

Spring 2018 AAG Council Meeting
April 8-10, 2018
New Orleans, LA

Minutes

Present: Derek Alderman, *President*; Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, *Vice President*; Glen MacDonald, *Past President*; Julie Cidell, *Treasurer*; Cathleen McAnneny, *Secretary*; Doug Richardson, *Executive Director*; David DiBiase, Lorraine Dowler, John Hayes, Rebecca Kelly, Sriram Khe', John Kupfer, Patrick Lawrence, Darren Purcell, Sue Roberts, Deborah Thomas, Jamie Winders, Susy Ziegler

Student Representative (non-voting): Shadi Maleki
Visitor: Lindsay Naylor, incoming Middle States Councilor
AAG Staff: Candida Mannozi and Zan Dodson

April 8, 2018

The meeting was convened at 3:07 PM CDT. President Alderman welcomed everyone and initiated a round of introductions.

Councilor Sriram Khe moved to adopt the agenda, the motion was seconded by Julie Cidell and the agenda was adopted unanimously.

The minutes from the fall 2017 Council meeting were approved by the council with an email vote. Councilor Patrick Lawrence moved to affirm the email vote accepting the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jamie Winders and the motion to affirm the email vote was unanimous.

President's Comments

President Derek Alderman thanked the AAG staff and Executive Director Douglas Richardson for all of their hard work in service to the AAG. He also thanked Councilor Lorraine Dowler for co-authoring the January 2018 AAG Newsletter column on efforts to ensure that national meetings are safe spaces, free from harassment for all participants. Dowler will present a proposal to Council on this topic at later in the Council meeting. Alderman encouraged Councilors to encourage colleagues to join for the newly formed Geography Speakers Bureau. He also requested Councilors to help nominate more departments for the Program Excellence Award and to work with colleagues to encourage more nominations for all AAG Awards.

Alderman mentioned the three meeting themes highlighted in New Orleans: Black Geographies; Hazards, Geography and GIScience; and Public Engagement. There are a number of excellent speakers and presenters who will contribute to these sessions, ensuring that the Annual Meeting reflects local challenges and concerns while highlighting the latest geographic scholarship and research.

Vice President's Comments

Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach thanked Derek Alderman for his leadership at the AAG and for his focus on civil rights over the course of his presidency.

She thanked the Executive Director, the AAG staff and the Council for responding to current issues and challenges in a timely fashion. Science, Geography, and Human Rights and protecting scientific freedom will be a focus of her term. The University of Texas, Austin is hosting the Race, Ethnicity and Place conference this fall. The AAG Executive Committee plans to meet there at the same time. She suggested that the Council consider creating response teams at the AAG similar to the AAAS' On- Call -Scientists Program.

Luzzadder-Beach also mentioned the need for fundraising for certain AAG awards programs. The theme she chose for the Department Chairs Luncheon in New Orleans focused on fundraising for geography departments/programs in challenging times, and included guest speakers who had particular expertise in facing and overcoming such challenges: M. Duane Nellis, Kavita Pandit, Joseph Wood, and Jonathan Harbor.

Past President's Comments

Glen MacDonald stated that it was a pleasure to serve on the AAG Council various capacities. He thanked Derek Alderman for his leadership and energy and his focus on making the discipline better and stronger. He also thanked Luzzadder-Beach for her willingness to step in early in her tenure as Vice President and to lend her time to the challenges facing the Association. He also thanked Richardson and the AAG staff for their hard work and dedication.

He welcomed new councilors and recognized the hard work of the Council.

MacDonald observed that Organization is doing well financially; however, we are not without challenge. Geographers and the AAG Council must remain active and even, need to be proactive, in facing challenges to the discipline and science. MacDonald emphasized that this is a responsibility that AAG Councilors need to take seriously.

Regional division updates

The full Regional Division reports are provided in Appendix A.

Councilor Lawrence was asked by Council at their Fall 2017 meeting to survey the AAG Regional Divisions about how they conduct their elections and report his findings to the Council. The survey questionnaire is provided in Appendix B.

Alderman pointed out that there seems to be a variety of approaches among Regional Divisions, when it comes to electing regional Councilors. Some allow only the members of a Regional Division to vote for their Boards and Councilors, while other Divisions allow all AAG members located in that region to participate in the regional election.

Alderman pointed out that Regional Councilors represent *all* AAG members from their region, not just the current Regional Division members. He encouraged the Regional Division Councilors to discuss further the differences in election processes for Regional Councilors. Richardson recommended that the Council clarify the AAG Constitution's Guidelines regarding the election of Regional Division Councilors. There was general consensus that this item should be added to the agenda for the Fall Council Meeting.

Student Representative's Comments

Student Representative Shadi Maleki presented the results of a student survey, which was conducted after the fall 2017 Council Meeting. The survey uncovered a disconnect between geography departments, their research, and the needs of the communities in which they are located. Maleki indicated that the Graduate Student Affinity Group plans to create a database working with NGO's to help graduate students seeking relevant research topics connect with the potential needs in their communities. Council noted that there are places with such programs in place such as at the University of Ireland Manohah under the direction of Karen Till, and Carnegie Mellon, and that it might be helpful to contact them as part of this effort.

Discussion

Alderman asked the Council to consider how they might assist or participate in the Healthy Departments Committee's work. He encouraged Councilors to turn to this Committee, the Executive Director, and the AAG President whenever challenges to geography programs arise, to provide a direct and more concrete connection about programs that are at risk. He encouraged Councilors to reach out when they hear of a program in trouble. Richardson indicated that the Healthy Departments Committee, in conjunction with some Councilmembers, can deploy a "quick response package" to assist departments who may request this kind of support from the AAG.

