast) and Amy Steffian (Alutiiq Museum). Thanks and congratulations for a job well done to Polly Wheeler, Alan Boraas, and Rachel Mason, who rotated out of these positions. Owen Mason, Lisa Frink, and Dan Odess are continuing their terms. Amy Steffian is the new Secretary, and Dawn Biddison has been appointed as Treasurer.

Your board and president have been very active since the annual meeting in Fairbanks, with a particular focus on our journal, web site, and financial management. Board meetings were held on March 16 and June 13, and members have devoted considerable time to assignments between meetings.

The proposal to combine association membership with a subscription to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*, each to run on a calendar year basis, was sent out to members as a ballot question in March. It received a large and overwhelmingly positive response, with more than 3 to 1 in favor. This change ensures the financial stability of the *AJA* and brings us in line with other

professional organizations that publish journals including the Society for American Archaeology, American Anthropological Association, and Canadian Anthropological Association. As Editor Owen Mason reports in this newsletter, we are investigating opportunities to save production and distribution costs and to make the whole publication process more efficient.

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The Ballots Are In Membership Linked to Journal Subscription

Rachel Mason and Janet Cohen
aaa Elections Committee

After the March 2007 annual meeting in Fairbanks, Alaskan Anthropological Association members received a special ballot with one question: Should the Alaska Anthropological Association amend its annual membership dues to include a concurrent subscription to the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*, at the terms and rates described above? Ninety members voted Yes or No and sent in their votes before the April 30 postmark deadline. The results: 70 voted Yes, and 20 voted No. The proposal passed by a fairly wide margin.

Alaska Journal of Anthropology

Journal Editor's Message

Owen Mason

There are major changes underway at AJA. In response to a detailed re-structuring plan submitted by aaa board member Dan Odess, the aaa board decided to restructure the *Alaska Journal of Anthropology*. A managing editor will be hired to direct the production aspects of the journal, with responsibilities for layout, copy-editing, interacting with authors and securing copyright releases from authors. Efforts are also underway to decrease publication costs by securing a more cost-effective publisher, with several printers tendering estimates that should reduce publishing costs by about 50%. In addition, the publisher will handle the initial mailing and distribution of new issues. Back issues and subscription requests will continue to be addressed by the aaa treasurer. Erica Hill (formerly UA Press, now UA Southeast) has coordinated the search for the managing editor and a new publisher, as well as spearheading the subscription drive for institutions.

During the transition to the new organization, the production of Vol. 5(1) will be delayed, with an expected date of publication later this summer. However, in terms of future issues, several issues are nearly ready for production: including an edited volume on Cultural Resource Management (Diane Hanson, UAA). The journal has also added Herbert Maschner (ISU) as an editorial board member.

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

President

Aron Crowell

Board Members

Lisa Frink

Owen Mason

Daniel Montieth

Daniel Odess

Amy Steffian

Secretary - Amy Steffian

Treasurer - Dawn Biddison

The purpose of the Alaska Anthropological Association is to serve as a vehicle for maintaining communication among people interested in all branches of anthropology; to promote public awareness and education of anthropological activities and goals; to foster sympathetic appreciation of the past and present cultures of Alaskan peoples; to encourage Alaskan Natives to participate in the elucidation of their respective cultures; and to facilitate the dissemination of anthropological works in both technical and non-technical formats. Membership is open to any individual or organization indicating interest and concern for the discipline of anthropology. The Association holds its annual meeting during March or April of each year and generally publishes four newsletters each year.

The membership cycle runs from the date of payment for one year; dues may be prepaid for more than one year at a time. Dues are \$20.00 for student members and \$40.00 for regular or institutional members. Checks or money orders, in US dollars, should be made out to the Alaska Anthropological Association. To become a member, send your name, affiliation, mailing address, city, state/province, postal code and payment to the Association at P.O. Box 241686, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1686, USA. Items for the newsletter may be sent to the editor, Becky Saleeby, at the above address, attention "Newsletter Editor," or to becky_saleeby@nps.gov.

