

RMAA Annual Report, 2024–2025

The following summary on activities of the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Association (RMAA) covers the period October 15, 2024 through October 4, 2025. Previous annual reports can be found on the “[RMAA Reports](#)” page of the website.

RMAA Board Meetings

Five RMAA meetings of the Board of Directors (BOD) were held during the past year, all via Google Meet video conference calls. The first of these meetings took place on October 28, 2024, with seven of eight Directors participating. Agenda items discussed during this meeting were as follows:

- RMAC 2025 planning and venue (very brief)
- Merchandise gift for outgoing Directors
- RMAA Treasurer’s report
- Summary report on RMAC 2024 in Laramie, WY
- RMAA annual report for 2022-2023
- Content appropriate for the Links page on the website

The draft minutes of this meeting were made available for review to Board members on November 8, 2024 and were finalized during the BOD meeting on February 7, 2025.

The second meeting of the Board of Directors took place on February 7, 2025. Six of eight Directors attended this online meeting, along with RMAC 2025 organizer Chris Merriman. Agenda items discussed during this meeting included:

- RMAA Treasurer’s report
- RMAC 2025 planning, registration, and other progress
- RMAA annual report 2023-2024
- RMAA Board of Directors election in 2025
- Possible change to Executive Treasurer officer
- Federal government actions impacting archaeology

The draft minutes of this meeting were made available for review to Board members on March 1, and the final version was approved at the BOD board meeting on May 16, 2025.

The third general board meeting of the year took place on May 16, 2025 with all eight Directors present, as well as RMAC 2025 organizer Chris Merriman. Discussion was heavily focused on the upcoming conference:

- RMAA Treasurer's report
- RMAC 2025 planning, schedule, budget, keynote speaker, field trips
- RMAA Board of Directors election 2025

The draft minutes of this meeting were made available for review to Board members on May 23, 2025 and the final version was approved at the subsequent BOD meeting on August 8, 2025.

The fourth general board meeting of the year took place on August 8, 2025 with six of eight Directors present, as well as RMAC 2025 organizer Chris Merriman. Discussion was again heavily focused on the upcoming conference:

- RMAA Treasurer's report
- RMAC 2025 planning, schedule, sponsors, session topics
- RMAA Board of Directors election 2025

The draft minutes of this meeting were made available for review to Board members on August 21, 2025 and the final version was approved at the subsequent BOD meeting on September 26, 2025.

The fifth and final general board meeting of the year took place on September 26, 2025 with six of eight Directors present, as well as RMAC 2025 organizer Chris Merriman and contributor Jason LaBelle. Discussion was again heavily focused on the upcoming conference, particularly the low number of registrants and presenters confirmed at this time:

- RMAA Treasurer's report

- RMAC 2025 planning, schedule, session topics such as roundtable discussion on future of RMAA, RMAC, and student participation
- RMAA Board of Directors election 2025
- RMAA Annual Report 2024-2025

The draft minutes of this meeting were made available for review to Board members on September 29, 2025 and the final version was scheduled for a vote of approval at the RMAA annual business meeting on October 10, 2025.

RMAA Officers and Directors

The current term for the BOD began on October 22, 2023 after the conclusion of an online election. The eight Officers and Directors serving this past year were: Kenneth Cannon, President; Rebecca Sgouros, Vice-President; Spencer Pelton, Treasurer; Kevin Black, Secretary; and Directors Beth Horton, Jena Sadd, Matt Stirn, and Aaron Whittenburg. Four of those eight have completed the second year of their four-year terms—Black, Pelton, Sgouros, and Whittenburg—while the other four Directors' terms expire at the end of RMAC 2025.

With four BOD terms expiring in October 2025, an online election to select four new Directors was planned and conducted. Initial discussions took place during the BOD meeting of February 7, 2025. Several Directors volunteered to assist the RMAA Secretary in recruiting candidates to appear on the ballot. Short biographies and photographs of the candidates were submitted to the RMAA Vice-President, which were made available at the start of the balloting period on September 11, 2025.

