

## **RMAA Annual Report, 2019–2020**

The following summary covers the period October 7, 2019 through September 30, 2020 since the conclusion of the 2019 Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference (RMAC) in Logan, Utah. Two previous annual reports can be found on the “News/Announcements” page of the RMAA website.

### **RMAA Board Meetings**

One RMAA Board of Directors meeting was held via telephone conference call on December 11, 2019 as a follow-up to RMAC 2019 in Logan, UT. In preparation for this meeting, the minutes of the previous Board and General Business meetings were drafted for review, edited as requested, and the final versions sent to Board members with the new meeting agenda. Outgoing Treasurer Bill Eckerle also distributed his final Treasurer’s report to the Board prior to the meeting, via email attachment.

The agenda items discussed in December were the 2018-2019 annual report; RMAC 2019 summary finances and registration; options for soliciting and receiving donations; approving the proposal to hold RMAC 2021 in Alamosa, CO; archiving RMAA records; website updates and service fees to the webmaster; social media activity on Facebook and prospects for starting a new listserv or e-newsletter; creating a group of RMAA State/Province representatives; selection of new RMAA Officers for President, Vice-President and Treasurer; development of a vision statement and five-year plan; supporting student participation in RMAC; creating a “Sam Drucker Award” for best student presentation and donating to the Drucker family’s GoFundMe page; website recognition of outstanding Rocky Mountain scholars; options for compiling a list of speakers for public events; selling merchandise to increase RMAA revenue; and planning for the next Board of Directors meeting. The draft minutes of that meeting were made available for review to Board members on December 15, 2019.

### **RMAA Officers and Directors**

The eight Directors serving this year are: Kenneth Cannon, President; Jennifer Borresen Lee, Vice-President; Spencer Pelton, Treasurer; Kevin Black, Secretary; and Directors Brian Andrews, Molly Boeka Cannon, William Eckerle, and Rebecca Sgouros. Four of those eight are serving new four-year terms as a result of the

election held during RMAC 2019: Directors M. B. Cannon, Sgouros, Pelton, and Black. Other candidates for election to the Board of Directors were notified of the results in mid-October 2019.

Three Directors volunteered their services as new Officers during the December 2019 Board meeting: Kenneth Cannon for RMAA President, Jennifer Borresen Lee for Vice-President, and Spencer Pelton for Treasurer. In addition, Kevin Black agreed to continue to serve as Secretary. Updated contact information for all Officers and other members of the Board of Directors was posted on the “Contact Us” page of the RMAA website.

### **RMAA Finances**

Bill Eckerle, outgoing RMAA Treasurer, transferred his duties to Spencer Pelton during the December 11 Board meeting, passing along relevant documents and later adding Mr. Pelton’s name to RMAA’s bank account. The checking account balance—on deposit in a US Bank in Laramie, WY—was \$14,287.42 as of the Board meeting at RMAC 2019 and finished at \$12,879.44 on September 30, 2020. Major expenses during the year were to the Riverwoods Conference Center in Logan, UT for hosting RMAC 2019 (\$8,448.85 in November), to Gail Griswold for RMAC program design (\$350 in January + \$35 cancellation fee for a missing check), to Kendell Becker for live music at RMAC (\$800 in late October), and to Labenz and Associates for tax preparation (\$315). The most notable deposit, made in early November, was \$7,743.77 as proceeds from RMAC 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 August 14, 2019 and posted to the “About RMAA” page on the website on August 26, 2019. No new Bylaws issues arose during the past year and, therefore, no changes to the posted Bylaws have been made or proposed.

### **RMAC 2019**

Final registration figures for the October 3–6 conference in Logan, UT was 70 people attending, including 32 students. Financially, total RMAC expenditures were \$10,203.67 with revenues of \$11,373.77.

## **RMAC 2021**

RMAC 2021 will be held in Alamosa, Colorado and co-chaired by Jason LaBelle (Colorado State University) and Bonnie Pitblado (University of Oklahoma), with a theme honoring the career of recently deceased Dr. Dennis Stanford. This decision came after discussions with representatives from Laramie, WY resulted in an agreement to hold RMAC 2023 in that Wyoming city. Dr. LaBelle reported that he and Dr. Pitblado are working with staff from Adams State University on conference planning, and also have preliminary ideas on field trip options.

Dr. LaBelle also requested ideas from the Board of Directors on dealing with potential attendance competition from the Plains and Frozen Past conferences that will also take place in autumn 2021. Vice-President Jennie Lee suggested that the co-chairs explore the possibility of holding the RMAC meeting jointly with the Plains Conference currently scheduled for Boulder, CO, possibly alternating between both Alamosa and Boulder locations.

## **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, four web pages were updated, all in the period October 11, 2019 to January 14, 2020. Five website pages were not updated this year: About RMAA, Member Projects, Forum, Past Meetings, and Links. Updated pages are as follows:

“Home” page: The most prominent change revised the pop-up screen with a preliminary RMAC 2021 announcement, and a photo of outgoing treasurer Bill Eckerle thanking him for his six years of service in that position. In addition, the ‘Biennial Conference’ information at the bottom of the page was updated with a similar RMAC 2021 conference announcement and a link to the RMAC 2019 program. These changes were made in October 2019.

“News/Announcements”: The RMAC 2019 flyer, accompanied by a link to the conference program, was added on October 12. Also, a link to the annual report for 2018–2019 was added on January 14.

“RMAC 2019”: This page was revised in October to reflect the conclusion of the conference and to remove online registrations through PayPal, but retaining a “Donate” button via PayPal. A new addition was a congratulatory announcement on the four candidates elected to the Board of Directors election at RMAC 2019: Molly Boeka Cannon, Rebecca Sgouros, Spencer Pelton, and Kevin Black.

“Contact Us”: Updates occurred in October and December 2019 to reflect changes to Board of Directors membership, new Officers, and current contact information.

Webmaster David Rockwell submitted an eight-page illustrated report tracking the number and frequency of website visitors over the past year, among many other details. Key figures from his report include 564 New Users with 16% of them returning to the website after their first visit; a Bounce Rate of about 63% that represents the percentage of visitors who leave the site after only viewing the landing page; and visitors representing countries from five continents around the world, as well as over 70% of the states in the USA.

Mr. Rockwell’s previous report covering the period 1 Oct 2018–6 Oct 2019 was distributed to the full Board in late October 2019. Also, his request for a \$50/hour fee as webmaster was approved by the Board of Directors during the December 2019 meeting.

### **Miscellaneous**

In late October 2019, Brian Vivian volunteered to be the Alberta representative for RMAA, initiating the Board’s project to build a list of state/province representatives for outreach and publicity purposes.

President Ken Cannon updated RMAA registration information with the State of Utah, including current addresses for all members of the Board of Directors, in February 2020.

No other RMAA business was reported during the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Black  
RMAA Secretary