

**Alaska Anthropological Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, April 21, 2011, 12-2:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order, Kerry Feldman

II. Present: Jenya Anichtchenko, Joan Dale, Monty Rogers, Kerry Feldman, Aron Crowell, Rita Eagle. Robin Mills was present by conference call. Karlene Leeper was unable to attend. Rita Eagle maintained minutes of the meeting.

III. Review of Minutes from the March 10, 2011 Board Meeting (Conference, Fairbanks) brought up a number of discussion items:

1. Feldman requested that board members review the mission statement, by-laws, and articles of incorporation of the association that were handed out at the meeting. These are available on our website.
2. There was some further discussion of the desire for the board to organize the documentary materials in the storage locker and present them to the archives in Fairbanks.
3. Feldman said he would follow-up to ensure that those who made donations for the conference are thanked in writing.
4. There was a discussion of creating a set of conference planning documents to assist future conference organizers. Feldman offered to interview the 2011 organizers and begin the process. Crowell suggested a conference organizers' checklist.

It was also suggested that next year's conference supply evaluation forms to attendees.

It was pointed out that there should perhaps be two organizing committees for the conferences—a Host Committee, which secures the venue and deals with registration and meals, and a Program Committee, which would be in charge of soliciting and organizing presentations.

5. The Stephanie Ludwig Memorial Scholarship was addressed. Although it is described on the website, there are still details to work out. Joan Dale offered to gather information regarding the original goals and intent of the scholarship for the board's review and discussion with Owen Mason.

The student awards from the conference were discussed. It was pointed out that different judging criteria were used in 2008 and 2011 for the Edwin S. Hall, Jr. Student Paper Competition, i.e. Rita Eagle was not given an award in 2008 because there was only one entry, but an award was given in 2011 under the same circumstances. Crowell suggested

the matter should be re-visited, and he will provide documentation. Changes were recommended to the policy, which will be based on merit only.

Feldman asked for the names of committee memberships for the awards. There are three committees: Professional Awards, Scholarships, Student Papers. Some committee members have served for a long time and would like to step down. Feldman wants the committee members to promote the awards as well as judge them. He will identify new members willing to serve and present them to the board for approval. Awards should be made with the advice and consent of the board. Feldman suggested that a good reform to undertake would be to regularize the award process.

7. The minutes were approved.

IV. Reports and Discussion

1. Financial Report

Income since January 1, 2011	\$50,684
Income after Conference Expenses	\$12,450
Bank account balance	\$45,391
Vanguard Investments balance	\$97,858

Members 228

2011 Conference					
		238 attendees			
	income	\$300	donations		
		\$2,200	donations outstanding		
		\$27,248	conference fees		
	total	\$29,748			
	expenses	\$24,610			
	net conference income	\$5,138			

Looking at the number of members, Feldman offered to contact faculty around the state to encourage student membership. Also discussed was the ability of the job opportunity/conference section of the website, "Events and Opportunities," to attract attention. Rita Eagle said she will try to update it, although it is set up for members of the community to post their own announcements. The Office of History and Archaeology has access to the archaeology firms around the state, who can be solicited

for members. Joan Dale and Jenya Anichtchenko offered to form a committee to recruit professional membership. Jenya noted that museum docents would probably be interested.

Joan Dale pointed out that the AAA funds could be put to better use. One use which was discussed was the idea of travel scholarships to assist student members to the 2012 conference in Seattle. Crowell said that Museums Alaska offers 12 travel scholarships. They are presented as assistance to professional training. They are not offered in a fixed amount. Members make application—they must be presenting a paper, may be bringing back information to their respective organizations, and must outline a travel budget, requesting a specific amount. Awards are based on a combination of need and merit.

Joan Dale moved that we consider options on spending AAA funds. Ideas should be submitted to Feldman and will be discussed at the next board meeting. Seconded and passed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

2. The Alaska Journal of Anthropology

The need to catch up on the publication schedule was discussed. Joan Dale questioned the need for two issues per volume.

Feldman suggested a student assistant for communications, or an editorial assistant. Owen Mason will be queried regarding what kind of assistance he might want.

3. Newsletter

It was pointed out that the newsletter is not redundant to the journal, or aaa website, as it provides more topical information.

It was agreed that business information, such as votes, should be sent out separately from the newsletter in order to have the most impact.

The board decided to remove the board minutes from the newsletter, as not being of interest. They are posted on the website.

Information about grants and scholarships is still a vital function of the newsletter.

Richard Stern's latest publications of interest is also an appreciated function.

Rather than going with all print or continuing with all electronic, there was discussion regarding making the newsletter "print on demand." The board would like to see an option offered on the membership renewal form. Rita Eagle was tasked with finding out how much the website/store change would cost, also how much mailing the newsletter would cost.

Pursuing the possibility of changing to “print on demand” newsletters was moved and seconded, and passed.

V. Old Business

Seattle 2012 conference proposal

Having the conference in Seattle has already been approved. The Seattle organizers will make their own decision regarding the venue.

In order to ensure good attendance, it was suggested that promotion should be a priority:

1. Poster?
2. Direct email to members and professionals in the lower 48.
3. Announcements in Seattle.

VI. New Business

1. Crystal Glassburn’s suggestion that we offer t-shirts or mugs with the AAA raven logo was discussed. She should investigate the options, create a proposal, and bring it before the board. Moved and seconded, passed.

2. Monty Rogers had some concerns about conference registration. The ineffectiveness of the present “early registration” cut-off date was discussed by Rogers and Rita Eagle, who already plans to change the date and the cut-off next year to make it more effective for the conference organizers.

He also voiced the organizers’ frustrations over the narrow gap between the abstract deadline for presenters and the newsletter deadline for the organizers.

Rogers also pointed out that the on-line conference registration form won’t accept foreign (i.e. Canadian) zip codes. Rita Eagle said she would take care of that.

3. ACZ

Monty Rogers is the new President. ACZ would like to have their funds (which are presently in the AAA account) to open a bank account in the ACZ name, with the AAA tax id number on the account. Rita Eagle offered to talk to the accountant regarding this proposal. She also suggested that if this were not possible, a separate accounting of ACZ funds within the AAA books would be feasible.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm