

Minutes
ARLIS/NA Central Plains Business Meeting
Friday, May 29, 2009
Rose State College, Oklahoma City, OK

Present: Tori Gregory, Tom Young, Ellen Urton, Phil Jones, Lois Crane, M. J. Poehler, Suzy Frechette, Mikael Kriz, Mari Russell, Susan Bobo

Tori Gregory welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:15.

Old Business

Fall 2008 Business Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Sept. 19, 2008, business meeting were reviewed. Ellen Urton had recorded the minutes, substituting for Mikael Kriz. Typographical errors were identified. A motion to accept the minutes with corrections was seconded; motion carried. Ellen will correct the document and send to M. J.

Treasurer's Report

M. J. Poehler thanked Mikael Kriz for preparing the treasurer's report. The following information was reported:

Balance as of Sept. 16, 2008: \$2629.90

Total income: \$258.00

Total expense: \$257.51

Balance as of May 28, 2009: \$2630.39

Membership Report

M. J. Poehler reported that Central Plains chapter currently has 9 lifetime members; annual membership dues for 2009 for 6 individuals have been received to date; and there are 51 contacts on the "extended" mailing list, which includes both members and non-member individuals in library roles in art and architecture in our region. Central Plains Chapter has two new members: Phillip Jones, from the University of Arkansas Fine Arts Library, and Joyce Norris, from the Wichita Art Museum.

Report on Chapter Leaders' Breakfast, ARLIS/NA Annual Conference

Suzy Frechette represented Central Plains Chapter at the chapter leaders' meeting in Indianapolis. Suzy reported that Vanessa Kam, from the University of British Columbia Library, is the current Chapters Liaison on the Executive Board; Vanessa requests to be notified of plans for chapter meetings.

Nancy Short spoke at the leaders' breakfast. Nancy is association and conference manager for the new management firm, Technical Enterprises, Inc. (TEI). Since the change to TEI is recent, Nancy Short had not had time to learn much about ARLIS yet. TEI makes intensive use of technology to deliver membership services.

Suzy reported that the meeting agenda was not completed. The Chapter Success book was not discussed; chapter officers are strongly encouraged to review it. Other topics not addressed: special funding, communication (with executive board and other chapters), and building membership.

Tori thanked Suzy for attending the meeting.

Report on Executive Board Meeting of ARLIS/NA

Central Plains chapter-member Marilyn Russell is vice president - president elect of ARLIS/NA and will become president of the organization in April, 2010, at the Boston conference. Mari attended her first executive board meeting in Indianapolis. Mari reports learning a lot from the excellent leadership of Amy Lucker, current president, and Ken Soehner, past president. There is a tremendous amount of e-mail traffic in carrying out the business of the executive board.

ARLIS/NA's transition to the new management firm, TEI, is complete. The website is now with TEI. Memberclicks functionality will be transitioned to another service; the transition should be transparent to the membership.

Nancy Short, TEI association and conference manager, and the executive board are negotiating for different contract terms for the 2010 conference hotel in Boston. An announcement has been published to ARLIS/NA members seeking participation in the 2010 annual conference. This year there will be a change in how the programming for the annual conference is planned. Program proposals will be reviewed, followed by a call for moderators on the topics selected. The moderators will put together the presenters.

Mari will be in attendance when the Conference Planning Advisory Committee meets in mid-July at the conference hotel in Boston.

Mari distributed a handout titled "Chapter Wishlist for TEI", created by Vanessa Kam, chapters liaison. It is a draft form of a survey to be distributed to chapter chairs, addressing the possible services that chapters might be able to obtain from TEI; for example, webhosting, listservs, collection of chapter dues and virtual conferences. It is planned to survey the chapter chairs via the web to collect information on what services the chapters would be interested in. CP Members will have an opportunity to send ideas to Tori for inclusion in the survey response from Central Plains chapter.

Mari has been impressed with TEI, an accredited management firm, and with the transition to TEI.

Other ARLIS/NA Conference Highlights

There was brief discussion of the Indianapolis conference. The consensus was that it was well run, with great tours and programming. There were 377 attendees. Many events were located conveniently close to the conference hotel.

