

2016 Southeastern Archaeological Conference Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 5:30-7:00 PM
The Branded Butcher, Athens, Georgia

Attendees, officers:

Greg Waselkov, president (outgoing)
Jay Johnson, president-elect
Janet Levy, new president-elect
Tony Boudreaux, secretary
Kandi Hollenbach, treasurer (outgoing)
Nick Hermann, treasurer-elect
Betsy Reitz, Journal editor
Mary Beth Trubitt, journal editor-elect
Shannon Hodge, Executive Officer I
Karen Smith, Social Media editor

Attendees, board members (non-voting):

Phil Hodge, newsletter editor (outgoing)
Sarah Bennett, new newsletter editor
Neil Wallis, book review editor
Vanessa Hanvey, SAC president

Attendees, committee members:

Brad Lieb, Native American Affairs

Attendees, guests:

Victor Thompson – meeting organizer
Chris Rodning – 2020 New Orleans report
Steve Kowaleski and Robbie Ethridge – Charles Hudson endowment
Maureen Meyers – James Ford marker
Maureen Meyers and Robbie Ethridge – James Ford marker, sexual harassment survey
Megan Buchanan, Liz Watts Malouchos, and Sarah Baires – SEAC mentoring program.

President Greg Waselkov called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Report from meeting organizers, Victor Thompson.

- The Athens meeting is on track to break records for participation with over 700 participants.

Officer Reports

- Secretary, Tony Boudreaux (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Treasurer, Kandi Hollenbach (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - Membership is at an all-time high and annual meetings have been very successful, but we need to prepare for what may be much smaller meeting in Tulsa. Using authorize.net now for paying membership dues online, but there are some issues with it and we may switch back to Paypal. Paypal also will be easier for

reconciliation with the Bank of America account. There has been discussion from the Native American affairs Committee for the organization to pay for the expenses of tribal members at the annual meeting.

- Editor, Betsy Reitz (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - The journal is doing fine and submissions are high. There has been some difficulty with Taylor and Francis. Betsy is working with the fifth production manager since she has been editor because the company buys up other companies and fires staff. There has been no consistency. For example, Betsy has had conversations about the appearance and formatting of the journal, but with such high turnover at Taylor and Francis, she has just used their formatting because all of the people she had worked with are gone. SEAC's contract with Maney / Taylor and Francis runs out in two years. Betsy is looking at other options, but the choice has many implications. We need to be diligent about the next contract. She proposes setting up a committee to solicit proposals for the next publisher of the journal. For this committee, need people with experience in publishing, especially electronic publishing. One big question is about copyrights. The editor no longer handles copyrights. Betsy thinks authors are signing away their copyright to Taylor and Francis, and that is problematic. We need to find a publishing house to stay with for the long term; possibly a less pricey, less fancy press. Betsy is soliciting input for potential presses to approach. One question is that if we sever ties with Taylor and Francis, do we need to negotiate the copyright to the journal. Our contract does not say who has copyright. The next contract needs to say who has copyright. Also, there has been a problem of issues coming out too early because Taylor and Francis want to publish as soon as possible. Some board members think that Taylor and Francis would be glad to get rid of SEAC because we are a small group that causes lots of headaches.
- Social Media, Karen Smith (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - The website and Twitter are our social media outlets. Most announcements that we post are job announcements, but these are down this year. SEAC's Twitter followers have doubled. We are one member away from exceeding MailChimp's free limit threshold. We have 1572 unique email addresses in our membership. It will cost \$35 per month to send out emails to more than 2000 people. Karen will try to cull the email list before we pay have to pay to email more than 2000. Karen would like to update the website homepage images. One suggestion was to use some of the images from the *Grit-Tempered: Early Women Archaeologists in the Southeastern United States* book. Greg suggested having a photo contest for the webpage as well.
- Associate Editor (Sales), Greg Waselkov for Eugene Futato (not in attendance)
 - Only one item was sold in the last year. He has little to sell because Taylor and Francis have the back issues for what they have published.
- Associate Editor (Newsletter), Philip Hodge
 - The newsletters have been published on time. Sarah Bennett will be taking over as the newsletter editor. Sarah said that she would like to do one thematic newsletter issue each year.
- Associate Editor (Book reviews), Neil Wallis

- The previous book-review editor, Patrick Livingood, has sent all of the books to Neil. He currently has 11 books out for review. All submissions are now electronic.