Special Interest Group News



Public Education Group *Robert King*

I am very happy to report that the Alaska Archaeology Month poster placed third in the competition for the best state archaeology month poster for 2007. This third-place win was the result of a vote held for



“Best Archaeology Month Poster” at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Austin in April. Over 3,000 people attended and all registrants were entitled to vote for their favorite, with about 20 state posters entered in the competition. I believe the Alaska poster won particular favor for its fine information as well as graphics and design. (First place went to Arizona, and I forget which state won 2nd place, but it wasn’t Wyoming!)

Congratulations to Fran Seager-Boss, pictured on the left holding the award. All of her hard work in pulling it together really paid off! Many helped Fran or were involved with creating this poster, including the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Mat-Su Borough, The Anchorage Museum, Fran’s fine artist Dimi Macheras and designer Whit-

tington-Evans Communications, the Knik Tribal Council, the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Jim Kari, the Ya Ne Dah Ah School, Daniel Stone, Dennis and David McKenzie, and the aaa Public Education Group. Members of the Public Education Group are all proud to have been involved in this project and thank Fran for her efforts.



Artist Dimi Macheras from Chickaloon created this image, which appeared on the front of the award-winning 2007 Alaska Archaeology Month poster.

President's Message, *Continued from page 1*

With the volunteer assistance of Erica Hill at the University of Alaska Press, we have initiated the search for a contract managing editor. These efforts should pay off in terms of journal quality as well, enhancing what is already recognized as a premier record of northern studies.

The board has also taken on the task of redesigning the Association's web site to make it more useful for all. New functions will include on-line registration for meetings, on-line payment of memberships and subscriptions, purchases of Aurora, an events calendar, and electronic publication of the newsletter. Another option is to make .pdf files of individual AJA articles available for sale. Information pages and graphic design will also be enhanced. We have received several competitive bids for the re-design. Launch of the new site is tentatively planned for December, in time for 2008 meeting registration and membership renewals.

Another area of change is in financial management. The Association's finances are healthy, including total present assets of more than \$130,000, but its affairs are complicated. In recognition of the extensive and growing workload of managing income, expenditures, memberships, and subscriptions, the board approved an annual payment of \$1000 to support the treasurer's position. It also approved the hourly services of an independent accountant to conduct a quarterly audit of our books, which is especially important in regard to IRS reporting. Dawn Biddison has energetically begun to bring all of our financial and membership records up to date to prepare for the first audit and to make sure that everyone receives the journal issues and membership extensions for which they have paid.

Planning for the 2008 annual meeting is underway, and the board selected Juneau as the site of our 2009 gathering in response to a proposal from Daniel Monteith. Dan is already involved in preliminary negotiations for meeting space and hotels.

Upcoming Meetings

Gender and Archaeology Conference (9th annual)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
October 4-6, 2007
contact Lisa Frink for more information
lisa.frink@unlv.edu

American Anthropological Association Conference
(106th annual)
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington DC
November 28 – December 2, 2007
<http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/mtgs.htm>

Society for Historical Archaeology
2008 Conference on Historical and Underwater
Archaeology
Albuquerque, New Mexico
January 9-12, 2008
<http://www.sha.org/default.htm>

Alaska Anthropological Association
(35th annual)
Anchorage Hilton
February 28 - March 1, 2008
<http://www.alaskaanthropology.org/>

Society for Applied Anthropology
(68th annual)
Memphis Marriott
March 25- 29, 2008
<http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2008.html>

American Association of Physical Anthropologists
(74th annual)
Columbus, Ohio
April 7- 13, 2008
<http://www.physanth.org/>

World Archaeological Congress
WAC-6
Ireland
University College of Dublin
June 29 - July 4, 2008
http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/site/news_wac6.php

Use this form to register or update your membership, make donations, subscribe to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology, or purchase Aurora volumes.



