

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Spring 2021 Chapter Meeting (Virtual)

April 29, 2021

10AM

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

Lacerte began the meeting at 10AM. Attendees introduced themselves.

Jones gave the balance of the chapter's account, \$4750.03, and referred to the list of presumed members included in his report, which was distributed on Tuesday. The chapter discussed recent challenges with reconciling payments received with the list of names of those who had paid dues. Hilles reported that the board had approved a new system, which should be in place before the next round of renewals. Moreover, Gaby Webster of McKenna Management indicated that future checks should be mailed with a list of renewing members.

Hilles reported on the board and ARLIS/NA. She first shared a Google Doc with a list of contacts at McKenna Management by areas of responsibility: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pCSDwtqtqAqUulC6k6TxFqHOIQNr8z53lMDlcTotHtY/edit?usp=sharing>. The Humanities Commons Task Force has made progress in recent months and documents should have DOIs. This project should be an excellent opportunity for involvement by SIGs and chapters. Outside ARLIS/NA, CCA and MLA will participate. The policy manual has been updated to include a section on land acknowledgments. Chapters can use this addition. The in-person annual conference will be held in Chicago in 2022, although dates and the hotel have not been established. The DEI Task Force has met monthly and worked on the following projects: 1) systemic racism in publishing in our field, 2) a survey to the membership on perceptions on ARLIS/NA, and 3) a panel on systemic racism at the upcoming virtual annual conference. Grimm will become the chapters liaison at the end of the annual conference in May.

Farrell led a discussion on the chapter's web site. It was agreed that photographs could enhance the site, although lack of in-person meetings would mean few depictions of recent activities. The social media accounts of the chapter were mentioned; however, it is unlikely that they have current photographs. Recent photographs of our institutions were suggested. Farrell agreed to remove the prominent link to the 2020 annual conference and replace it with a link to the chapter's history, which members and Hilles felt was important given the upcoming semicentennial of ARLIS/NA. Hilles mentioned the task force that was working on the celebration and encouraged the chapter to provide assistance and relevant material.

A codification in the bylaws of the chapter for an explicit category of membership in the chapter (but not ARLIS/NA) was discussed. Craig expressed the importance of keeping the chapter accessible to local individuals. Hilles cited the bylaws of Midstates as a good example of wording and practice and recommended codifying practices to ensure transparency and encourage this category of membership. Lacerte and Craig agreed to work on a draft of language. It was agreed that postponing the vote made sense to allow for better determination of current membership and eligibility to vote.

Lacerte led a discussion on the chapter’s activities in diversity, equity, and inclusion and what the chapter might undertake given its size. Nelson offered to compile a list of relevant resources; Lacerte asked members to send suggestions and resources to Nelson. Hilles advised that the chapter look at the work on DEI by other chapters, such as Ontario, M-O-Q, and Mountain West.

Lacerte led a discussion on the proposed fall meeting. No attendee spoke in favor of an in-person meeting; however, there appeared to be a consensus to have a business meeting and presentation(s) and/or discussion(s) of activities in which attendees have been involved. The impact of the pandemic on service was suggested as a topic. Lacerte and Back agreed to plan an outline for the meeting.

Craig suggested that the history of the chapter be sent to Lindsay King for documentation for the semicentennial. Back agreed to send the history.

Back acknowledged the work of the 2020 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award Committee, which she chaired and on which Akins, Degener, Lacerte, Macken, Poehler, and Young also served. Reviewing physical volumes during a pandemic was a challenge. The winner will be announced at the upcoming annual conference. Lacerte and Poehler thanked her for her work.

Craig asked Nelson for a report on the online biographical dictionary of Missouri artists, *Missouri Remembers: Artists in Missouri 1821–1951*. The Nelson-Atkins, as well as project partners Kansas City Art Institute and St. Louis Public Library, received funding from the National Endowment of the Humanities and other sources. Nelson said that the dictionary will have entries of 300–700 words on approximately 75 artists and should be launched in August.

Lacerte adjourned the meeting at 10:55AM.

Addendum

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Chapter Report of Secretary/Treasurer, April 27, 2021

Treasury

Balance on Jan 1	\$4740.03
Total Income	\$160.00
Total Expenses	\$150.00
Balance on Apr 27	\$4750.03

Income included eight bundled renewals (\$160) in four installments. Expense was one travel award.

Membership Report

ARLIS/NA Central Plains Membership (Presumed) as of 27 Apr 2021 (unchanged from 18 Mar)

Back, Andrea (Andi) (Chair-elect)	University of Kansas
Besaw, Jeanne*	Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art
Bobo, Susan*	Oklahoma State University (retired)
Carbonell, Marilyn*	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (retired)
Clements, Helen	Oklahoma State University
Craig, Susan V.*	University of Kansas (retired)
Crane, Rachel*	Wichita State University
Cranor, Anna*	Stephens College
Degener, Andrea	Washington University in Saint Louis
Farrell, Lora (Communications Officer)	Kansas City Art Institute
Frechette, Suzy*	St. Louis Public Library (retired)
Impastato, Kristina (Kris)*	St. Louis Public Library
Jones, Phillip J.* (Secretary/Treasurer)	University of Arkansas
Lacerte, Skye (Chair)	Washington University in Saint Louis
Macken, Megan	Oklahoma State University
Nelson, Amelia	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Michael, Ron*	Birger Sandzén Art Gallery
Poehler, M. J.	Kansas City Art Institute
Russell, Marilyn L.	Haskell Indian Nations University (retired)
Rylance, Keli	Saint Louis Art Museum
Sullivan, Jill Halbach*	Post Memorial Library
Urton, Ellen R.*	Kansas State University
Vecchiola, Rina	Washington University in St. Louis
Weidman, Jeffrey*	Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (retired)
Windon, Katrina* (Past Chair)	University of Arkansas
Young, Thomas*	Philbrook Museum of Art

*Lifetime member

Submitted by Phil Jones