Committee Chair Reports

- Student Affairs, Vanessa Hanvey
 - The committee has made a concerted effort to reach out through social media. Patrick Johnson will be the new chair. They are electing three new people to the committee, and they are looking for a webmaster in particular. A listserv button has been added to the website. SAC is sponsoring two workshops at this meeting.
- SEAC Life Fund report, Paul Welch (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Archives, Patrick Livingood and Pat Galloway (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Public Outreach, Darlene Applegate (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Nominations, Scott Hammerstedt (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Native American Affairs, Brad Lieb (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - The committee has been largely inactive. They have developed a proposal for speaker's fund to bring a person to a tribe or a tribal person to a university or other venue. The fund will have a \$2000 cap with four awards given per year. The committee would evaluate applications. Brad has not heard back from all committee members, but he can deal with that through email. Brad is searching for new members for the committee, including a new chair. Right now, the committee consists of Adam King, Brett Riggs, Kent Reilly, Robbie Ethridge, and Brad. Several members have expressed an interest in being a liaison for a particular tribe, but the NAA would need to be a larger committee to do that.

Business before the board

- Southeastern Archaeological Mentoring Network, a proposal presented to the Executive Committee by Megan Buchanan, Liz Watts Malouchos, and Sarah Baires
 - Proposal. The goal of the Southeastern Archaeological Mentoring Network (SAMN) is to facilitate professional networks, strengthen resources, and provide guidance for archaeologists from historically underrepresented communities. This group will be a safe and collegial space for inquiring about and discussing all issues relevant to gender and minority experiences in southeastern archaeology at the graduate level and up. Developing mentoring strategies is a fundamental part of encouraging racial, ethnic, gender, sexual, and religious diversity in archaeology. With recent surveys highlighting the prevalence of sexual assault and harassment in the field, as well as numerous student committee sponsored forums at SEAC and the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) on gender disparities in our field, it has become increasingly clear that junior colleagues (particularly graduate students and recent graduate students) desire outside mentorship. Mentoring partners will be paired on the basis of research interests and career status. We will ask that interested participants agree to an initial commitment of one year. After this period, members can decide whether or not to continue mentoring partnerships. For a mentoring relationship to develop, both the mentor and mentee must feel that discussions of private issues or problems are being handled with discretion. We will also ask that participants sign a

confidentiality agreement to protect the privacy of all parties. The purpose of this agreement is to protect both the mentor and mentee from a breach in confidentiality during the mentoring process. SAMN proposes a Steering Committee whose leadership changes on biennial basis. The leaders of the upcoming 2016 SAMN events at SEAC in Athens, GA will be Drs. Meghan Buchanan (Auburn University) and Sarah Baires (Eastern Connecticut State University) and graduate student liaisons Elizabeth Watts Malouchos (Indiana University, Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology) and Jamie Arjona (University of Illinois). In order to promote SAMN and to facilitate connecting potential mentors and mentees, we request to have information in the form of signage and fliers (provided by SAMN organizers) at the registration desk throughout the duration of the conference and the SAMN call for membership to be included in the programming materials. Interested parties will be able to sign up to participate in SAMN by filling out a short survey and agreeing to the confidentiality agreement via this Google Form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/p3lQfc6KTnVKtatM2>.