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Please make checks payable and mail to:
 Alaska Anthropological Association.
 P.O. Box 241686
 Anchorage, AK 99524

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Fees:	Donations:
Regular/Institutional: 1 year \$40.00 _____	Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists \$ _____
2 years \$75.00 _____	Public Education Group \$ _____
Student: 1 year \$20.00 _____	Publication Fund \$ _____
2 years \$35.00 _____	Student Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Alaska Journal of Anthropology	
Two Issue Subscription	Four Issue Subscription
aaa Regular Member \$35.00 _____	aaa Regular Member \$60.00 _____
aaa Student Member \$25.00 _____	aaa Student Member \$50.00 _____
Non-Member \$50.00 _____	Non-Member \$85.00 _____
Institutional \$150.00 _____	Institutional \$300.00 _____
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Aurora Monograph Series		
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When Our Bad Season Comes by Ann Fienup-Riordan	\$28.00	\$22.40
Lake Minchumina Prehistory by Charles E. Holmes	\$15.00	\$12.00
Bibliography and Index of Alaskan Archeology by C. Eugene West and Richard O. Stern	\$10.00	\$ 8.00
The Hidden Falls Site edited by Stanley D. Davis	\$28.00	\$22.40
In the Belly of the Whale by Glenn W. Sheehan	\$28.00	\$22.40
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Note: Please fold this page for mailing in thirds, not in half!

**Alaska Anthropological Association
P.O. Box 241686
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686**

aaa Meeting News and Updates

Post-Mortem on the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association

Daniel Odess

The 2007 annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association was organized by the University of Alaska Museum of the North and held March 15-17 at the Westmark in Fairbanks. The conference began with an opening reception on March 14 at the museum. This year's meetings corresponded with the start of the International Polar Year (2007-2009), and the occasion was marked by a special IPY session.

This year's dinner speaker was Dennis Stanford from the Smithsonian Institution's Paleo-Indian Program. Dr. Stanford spoke about new directions in the peopling of the Americas, a subject to which he has devoted much of his long and distinguished career. One hundred and thirteen people dined while he spoke, with a handful of others tucked into the corners of the room.

Shepard Krech III, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Haffenreffer Museum at Brown University was this year's luncheon speaker, and he provided an ethnohistorical perspective on the relationships between people and birds, the topic of a forthcoming book. Ninety six people attended the luncheon talk.

The book room was organized by Erica Hill and garnered favorable comments from several attendees. There were several new vendors this year, including the Society for Historical Archaeology, the Alutiiq Museum, the Bureau of Land Management, the University of Washington Press, University of Nebraska Press and University of Oklahoma Press. As usual, vendor samples (books) were distributed to the volunteers who helped make the conference a success. Erica also designed this year's program, coping with myriad last-minute changes

as names were added and dropped and hotel scheduling issues forced revisions. Two graduate students, Sarah Meitl and Scott Shirar, provided critical assistance before, during, and after the conference, and their help is gratefully acknowledged.

The success of this year's conference was due in large part to the excellent sessions. Natasha Slobodina pulled together a good session of student papers, providing a comfortable and supportive environment in which a dozen students made their first professional presentations. Dan Monteith deserves accolades for bringing a group of students up from UAS to present the results of a project on the archaeology of Auke Lake, as well as for organizing (with Elizabeth Kunibe) a session on gathering and horticulture in Alaska. Julie Esdale and Jeff Rasic pulled together a well attended session on the Northern Archaic. Margan Grover organized a session on recent research in the Bering Strait region, and Ben Potter organized one on recent research in subarctic archaeology. Anne Jensen's session presented updates on recent work at Nuvuk, near Barrow, while Lisa Frink organized a session on the Anthropology of Colonialism in the Arctic. Amy Lovecraft and Peter Schweitzer organized a session on IPY-related projects. In addition to sessions of contributed papers in archaeology and cultural anthropology, there was one on Indigenous Childhood in the Arctic. Aron Crowell organized a session on museums and communities, and David Yesner and Phyllis Fast organized one on Athabascan traditions, past and present. Approximately 115 papers and 12 posters were presented.