The election was conducted using the Mailchimp platform, sent to 537 email addresses in the current RMAA list. There were nine nominees listed on the ballot to fill the four open positions, including all four current Directors whose terms expire at the conclusion of RMAC 2025: Kenneth Cannon, Beth Horton, Mark Karpinski, Kelton Meyer, Robyn Watkins Morris, Michael Neeley, Sarah Rothwell, Jenna Sadd, and Matt Stirn.

Online balloting concluded on October 3, 2025, at the end of the current reporting period. There were 27 ballots submitted, and these four successful nominees will join

the BOD at the conclusion of this year's conference: Kenneth Cannon, Beth Horton, Kelton Meyer, and Matt Stirn.

RMAA Finances

Spencer Pelton, RMAA Treasurer, provided summaries of financial activity at the five Board meetings, along with the balance current to the date of this annual report. The checking account balance was \$14,789.14 as of October 15, 2024, and finished at \$14,776.28 on October 4, 2025. The RMAA checking account has been in a Wells Fargo Bank in Laramie, WY since November 2022. The PayPal and Square accounts for RMAA are also linked to that bank account.

RMAA financial expenditure and income transactions were almost non-existent this past year until registration for RMAC 2025 opened on August 19. Renewal of RMAA's registration with the State of Utah incurred a fee of \$18, paid in February. Total RMAC expenses were lower than expected because the Adams State University (ASU) Department of History, Anthropology, and Political Science decided to sponsor our use of the McDaniel Hall and Vistas venues, waiving all rental fees. The only major expenses occurred after the current reporting period and will be detailed in next year's report.

Revenue related to RMAC 2025 included registration fees, sponsorships, donations, vendor fees, and merchandise sales. As with major expenses, leading revenue generators will be provided in next year's annual report. Income from merchandise sales this year has totaled \$102.37 in our PayPal account through Bonfire.com.

RMAC 2025

The RMAC 2025 planning group was composed of three people, led by Chris Merriman, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at ASU, with assistance from RMAA Treasurer Spencer Pelton and Jason LaBelle, Professor of Anthropology at Colorado State University. Planning for RMAC in Alamosa, CO occurred throughout most of 2025, with major progress made in the last two months before the

conference. The venue will encompass several facilities on the ASU campus, where events are scheduled for October 9-12, 2025.

Publicity about RMAC 2025 began in May with “Save the Date” announcements on the Facebook page and website, and increased in the two months leading up to the conference. The first call for papers was posted in mid-August, with another reminder sent out in September, 2025. Options for lodging in Alamosa were likewise announced in mid-August, as were details on registration, a summary schedule of events, and links to local attractions. In early September Dr. William Taylor, assistant professor and curator of archaeology at the University of Colorado-Boulder, agreed to provide the keynote address at the conference banquet. A flyer about his address was distributed in late September. The final, complete conference program was posted on October 3, 2025.

RMAA student assistance for RMAC 2025 was planned for reimbursing the registration fee of every student presenter at the conference. By the end of this reporting period, donations totaling about \$1000 had been received for his purpose.

RMAA Fundraising

Fundraising efforts during the past year continued the two major activities of recent years. The primary approach has been with sales of various kinds of merchandise available online at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/rmaa-merchandise/>. Proceeds from such sales helped fund financial assistance to students who attended RMAC 2025. Among the items that can be purchased through the website are mugs, long sleeve and short sleeve T shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies in several styles and colors.

The second method of fundraising has been direct appeals for donations, both as undesignated cash contributions and sponsorships sold to fund RMAC events and student support. To facilitate such contributions, there is a “Donate” button appearing on multiple pages of the website and on our Facebook page, all linked to our PayPal account. Fundraising for RMAC 2025 continued past the current reporting period, and will be quantified in next year’s report.

RMAA Social Media and Website

At the end of October 2024, webmaster Mary Sullivan submitted an annual report on website activity to the BOD. Kevin Black, RMAA Secretary, continued as the lead contact for prospective changes and updates.

