

RMAA Annual Report, 2018–2019

The following summary covers the period September 25, 2018 through October 6, 2019 at the conclusion of the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference (RMAC) in Logan, Utah. RMAA Board and business meetings were held at the conference on October 4–5, 2019. The eight Directors serving this year were: Brian Vivian, President; Kenneth Cannon, Vice-President; William Eckerle, Treasurer; Kevin Black, Secretary; and Directors Brian Andrews, David Byers, Mary Lou Larson, and Jennifer Borresen Lee.

RMAA Board Meetings

The Board of Directors convened four times, the first three via conference call and the fourth together in Logan, UT at RMAC 2019. In preparation for each of these meetings, the minutes of the previous board meeting were drafted for review, edited as requested, and the final version sent to Board members with the next meeting agenda. Common to all meetings were votes on approving previous meeting minutes and presentation of the Treasurer's report.

The first of these four Board meetings was held via conference call on Nov. 14, 2018. Primary agenda items discussed were a report from the Online Publications Committee; potential Bylaws changes; RMAC 2019 planning; a proposal on RMAC 2021; archiving RMAA records; website and social media activity; and recognition of the Rocky Mountains region by the Society for American Archaeology. The draft minutes of that meeting were made available for review, edited, and sent to Board members later that month along with the revised final minutes from the Board meeting of Dec. 17, 2017.

Second of the four Board meetings was held via conference call on April 4, 2019. Discussion focused on planning for RMAC 2019. Other agenda items included a report from the Nominations Committee; the possibility of holding RMAC 2021 in Laramie, WY; and review of specific proposed Bylaws updates. The draft minutes of that meeting were made available to Board members for review a few days after the meeting.

The third Board meeting of the year was held via conference call on Aug. 14, 2019. Agenda items discussed were nearly identical to those from April 4, focusing on final planning for RMAC 2019; a report from the Nominations Committee on the upcoming Board of Directors election; and review of more proposed Bylaws updates. The draft minutes of this meeting were made available to Board members for review at the end of the month.

At RMAC 2019 in Logan, the Board of Directors met a fourth time on Oct. 4. The Conference Committee gave one last update that included a preliminary registration figure. A report from the Nominations Committee ended with counting of ballots and the election results were read. The other agenda items covered were RMAC 2021 and website-social media activities. The draft minutes of this meeting were made available to Board members for review at the end of the month.

RMAA Election

Three Directors served on the Nominations Committee: Kevin Black, Kenneth Cannon, and Mary Lou Larson. They were tasked with identifying candidates willing to run for election to the new Board of Directors, to be held on October 3-4, 2019 at the conference in Logan, UT. The four Directors whose terms expired at that time were Brian Vivian, Mary Lou Larson, David Byers, and Kevin Black.

Committee members individually contacted many potential candidates throughout the year; Directors Black and Larson agreed to stand for re-election. Committee activities accelerated in the weeks leading up to RMAC when just four candidates had been found for the four open Board positions. Ultimately, seven candidates were listed on the final ballot and short biographies of each were posted on the RMAA website. In addition to current Directors Black and Larson, the nominees were Molly Boeka Cannon, Richard Currit, Spencer Pelton, Rebecca Sgouros, and Matt Stirn.

By the time of the October 4 Board meeting when balloting closed, 22 votes had been cast. During the meeting, there was some discussion among the Directors on how to increase participation in the election, especially among students registered for the conference. Votes were then counted, resulting in the election of new Directors Molly Boeka Cannon, Spencer Pelton, and Rebecca Sgouros plus the retention of current Board member Kevin Black. These results were announced during the general

business meeting on Oct. 5, and candidates who were not in attendance at the conference were notified of the results on Oct. 8–11.

RMAA Finances

William Eckerle, RMAA Treasurer, provided formal reports to all other Directors in advance of each of the four Board meetings held during the year. The checking account balance—on deposit in a US Bank in Driggs, ID—was \$12,577.42 on Oct. 31, 2018 and stood at \$14,287.42 as of the Board meeting at RMAC 2019.