Continued on next page

Meeting registrations were as follows:

Pre-registered regular: (74)
Pre-registered student: (21)
Late registered regular: (47)
Late registered student: (18)
Free registration for volunteers: (15)
Single Day registration: (21.5)
Total registrations: 175 plus 21.5 day registrations

Cursory examination of these numbers confirms that students continue to procrastinate in registering to the point where it costs them money, whereas those who actually have to make a living as anthropologists and archaeologists have learned that they cannot afford to wait until the last minute to register.

Registrations generated \$16,165.00, an amount sufficient to cover the expense of putting on the conference.

Conference registration is often the time when people choose to make charitable contributions to the association's various worthy causes. This year saw 17 contributions to the Student Scholarship Fund for a total of \$514. Five contributions to the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists totaled \$113, while seven contributions to the Publication Fund totaled \$143.50, and the Public Education Fund received a single donation of \$10.

Next year's meetings will be held in Anchorage at the end of February.

Thanks, Dan!!



New Books of Interest

The *Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 3* (Environment, Origins, and Population) is now available for purchase. The volume, edited by Douglas H. Ubelaker, includes chapters in each of the following headings: Paleo-Indians, Plant and Animal Resources, Skeletal Biology and Population Size, and Human Biology. There are several chapters that pertain to the Arctic, Subarctic, and to Alaska. The volume, published by the Smithsonian Institution in 2006, can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/collections/handbook-na-indians.jsp>.

Flight of the Goose: a story of the far north, by Lesley Thomas, was published by Far Eastern Press, Seattle, in 2005. Although this is a work of fiction, the author spent her childhood in Nome and is very familiar with the people, cultures, and landscapes of the region. The book has been described as a serious work of modern literature, unlike the detective genre of Alaska fiction we have all seen at the newstands. It portrays a world in which traditional values clash with modern expectations. Anyone familiar with the northern Seward Peninsula will enjoy the vivid depiction of a landscape rendered from the authors's familiarity with Serpentine Hot Springs. The book is locally available and can also be ordered from www.amazon.com.

Editor's note: If you are aware of a new book of potential interest to other aaa members, please let me know (becky_saleeby@nps.gov). The intention here is to provide space for sharing information about new publications and not to serve as a venue for critical reviews. If you would like to do a review for the *AJA*, please contact Rachel Mason (rachel_mason@nps.gov) or Barbara Crass (crass@uwosh.edu).

Alaska Anthropological Association Board Minutes

Minutes from Board Meeting, March 17, 2007,

Rachel Mason

Present: Alan Boraas, Aron Crowell, Lisa Frink, Owen Mason, Rachel Mason, Daniel Monteith, Dan Odess, Amy Steffian (by phone), Polly Wheeler (by phone)

The meeting opened about 12:40. Polly welcomed new president Aron Crowell and new board members Amy Steffian and Daniel Monteith. A record number of ballots, 92, were cast in this election. Polly and Aron will meet in Anchorage sometime after she returns April 21 to complete the transition to the new aaa administration.

The board went over the draft agenda of the annual business meeting. Rick Reanier will give the Aurora report, Becky Saleeby the newsletter report, Owen Mason the journal report, and Rachel Mason the treasurer's report.

Dan Odess has put together a letter proposing some changes in how the Alaska Journal of Anthropology is run. He distributed it to the board members present and read it out loud for the benefit of Amy and Polly (we considered faxing it, but both were away from a fax machine). After some discussion, both presidents and the board members agreed that this was a matter to be taken up with the *AJA* board before it is brought to either the Association board or the general membership. The *AJA* board did meet on Thursday, during the conference, but Dan was not present at the spontaneously called meeting, so he did not have an opportunity to bring up his concerns. Owen said he would call an emergency meeting of the *AJA* board soon after the conference.