- Discussion. Not sure how to move forward. Could the student affairs committee oversee this? Who could be a mentee? Other professional organizations are doing this. The one proposed here is modeled after the Society for Historical Archaeology's program. Greg Waselkov stated that it was a great need, but it is not clear how to implement it. Would it be a committee or would it operate independently? It may take a while to sort this out. Such a program would be good for people from outside the region to make inroads with scholars in the region. Lot of students wish they had someone other than their advisor to talk to. Impetus for this mentoring network is from ethics, gender disparities. One question was would this program be aimed at groups with more needs (e.g., women, minorities). Janet Levy and Betsy Reitz stated the need to create a structure to address this proposal that would include a task force and documents to sign that would spell out responsibilities. Betsy suggested that a SEAC Executive Officer could take this on. Vanessa Hanvey said that the Student Affairs Committee would be interested in working within the process.
- SEAC annual meeting in New Orleans, Chris Rodning
 - Chris has been in touch with two hotels that would be good for the conference, but they are not in the best locations. A major problem is that October and November are peak seasons, and this will be an issue every year. He got an offer for a 2019 meeting at the Hilton Riverside, but the dates are December 11-15. The question put before the board was would SEAC be willing to consider a December date or would they prefer a November date when room rates would be \$250-300 per night? The consensus of the discussion was that a mid-December date would not be viable and would likely be more of an issue than price.
- James Ford historical marker in Water Valley, Mississippi, Maureen Meyers
 - Maureen has been looking into establishing a state historic marker to honor James A. Ford in Water Valley, Mississippi, his hometown. The cost for the marker is \$1800, and the program may be cut by the state of Mississippi in January, so action would need to be taken soon. The Mississippi Archaeological Association and the Mississippi Association of Professional Archaeologists both committed

\$150 each. Maureen is looking for a \$1500 donation from SEAC to offset the cost. Ford was an important figure. Maureen also talked about hosting a small conference at the University of Mississippi to honor Ford along with the unveiling of the marker.

- Discussion. Karen Smith stated that we could do this one now, and possibly support additional markers in the future. Janet Levy proposed that we support Maureen's request for \$1500, and Jay Johnson seconded. The proposal passed unanimously.
- Sexual Harassment Task Force report, Maureen Meyers and Robbie Ethridge (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - Maureen reported on some of the activities that have happened since the results of the SEAC Sexual Harassment survey have been presented (at the annual meeting and in the newsletter). The editor of *Advanced Archaeological Practices* contacted her about publishing an article based on the SEAC data. The article will be published in May or early June. SEAC owns the data, but the board gave permission to publish as long as the board is informed. She was contacted by the National Park Service about the SEAC survey. NPS is creating a survey based largely on the SEAC survey, and Maureen was asked to be a peer reviewer. NPS is moving quickly. The report from the NPS survey will be submitted to Congressional subcommittees. Maureen also served on a SAA task force on sexual harassment, as did Tony Boudreaux. She also has been invited to present the results of the SEAC survey to the California Archaeological Society Meeting in March 2017.
 - Maureen pointed out that at SEAC's 2014 annual meeting, a sexual harassment task force was created, but nothing has happened with this task force. She is asking that the board put together a task force and that it move quickly. The task force should be put together at this meeting, and they should get together in the spring to come up with policies. It would need four to five members. SEAC should pay for them to meet and develop policies, and then report to the board in Fall 2017.
 - Discussion. Greg Waselkov noted his frustration that nothing has happened. Robbie Ethridge stated that no action on SEAC's part sends a clear message that this issue is not important and the organization should do something about this. Greg decided that the task force should be constituted, and that Jay Johnson should appoint members.

Awards Committee Reports

- C.B. Moore Award, T.R. Kidder (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Lifetime Achievement Awards, Martha Zierden (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - There were no submissions before the deadline, but three excellent submissions were received after the membership was solicited.
- Patty Jo Watson Award, Mary Beth Trubitt (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
 - All nominations came from the membership this year. Mary Beth recommends also soliciting nominations from presses in the future.
- Student Paper Award, Asa Randall (see Business Meeting minutes for report)

- There were nine submissions this year, down from a high of 18 in the past. The early submission date may have been an issue for this year. We need to make sure that the submission date for next year is well publicized. He recommends putting all the student award information on the SEAC webpage rather than just as part of the meeting registration process.
- Student Paper Award Prizes, Jay Johnson (see Business Meeting minutes for report)
- Charles Hudson Award, Steve Kowaleski and Robbie Ethridge.
 - They have been soliciting funds for this award which will be aimed at preparing future scholars. They have have raised \$6964 so far, plus a pledge for \$9000 for a total of approximately \$16,000. A minimum of \$20,000 is required to fund the award. Steve encourages everyone to dig deep.

Future Meetings

- Augusta, Georgia 2018, Karen Smith and Keith Stephenson
- Jackson, Mississippi 2019, Jay Johnson, Tony Boudreaux, and Maureen Meyers
 - Jay Johnson and Tony Boudreaux expressed concerns with the limited number of restaurants and bars near the only venue available in Jackson. The board was asked for their opinion on this situation, and the consensus was to move forward with planning for Jackson in 2019.

