

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Fall 2020 Chapter Meeting (Virtual)
November 6, 2020
10AM

Present: Jenny Akins, Andi Back, Susan Craig, Andrea Degener (past chair), Lora Farrell (communications officer), Suzy Frechette, Stefanie Hilles (chapters liaison, ARLIS/NA), Kris Impastato, Phil Jones (secretary/treasurer), Skye Lacerte (vice-chair/chair-elect), Megan Macken, Amelia Nelson, Katrina Windon (chair)

Windon began the meeting at 10:04AM. She acknowledged two new members of the chapter, Megan Macken and Kris Impastato. Windon reminded everyone to vote for the two open officer positions.

Jones mentioned that the membership and bank balance remained unchanged from the report that he had distributed in early October (addendum.) He also reported that he had submitted form 990-N to the IRS in late October.

Windon asked members to contact her if they wished to serve on the Susan V. Craig Travel Award Committee to support the participation of an officer (or officers) at the 49th Annual Conference of ARLIS/NA.

Windon opened the floor to Hilles for updates from ARLIS/NA. Hilles reported that the society has a new management company, McKenna. She had met the new executive director, Cambria Happ, and referred to a recent message on the society's discussion list that gave the names of the various contacts at McKenna and their roles. The board plans to address bundled membership with McKenna soon. A more granular approach to categories of membership should be possible, as well as direct deposit. Hilles expects that McKenna will provide prompt updates to chapters regarding the payment of dues and membership. The board has not made a final decision on the status of the 49th Annual Conference.

Nelson addressed the *The Irregular*, the chapter's newsletter, which has not been published recently. Three persons expressed strong interest in a new issue. Nelson will proceed with requesting updates from members and possibly seek assistance with writing.

Windon led a discussion on modifying the chapter's bylaws to make an explicit category for membership in the chapter without membership in the parent organization. Several members expressed the importance of keeping the chapter accessible to individuals who seek professional development but may be unable to join ARLIS/NA. Hilles cited the Mid-Atlantic chapter's bylaws as a model to consider should Central Plains decide to codify an "associate" or "affiliate" member. Windon invited parties interested in drafting a change to do so and submit the proposal to the chapter's executive committee.

The chapter discussed potential approaches to diversity, equity, and inclusion that the chapter could take and specific activities at the various libraries represented within the chapter that could be adopted or inspire similar work. Most attendees contributed to the discussion. Specific areas included reviewing descriptions of collections and the language through which one accesses them (e.g., antiquated subject headings), auditing collections for diversity, surveying students on their experiences and perspectives, reviewing recruitment and hiring of personnel, casting a broader net in selecting materials published/sold outside mainstream venues, and supporting individuals from underrepresented groups who are interested in librarianship. More theoretical approaches were also reported, including promoting racial justice and dismantling white supremacy. Several questions and comments indicated

the importance of having a vision with objectives for this work and keeping initiatives sustainable. Given the latter point and the challenges of the size of the chapter—large in geography and small in population—it was agreed that reaching out to neighboring chapters as potential partners could offer synergy and a stronger pool of labor to develop initiatives and keep them afloat. Hilles noted that both chapters in California had worked together on DEI and reminded Central Plains of central funding from ARLIS/NA for these activities. Back stressed the importance of moving beyond exploration to enact meaningful change. Windon will make available a Google Doc for the chapter to share local practices and ideas for the chapter to pursue.

Windon adjourned the meeting at 10:55AM, at which time attendees began a discussion of their experiences of the pandemic and institutional responses.

Addendum

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Chapter Report of Secretary/Treasurer, September 30, 2020

Treasury

Balance on May 1	\$4560.03
Total Income	\$80.00
Total Expenses	
Balance on Sept 30	\$4640.03

Income included three bundled renewals (\$60) and one “direct” renewal by check (\$20). The chapter had no expenses.

Membership

Central Plains has 15 lifetime and 12 annual members, for a total of 27.

Current Members

Akins, Jennifer	Washington University in Saint Louis
Back, Andrea (Andi)	University of Kansas
Besaw, Jeanne*	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
Bobo, Susan*	Oklahoma State University (retired)
Boswell, Tracey	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Carbonell, Marilyn*	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (retired)
Cavanaugh, Marianne	Saint Louis Art Museum (retired)
Craig, Susan V.*	University of Kansas (retired)
Crane, Rachel*	Wichita State University
Cranor, Anna*	Stephens College

Degener, Andrea (Past Chair)	Washington University in Saint Louis
Farrell, Lora (Communications Officer)	Kansas City Art Institute
Frechette, Suzy*	Saint Louis Public Library (retired)
Impastato, Kristina W. (Kris)*	Saint Louis Public Library
Jones, Phillip J.* (Secretary/Treasurer)	University of Arkansas
Lacerte, Skye (Chair Elect)	Washington University in Saint Louis
Macken, Megan	Oklahoma State University
Michael, Ron*	Birger Sandzén Art Gallery
Norris, Joyce	Wichita Art Museum
Poehler, M. J.	Kansas City Art Institute
Sullivan, Jill Halbach*	Post Memorial Library
Urton, Ellen R.*	Kansas State University
Vecchiola, Rina	Washington University in Saint Louis
Weidman, Jeffrey*	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (retired)
Williams, Marianne	University of Arkansas
Windon, Katrina* (Chair)	University of Arkansas
Young, Thomas*	Philbrook Museum of Art

*Lifetime member