The main item the *AJA* board discussed at its Thursday meeting was a proposal to link Association membership with subscription to the journal. The members of the *AJA* board voted unanimously to support a motion saying that journal subscription is a benefit of membership in the organization. Owen will present information at the business meeting and will find out if there is general support from the members. Later a paper ballot will be mailed out to members. Board discussion centered on the need to being in more subscribers to the journal. If subscriptions are connected to membership, there will be a surge of income for the journal. Owen reported that a very positive aspect about the current journal situation is that he is receiving a lot of manuscripts and proposals for theme issues.

Rachel plans to give the Treasurer's report at the business meeting, in the absence of interim Treasurer Liz Williams. Aron will need to find someone fill the roles of both Secretary and Treasurer. Dan Odess will need to work with Aron and the new Treasurer after the conference to reconcile all the member and conference records.

Since the Association's finances are getting more complicated, some board members felt that it is time to consider having a paid bookkeeper do our accounts. The discussion progressed to address the Association's need to upgrade and maintain its website. Lisa suggested that we hire a consultant to be the webmaster. Perhaps the same person could be both a paid treasurer and a webmaster. Amy pointed out that maintaining the content of the website is also a huge job, and one that is a lot to ask of a volunteer. Polly urged that we save this discussion for another time, and not decide anything right away. Lisa and Owen both spoke in favor of making a decision soon. Aron will call a meeting very soon after the annual meeting, focusing on the website issue.

Alaska Anthropological Association Board Minutes

Meanwhile, at today's business meeting, Lisa will present information about the website and get a sense of how many of the members would like to see the newsletter come out on the web instead of a paper copy.

Regarding the 2008 meetings in Anchorage, Rachel will speak for Polly to announce that the dates have been locked in and the hosts are an interagency group called "Women in Subsistence" (or words to that effect). Dan Monteith has submitted a proposal packet for University of Alaska Southeast to host the 2009 meetings in Juneau.

Meeting dismissed at about 1:50 p.m.

Minutes of Business Meeting, March 17, 2007

Lisa Frink and Rachel Mason

Standing in for association president Polly Wheeler, Rachel Mason called the annual Business Meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Forty members were in attendance. There were no additions to the agenda.

Aurora Monograph Series: Rick Reanier reported. There is a new manuscript, about Shemya. Rick didn't have any report on finances. A question for the association board to discuss is whether Aurora volumes could be marketed by the University of Alaska Press.

Newsletter: Becky Saleeby reported. Four issues of the newsletter come out each year. In 2006, the cost was about \$1550, including some special non-newsletter mailings.

Alaska Journal of Anthropology: Owen Mason reported. Submissions to the journal are up, which Owen sees as an indication that the producers are stepping up to the plate. The main problem now is with membership. The Association board and the *AJA* board have both voted unanimously to support tying membership to journal subscription. According to the Association bylaws, the decision requires a vote of the members. The business meeting does not capture enough of the members to represent the organization as a whole. Therefore, a ballot will be mailed out to the members. Owen asked for a straw vote of all members present as to whether subscription to the journal should come automatically with membership. The 40 members present voted unanimously to support such a motion.

Association finances: Rachel Mason reported. She recounted the beginning and ending figures for 2006 each of the Association's four bank accounts (General, Conference, Journal, and Aurora) and its investment account. The best news came from the Vanguard investment account, which shows a net gain of over \$9,000 as of 12/31/06. Our net worth at the end of 2006 was \$125,761. There was no discussion.