Executive Director Succession Plan

Alderman reminded the Council that Executive Director Richardson had indicated to Council his intention to retire from his position at the AAG. Richardson presented a draft of an Executive Director Succession Plan for the consideration of the Council. The importance of this transition and the decision before Council was emphasized by Alderman, MacDonald and Richardson. Alderman asked for a motion to approve the succession plan. After some discussion the motion was tabled until the next morning.

Alderman reconvened at 9:00 AM on Monday, April 9th, 2018, The Council resumed discussion of the Executive Director Succession Plan. Past President MacDonald suggested forming an AAG Executive Director Search Committee, as provided in the Succession Plan, to work with an outside firm to conduct the search. There was also a suggestion that a "working group" be formed to develop the qualifications, duties and goals for the Executive Director and the AAG as a whole. Richardson was asked to draft an Executive Director Position description for the Search Committee. As recommended by Richardson in his Succession Plan, the position description should reference the AAG strategic plan and link the search to the plan and its mission and vision.

After lengthy discussions the Council agreed to the composition of the Search Committee. The Search Committee will be comprised of two Council Members, three AAG past Presidents, and two additional members. This formula was discussed and approved. Council provided Alderman with suggestions for potential Search Committee members. A list of candidates was compiled, voted on and resulted in a list of candidates and alternates.

It was also suggested that Regional Councilors survey attendees at the fall meetings to get a sense of what they think the priorities of the AAG should be.

The AAG Executive Director Succession Plan, with minor revisions, was circulated to Council. *Purcell moved to adopt the revised, April 9, 2018 version of the AAG Executive Director Succession Plan. The motion was seconded by John Kupfer, and was adopted unanimously.*

Richardson commented that he planned to announce his retirement to the membership during the upcoming Opening Plenary of the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. His retirement will take effect sometime between August 31, 2019 and February 1, 2020.

Possible AAG support for Scott Warren

Sriram Khe' updated the council on Scott Warren's situation.

Warren is a PhD in Geography teaches online for ASU. He is involved with a group called No More Deaths- part of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Currently Warren is facing three felony charges for his work with this group along the Arizona-Mexico border. There has been a legal defense fund established for Dr. Warren. Richardson suggested that the Council consult with Warren's lawyers before taking any action to be sure that whatever AAG does is helpful.

MacDonald suggested that the AAG could issue a statement about humanitarian aspects of the work that Scott and others do and ask for contributions to Warren's legal defense fund. MacDonald also asked that we consider whether this work is related to the practice of Geography.

Luzzadder-Beach concurred that we should to get in touch with him or his lawyers and make sure that we get it right and consistent with what he and his lawyers want to do. Alderman and Khe' volunteered to reach out to him to determine what kind support he needs. There was general consensus for Alderman and Khe' to reach out to Warren and his legal team.

The discussion moved to the related topic of geographers and other scholars being targets of harassment. Some of our colleagues in geography have been the targets of harassment because of their research and other related activities.

The question was raised what can AAG do with regard to support against threats and even death threats? Alderman requested that the AAG staff to identify resources to help people who are experiencing this kind of harassment and create an online list of such resources. Richardson agreed. Lyndsey Naylor suggested involving the Geography Faculty Development Alliance.

Discussion of new vision for the *Professional Geographer*

The Council continued its discussions about the possibility of "refreshing" the vision for this particular AAG journal. The AAG recently sent out a survey to its members to invite their feedback on this idea. DiBiase reported on the work of the Council subcommittee that had been charged last fall with elaborating some suggestions for a new vision for the *PG*. DiBiase provided a summary of the committee's report and their suggestion that the next *PG* editor should be responsible for developing and implementing this vision. However, the Council felt that this should be a cooperative effort between the council and the editor. Implementation will be easier if the new editor is part of the process to develop the new vision.

The timeframe for the position ad is short. For this reason, the committee chose to draft a call for applications for the editorial position, which they submitted to Council for review. The job ad should be out pretty quickly, maybe building on what the sub-committee has done.

Hayes suggested compiling and analyzing the data from the membership survey, to be able to use it in the course of defining the vision for this journal. This suggestion was met with general agreement.

There was a suggestion to have Council interview candidates online in September. Khe' countered that this would not give the AAG Publications Committee enough time to review the applications and make their recommendations as to who should be interviewed by the Council. The discussion resulted in general agreement to explicitly include in the call for editors a statement that the new editor will be working with the AAG Council on developing the new vision for the *PG*. The Publications Committee will work on the job ad for this opening. This ad would include language about working with the Council on developing the vision for the journal, and include language about reach and impact. In order to give the Publications committee and the Council sufficient time, *Hayes suggested asking Barney Warf to serve for an additional period (through June 2018), to allow Council to review applications and hold interviews in November. This suggestion met with general consensus.*

There was also general consensus that the AAG should circulate a call for editors as soon as possible, including a statement that the selected editor(s) will work with the AAG Council on developing a new vision for the PG, and providing a link to an anonymous listing of the membership survey responses regarding a new vision for the PG.