In addition to receiving conference sponsorship funds and registration fees via checks, the Treasurer also gave advice to the RMAC 2019 Conference Committee about potentially setting up a conference-specific bank account. Several times during the year, the Board of Directors discussed ways to streamline conference funding in a way that was not a burden to the Treasurer and ultimately agreed that setting up a PayPal account was desirable. Director Cannon researched the process and such an account was set up allowing online registrations and donations in August 2019.

RMAA Bylaws

At the start of the report period, the Bylaws document in effect was the updated version that had been approved by the Board of Directors on December 13, 2017. However, the final page listing the Directors lacked their signatures. On November 14, this page began to be routed among the Directors to fill in those blanks, and the Bylaws were posted to the website on November 28. Close review of these updated Bylaws identified additional passages requiring clarification, a list of which was sent to the Directors by the Secretary at this time with a suggestion to defer completing the signatures page.

During the following Board of Directors meeting on April 4, an extended discussion focused on the following Bylaws Articles in question: 2.1 (Number and Qualifications of Directors); 2.5 (Meeting Quorum); 2.7 (Annual Meeting); 2.14 or 3 (possible addition of Social Media and Public Outreach coordinator); 3.5[d] (Secretary Duties); and the Directors' signatures page. The Directors also talked about adding language to make a distinction between RMAA and RMAC, but without resolution. A draft of proposed revisions was circulated on April 30, with additional conversations about Article 2.1 occurring in both April and May.

These proposed Bylaws updates were discussed a final time during the Board of Directors meeting on August 14, at which time a list of corrections in format and grammar that had been recently distributed were considered to the following Articles: 1.4, 2.2, 2.8, 3.3, 3.5[a], 4.2[a], 4.3, and 5.3. A formal vote approving all of the above changes was taken during this meeting. This latest version of the Bylaws was posted to the website on August 26. In addition, the signatures page was routed among the Directors for their attention during the last week of August.

RMAC 2019

Planning for the October 3–6 conference in Logan, UT occurred throughout the year, led by Conference Committee co-chairs Kenneth Cannon, David Byers, Molly Boeka Cannon, and Judson Finley. Among the key activities of the committee were efforts to secure a keynote speaker; distributing information and publicity about RMAC through the website and group email messages; setting up a website portal for registration fees and paper/poster abstract submissions; preparing and broadly distributing an RMAC 2019 flyer including a Call for Papers; finalizing arrangements with the Riverwoods Conference Center and adjacent SpringHill Suites by Marriott Hotel; preparing and posting the RMAC program and schedule; and printing materials for the registration desk.

On June 14 President Vivian forwarded business proposals from V-cube USA and Journeys International to the RMAC Conference Committee, that both offered their publicity services for RMAC 2019. These offers were declined.

The Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference was successfully held on Oct. 3–6, with many complimentary comments made about the quality of the presentations and posters. The final registration count was 70, including 32 students. An opening reception was held on the evening of Oct. 3, followed by poster and paper presentations on Oct. 4–5. On Friday, a group luncheon event was held featuring a keynote address by Darren Parry, the Chairman of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. This was followed by a documentary video on the Bear River Massacre of 1863 by Phillip Schoen. The general business meeting was held on Saturday afternoon once all presentations had been made, and the conference

concluded with two Sunday field trips, to the Central Pacific Railroad grade and the Bear River Massacre site.

RMAC 2021 & Beyond

On Nov. 2, President Vivian received an email inquiry from David Williams with the Archaeological Research Center at the South Dakota State Historical Society, suggesting possible joint Plains Anthropological Society-RMAC meetings in Rapid City, SD for late October 2021, and avoiding a date conflict if the meetings were kept separate. The Board of Directors discussed this offer and decided to decline holding joint conferences via a response from the President on Nov. 26.