During the year, seven of the ten web pages were updated. The three website pages not updated this year were “About RMAA,” “Member Projects,” and “Past Meetings.” Updated pages are as follows:

“Home” page: Multiple changes to this page occurred this year, generally related to updates about RMAC 2025. In April, the popup screen was revised with the addition of a “Save the Date” notice about this year’s conference. A “Save the Date” flyer was posted the following month. The largest changes occurred in August with revised text and a link to the conference PDF document posted about RMAC 2025 on both the main page and popup screen. The flyer about our keynote speaker was posted in late September.

“RMAA Reports”: In February 2025, a link was added to the recently approved annual report for 2023-2024.

“News/Announcements”: This page had the largest number of changes made during the year, with updates completed on ten different occasions. One edit was made in October 2024 with the removal of an outdated announcement about a job opportunity. Two announcements were added in November 2024, regarding a federal job opening and a university graduate student research opportunity. In January 2025, a link to Brigham Young University’s Redd Center awards and grants program application was added. The following month, an expired job announcement was removed and a notice on the availability of the most recent RMAA annual report was added. Links to a newspaper article and public radio spot were added in early April, as was an announcement on the dates for the upcoming Wyoming (WAPA and WAS) joint spring meeting. Links to three more newspaper articles were added in April and May. Finally, in mid-August, complete information about RMAC 2025 was posted.

“Links”: At the beginning of the reporting period, the viability of all links on the page was checked. Shortly thereafter, three new links were added to pages for the Archaeological Institute of America, International Archaeology Day, and Project Archaeology.

“RMAC 2025”: With the latest conference upcoming in October 2025, this page was also revised several times, initially in April with “Save the Date” news about RMAC 2025 as well as editing the page heading to delete reference to the 2024 conference. A minor update was made the following month, then major updates were made in August 2025, adding final conference information with links to the Jotform registration form and the abstract submissions portal, along with lists of lodging options in Alamosa, local attractions, and a summary RMAC 2025 schedule. The flyer about our keynote speaker was posted in late September.

“Donate”: This page provides an additional option to make donations via our PayPal account, with identical “Donate” buttons also on other pages of this website. One update was made this past year, revising text in late October 2024 reflecting the change from the completed RMAC in Laramie to the next conference in Alamosa.

“Contact Us/Join”: A single update to this page was made in early November 2024 with the addition of a photograph of the eight RMAA Directors in attendance at the annual business meeting in Laramie, WY.

RMAA’s Social Media Committee manages the organization’s Facebook page. [RMAA Facebook](#) (FB) currently has just about 2,400 followers. Over the past year the committee has been using our FB for outreach to provide updates about the organization, RMAC 2025 news, merchandise sales, regional research, and recent publications. New postings were more frequently added in the summer and fall of 2025 leading up to the conference in Alamosa, comparable to the updates also made on the website such as registration information, lodging options, student assistance, a summary of events, the keynote speaker at the banquet, and the final conference program.

Annual Report 2023-2024

Last year's report was prepared by the RMAA secretary, as stipulated in the bylaws. The report covered the period from October 15, 2023 through October 14, 2024. After soliciting information from the Directors, a draft copy of the annual report for 2023-2024 was distributed to the BOD for their review two days prior to the BOD meeting of 28 October 2024. Edits were made to the report after that meeting at the end of October, but only very minor changes were made before the revised report was sent to the Directors for final review on 22 January 2025. At the next BOD meeting in February 2025, the edited version of the report was formally approved, and it was then posted on our Facebook page and website in mid-February 2025. All annual reports since 2017-2018 can be accessed on the [RMAA Reports page](#) of the website.

Miscellaneous RMAA Business

Treasurer Spencer Pelton filed RMAA tax form 990-N for 2023 with the IRS on 16 Jan 2025. Shortly thereafter, President Ken Cannon renewed RMAA's corporation status with State of Utah on 6 Feb 2025. Also, in late May and early September, fake emails posing as President Cannon were received by the Directors, soliciting financial assistance. The spam emails were quickly recognized and the rest of the Directors were alerted to the spoof.

No other RMAA business was reported during the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Black
RMAA Secretary