

Alaska Anthropological Association
Board Meeting
June 13, 2012
12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Present: Kerry Feldman, Monty Rogers, Jenya Anichenko, Rita Eagle
Via Phone Conference: Jeff Rasic, April Laktonen Counciller, Robin Mills

II. Minutes

The Board approved Minutes from February 3 and March 1.

III. Treasurer's Report

A. The Board reviewed the Profit and Loss statement, year to date.

B. The Board also reviewed the following figures:

Members:
263 total

77 students
4 lifetime
26 institutional
27 foreign

In Alaska USA Checking Account:
\$45,170

In Vanguard Investment Account:
\$196,410

C. There were questions about the insurance payment of \$750. The Board requested a detailed accounting of what the insurance policy covered.

D. The Board also requested that the treasurer should include a statement of income for the Vanguard account in the treasurer's report. It was reiterated that the Board would like to speak with a Vanguard representative about changing the mix of stocks and bonds for the Vanguard account.

IV. Old Business

Monty Rogers brought up the topic of out of print issues of Aurora. Three volumes are out of print, II- Lake Minchumina Prehistory, IV-Late Prehistoric Development, and V-The Hidden Falls Site. Monty has created a scannable PDF of IV- Late Prehistoric Development. There is a consensus that we would like to offer these volumes on the website as downloadable PDFs. No one at the meeting had looked at the PDF Monty

sent out, so he offered to send it out again. Last March the Board voted to charge \$12.00 for a download. This project is continuing.

V. New Business

This meeting was called primarily in order to review the application for co-editorship of the Alaska Journal of Anthropology by Ken Pratt and Erica Hill and discuss the terms of their editorship.

A. It was agreed that they would be given a three year term to begin, with optional renewal, by both sides, at the end of that time. They will be appointed by the President, Kerry Feldman, upon the advice of the Board. **(It was subsequently pointed out that the term limit set by the bylaws is two years.)**

Jenya raised the question of probation. It was determined that this will be covered by the three-year term length, with optional mutually determined renewal after that.

There were no reservations expressed regarding their application. The Board agreed that “respectful communication and amicable relationships” with contributors were of paramount importance.

B. Ken Pratt and Erica Hill joined the discussion via telephone conference.

They stated that they were well aware that AJA is behind in its publishing schedule and they have plans for catching that up. Erica stated that one reason AJA is behind is that there are not enough submissions. They desire to expand the regions represented to include other circumpolar research, if there are parallels to Alaskan research. They also desire to broaden the disciplinary focus, which is too often merely archaeological. Ken has cultural contacts and colleagues to call on.

Arctic Anthropology has a circumpolar focus, but there is enough research out there to support two journals. Erica stated that AJA can promise a faster turnaround on publication than Arctic Anthropology because of the present dearth of articles, and this may be very attractive to those wishing to submit their research for publication.

Upon being asked about whether the AJA Mission Statement needs to be revised, they said that they intend to do that. Ken and Erica said they could do that by August.

Ken stated that they should be able to work on multiple issues at one time rather than scrambling to fill one.

Kerry asked if the papers need to be clearly linked to Alaskan themes or research. Erica said that the authors may be required to include explanation of how they are related. Some links may be more obvious than others.

Notes from the Editors, such as introduction, revisions to mission statement, situating papers in the larger context, would be a welcome addition. Perhaps every other issue.

Jenya asked about strategies for expanding the focus of the journal. Ken has agency contacts and colleagues and Erica has contacts and colleagues who are university-related. Furthermore, Erica attends many conferences and often sees international papers that would be appropriate. Ken can encourage agency people who don't necessarily think of publishing. They also stated that they would like the Editorial Board to be reconstituted to include people who can pull in papers. They will be relied upon to assist in soliciting papers.

Both groups concurred that better communications are important.

Both are attending this year's Inuit Studies Conference and plan to do a marketing push to solicit contributions.

Kerry stated that it would be important to include Alaska Natives on the Editorial Board. Ken concurred, with the caveat that the Editorial Board must be constituted of people who are actively involved in publishing, whether Native or not. The Editorial Board selections will be made by the Editors. They would like more communications between the Editors and the Alaska Anthro Board.

Erica's comments on better communications included the possibility of regular updates to the Board and membership via a column or letter in the Newsletter. Also there should be reports at the end of the editorial year. This should help cement awareness that AJA is the journal of aaa.

Kerry suggested that they could send a bi-annual separate newsletter/email to the membership.

Kerry emphasized the theme of respectful communication and amicable relationships with contributors, with the awareness that publishing always creates some hard feelings. Ken and Erica stated that better management of the publication time-line and timely communication can help alleviate some of these bad feelings. They will create a database or spreadsheet to facilitate production efficiency, such as keeping track of reviewers, thanks, etc.

Monty commented that he had seen an Australian journal that includes abstracts from students' theses and dissertations published in the back pages. He would like to see that in the AJA. His suggestion was met with enthusiastic approval.

Kerry will write a letter of appointment which will cover three years, with an option to renew for an unlimited number of three-year terms.

Monty brought up the issue of marketing for institutional subscriptions, and offered to help with any ventures in that direction.

Kerry said that aaa is willing to pay a student intern. (Last year we paid Erica Hill \$1000 for copy editing.)

Owen Mason is working on a Yukon issue, to be finished this year.

C. Other New Business

1. Jenya asked about having a meeting with Aron Crowell and Ken Pratt about next year's conference, which will be the association's 40th, and held in Anchorage at the Captain Cook Hotel. Because many Board members will be out of town during July, there may be a casual meeting held.
2. Jenya and April agreed to be co-administrators of an Association Facebook page, in an effort to reach younger members.
3. We decided to continue meeting at noon, to ease attendance for those with small children. At the fall meeting, we need to talk about ideas for the Tom Eidel Bequest.