Similarly, in response to a previous inquiry from the Jennifer Lee, on Nov. 15 Director Lee reported that she had received a message from Dr. Pei-Lin Yu of Boise State University, declining the offer to host RMAC 2021 in Idaho. The Board then decided to pursue a southern Colorado option through Dr. Jason LaBelle at Colorado State University. In early December, Director Lee passed on a message from Dr. LaBelle, who preferred to host RMAC in 2023 rather than 2021. As a result, the Board agreed to seriously consider a Laramie, WY venue for RMAC 2021. Director Mary Lou Larson said she and Marcel Kornfeld could help in a consulting role but that state archaeologist Greg Pierce and assistant state archaeologist Marcia Peterson should take the lead roles.

Further discussions about RMAC 2021 during the April 4 Board meeting continued to focus on Laramie, WY as the preferred venue. However, during RMAC 2019 in Logan, UT the Board was approached by Dr. Bonnie Pitblado of the University of Oklahoma about having RMAC 2021 or 2023 in southern Colorado with a theme honoring the work of recently deceased Dr. Dennis Stanford. She was informed of Dr. LaBelle's previous interest in hosting RMAC in that region and discussed the matter with him. During the Board meeting on Oct. 4 and the general business meeting on Oct. 5, a preference was shown for holding RMAC 2021 in southern Colorado being closer in time to Dr. Stanford's passing. Dr. LaBelle agreed, and offered to talk with Laramie, WY representatives about switching the latter location to RMAC 2023.

Further discussion during the general business meeting repeated the desire to schedule RMAC 2025 in Boise or other Idaho city. This was followed by suggestions from Teresa Weedon (Colorado Archaeological Society) and Ty Heffner (Yukon Cultural Services) about the possibility of holding RMAC 2027 in west Texas and RMAC 2029 in Whitehorse, YK, respectively, at the opposite ends of the Rocky Mountains regions.

In addition to conversations about future RMAC host locations, during the August and October meetings the Board of Directors also discussed various options for increasing participation in RMAC by students, indigenous groups, and the general public. Among the suggestions offered were providing financial assistance to students, holding RMAC events specifically targeting the public, having open house events at archaeological collections facilities, and doing more frequent and directed publicity targeting all those audiences. Implementation of at least some of these approaches will be explored in advance of RMAC 2021.

RMAA Website

David Rockwell continued in his role as webmaster from his residence in Montana. Likewise Kevin Black, RMAA Secretary, continued as the lead contact for prospective changes and updates. During the year, many web pages were updated with a focus on providing information about RMAC 2019. These changes began in November, then occurred with increasing frequency from March into September. Four website pages were not updated this year: Member Projects, Forum, Past Meetings, and Contact Us. Updated pages are as follows:

Home page: A link to a flyer about RMAC 2019 with a Call for Papers was posted on March 6. The most prominent changes added a pop-up screen with RMAC 2019 information and links on April 5–6. In addition, the ‘Biennial Conference’ information at the bottom of the page was updated with an RMAC 2019 conference announcement, link to RMAC details, and a tentative announcement about RMAC 2021 in November and the spring-summer months.

“About RMAA”: The link to RMAA Bylaws at the bottom of the page was directed to updated Bylaws on Nov. 28 and Aug. 26.

“News/Announcements”: A link to the annual report for 2017–2018 was added on Nov. 21. An outdated announcement and flyer were deleted on March 6, and the RMAC 2019 flyer was added the same day. This conference flyer was updated on Aug. 16.

“Links”: Broken or outdated links on this page were fixed in April and November.

“RMAC 2019”: This new page was added to the website in July and expanded in August with hotel reservation and abstract submissions links, then frequently updated with conference news the remainder of the year. Also in August, the security setting for this page was upgraded to “https” format allowing for online registrations and donations through PayPal. Other links to the conference schedule and candidate biographies for the Board of Directors election were added and updated in August and September.

In early November, the webmaster was asked if data were available tracking the number and frequency of website visitors. Such data had not been collected to that point but the site was changed to allow tracking website hits starting with the previous month. Detailed data about website visitation was not yet in hand by the end of the annual report period, but over a thousand hits were recorded by Oct. 6.

Miscellaneous

No other RMAA business was reported during the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Black
RMAA Secretary