Review of Memorial Resolutions

- see Business Meeting minutes for all resolutions.

New Business

- Proposed changes to C.B. Moore Award process, Janet Levy and Betsy Reitz
 - In 2015, Janet shared concerns about the C.B. Moore award with the SEAC board. These concerns included:
 - There is no definition of “excellence” in SE archaeology. Do we mean peer-reviewed published scholarship mainly? Do we also include excellence in CRM projects? In public archaeology and community outreach? (It can be any or all of those, but it should be clear.)
 - The letters of nomination provide little helpful information. One person can—and, sometimes, does—nominate more than one candidate. Furthermore, a member of the review group may also be a nominator. With the best will in the world, this is a potential conflict of interest.
 - The process of continuing nominations for up to 10 years is unwieldy. Some nominations are never updated. This process also allows a potential of “gaming” the system by submitting a nomination, whether or not the individual is well-qualified, immediately after receiving the Ph.D., and then having it continue automatically for 10 years.
 - The group which reviews the nominations changes size every year and includes some really odd categories, such as a member of the Lower Mississippi Survey, which is an organization that—as far as Janet can tell—has no mission and no way for people to join, and, possibly, no members. The review group is also overly large and participation is intermittent.

- For all of these reasons, Janet and Betsy have drafted the following motions to revise the process for the award. These motions are meant as a package, but they are presented separately for the sake of clarity. Of course, they might be modified after discussion.
 - 1) The CB Moore Award recognizes an outstanding record of high-quality, peer-reviewed, published scholarship by a young scholar within 10 years of receiving the Ph.D.
 - 2) The CB Moore Award will be decided by a standing committee (comparable to the Lifetime Achievement Award committee) consisting of the President-elect of SEAC as chair and four members appointed by the Board. Members of the committee must be at least 10 years beyond the Ph.D. (i.e., no longer eligible to be considered for the award). Members will serve 2 years terms. When the committee is originally set up, terms will be staggered so that there is continuity from year to year. A member may serve two consecutive terms, but no more. Former recipients of the award are eligible to serve on the committee once they are past the 10-year phase.
 - 3) Candidates for the CB Moore Award may be nominated at any time during the 10 years following receipt of the Ph.D. Candidates may be considered up to three times during that 10 years. Candidates must submit an up-to-date CV and a current nomination letter for any of those three nominations (i.e., application/nominations shall not be continued automatically from year to year).
 - 4) Nomination letters may be up to 400 words. A member of SEAC may submit only one nomination per year. A member of the CB Moore Award selection committee may not submit a letter of nomination while serving on the committee. Authors of nomination letters are urged to describe special or unique or distinctive qualities of the nominee in their nomination letters. Authors of nomination letters are urged to not simply list numbers and outlets of publications: the reviewers can see that information in the CV. Whenever possible, nomination letters should highlight relevant information that is not apparent from the CV.
- Discussion. Janet Levy noted the fuzzy criteria for the award. When it was created, a small group decided the winner, so they knew what excellence was. Definition of “excellence” is not clear now. Also, the nomination letters are perfunctory. Janet has proposed the creation of a standing committee to decide the winner, as we have with other awards, to be chaired by the President-Elect; this committee should reach a consensus about what excellence means; nominators can only write one nominating letter per year; the members of the committee cannot write a nomination; once nominated, a person remains nominated for 3 years then is removed. Betsy Reitz noted that these changes will bring this award in line with other SEAC awards. Betsy motioned to have this award be administered by a standing committee headed by President-elect, and that this committee should work out the operating procedures (e.g., criteria for winning, nomination process, etc.). The motion was seconded by Nick Hermann and unanimously approved by a voice vote. Janet Levy abstained from the vote.

- The Ashley White issue, Greg Waselkov
 - SEAC has been threatened through email with a lawsuit by Ashley White's lawyer if we allowed the presentation of a paper on a disputed De Soto site in Florida. The consensus of the discussion was that SEAC should avoid being drawn into a feud, the organization should not alter the program, and we should not be bullied into removing a paper from the program. Betsy Reitz and Janet Levy suggested that board members should be present at the paper if possible in case there are issues.

President Waselkov adjourned the meeting at 7:12pm.