Public Education group: Becky Saleeby reported that there are about 10 to 15 members in this group, from various agencies. They are currently working on Archaeology Month (April). The Mat-Su Borough and the Alaska Native Heritage Center have cooperated to make the poster, which is hot off the press. Karlene Leeper reported on the Public Education group's speaker series. Richard Stoffle was the speaker last year, and his speaking engagements in Alaska went off very well. Karlene is soliciting suggestions for this year's speaker.

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Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists: Debbie Corbett reported. The ACZ collections are expanding, and the collections at UAA have moved to a new lab. Joan Dale gave the ACZ finance report, which is completely separate from the Association's finances. ACZ finances are simple, since is little income (no dues) and few expenses other than paying for a workshop every year and giving a scholarship when they are able.

Web site: Lisa Frink reported, showing the members the proposed fees from bidders to maintain the web-site. She asked for a straw vote on whether or not members would support putting the newsletter out on the web instead of in paper copy. There was a unanimous (or at least near-unanimous) show of hands in support. No one voiced any opposition. Later this year, the Association board will decide this by a vote, and also choose who to hire as webmaster.

Book room: Erica Hill reported. She said that the book room was successful this year. She commented that it seemed to work well to combine the book room with the poster session.

Awards: Rachel Mason reported that the James VanStone Advanced Graduate Student award and the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists student award went to the same person this year, Cody Strathe. There were no applicants for the other student awards or for the student paper competition. Rachel urged the faculty members among us to encourage their students to submit applications.

In Career Awards, this year Bob Shaw received an award for Service to the Association.

Elections: Rachel Mason reported for the Election Committee. Aron Crowell is the Association's new president. The new board members are Daniel Monteith and Amy Steffian. There was an excellent voter turnout, resulting in 92 ballots. Noting that this might have been at least partly the result of having ballots mailed separately from the newsletter, Rachel suggested that we consider doing the elections this way in the future.

New president Aron Crowell took over the meeting at this point, and stand-in Rachel Mason gratefully sat down. Aron thanked outgoing president Polly Wheeler and retiring board members Alan Boraas and Rachel Mason for their service, as well as Liz Williams for her work as interim treasurer. There was a round of appreciative applause for Dan Odess, and to the UA Museum, for hosting a successful conference.

Dan Odess gave a preliminary report on the meetings. Registration total was 204, including 188 paid registrants and 16 volunteer workers who were allowed to attend gratis. There were 116 papers and 12 posters. Ninety-nine meals were served at the banquet dinner, and 100 lunches served. (At the end of the business meeting, one of the attendees complained that the meals were sold out before some paid guests had gotten to their food. Dan explained that three days before the conference, the kitchen had to have a number of meals to prepare. He had to guess at how many people would attend, and apparently more people ate than he had estimated.)

Alaska Anthropological Association Board Minutes

Rachel Mason said that the 2008 meetings will be held in Anchorage at the downtown Hilton Hotel, February 28-March 1. The meeting organizer is Polly Wheeler, assisted by a multi-agency group loosely known as “Women in Subsistence,” although we hope a few men will help out too.

Dan Monteith presented a proposal for University of Alaska Southeast to host the 2009 meetings in Juneau. So far, UAS has submitted the only proposal, and but Aron wanted to make sure there was no one else vying to host for that year. Based on his experience in Fairbanks, Dan Odess strongly suggested that the Association decide on dates and meeting venue as soon as possible. He found that that hotel and other conference location schedules tend to be locked up years in advance. A vote to see how many people would support a meeting in Juneau showed that support was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at about 4:00 p.m.

Alaska Anthropological Association Board Minutes

Minutes from March 26, 2007

Amy Steffian, Secretary

In attendance - President Aron Crowell; Board Members - Lisa Frink (by phone), Owen Mason, Daniel Odess (by phone), and Amy Steffian (by phone); and Ken Pratt, who was invited to participate in discussions about journal production. Board Member Daniel Montieth (by phone) joined the meeting at 10:35 am.

