

Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference
Business Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2007

Cavalier Hotel
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Liz Crowell
Secretary

President Carole Nash called the meeting to order.

Treasurer Laura Galke circulated the Treasurer's Report. The top page is the interim report. The second page is for 2006. Pages 3 and 4 are graphics and pie charts. We had \$3473.40 in profit last year. The treasurer's report reflects where we were as of March 7, 2007. We are looking into putting some of our funds into a cd so it can get interest.

Mike Madden moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Chris Espenshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary, Liz Crowell distributed the 2006 minutes.

Membership Chair, Faye Stocum made the Membership Report. As of the 15th of March, 35 paper presenters were not members. As of the meeting, 21 paper presenters are not members. In 2006, we had 273 members. Last year, at the time of the meeting, we had 224 members. The year before, we had 176. We do not get much revenue out of memberships. As of this meeting, we have 273 members and may top 300. We have none for 2008. At the summer meeting of the Executive Board, it was decided to increase structural fees, because of the increase of cost for the journal. We are considering increasing fees \$5.00 across the board. There are 435 names on the membership rosters. 43 names were dropped. Eighty-nine (89) percent of the paid memberships were folks who presented papers. There will be a new membership form for 2008.

The 2007 Conference Report

Mike Madden reported on Local Arrangements. The Cavalier was a revolving door of personnel. Any issues that we had Carole straightened out. There are 261 people registered. Still have people who will be coming in tomorrow. It looks like we will clear \$2500. In 2005, we had 89 papers. In 2006, we had 106 papers. In 2007, we had 137 papers. We only heard one negative comment about having to walk through a session to get to the bookroom. This year, we added the invited speaker. This might have brought in some other people. The Executive Board voted to give Doug Owsley \$250 honorarium for his Written in Bone exhibit. Mike Madden moved that it be accepted. Roger Moeller seconded it. Motion passed. Carole Nash thanked the program chairs for wonderful sessions. Arrangements went more easily this year. Henry Miller noted that it was nice having free coffee. Chris Espenshade reported on student sponsorships. It cost

\$50 to sponsor each student. There were 21 student sponsorship. The first goal was that all student paper prize contestants be sponsored. It is important to get the word out. Chris recognized and thanked the individual and institutional sponsors.

Roger Moeller made the Journal report. For the next issue of the journal, 2 papers and 8 book reviews have been submitted. He has firm promises from a number students. He hopes to have manuscripts in hand by June. The Press has worked out the kinks. The quality is great and the turnaround time is fast. Roger printed 320 copies of the journal. He has ten left. He likes to have 40.

Roger's ESAF mailing included the MAAC information. After that mailing, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the membership renewed. This year represents the 23rd publishing of the journal. The 25th is not that far away. Ideas for themes are gladly accepted. Book reviews are slow. Have students do book reviews. Contact Dennis Curry.

We have no report on the webpage from Alice. She has been very responsive this year. Roger Moeller indicated that the preliminary program should be posted earlier. Faye indicated that governmental folks have to justify why they are attending conferences. Program Chairs are overwhelmed. The final needs to be filed earlier. The final needs to be filed earlier. It should be done at least one month ahead.

Awards

Eleanor Breen and Josh Duncan made the report on the 5th annual student paper competition. Each of the students was sponsored by either individual or institutional donations. This year was the largest with 10 papers. All of the papers were great quality. There were three graduate and seven undergraduate papers. Two students were selected being judges. Originally, there was the just one prize, but the judges determined that there should be both a graduate and an undergraduate award. This year New South Associates and David Hazzard each contributed so that a second paper could receive an award. Roger made a motion that we establish both a graduate and an undergraduate student paper award. There were multiple seconds. Heather Wholey mentioned that some undergraduates have been hesitant to participate because they did not think they would be able to compete with graduate students. It was suggested that there could be a student poster session and a student forum. Josh indicated that most years there was an informal meeting with students and Roger. Josh indicated that we need to thank Roger. Roger indicated that the student competition is encouraging more professors to bring more students. Carole called the question. The motion carried. The student forum can be on the webpage. Josh will be it going. A listing of who receives the awards, should be posted on the webpage.

Liz Crowell, Awards Committee Chair indicated that there have been no nominations for the past two years. Liz and Carole Nash tried to solicit nominations with no luck. We want to have awards in 2008. A blurb was in the program, but it did not have contact information.

Dues

The costs are up for the journal. The Executive Board is proposing a \$5.00 increase in dues fees across the board. Steve Bilicki indicated that some of the folks he spoke with thought there would be no problem in raising it \$10. We charge much less than other conferences.