Safe Meetings

Lorraine Dowler spoke about a proposed initiative to make AAG meetings safer, harassment-free places for all attendees. Dowler gave an overview of reactions and testimonials from members, following the January 2018 Newsletter column she co-authored with Alderman on this topic. She indicated that the responses pointed to a need for the AAG to look into whether the association is doing everything possible to make the Annual Meeting a safe space for all participants. She therefore proposed the creation of a working group to address the need to make the AAG meetings safer spaces, and shared a list of preliminary working group members for the Council's review. A few additional persons were suggested to round out the diversity of the proposed working group. Richardson also offered the addition of an AAG staff liaison. *Richardson moved to establish a task force to address harassment at AAG meetings. Deborah Thomas seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.*

A motion to adopt the Consent agenda from Darren Purcell seconded by Deborah Thomas. The vote was unanimous.

Finance

Richardson reviewed the Association's financial status and reported that the association is in excellent financial health. Cidell reviewed the one page financial summary provided to Council. The Auditors gave the AAG a clean unqualified audit. Richardson mentioned that the auditors noted that AAG accounting procedures are good, written down, and followed.

Luzzadder-Beach moved to approve the AAG's audited FYE 2017 Financial Statements. Cidell seconded the motion. The Financial Statements were approved unanimously.

AAG FYE 2019 Budget

A review of the proposed FYE 2019 budget was provided by Richardson. Treasurer Cidell and Richardson reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the budget at their meeting and unanimously recommended to Council that it be approved.

Roberts moved to approve the FYE 2019 budget. Cidell seconded the motion. The FYE 2019 Budget was adopted unanimously.

AAG Investment Policy

Discussion of socially responsible investments was led by Julie Cidell. She reported that 17.5% of the AAG Endowment is in stocks. This is estimated to increase to 25% by 2019. There are two socially responsible funds in which 12% of the AAG stock investments reside. The Finance Committee and the AAG investment advisor state that it is too soon to determine if these funds are performing well. More time is needed to watch the trends before making any further financial decisions.

Darren Purcell asked whether the Finance Committee discussed what standard for AAG investments is recommended, specifically what lag the organization can tolerate give the current market volatility.

John Hayes introduced a proposal for socially responsible investments following on the proposal he brought forward last fall. He proposed that language be added that AAG's investment policy that includes social responsibility as well as considerations for climate change and fossil fuel divestment. Alderman requested that Hayes draft language that can be discussed by Council at the fall meeting.

MacDonald commented that we need to define socially responsible investments. Sriram Khe' would like to see language that reflects views and that small losses in portfolio value may not violate our fiducial responsibility.

Richardson suggested that investing in clean energy may be an alternative strategy to divesting.

Richardson introduced a request from ActionAid USA claiming that some TIAA-CREF pension funds may be implicated in possible deforestation and similar practices. Richardson suggested that Cidell investigate with TIAA-CREF the veracity of these claims and what they may be doing to address this. Hayes volunteered to attend the session being held at the Annual Meeting by the ActionAid USA panel.

Membership

An overview of AAG membership numbers and member categories was provided by Richardson. He also noted the highly progressive AAG dues schedule. He also shared statistics on non-member attendance at the AAG Annual Meeting: 64.8% of attendees are AAG members and 35.2% are non-members. The AAG has been very successful in attracting attendees from other disciplines to the AAG Annual Meeting.

Volunteer Faculty Proposal

A proposal from Stanley Brunn to establish a Volunteer Geography Faculty Program to serve community colleges and minority serving institutions was referred by Richardson for the Council.

Richardson proposed asking Joseph Wood to organize and chair a committee to explore this idea, assess its feasibility, and then provide feedback to Council as to whether it ought to be pursued. His proposal met with the Council's general consensus.

Committees and Specialty Groups

McAnneny circulated a sheet containing some suggested names for AAG committee vacancies and requested additional suggestions from Council before the close of the meeting.

McAnneny provided a summary of AAG Committee reports, highlighting two that required the Council's attention: Enhancing Diversity, and Mel Marcus Fund.

Enhancing Diversity Committee

Richardson recommended approval of the Enhancing Diversity Committee's request for removing the following language from their charge: "This includes monitoring and promoting enhanced status for women and minorities in the profession and serving as a commission of record for any grievances by members with respect to discrimination and graduate admissions, hiring, employment, and career development, or other related issues." He indicated the liability for the AAG, should Committees or other subsets of the Association enter into actions or issue statements on behalf of the AAG, as they are not legally authorized to do so.

Alderman also informed Council that the Executive Committee had discussed some possible activities or responsibilities the Enhancing Diversity Committee could take on, such as:

- supporting/enhancing the AAG's efforts in student outreach,
- contributing to existing or initiating new mentorship activities for AAG members,
- assisting with AAG member recruitment,
- suggesting more diverse candidates for AAG Honors, Fellows, and Awards,
- collecting and sharing resources on how to better serve diverse communities within the academy and the AAG, etc.

Alderman moved that Council approve removing the following sentence from the charge of the Enhancing Diversity Committee: "This includes monitoring and promoting enhanced status for women and minorities in the profession and serving as a commission of record for any grievances by members with respect to discrimination and graduate admissions, hiring, employment, and career development, or other related

issues.” . He also moved that Council ask the Committee to rewrite their charge and submit it for Council review/approval at the Fall 2018 meeting. Hayes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mel Marcus Fund Committee:

Richardson provided an overview of the AAG Mel Marcus Fund’s finances and the fact that it is currently unable to sustain the annual \$2,000 AAG Marcus Fund awards. *He pointed to the request in the Marcus Fund Committee’s report that the Committee members be allowed to serve another year, in order to assist with fundraising efforts for this fund. Council expressed general consensus for extending their terms.*

Critical Geographies of Education Specialty Group resubmission of petition

Richardson moved for the approval of the formation of Critical Geographies of Education SG. Cidell seconded the motion. Lawrence spoke in opposition to the motion, on the principle of the risk of splintering the discipline. The motion passed with fourteen votes in favor and four abstentions.