I. Call to order – Aron called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

II. Election of board secretary

Aron asked for volunteers to act as board secretary for one year – to take and distribute meeting notes. Lisa and Amy both offered to fill this role. Lisa deferred to Amy.

III. Approval of minutes from board meeting, March 17, 2007, Fairbanks

Approval of minutes for AAA business meeting, March 17, 2006, Fairbanks

Lisa requested a change in the minutes from the March 17, 2007 board meeting in Fairbanks. On the bottom of the first page she noted that she had not recommended that the association pay a treasurer. On the second page of the business meeting minutes, also from March 17, 2007 in Fairbanks, Lisa asked if there had actually been a straw vote about electronic membership. Those present at the meeting agreed this had not happened and it should be removed from the minutes. As Amy does not have copies of these meeting minutes, Aron will make the requested changes. **(editor's note: these changes were not made in the minutes printed in newsletter)**. Owen moved to approve both set of minutes as amended and Lisa seconded. There were no objections. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

IV. Items to be added to the agenda

Aron asked whether the board wanted to add a discussion about the proposal to have the 2009 meetings in Juneau to the agenda. Amy suggested waiting till the next board meeting, as Dan M., who developed the proposal, was not present to participate in the discussion. Aron will add this item to the agenda for the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

IV. Reports and discussion

A. Web site bids (brief review) – Lisa Frink

Lisa provided a brief review of current bids to create a new association web site and how these bids were solicited. She noted that in discussions with many association members at the Fairbanks meetings she had encountered no resistance to the development of a new web site and the proposed change from a paper to an electronic newsletter. Lisa said that although the proposal submitted by TIC seems reasonable and includes the services the association needs, she would like to get a couple of additional estimates, as TIC's bid is the only one with a price attached. Amy agreed that this would be a good idea, as she felt the price from TIC was high based on experience with similar work. Owen suggested contacting other associations like the aaa with nice web sites to learn who does their web work. Lisa noted that it was important to find a company that can provide long-term service, one that can stick with the association through changes in board members.

Amy moved to direct Lisa to get at least one more bid, with the assistance of information provided by other board members. Dan O. seconded the motion, amending it to add that the objective should be to select a service provider by the next board meeting. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Memo to Board (3/19/07) re: Journal production – Dan Odess

Aron asked Dan O. to review the major points of his memo regarding changes to journal production. Dan O. summarized his five major suggestions as follows:

1. Hire a production editor to handle the logistics of production and leave the intellectual part to the editor;
2. Use a competitive bid process to select a printer;
3. Require the *AJA* editorial board to meet in conjunction with annual meeting at set time that doesn't conflict with other events;
4. Establish a calendar year membership program to simplify subscription tracking;
5. Set Term limits and a process for a smooth transition to a new editor.

Aron opened the conversation by asking board members to comment on Dan's first recommendation – the hiring of a production editor. Owen said he would like to bring *AJA* production costs down, but expressed concern for the apparently low cost of copy editing in the quote Dan O. provided. He suggested that the complexities of copy editing the *AJA*, particularly when issues contain manuscripts by multiple authors, might require more funds. Dan O. noted that the copy editing quote he obtained was based on an industry standard of \$3 a page, adjusted to \$5-6 a page for the greater level of sophistication presented by the journal. Dan O. also noted that a clear set of preparation standards for authors could help the journal avoid costly preparation fees. Owen noted that the current layout costs were not based on Frank's (the production contractor) hourly rate, but were established at the outset of the journal.

Aron asked if a production editor would do layout and design work as well as copy editing. Dan said he envisioned that when Owen was pleased with the contents of a volume, he would send the materials to the production editor, who would do the preliminary layout and send it to a copy editor. Then, the copy editor would check for consistency, and send queries to Owen about things that were unclear. Owen and Amy both responded that such queries should directly go back to the authors, as is done with other journals like *Arctic Anthropology*.