Wayne Clark asked if we printed the small number of journals because of cost. Roger replied that it is because back issues do not sell well. Roger indicated that about 40 journals equals one case. Roger would have to do the math..

Membership Chair, Faye Stocum indicated that our recommendation for a \$5 increase was based on Roger's input. Roger has streamlined the process. It is to our advantage to keep the cost as low as possible. People realize costs of going to SHA for example. This will increase the cost of student sponsorship. Wayne Clark made a motion that we increase the dues by \$5. Chris Espenshade seconded the motion. There was one nay. Motion carried.

Faye Stocum indicated that the bylaws say that paper presenters are supposed to be members and are supposed to register. We discussed how to deal with this. It was suggested that we could send a letter to those who are out of compliance for this year, requesting their dues. If there are no dues submitted, they will be unable to present papers next year. It was suggested that folks can register online and must be a member before they can enter the abstract. We mentioned that the idea of electronic payment and that there may be a user's fee. The idea will be that there will be a set-up where you cannot submit your abstract until you have paid. It was indicated that Faye and the program chairs spend a lot of time trying to keep all of this straight.

Cara Blume has argued in favor of electronic payment for a number of years. The idea of whether this would be an option or a requirement was discussed. Two systems would be unwieldy. If it is done through a website, we can set it up so the abstract is forwarded to the program chair. Steve Bilicki indicated that it is the responsibility of the session chair to compile the abstracts from their sessions. It was said that this would not do away with that. It was discussed as to whether if we received paper abstracts through electronic system that it would have us lose the ability to reject papers. Dennis Pogue and others indicated that we have never rejected a paper. Dennis said that the only real negative he has ever heard about MAAC is the necessity of sending two checks to two different places. Dave Mudge indicated that if an abstract was totally inappropriate we could deal with it. The money could be returned to the prospective presenter.

Carole Nash indicated that depending on which system we go with, there could be a \$100 to \$300 set-up fee depending on the level of service. There is also an annual fee. Some services will send out emails. Wayne Clark made a motion to move to electronic payment and approve the fees that may be required. Chris Espenshade seconded the motion. Roger Moeller made a friendly amendment that the treasurer can set this up. Carole called the question. Motion carried unanimously

Carole mentioned that the Executive Board had a 4 hour meeting in the summer where we talked things through. We are not your father's MAAC. We have gone beyond our informal beginnings. We need to communicate with our membership.

We discussed establishing an outreach committee. This committee would look at what MAAC should establish beyond the meeting. The Executive Board discussed a research fund. The Executive Board asked for volunteers. Dave Mudge, Mike Barber, Josh Duncan, Wayne Clark, Cara Blume, Chris Espenshade and Heather Wholey all volunteered to be part of this committee.

Henry Miller expressed concern that there is a danger in MAAC losing the informality. Informality is the beauty of MAAC.

Carole Nash asked that the new committee decide who their chair is and get back to her by June 1.

The 2008 meeting was discussed. It was proposed that we should have another keynote speaker. Carole asked that people submit any ideas that they might have. The location of next year's meeting was discussed. It was proposed that we move north for the next two years. Solomons Island, Ocean City and Rehoboth were all discussed. Generally, Maryland was suggested. It was asked that we keep the room rates low. Julie King, Heather Wholey and Ed Otter all said they could assist with local arrangements.

Liz Crowell volunteered to be program chair. Liz has several students from George Mason working as interns. Liz indicated that this could be an opportunity for them to work setting up the program. Liz said she could conscript the students and a George Mason professor to work with her on the program. Carole asked if he had enough Middle Atlantic archaeology contacts. Liz said, if need be she could conscript Mike Johnson to assist. Elizabeth Moore said that she would be glad to work with Liz, if need be.

Carole indicated that Louis Brennan died on March 17, 24 yeas ago.

Mike Barber suggested that MAAC draft a letter of thanks to DHR for their financial assistance in producing the program. Also, a letter of thanks should be sent to COVA.

Faye Stocum indicated that Cara Blume had given money for a membership for last year, but had no address. It was for Catherine St. Clair. It was proposed that if we could not find her that that money be given to Doug Owsley's Written in Bone project.

Dave Mudge asked for any archival materials.

It was indicated that next year, Easter is March 23.

Steve Bilicki moved that we pay \$250 honorarium plus expenses for a keynote speaker for next year. There were several seconds. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Carole Nash.