

Registrar's Committee Mountain Plains Museums Association (RC-MPMA)
Midwinter Report, February 9 -- 10, 2023
Corpus Christi, TX (RC Virtual Attendance)

Elected Positions:

Following a call for nominations, the RC-MPMA membership re-elected Casey Seger (Great Plains Art Museum) as Vice-Chair and elected Erin Brown (Oklahoma Territorial Museum) as Secretary. We thank Jennifer Toelle for serving for two terms as Secretary.

Appointed positions

- Membership Chair - Eldon Yeakel, Smoky Hill Museum. Thanks to Olivia Reyes for serving as the Membership Chair and working to get Eldon prepared to take over at the annual meeting.
- Nominations Chair - NEEDED as Rachel Lovelace-Portal has stepped down following a move out of the region. (Thanks to Rachel for her work last year.)
- Development Chair - NEEDED to build scholarship support and outside of conference opportunities.

We may be revising election protocols and adding a professional development chair/coordinator position.

State Representatives

State representatives have been extremely valuable partners in assisting with membership drives and relaying RC information to state members. We are currently seeking state representatives for Colorado and Montana. We are also seeking to fill the Development Chair and Nominations Chair positions as well as find Social Media contributors.

Membership

During the 2022 calendar year, we reported 57 paid members, less than half the previous calendar year. Of those 57 members, 8 were new members and 49 were renewing members. The membership drive began near the end of January. As of February 3rd, we have had 11 members renew their membership. There are several potential new members that have been emailed regarding joining RC-MPMA. Renewal notices will be sent out again at the end of February and March.

Behind the Scenes Tour

The BTS tour at the Philbrook Museum of Art (\$10 for RC and another \$10 to the Philbrook for its BTS fee) was limited to 10 people and filled quickly. Due to previous years' misunderstandings and to make things easier on both sides, RC-MPMA is looking to discontinue the \$10 BTS fee. We will however continue sponsoring the BTS tours and promoting RC membership at these events.

We are currently looking for locations for the 2023 BTS in Corpus Christi.

Newsletter

The pre-conference newsletter was distributed at the end of September 2022, before the 2022 October conference.

The Spring 2023 post-conference newsletter should be out in April or May, after we hopefully have some plans in place for Helping Hands and the BTS.

Scholarships

RC-MPMA ANR Transport Scholarship – no applicants

RC-UOVO Scholarship –Susie Fishman Armstrong, Sam Noble Museum

Due to the purchase of the Terry Dowd LLC by UOVO, the scholarship for 6+ years experienced RC members was changed to reflect the new ownership and support. Thanks to Terry Dowd for their years of support and to UOVO for joining the scholarship efforts.

Since we did not have any applicants for the ANR scholarship and only 1 for the UOVO scholarship, we will be more actively promoting our scholarships this year.

Treasurer - Coming Soon - Working on Transitioning Accounts

Business Meeting

Our presentation was by Mark Davidson, Director of Archives and Exhibits at the Woody Guthrie Center and the Curator of the Bob Dylan Archives at the Bob Dylan Center, both located in the same block in Tulsa. Mark discussed the creation of the Bob Dylan Center and the archives in particular, which provided a deeper appreciation when we were able to visit the Bob Dylan Center the last night of the conference.

Inspired by the ARCS Giveaway 2021, for new and renewing RC-MPMA memberships paid by March 31, 2023, we will have a drawing for a copy of the new Museum Registration Methods 6th Edition. Last year's winner was Susan Curtis of the Emily Reynolds Historic Costume Collection.

We also had drawings at the luncheon of the book *Managing Previously Unmanaged Collections*, a photo preservation kit from Gaylord and a family archives kit from Gaylord. Winners were Theresa Marie Ketterer, Sofia Galarza Liu, and Nancy Jurbala. We hope to have similar drawings at next year's luncheon. We would like to thank Gaylord and Jennifer Toelle for their donations of items for the drawings at the business meeting.

We tried a hybrid meeting so that those (including our treasurer) who could not attend in person could attend the meeting. Although we only had two participants, we think it was a good option for our members and hope to do it again in Corpus Christi.

We are currently looking for a topic or speaker for the 2023 business meeting in Corpus Christi.

Helping Hands

This year's Helping Hands was at the Sand Springs Historical Society and was limited to 10 participants, with 6 partaking. The group sorted the historical society's photo collection: checking to see which photos had been numbered, removing duplicates, consolidating folders,

removing items from the folders which were not photos. The group managed to get through most of the folders and get the photos into a good place and ready for the next steps in the process.

We are currently looking for Helping Hands 2023 locations in Corpus Christi.

CS-AAM

Alexandra Deselms represented the RC-MPMA at the quarterly meetings of the Collections Stewardship-American Alliance of Museums (CS-AAM) in 2021-2. Alex was unable to attend the May 2022 AAM meeting in Boston so Libby Krecek represented the RC.

As the 2023 AAM Meeting is in Denver and CWAM is using that as their conference, Alex will be attending in person.

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