Dan noted that the production editor and the copy editor would be two different people, with different skill sets. Aron asked if the production editor would work with the copy editor. Discussion ensued about the logistics of production. Owen noted the need for consistency in the editing process between volumes. Aron asked each board member to comment on the issue of hiring a production editor. Dan M. shared his gratitude for the hard work done on the journal in the past and said that it was a good idea to continue to move it a professional direction by contracting our services and relying less on volunteers.

Amy agreed with Dan M. and added that by linking subscription to membership, the association had an even greater responsibility to control production costs and professionalize the process. Owen said he had no problem with the idea in theory, particularly if it reduced his work. However, he was not sure it would reduce his work. He noted that one of the biggest problems is getting authors and reviewers to provide better products. Lisa said that the more professional the journal gets, the more leverage we will have in telling authors to clean up their work. She added that we want to set up a good production system that will transcend editors.

Owen suggested finding a University Press to create a long-term production arrangement with, as this is the way most journals are published. Aron noted that the *AJA* is presently too small for the UA Press to carry. He noted, however, that Erica Hill had expressed an interest in volunteering to help with subscriptions – both individual and institutional contracting.

Aron asked for a motion about a production manager. Lisa moved to seek a production editor, whether private or university press based. Dan M. seconded the motion, amending it to include the search for a copy editor as well. The motion passed, with Owen abstaining from the vote. Dan O. asked if it would be appropriate to obtain help from Erica Hill, Senior Editor at the UA Press, in writing the bids for these services. Board members agreed that this was appropriate.

V. Old Business

Aron briefly discussed a draft ballot he developed to mail to association members about combining membership with journal subscriptions. Dan O. asked how prior two-year memberships would be handled under the new system. Aron responded they would be prorated. Dan M. asked if the association had any lifetime members. Aron responded that there was just one and that this membership would be fully honored. Dan O. asked when the new membership program would start. Aron said it would begin on January 1st, 2008. Dan M. moved to accept Aron's ballot as written and Owen seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Pratt noted that calendar year memberships may be hard for some people to remember, as many association members pay their dues at annual meeting time. He suggested sending people reminder cards. Amy noted that this could be done by email broadcast. Owen asked if people would balk at the cost of a partner membership? Lisa said she didn't think so, as it was a money saving deal. Aron will get the ballot sent out to the association membership. Lisa had to leave the meeting at this point and gave her proxy to Dan O.

Aron asked the board for input on how to proceed with the next issue of the AJA. Should we continue to work with Frank on this issue or seek a production editor now? By staying with the current system, the issue would be released on time, but within the current cost structure – about \$10,000. Discussion ensued about the time frame for releasing the next issue, its contents, and printing options. Owen noted that printing costs could probably be reduced to save some money on the issue. Aron proposed that we go with Frank and reduce the printing cost to stay on schedule for a June publication. Dan noted that if we held off a bit on production and hired a production editor, we could like publish the issue in July at a cost savings.

Dan O. motioned to hire a production editor to work on the next issue. Amy seconded the motion. Aron took a roll call vote. Amy, Dan M., Dan O. and Lisa (via proxy by Dan O.) voted yes. Owen voted no. The motion passed.

Aron asked Dan O. to get Erica's help in soliciting bids for the next issue, based on back issues of the AJA. Dan agreed and asked how many quotes to obtain. Board members agreed that three would be appropriate. Owen asked if there would be three quotes for each job – lay out, copy editing, and printing. Aron suggested we start with the production editor first. Dan will put together the specifications, Aron will distribute them to the board for review, then Dan will solicit bids. Aron and Owen will work out an interview process.

VI. New Business

- A. Plan/committee assignments for hire of managing editor, if approved – deferred to next meeting.
- B. Appointment of treasurer – deferred to next meeting.
- C. Board meeting schedule for 2007 - Aron will find a date for the next board meeting.

VII. Adjournment - Aron adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 241686
Anchorage, AK 99524-1686

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