Film Geographies Specialty Group petition

Richardson provided an overview of this group’s petition and their failure to communicate with the Media and Communication SGs to address their concerns for their formation, as had been requested by Council at their 2017 fall meeting. *He suggested asking them again to address the Media and Communication SGs concerns by the 2018 Fall Council meeting. Should they fail to do so again, he recommended that their request be denied. His suggestion was met with general consensus.*

Revisions to Specialty and Affinity Group Handbook

DiBiase gave an overview of the proposed revisions. The review of the Specialty and Affinity Group Handbook was requested by President Alderman. Richardson suggested adding a statement to the Handbook clarifying that Specialty Groups and Affinity Groups are not independent legal entities, but subsets of the AAG and as such subject to AAG rules & regulations.

DiBiase moved to adopt the proposed revisions to the Specialty and Affinity Group Chairs Handbook section covering the rules regarding the establishment of Specialty and Affinity Groups. Kupfer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Di Biase also offered to find a location in the Handbook for the statement suggested by Richardson.

Meridian Place Operations

Richardson gave an overview over several items in this section.

Publications

Richardson walked the Council through the original 2007 AAG Publications Agreement he entered into with Taylor and Francis, and the 2017 ten year Addendum he recently negotiated. He reminded Councilors that they must maintain the confidentiality of any contractual or other sensitive information included in Council packets.

David Butler's proposed that the 2021 *Annals* Special Issue focus on the Anthropocene. This was approved by consensus.

Peirce Lewis memorial in *Annals*

Joseph Wood proposed gathering a team of authors. Alderman suggested getting more information on the proposed authors for this memorial and then holding an online Council vote.

James McCarthy's request to allow Erle Ellis to take Carolyn Finney's place on the Nature and Society editorial board was approved by general consensus.

Commentaries on AAG articles

Khe' summarized the proposal, which had gone before Council in the Fall 2017 meeting. Khe' asked Council to approve the proposed Commentary Policy for the *Annals* to publish comments online-only on the publisher's website and with a link to the original article.

Purcell moved to accept the proposed commentary policy for the Annals. Thomas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Richardson mentioned that the AAG/Wiley *International Encyclopedia of Geography* received the prestigious American Library Association's 2017 CHOICE award for Outstanding Academic Title. CHOICE *connect* is a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

Communications

Richardson gave an overview of the AAG's communications work and praised the design and graphic skills of the communications team: Becky Pendergast, Candice Luebbering, David Coronado, Emily Fekete and others.

Khe' said he appreciates the AAG journal article tweets.

Richardson also gave an overview of the Speakers Bureau and the Multimedia Student recruitment Resources for Geography Departments. Alderman once again encouraged Councilors to use and to refer others to use and add to these resources. There was also a suggestion to expand the topics in the Speakers Bureau.

Alderman reconvened the Council meeting at 9:00AM CDT on Tuesday, April 10

Public Policy

Richardson gave an overview of the wealth of activities that the AAG has pursued to counter the threats posed by exclusionary procurement provisions for mapping and GIS. The AG also has been very active in responding to problematic proposals from the new administration, and in supporting funding for geography education and research.

Annual Meetings

Richardson gave an overview of the special events and themes for the New Orleans meeting. He indicated that we anticipate 8,700 – 9,000 total registrants for New Orleans.

Richardson also pointed out the list of future meetings, currently contracted through 2024. He illustrated that a large number of cities were considered, and mentioned that the American Historical Association is already under contract for the next 12 years of their meetings. He suggested that the AAG might want to contract 1-2 more meetings in the next few years, and that the current lineup allows the incoming Executive Director some time before having to address this issue.

Candice Luebbering reported on the many approaches being developed by the AAG to attract undergraduates to the AAG. She noted that the number of undergrads presenting increased from 516 in 2016 to 833 in 2018. A variety of resources are being developed for this group.

Honors & Awards

Richardson mentioned that the AAG's Atlas Awardee in 2019 will be Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress.

He also mentioned that the AAG, unlike most universities, does not charge an administrative fee for its handling and processing of AAG grants and awards.

Proposal to add Community Colleges into the rotation of the AAG Program Excellence Award

Alderman mentioned the need to increase nominations for the AAG Program Excellence Award. He then invited Cidell to outline her proposal to add Community Colleges into the rotation of non-PhD, geography-degree granting programs to be recognized by this AAG award. Cidell provided a summary for the rationale and the manner in which Community Colleges could be recognized by this award. The discussion centered on how to recruit more nominations. *Cidell moved to approve addition of Community Colleges to the cycles of the AAG Program Excellence Award, starting in 2019. Thomas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Council

Cidell moved to nominate Deborah Thomas as Treasurer. Luzzadder-Beach seconded the motion, which passed with one abstention.

The Regional Division Councilmembers reported their selection of John Hayes to serve as their Chair, following the end of Patrick Lawrence's term.

Richardson announced that the Fall Executive Committee meeting is currently scheduled to be held in conjunction with the Race, Ethnicity and Place conference in mid-October in Austin, TX. He also mentioned the Executive Committee's recommendation that the Fall Council meeting be held in early Nov. in Baltimore, MD, in conjunction with the Middle Atlantic Division meeting.

