

**Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference
General Business Meeting Minutes
Saturday, March 18, 2017
Virginia Beach, Virginia**

The Meeting began at 7:35

Approval of Minutes: President Sanford moved to have the 2016 Business Meeting minutes approved. The motion was 2nded and approved.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Moore: discussed 4 different accounts, and said that the student endowment fund has \$22,160, and had received a \$100 donation today. Kurt Carr explained that this is a fund to support students attending the MAAC. Funds are invested in a money market fund. There are 2 active accounts to manage: one for the conference, with \$11,788.24; and, one for the organization, with \$13,126.52. The conferences usually break even, though last year the conference lost \$93 or so. MAAC doesn't spend a lot of money; like 4 checks a year.

Membership Secretary's Report

Eleanor Breen: Eleanor thanked Faye Stocum, MAAC's past and long-term Membership Secretary, for help in the transition and for years of careful record keeping. There are 264 members (as of 12/31/16), an increase of 19 over 2015. Only 30 or so members elected to receive the pdf version of journal. She asked the membership to please note the electronic selection opportunity for the journal, it saves MAAC money.

Conference Reports

Conference Program – Mike Barber and Lauren McMillan. There were approximately 125 papers. This without soliciting people for more submissions. Lauren did well with social media; that presence has increased. That, plus the email list, helped with outreach to membership for membership and submissions. Doug Sanford prompted about deadline concerns. MAAC received a number of post-deadline submissions. Late submittals forced rescheduling for the conference. There were 15 or so of these. The consensus of the meeting was that we should be stricter with the deadline. Also some abstracts were too long. Roger Moeller suggested that a strong social media presence may help with timeliness. Some suggested an early false deadline to allow for a grace period. Doug Sanford argued against that, favoring sticking with a hard deadline, since we won't lose many submissions. It was pointed out we've bent in the past, but we can just agree to "bite the bullet" next year and make due with fewer papers. The meeting extended its thanks to the program chairs.

Local Arrangements – Mike Clem. Mike Clem said he likes the hotel layout. There is a good space for the bookroom. There was some trouble with the heat. Also a hot water issue, and problems with room door locks. However, the hotel maintenance staff was

responsive. There was a feeling that the bar was understaffed and very slow. The conference extended its thanks to Mike Clem.

Registration – Kurt Carr. There was a 10% increase in conference registration, including some walk-ins. There were some presenters who didn't pay. Doug Sanford said that they will be contacted. The conference has rules about not showing and not paying. The sense of the meeting was to be a bit stricter on this issue. The conference extends its thanks to Kurt Carr.

Student Sponsorships – Greg Lattanzi. There were 34 sponsored students. A total of 38 members paid sponsorships for student attendance. The meeting extended its thanks to the supporters.

Student Paper competition – Mike Klein. There were 15-20 papers to start, but there were some who withdrew, including 3 who promised but didn't complete a paper. There were 3 graduate and 4 undergraduate papers, as well as 3 posters. There was a question about how can MAAC can increase the number of entries that get completed. There was a suggestion that the student committee could help encourage this.

Operations & Committee Reports

Student Committee – Allie Crowder (Social Media). This was the 3rd year for this committee and it is increasing in size. They are thankful for Board support. Their following is increasing, to over 200. They receive lots of questions through FaceBook about things like conference registration. In cooperation with MAAC professionals, they reviewed 12 resumes at this year's conference, and held a coffee hour with MAAC's President and President-elect with 30 students. A student raffle was ongoing. The Student Committee chair offered thanks for book donations to that raffle. A question was raised whether MAAC should create a budget for this committee. This would cover small expenses like fliers, supplies, sodas and snacks for events. Board members present favored this. The question was put to the membership, with a motion for a budget of \$300. This was approved. The conference extended its thanks to Allie Crowder.

Holmes-Gardner Committee & Awards Committee – Carole Nash. She said there was no lifetime award this year. Instructions for awards will go on the website. NB: the award presented to Elizabeth Crowell later in the evening was intended to be a surprise, so was not mentioned during the business meeting.

Sea Level Rise & Storm Surge Committee – Mike Barber, Carole Nash. There is a well-written statement about the issue on the MAAC website. The Committee is preparing a website that will act as a clearinghouse for information including responses to climate change and sea level rise in the Mid Atlantic. There is to be a presentation at the upcoming SAA in April. They are working with a committee comprising archaeologists from all over the world, of which Mike Barber is the chair.

Journal and Website – Roger Moeller. There is presently no backlog of submitted articles, though many have been promised. There was surprise that so few members want the pdf version of the journal. The pdf version arrives 6 weeks ahead of print version. Roger advised the membership to please check their Paypal address when paying, and to also update their email. There are few back issues available in paper. Roger noted that the

student paper winner doesn't receive the cash prize until they submit their paper for publication.

An issue with the website was raised; some members couldn't access google docs. Also, html registration wasn't working well. There was a suggestion that perhaps google docs should be revisited, and that some people don't read the whole conference page and so miss key information.

Doug Sanford moved to appoint a committee to review website issues with registration and membership. This motion was seconded and approved by the membership. Members Roger Moeller, Eleanor Breen, Lauren McMillan, Elizabeth Moore, and Mike Klein agreed to serve on the committee.

Old Business

Items briefly discussed included:

Online conference abstract submission, registration (MAAC's website)

Membership, Receipt of JMAA as PDF or hard copy

Student Committee chair to become a member of the Executive Board (1-year term, with vote) motion (2016).

New Business

MAAC is providing a letter of commendation for Eve Gregory, and in honor of her late husband Lefty, for her efforts in preserving the Hatch Site collections, which have been donated to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. MAAC's commendation letter of thanks was delivered to Eve Gregory at the conference session on the Hatch site.

Nominations/Elections for Board Positions (2018): MAAC seeks nominations for President elect, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Interested members were advised to volunteer or become nominated.

Conference registration fees (before & at the meeting): \$45 (\$50 at door), \$35 and \$40 for students.

2018 Meeting venue (to date: there is an offer from Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Ocean City, MD). It was suggested that someone should go and evaluate. Consensus that membership wants to come back to current hotel. Doug Sanford felt that if MAAC meets in Virginia Beach again, the conference should go north the following year. There was a motion to return to Virginia Beach in 2018, then meet farther north in 2019. Motion carried.

Announcements

There will be a MAAC session at SAA in DC in 2018. The call for papers is May to September. Meeting had the sense that MAAC should support this. There was a motion to nominate Carole Nash and Heather to organize symposium, but without financial obligation. Motion passed.

Date range for conference next year: Mid-March was the consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.