

**Registrar's Committee Mountain Plains Museums Association (RC-MPMA)**  
**Mid-Winter Report, February 8, 2017**  
Billings, Montana

**Executive Board News**

New elected positions:

The RC-MPMA sought nominations for Chair and Treasurer. Susie Fishman-Armstrong, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, was re-elected chair. Ashley Yager, Loveland Museum/Gallery, was elected as treasurer.

Appointed positions

Alexandra Deselms was appointed as elections chair (vacant position 4+ years). Development Chair (NEW)- Michelle Gallagher-Roberts, New Mexico Museum of Art and Suzanne Hale, Gregory Allicar Museum of Art are co-developing this new position.

State Representatives (vacant position 5+ years).

We revived the state representatives to assist with our increased membership and have representatives for Oklahoma and Texas. We will be working to find other representatives during the membership drive.

Colorado: Laura Bryant, Gilcrease Museum

New Mexico: Michelle Gallagher-Roberts, New Mexico Museum of Art

Texas: Darby Reiners, Pan-Handle Plains Museum

Other states – If you have suggestions, please contact Susie Fishman-Armstrong or Casey Seger. We are especially interested in Emerging Museum Professions.

**Membership**

In 2015, we had 34 members and was at risk of losing PIN status. Last year, we reported 49 current members. This year we report we have **85** paid members! We are in the middle of membership renewals and as of January 5, 2018. 10 members already renewed and the other renewal forms will be emailed to members in January. Significant changes were made to the membership structure for 2017. The ability to use credit cards on a paper form and through the MPMA website made a significant impact.

The coordination of communicating between MPMA, RC-MPMA Treasurer, and the RC-MPMA Membership Chair with this new system (both paper-based and on the website) is much improved and we are working on creating an accurate tracking system with MPMA changing offices from Littleton, CO to Lincoln, NE. There remains an issue of current members not being able to pay for their RC-MPMA Membership separate from their MPMA Membership with the online system, so all credit card transactions are still called into MPMA for processing. In Casey Seger's communications with Peggy, she informed us that she has been in contact with the developers regarding this issue but as of now there is no quick fix.

Approximately 84 people signed up for the RC-MPMA annual luncheon, showing there is still some room for membership growth as some of the attendees were not members. 2 people renewed during the annual luncheon.

### **Survey**

A survey was submitted to the membership this year. We had 31 responses (almost double than last year). The business lunch and helping hands were ranked the most important activity, followed by the behind the scenes, then scholarships, and finally the newsletter. They found that paying for membership on-line was easy, but we are quickly learning that renewing on line may not be. There is a strong interest in webinars. We are going to continue to offer the surveys. It has been a helpful venue for the board to hear the voices and desires from the membership.

### **Newsletter**

We have switched to a twice-a-year format (a pre-conference or late summer issue and a post-conference or winter issue). We submitted a pre-conference newsletter in October and Libby Krecek will prepare the post-conference/winter issue newsletter in February.

### **Treasurer (see attached)**

### **Business Luncheon**

The 2017 business luncheon had a record attendance with 84+ people. Speakers were Bailey Placzek, Associate Curator and Collections Manager, Clyfford Still Museum and Gerald Horner, Deputy Director, Kirkland Museum. Special thanks to Sonia Rae, Clyfford Still Museum for coordinating all the efforts on their end.

For the luncheon this year, we have interest from Jeff Ewelt, Director, Zoo Montana.

### **Helping Hands**

The 2017 Helping Hands Brigade was hosted by the The Broomfield Depot Museum will be hosting Helping Hands. We worked on inventorying their archive and archaeology collection in a large data entry project.

The Yellowstone County Museum has expressed interest in being the host for Helping Hands in 2018.

### **Behind the Scenes Tour**

This was the second year we held a collection specific behind-the-scenes tour and the demand was very high. Tours were free for current members of the RC-MPMA. The tour took place at the Clyfford Still Museum. It was capped at 31 people, 43 members quickly signed up resulting in 15 people on a waiting list. In the future, we will need to request a sign with gathering times to help organize the growing group.

We are still looking for a venue for the tour this year. It was very helpful to have the tour at one of the main events last year, and we are looking at doing the same this year.

## Scholarships

Our scholarship recipient of the RC-MPMA ANR Transport Scholarship is Laura Bryant, Gilcrease Museum. Recipient of the RC-MPMA Terry Dowd LCC Scholarship is Darby Reiners, Pan-Handle Plains Museum.

We are aware of the cost of scholarship donations does not fully cover the cost of the conference, and costs have gone up. The development chair position is being created to help fulfill this need.

## CS-AAM

Libby Krecek will be representing the RC-MPMA at the upcoming national meeting of the Collections Stewardship-American Alliance of Museums (RC-AAM) in Phoenix, Arizona in May.

Submitted January 22, 2018

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### RC-MPMA Officers

**Susie Fishman-Armstrong**, Chair  
Collection Manager, Archaeology  
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural  
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**Ashley Yager**, Treasurer  
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**Shikoh Shiraiwa**, Secretary  
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**Alexandra Deselms**, Nominations Chair  
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**Jenny Yearous**, Scholarship Chair  
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## RC-MPMA Treasurer's Mid-Winter Report 10/22/16 – 1/17/18

### Checking Account:

Date	Transaction Type	Description	Amount	Total
10/22/16	Beginning Balance			\$59.08
No transactions this period				
1/17/18	Ending Balance			\$59.08

### Savings Account:

Date	Transaction Type	Description	Amount	Total
10/22/16	Beginning Balance			\$4,990.14
10/31/17	Dividend credit		\$.21	\$4,990.35
11/30/17	Dividend credit		\$.21	\$4,990.56
12/30/17	Dividend credit		\$.21	\$4,990.77
10/12/17	Ending Balance			\$4,990.77

**RC-MPMA Combined Account Balances: \$5,049.85**

### 2017-2018 Proposed Budget

#### Income

	Proposed
Dues and donations	\$800
Scholarship Funding (for 2018 MPMA meeting)	\$1,250
Dividend Credits	\$2.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,052.00</b>

#### Expenses

	Proposed
Midwinter MPMA Attendance for Chair	\$500
Scholarship Awards (for 2018 MPMA meeting)	\$1,400
Shipping	\$25
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,925.00</b>