Alderman read the Resolutions that thanked the outgoing Councilors for their service. He then adjourned the Council meeting at 11:45 am.

Resolutions

Whereas, Glen MacDonald, as Vice President, President, and Past President of the American Association of Geographers has ably guided and served the Association to address the challenges facing the discipline of Geography, particularly by responding to policy measures taken by the current Presidential Administration; being a leading voice for geography within the 2017 March for Science; working to create the AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting; promoting greater communication of the AAG's work to the membership; promoting the implementation of a succession plan at the AAG; and whereas he has thus contributed considerable and significant efforts to advance the AAG's mission, goals, and activities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the American Association of Geographers, assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana on the occasion of its 114th Annual Meeting, heartily thanks Glen for his leadership of the Association during the past three years, especially for his efforts to engage the Association in responding to policy, science and disciplinary advocacy, support of student scholarship, advancing communication with members, and for encouraging the AAG to plan for the future.

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Whereas, Councilors of The American Association of Geographers expend substantial time and effort advancing the causes of the Association and the discipline; and

Whereas, the Council of The American Association of Geographers has confronted numerous challenges and responded to many opportunities during the last three years;

Therefore Be It Resolved that The American Association of Geographers, assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana on the occasion of its 114th Annual Meeting, extends warm appreciation to Past President Glen MacDonald, Treasurer and West Lakes Division Councilor Julie Cidell, National Councilor Susan (Sue) Roberts, National Councilor Susy S. Ziegler, East Lakes Division Councilor and Regional Councilor Chair Patrick Lawrence, Southwestern Division Councilor Darren Purcell, for the energy, time, and talent they have contributed to the Association during their terms on the AAG Council.

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Whereas, Members of The American Association of Geographers offer their talents, time, and ideas to support the activities of the Association as Chairs and Members of various association committees appointed by the AAG Council;

Therefore Be It Resolved that The American Association of Geographers, assembled in New Orleans, Louisiana on the occasion of its 114th Annual Meeting,, thanks the outgoing Chairs and Members of the AAG Committees for their service to the Association, the discipline and the profession during their committee terms.

Appendix A to Spring 2018 AAG Council Meeting Minutes

2018 Regional Division Reports:

East Lakes Councilor and Regional Councilor Chair Patrick Lawrence thanked the Regional Councilors for sending in their reports. He gave a summary and of news and updates from the Regional Divisions.

The full reports from the Regional Divisions follow:

Spring 2018 East Lakes Division Report – Patrick Lawrence, Regional Councilor

With over 20 geography departments located within the East Lakes region (Ohio/Michigan) interest in geography at both the undergraduate and graduate program levels remain stable, but concerns for declines for future enrollments remains. Several programs have advanced new initiatives in the areas of GIS, environmental studies and global studies, with four-year degree granting institution partnering with two-year community colleges for bridge programs. Concerns remain around lack of interest in geography and support for geography courses in GK12, pressures on higher education budgets, potential for program reductions or cuts, needs for replacement full time tenure track faculty, and discussion regarding reducing public unions.

A successful 2017 annual fall meeting hosted by Eastern Michigan University with over 150 attendees including over 100 students representing 12 different geography departments from across the region. ELDAAG 2018 annual fall meeting will be held October 18-19 at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio with our host- the Department of History, Political Science, and Geography Department. Our region meetings remain strong-with increasing attendance and participation of a growing number of two-year community college programs. The financials of the region are strong and stable, although pursuing increased revenue to assist offsetting expenses for the student presentation awards and travel grants will be a future need to avoid depletion of region cash reserves.

Elections of new region executive committee were completed in February 2018 with the following officers starting their 3 year terms on July 1st, 2018:

Regional Councilor: Karen Webb-Johnson, Bowling Green State University

Chair: Jacqueline Housel, Sinclair Community College

Secretary/Treasurer: Richard Sambrook, Eastern Michigan University

The region would like to extend appreciation to our outgoing executive committee members for their dedication and service to the region:

Regional Councilor: Patrick Lawrence, University of Toledo

Chair: Mandy Munro-Stasiuk, Kent State University

Secretary/Treasurer: Jimmy Wilson, Ohio Northern University

ELDAAG is excited and looking forward to the 2023 AAG Annual meeting to be hosted in Detroit, MI – the first time since 1985 that it has been held in the East Lakes Region!

Spring 2018 Great Plains Rocky Mountains Division report – Deborah Thomas, Regional Councilor

- Fall 2018 meeting will be hosted by Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS on Oct 5-6.

- Fall 2017 meeting in Grand Forks was a relatively small meeting, though with high quality papers
 - Normally Canadian geographers would join this meeting because of the proximity, but declined to travel due to current U.S. immigration policies
 - Student attendance as a proportion was strong, particularly from smaller regional schools who might not attend a meeting further away
 - The physical expanse of the region with this location being on the fringe also likely reduced attendance.
- Regionally, geospatial courses/programs, as well as environmental courses, are enrolling well and are sustaining, and sometimes expanding, programs.
- State budget cuts to higher education impact programs in several states. Higher education is experiencing significant cuts in Kansas; in Nebraska, the University of Nebraska Lincoln's geography program was identified for potential closure (this has a PhD program, and they are currently seeking a new director).
- Several programs have had a number of retirements, affecting demographics in positive and challenging ways. For example, many programs are uncertain if they will be able to retain faculty lines in light of state budget cuts and/or enrollment challenges. Other programs will experience a substantial demographic shift, with few remaining senior faculty available for mentoring.
- There is needed attention to creating strategic initiatives for increasing faculty and student (undergraduate and graduate) diversity across most geography programs.
- The creation of interdisciplinary programs related to geography can bolster or diminish enrollments, depending how geography is positioned. In particular, several programs noted that when an interdisciplinary major related to geography and emphasizing human-environment interaction is established, the numbers of geography majors decreases.

