

Report on the North American Chapter of CAA (CAA-NA) 2013-2014 Activities

Steering Committee:

Chair: Lisa Fischer

Vice Chair: Katie Simon

Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Christine Markussen

General Secretary: Rachel Opitz

Student Representative: to be named

2013-14 Activities:

2013-2014 was a year of change and growth for the North American chapter of Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology. The major activities involved electing a new Steering Committee and revising the chapter's constitution to address a couple of issues that arose at the chapter meeting in Perth. We also have identified a possible North American venue for hosting the international conference in 2017 and a formal bid for Atlanta will be forthcoming in Siena. We also established a new Facebook page for the chapter and will soon launch a brand new website.

The annual chapter meeting was held in Perth at the international conference in 2013. The chapter was due to elect all four Steering Committee positions because all four of the previous committee members had reached their term limits. Prior to the Perth meeting, four candidates volunteered to run, one for each of the positions. At the chapter meeting, the eligibility of two of the candidates was contested under the terms of the constitution. Without enough eligible candidates and no contingency plan in the constitution for not having enough candidates, the members present voted to move forward with electing the two eligible candidates at the meeting and then to have a committee undertake rewriting of the constitution to clarify the issues prior to electing the other two positions. Thus at the meeting Lisa Fischer was elected Chair and Christine Markussen was elected Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

A committee, which consisted of all of the previous committee members as well as the two newly-elected ones, was formed to address the revision of the constitution. The process also brought to light the issue of membership, which had been defined in terms of paying dues although they had never been instated. The committee made revisions to the constitution to redefine membership in terms of completing an annual membership form and paying dues, if they have been instated; to modify slightly the eligibility terms for running for a steering committee position; and to provide a contingency plan if not enough eligible candidates agree to run. The proposed revised constitution was submitted to the membership for approval and passed easily.

Following the revisal of the constitution, an open call for candidates for the two vacant positions went out and two people volunteered. Katie Simon and Rachel Opitz have now been elected to the positions of Vice Chair and General Secretary respectively.

Since the US and Canada are such big countries and there are numerous national archaeological conferences already competing for attendees, the general consensus has been that holding a

CAA-NA conference does not seem practical at this point. Instead we have focused on trying to find a North American venue to submit a bid for the international conference since this will be one of the best ways to attract U.S. and Canadian archaeologists to the conference. Jeff Glover, Associate Professor at Georgia State University, registered his interest at the AGM in Paris and will submit a formal bid next year for holding the conference Atlanta in 2017.

In addition to working to find a possible North American site for the international conference, we are working to promote CAA-NA online and through the existing conferences to raise awareness not only of the national chapter but the international organization as well. In 2013 we launched a new Facebook page for the chapter (<https://www.facebook.com/CAANorthAmerica>) and are almost done building a new website (www.caa-na.org) that should launch officially by the end of June. In 2015 we are aiming to sponsor a session or symposium at one or two of the national archaeological conferences, such as the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), Society for American Archaeology (SAA) or the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) to make us more visible within existing archaeological circles. Should Atlanta be selected as the site for the 2017 conference, we hope to expand this approach in 2016 to have a greater presence at these national archaeological organizations to promote the conference prior to the CFP being issued to encourage participation by as many North American archaeologists as possible.

Total Number of Current Members: 18 (we are still working to alert previous members to the new membership process and encouraging them to submit their forms, so we expect this number to increase in the coming weeks and months)

Submitted by Lisa Fischer, Chair
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