

ASOR Chairs Coordinating Council
Conference Call 1:00PM Feb 13, 2014

Present: Cynthia Rufo-McCormick, LeeAnn Gordon, Robert Darby, Sharon Herbert, Andy Vaughn, Susan Ackerman, Laura Mazow, Chuck Jones, Sten Labianca, Randy Younker, Danielle Fatkin

Absent: Geoff Emberling, Erin Darby

I. Approval of January Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

II. Thanks to all (Sharon and Susan)

Sharon thanked the committee for participating in the challenge gift fundraiser. Every committee chair donated to the campaign, and encouraged participation from their respective committees. Susan also thanked everyone for donating both time and money to the successful campaign. It was suggested that communications to the membership should not solicit any more donations for a while. Andy mentioned that March Fellowship Madness is coming up, which is a yearly event.

III. Chairs Nominating Committee

The CNC was established last year. It is chaired by the Vice President of ASOR. The committee has an uneven number of members with two year terms. The committee was formed with three people, one of whom, Jennie Ebeling, is rotating off committee. Sten Labianca is joining the committee. Chuck Jones and Sharon Herbert are still on the committee.

IV. Report from Membership and Outreach Committee (Randy)

Randy began his report by asking the committee if there is anyone who should be added to the Membership and Outreach Committee. Susan confirmed that there are two additions to the committee, Stephanie Elkins and Stevan Dana. Sharon expressed that she thinks it sounds like a productive group, and could not think of any additions.

Randy distributed a list of issues and potential projects to the Membership Committee for discussion. Items on this list include: how can the committee be involved with ASOR's e-newsletters; what types of new benefits would be attractive to institutional members (one possible benefit would be posting jobs from institutions in ASOR's social media outlets); what should the role of the committee be in editing outreach content; what is the role and relationship of CAP affiliation in regard to membership benefits. Other topics of discussion will include how to expand membership in general, and institutional membership specifically. Regarding institutional membership, the committee will be discussing whether there are certain types or sizes of institutions that should be targeted, and if a tiered pricing model or "guest" for membership would be cost effective.

Andy said as far as “guest” memberships, it is the current practice to give non-member donors a gratis membership, and then include them in membership renewal reminder mailings. About half of these people become paying members. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to develop a policy for gratis memberships, and to study this type of approach to recruiting members.

V. Discussion Items Arising from the Membership and Outreach Committee (Andy and Randy)

Andy asked two questions for feedback on *ANE Today* and *News@ASOR*: was the committee aware that there are two separate e-newsletters; and should the number of feature articles in *ANE Today* be increased?

The committee in general did not give a clear answer to whether or not they were aware of the existence of and differentiation between the two e-newsletters. One committee member was aware of both e-newsletters and felt that they both contain exceptional content.

The question of whether ASOR is still publishing a paper newsletter was raised, particularly since *News@ASOR* has been favorably received. It was mentioned that the paper newsletter has been touted as a benefit of membership. Andy clarified that the language regarding this membership benefit has been modified to include the e-newsletters, and that libraries expecting a paper newsletter should be refunded if publication of the paper newsletter ceases.

Regarding the question of whether the number of feature articles in *ANE Today* should be increased, the opinion was expressed that, while more content could be included via sidebar links, the number of “headline” articles should remain the same so as not to become too “busy.”

It was suggested that a system should be created for soliciting scholarly opinions on particularly popular articles. One suggestion was to have the editor of *ANE Today* contact academics and ask for their responses in an interview format.

Andy suggested that committee members who are currently teaching could encourage their students to subscribe to *ANE Today* and ASORtv and respond to articles and videos.

Chuck recommended acquiring ISSN numbers for both e-newsletters, both to legitimize them as publications, and to make them importable for library catalogs.

It was suggested that an interesting way of presenting archived *ANE Today* content would be via a map that organizes articles geographically.

VI. Matters Arising

This is the point when chairs can report on things that have happened since our last call.

Chuck says the COP is close to establishing an editorial management system for two of the journals, similar to the management system used for NEA. This will facilitate the collating process for each issue and also track metrics on the journal content, such as the genders of authors, etc. This system will be available to the new BASOR editors.

Sten requested that Andy clarify Cynthia's role as the primary staff contact person for the committee chairs. Andy said that this role is part of a larger effort to better utilize the committees in giving feedback to, and collaborating with the staff. This will include check-ins with committee chairs to solicit minutes and offer staff support for committee projects. Andy said that as the specifics of this role are refined, a master list of all current committee projects will be made to determine where Cynthia's support should be prioritized. The goal is to have more contact between the office and the committees.

Danielle gave an update from the Program Committee. The abstract submission deadline for the Annual Meeting is on February 15th. The Archaeology of Iran session is coming together. Things have continued to go smoothly with the transition between committee chairs. The committee is struggling with the logistics of the joint sessions with SBL. One issue is that the two organizations have different deadlines, but the committee is hoping to clear up that confusion for future years. Susan added that she went through the evaluations for the past Annual Meeting and they were uniformly positive.

Sharon requested that the committee read through the packet of handouts from the Board and Executive Committee meetings since 2006. Committee chairs should communicate with Sharon in the next few weeks regarding items relevant to their committees that should be included in the agendas for future conference calls.

The question of a CCC retreat date was raised. Andy and Sharon agreed to discuss this and contact the committee with possible dates. [Subsequent to the conference call, Andy sent out an email asking chairs to let Sharon, Cynthia, and Andy know if they could meet in the Detroit area on the weekend of May 10 or May 17.]