Spring 2018 Middle Atlantic Division Report – Rebecca Kelly, Regional Councilor

The annual MAD-AAG Regional Meeting was held at the University of Maryland – College Park on November 3-4, 2017, hosted by the Department of Geographical Sciences. Thanks go to Martha Geores and Kelley O'Neal for coordinating meeting logistics and to department chair Chris Justice for his support. A total of 54 participants pre-registered, down from 134 the previous year. The theme of the meeting was "Challenging Sustainability," and many of the presented papers dealt with topics related to it. Four paper sessions were held on Friday afternoon, and one was held on Saturday morning for a total of over twenty talks, and several additional poster presentations were on display in the meeting area. Doug Richardson, Executive Director of the AAG, gave the keynote presentation, and the meeting included a tour of UMD's Department of Geographical Sciences with a focus on its new Center for Geospatial Information Science.

There were six entries in the graduate student paper contest, and two awards were given. Joshua Wayland received the AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting (\$1,000 from the AAG to support attendance at the 2018 AAG meeting), and Julia Heslin won the MAD Student paper award (\$150). Teams from the University of Maryland, George Washington University, Salisbury University, and a combined Frostburg/Towson University team competed in the



Geography Bowl. The University of Maryland team (pictured at right) took home the trophy. This team will be competing in the Geography Bowl at the AAG annual meeting in New Orleans in April 2018 with travel support from MAD and the AAG.

During the business meeting, attendees said they would be interested in MAD providing a new, functioning, and easy-to-find website and information about mentoring and career opportunities for students, including geographers who would be willing provide advice about job opportunities and hiring processes. Some progress has been made toward those goals, but additional work is needed.

Other concerns and issues raised by MAD members at large include some themes that the organization has struggled with on a regional and national level for many years, including how to attract more (and more consistent) participation at our regional meetings and how to better serve (and therefore better attract participation from) professional geographers. One proposed solution to the question of how to encourage more participation in regional AAG activities is a merger between the Middle Atlantic and Middle States Divisions, thereby creating a larger base of participating geography departments across the region. No formal consideration of this option has been undertaken, but it is worthy of consideration if there is interest within both Divisions. The latter question is one that the AAG as a whole is wrestling with, but it is particularly relevant to MAD because the division encompasses Washington D.C. and has a large concentration of professional geographers, most of whom choose to participate in other geography- and GIS-related organizations.

Spring 2018 Middle States Division Report – Pankay Lai

We are very sad to share the news about passing of Rob Mason, our Regional Councilor, on November 15, 2017. Rob was the quintessential geographer and served as President of the Division, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer as well. A panel session at the AAG meeting in New Orleans will commemorate Rob Mason's work on Friday 4/13/18 from 5.20pm-7.00pm in the Grand Chenier Room-Sheraton 5th floor. The MSD is naming a student poster award, awarded every year at divisional meeting, after Rob.

SUNY Geneseo is being recognized this year for program excellence through 2018 AAG Award for Bachelors Program Excellence. Our division has instituted a travel award (\$500) to support a Puerto Rican student to attend the divisional meeting each year. We will also waive the student's registration fees. Puerto Rico is still recovering from Hurricane Maria and we are trying our bit to bring representatives from Puerto Rico to our divisional meetings each year.

We had a very good divisional meeting at SUNY Geneseo last year. Around 160 student and faculty attended the 2017 Annual Meeting. 2018 Annual Meeting will be hosted by Montclair State University in New Jersey on October 26-27, 2018. The Annual Meeting will comprise of: paper and poster presentations; Geo Bowl competition; Graduate and undergraduate paper competitions; Five minute lightning talks; Panels; Participation by professional geographers and students from the Caribbean; proposed field include trips to Paterson Great Falls, LEED buildings, storm water, remediation of Passaic river, food and migration-related tour in Northern New Jersey.

Several departments have expanded, adding faculty, majors, and programs. The growth in programs is quite encouraging. New Sustainability program at Shippensburg University is accepting new majors, the

ongoing Sustainability Science masters and combined BS/MS Sustainability program at Montclair State has been quite successful in attracting students, and Professional Science Master's program in GIS at Temple University has been successful in student recruitment and job placements. There is increased emphasis placed in online programs, geospatial technologies and interdisciplinary studies within the region with new programs/specialization being developed/proposed at Bachelors/Masters level in domains such as GIS, sustainability management, and geo-informatics. Hiring in the geography programs have been robust, and some of these hiring include Distinguished Professor of Energy and Environment and two GIScience and data science at University of Delaware and sustainability science/urban geographer faculty at Montclair State. The University of Delaware is on an ambitious hiring plan and the Department of Geography is involved with several cluster hire proposals that, if approved, could net even more growth positions over and above unit level replacements.

The faculty are productive on the research front and division faculty are winning competitive grants from a variety of funding sources (federal, state, private), including Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), NSF CAREER Award, NSF STEM +Computing awards, and grants for Centers such as Center for Land Use and Sustainability at Shippensburg University which has been awarded \$1.9 million in grant and contracts since 2015, and a new Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center at Montclair State is being established with support from PSEG Foundation.

