

# ARLIS/NA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – CENTRAL PLAINS – MEETING

Atlanta, GA

30 April 2007

Present: Marilyn Carbonell, Susan Craig, Lois Crane, Suzy Frechette, Mikael Kriz, Mari Russell, Amy Trendler (regional rep.), Ellen Urton (chair), Rina Vecchiola, & Tom Young.

## Meeting called to order at 9:05 am

- Fall Meeting (Susan Craig): The Central Plains Chapter's fall meeting will be held on September 27 – 29, 2007. On Friday (9/26), we will meet at the University of Oklahoma where Native American resources will be discussed and we will tour the museum and the Charles Russell Center. On Saturday (9/27), we will meet in Oklahoma City and visit the Oklahoma City Memorial, Cowboy Hall of Fame, and other options.
- Chapter Officers meeting (Ellen Urton & Susan Craig): Important note – donations and sponsorships provided to chapters should be made aware to the ARLIS/NA Board.
- Amy Trendler, new MidWest Regional Representative:
  - Chapter Websites: the ARLIS/NA logo should appear on all chapter websites and all chapters should provide a link to the ARLIS/NA homepage on their chapter websites.
  - The Board discussed tiered membership options at their meeting in Atlanta.
  - The Ohio Chapter lost half of its membership due to required membership in ARLIS/NA. Other groups have fewer affiliates/associates as a result.
  - Amy reiterated that ARLIS/NA does not want the CP chapter to restructure our by-laws; just omit Article IV on Associates and that alternative participation categories should not appear in chapter by-laws.
  - Our chapter voted to sign the affiliation agreement Tom Young signed it and sent it to the board. He expected to receive a copy and has not seen one yet.
  - ARLIS/NA purchased Member Clicks and will offer to host chapter websites:
    - They will develop a template for chapters and would host them on the ARLIS/NA server.
    - This would also include options for blogs and wikis which our chapter may wish to consider in the future, depending on our needs.
  - Insurance for chapter officers: we cannot afford it, and basically neither can anyone else. It would cost approx. \$1000 per annum. ARLIS/NA wants it brought to our attention nonetheless. We could also opt for event insurance for chapter meetings.
  - Wittenborn Award: will be under prevue of chapters council.
- Discussion regarding the Assessment Task Force Recommendations:
  - Regarding the document overall:
    - These changes are not really new; they were presented 7 years ago and were met with rejection then.
    - Fundamentally, we feel that more structure is needed rather than less.
    - Suggest analysis of management firm should also be undertaken.
    - The Central Plains chapter does not agree with the analysis of the data gathered by the Assessment Task Force. Although the Task Force's expediency and the usefulness of the data collected are to be commended, there are no clear connections between the data and what the Task Force suggests that the data illustrates. These recommendations are largely based on assumptions and misinterpretation of their findings. For example, an apparent loss of interest in the DSRT's may not be due to a loss of interest at all, but could actually be an indication that newer members of ARLIS/NA do not receive sufficient information regarding either the existence of or

- the means by which they could participate. It seems more prudent to further investigate that assumption by polling the ARLIS/NA membership about their actual feelings/questions/suggestions about the DSRT's rather than wipe the slate clean and start over. We suggest that more input needs to be gathered, more members should be involved and more time should be spent on a thorough analysis of the organization.
- Not everyone participates in ARLIS/NA through the conference or through one of the sub-groups. In many cases the chapters are the primary affiliation activity and often serve as the best recruitment tool for the Society.
  - Concern about losing Regional Representatives in the proposed restructuring. Under the proposed structure, Regional Representatives would be replaced with representation based on themes (marketing, advertising, etc.) and a solo Chapter Coordinator would serve to link chapters both together and to the Board.
    - One solo Chapter Coordinator could not hope to attend all 16 chapter meetings within a reasonable time period. It could conceivably take 2 years to accomplish. Our chapter benefits greatly from the MidWest Representative's participation in our chapter meetings, not only due to the valuable perspective offered during business meetings, but because it offers the opportunity to develop a rapport through face-to-face interaction. We would essentially lose an established and direct line of communication between the chapter and the ARLIS/NA Executive Board which we consider essential.
    - We also find that the geographic continuity offered by a Regional Representative to be valuable.
  - Questions:
    - Does the ARLIS/NA current membership have sufficient expertise at its disposal to successfully fill the thematic positions (such as marketing, advertising, etc.)?
    - What is behind this push towards re-structuring? Cost is a major issue. For example, it costs a lot to schedule meeting rooms for all DSRT's at our conferences and limits conference location choices.
    - What are the benefits of this change?
    - What are regional benefits from ARLIS/NA? What does NA provide to CP? (Some answers: part of larger organization, tax protection, chapter will always exist.)
  - Other:
    - Everything is still under discussion.
    - Decisions could be made on restructuring by this coming summer.
  - Motion: Vote to endorse the continuation of regional representation as a chapter.
    - Vote: Unanimous in favor
  - Will discuss DSRT's at Fall meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Mikael D. Kriz  
 June 12, 2007