New Business

Lois Crane's Retirement

In February, 2009, Lois Crane was honored at a reception upon her retirement from 31 years of service at the Wichita Art Museum. Central Plains members Mari Russell, Tom Young, and Susan Craig attended the reception at the Museum. Susan addressed the guests, remarking on Lois's longstanding active involvement in ARLIS/NA and her significant accomplishments. Tori presented a card and gift to Lois from Central Plains chapter.

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Website

Mikael Kriz proposed several changes to the chapter website, including a new look and changes in functionality. Mikael distributed a handout illustrating a redesigned Central Plains logo, similar to the current one, but including the full name of the chapter (as opposed to just the acronym). All appreciated the new, crisper design as an improvement. Mikael reported that his redesign of the website's graphic content is progressing. He distributed a color handout showing the home page layout. The proposed changes will not significantly affect the website's structure. The new home page design will include photographs of Central Plains members' libraries. Three images will be featured at a time, with images to rotate occasionally. Mikael asks members to send him jpg images of their libraries with captions for use on the chapter home page.

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Blog

Mikael has set up a blog called 'News and Notes' at arlisnacp.wordpress.com. The purpose of the blog is to convey announcements, by members, for public dissemination-- such as changes in library hours, announcements of meeting dates, etc. As proposed, only members will be able to post content to the blog, through a generic log in, but the blog will be available for public viewing. Mikael will establish an RSS feed that will link the blog to the chapter website. With the RSS feed, a member can change the content of the website by contributing to the blog, without having access to the website server. The website will have a 'News and Notes' link; clicking on the link will show headlines from the blog. Clicking on the headline will take you to the blog where you'll see the full entry.

Given the proposal for a blog, there was discussion on the future of the chapter newsletter. Will the blog replace the newsletter? The consensus of the group was that the newsletter will continue with more in-depth articles on people and their activities, as opposed to the blog, which would be for relatively brief announcements. People not interested in the blog will still have the option of submitting items to the newsletter editor, who could post to the blog. At this time, the newsletter is viewed as a more permanent record of the chapter's and members' activities.

Currently the website is hosted at St. Louis University at <http://libraries.slu.edu/arlisna-cp/>. There was discussion of the possibility of switching the hosting to TEI. Our current understanding is that there would not be a charge for chapter webhosting. On the pro side, a TEI-hosted site would provide stability and continuity through changes in webmaster or the webmaster's institution (for example, if Mikael were to leave SLU). The consensus was to continue at SLU, and watch the performance of TEI for a year, keeping the possibility of TEI webhosting in mind.

Mikael plans to set up a member database. The secretary-treasurer will have access to it and be able to change a member's status, which would automatically update the website. To initiate the database, M. J. Poehler will send Mikael an updated member list as a Word document for posting to the present website.

M. J. Poehler moved and Suzy Frechette seconded to accept the website redesign proposed by Mikael Kriz. Motion passed.

Tom Young moved and Suzy Frechette seconded to initiate a chapter blog, with ability to post limited to members. Motion passed.

Mikael estimated that the re-designed website will go up in 4 to 8 weeks. The blog will become active at that time and will have a feed to the website. Further discussion clarified that official communication will still go out via email from the secretary-treasurer, who will also post the content to the blog.

Other Business

Tori Gregory noted the availability of free applications such as Skype for conference calls with video over the Internet. There was general discussion of the potential usefulness of such applications for conducting Central Plains business. The discussion was tabled, and there is no action planned at this time.

Tori noted that at the September, 2008, meeting, there was discussion of whether to hold one annual chapter meeting, or stay with the current practice of two meetings per year. At that meeting a motion passed to conduct a straw poll of the CP membership via e-mail on this question. The straw poll has not yet been conducted. It was decided that M. J. will construct a survey through www.SurveyMonkey.com; all listed on the 'extended' mailing list will be invited to respond. The survey will ask whether the respondent is a member or not, and will seek an opinion as to the appropriate number of meetings per year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by M. J. Poehler, Secretary-Treasurer