Temple University will be hosting the Critical Geography conference in Fall 2018 and welcome participation from faculty and students. Departments are upgrading/updating facilities, including geospatial and subsurface imaging equipment. There are concerns regarding budget uncertainty and cutbacks. Some division members highlighted their concerns regarding increased funding competitiveness and uncertainty, and cutbacks in travel support, including reduction in travel funding for graduate/undergraduate students.

Spring 2018 New England/St. Lawrence Valley Division Report – John Hayes, Regional Councilor

NESTVAL conducted a successful election in Fall 2017 (via an electronic ballot) and the winners were announced at the Business Meeting at our annual meeting of NESTVAL this past October at Central Connecticut State University. Patrick Heidkamp (Southern Connecticut State University) was VP for the past two years which is a President-elect position, so Patrick is now NESTVAL President for a two year term. We are also pleased to announce that Prof. Darren Bardati of Bishop's University, Quebec, Canada was elected to be Vice President, so in two years we will have a President from Canada! We also successfully filled our positions of Secretary and Treasurer (both re-elected) and all of our state and Canada reps.

NESTVAL had a very successful 2017 annual meeting on October 20-21 (Fri.-Sat.) on the campus of Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT. There were 110 registrants. The World Geography Bowl was held on Friday with six teams competing. There were three paper session times with a total of 8 paper sessions spanning the breadth of geography--physical, human, medical, tourism, environmental, cultural, urban. One fieldtrip was offered to view the revitalization of Main Street in Middletown, Connecticut. It was led by CCSU transportation geographer (Tim Garceau) and a Master's student (Jake Fusco) with a deep knowledge of that city. Several best paper and poster awards were given.

The meeting's keynote speaker was Dr. Reena Patel, Ph.D. - Geography, Foreign Service Officer. The title of her presentation was "From Geography to Diplomacy: Tales of Transition and Everything In-Between". A successful Business Meeting was held with a very busy agenda. At the conclusion of the Business Meeting, we heard a detailed Power point presentation from Doug Richardson, Executive Director of the AAG. Dr. Cindy Pope coordinated the well-run conference - with the aid of several dedicated faculty and staff colleagues.

NESTVAL just published Volume 9 of its annual peer-reviewed journal, The Northeastern Geographer; it was a special issue on climate change and the NESTVAL region. The papers in the Special Issue were presented at the 2017 Boston AAG meeting as paper presentations. We are very excited about the 10th volume to come out in 2018. The Editor is Dr. Steven Silvern of Salem State University - who has been its Editor or co-Editor since the journal was founded. NESTVAL President Patrick Heidekamp just announced RFP's for the NESTVAL 2018 Master's Thesis Research Grant Competition (up to \$500 for the award) and for the NESTVAL 2018 Faculty Research Grant Competition (up to \$750 for the award). The grants are for Master's students and full-time faculty members of a geography or geo-information science program within a four-year college or university in the NESTVAL region. Doctoral students and faculty in a Ph.D.-granting geography program are not eligible for the awards.

Miscellaneous news from around the region: Keene State College has experienced a noticeable decline in enrollment in recent years resulting in the college aggressively buying out faculty/staff as well as offering early retirement incentives. The effect on the KSC Geography program is that Professor Lara Bryant is leaving the Department. Chairperson Chris Cusack states that "Lara is a great friend and colleague, and has been the coordinator for the NH State Geographic Alliance. It is a substantive loss" to the Department.

At Westfield State University (in MA) a new planner, Alina Gross, was hired and started this past fall. Dr. Gross has a PhD in Planning (UMass Amherst, 2014) and before joining the Department she was a Development Project Associate at The Community Builders, a non-profit developer in Northampton. Dr. Gross replaced Dr. Marijoan Bull, a planner who retired last spring after serving ten years in the Department. Dr. Rob Bristow is stepping down as Chair after serving three terms; he is on sabbatical this spring. The new Department Chair will be Dr. Brian Conz.

CCSU Geography is working on a Master's in GIS program as well as a possible 5-year accelerated BA/BS to MS degree. Dr. Cindy Pope will serve as interim chair for spring 2019 as current chair, Dr. Richard Benfield, goes on sabbatical and then retires. Dr. Chaz Button will become chair in Fall 2019. Dr. Will Price, Assistant Professor of Tourism Geography, has taken a position at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. The Department has received permission for an emergency hire only to fill Dr. Price's position for 2018-19. The number of undergrads is down all across the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences with Geography feeling some effects on its enrollments. Graduate student numbers are steady. At the University of Connecticut, Dr. Clay Tabor has joined the faculty to strengthen their offerings in the environmental sciences.

A new B.S. degree in Environmental Systems and Sustainability Studies was launched in fall 2018 by Southern Connecticut State University's Department of the Environment, Geography and Marine Sciences. The new degree has three tracks: Environmental Policy, Environmental Systems, and Marine Studies. A new M.S. degree in Coastal Resilience will start in fall 2018. It is a joint one-year M.S. program with their partner institution in the UK [Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)]. Students will spend their fall term at SCSU and their Spring term at LJMU. SCSU offers two long standing study abroad programs that are open to students in the NESTVAL region: winter study abroad to South Africa

(focus on environmental justice, 3 credits), and summer study abroad to Iceland (focus on environment-economy interaction, 3 credits, and field techniques, 3 credits). Stephen Axon (PhD, University of Liverpool) is a new hire for fall 2018; areas of expertise are human geography, qualitative studies, and sustainability. Undergraduate numbers are stable at 45 majors as of this March; numbers for the M.S. in Environmental Education are down significantly, with 16 students total and 10 graduating in May. The 2018 annual meeting of NESTVAL will be held October 12-13 at Keene State College in Keene, NH. The meeting will be held in the campus' modern Science Center. The conference theme will be "Geographies of Resilience". Plenary speakers are being arranged and there will be both urban-related and physical field trips. Local planning is being headed up by Past President of NESTVAL, Dr. Chris Cusack.

Spring 2018 Pacific Coast Division Report – Sriram Khe', Regional Councilor

The annual meeting in the fall will be in October, in Reno, NV. It is being hosted/organized by the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno. The meeting last October, which was held on the campus of California State University, Chico, was attended by over 200 academic, professional, and student members of the APCG. The AAG's Executive Committee was also in attendance, with plenty of APCG connections: The immediate former president, Glen McDonald is with UCLA. The vice-president, Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, is a Chico alum and was born and raised in Red Bluff, which is about 40 miles from Chico. The treasurer, Julie Cidell, taught for three years in the California State University system, in Sacramento and San Bernardino. The APCG's support for students, and recognizing their work, continues with added strength. The latest addition to a lengthy list of awards with a wide range of dollar amounts, is a new scholarship that has been endowed to recognize student accomplishments in cartography/GIS.

Spring 2018 Southeastern Division Report – John Kupfer, Regional Councilor

SEDAAG held a successful annual meeting in November 2017 in Starkville, MS, hosted by Mississippi State Univ. The meeting had roughly 320 registered participants and featured more than 30 paper and panel sessions and 100 posters. The upcoming annual meeting is scheduled for Nov 17-18, 2018, in Johnson City, TN, with local arrangements handled by East Tennessee State Univ. Future meetings will meet in Wilmington, NC (2019) and Florence, AL (2020). Pres. Ron Kalafsky announced the results of elections, including these new officers and state representatives: Joann Mossa (President); Luke Juran (Treasurer); John Kupfer (Regional Councilor); Ram Alagan (Alabama); Phillip Schmutz (Florida); John Waldron (Kentucky); Cuizhen (Susan) Wang (South Carolina), and Hilton Cordoba (West Virginia).

At the Starkville meeting, a proposal was approved to officially change the division's name to match the recent change to the parent organization's name. The new name will be the Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers, although the acronym remains the same (SEDAAG). In other business, the Steering Committee agreed to explore options for overhauling SEDAAG's website to improve its capabilities and functions; incoming President Joann Mossa has begun to assemble suggestions from the committee. The Business Meeting featured a discussion of issues associated with AP Human Geography and its potential effects on undergraduate enrollments and the number of geography majors. In response to that discussion, AAG Councilor Kupfer encouraged members with an interest in the topic to contact him. The Steering Council will also be moving forward with a plan to have the *Southeastern Geographer* listed in ISI's Web of Science to raise its profile and visibility. Finally, there was a discussion regarding concerns about the lack of nominees for leadership positions in SEDAAG,

especially State Reps, and lack of nominations for some awards. These seem to be problems experienced in other regions, which will be addressed following surveys of other regional councilors.

Overall, many state representatives and university contacts described the state of geography in their programs using phrases such as “strong, but varied”, “stable”, and “steady”. Around the region, geography-related departments and geographers are being creative and innovative with regard to the ways in which they engage and attract students. For example, Santa Fe College and the Univ. of Florida continued their 3-year NSF-funded grant to recruit and retain underrepresented students into Geosciences through peer mentoring, advising, research, and engagement. Students in the program, which includes cohort building and a paid summer internship at the Orlando Science Center, complete research with faculty mentors in areas such as soil hydrology and STEM education. The recently created GEO-INT certificate at the Univ. of South Carolina has also been a popular addition with students both in geography and across campus.

Departments and programs also continue to seek new advancements in curriculum. At the Univ. of Florida, a new certificate in Medical Geography is under review that would complement other undergraduate certificates in Geospatial Information Analysis and Meteorology and Climatology, and graduate certificates in Applied Atmospheric Sciences and Digital Geography and GIS. At Mississippi State Univ., the department discontinued its certificate program in GIS and Remote Sensing in 2016 but started a Minor in Geospatial and Remote Sensing. At the Univ. of Tennessee, the addition of new hires in GIS have allowed the department to add two new geospatial courses, including an introduction to python programming course and an advanced geospatial semantics course. The Univ. of Mary Washington (VA) has started an accelerated “4+1” program for undergraduate students in 2017 that is designed to be attractive to parents of first year students. In a number of states, cited growth in enrollments usually focused on courses in GIS and other areas of geospatial science. At the community college level, a number of schools report steady or strong enrollment. The most commonly offered course is *World Regional Geography*, with a few colleges offering *Introduction to Physical Geography* or *Introduction to Meteorology* (e.g., Itawamba Community College in MS; Midlands Tech in SC).

The relationship between geography departments / programs and interdisciplinary programs (e.g., Environmental Science or Studies; Global Studies) was mentioned in a number of state reports, much as it has been a topic of discussion among department chairs nationwide. On the one hand, the Geography Department at Emory & Henry College (VA) was renamed as the Department of Geography & Earth & Environmental Sciences, formalizing a longstanding partnership between E&H geographers and their campus colleagues. On the other hand, a number of departments cited decreases in enrollments and majors in places where new competing programs have been added. Another potential issue involves concerns over the state of social science programs in a time of increasing focus on STEM-disciplines. In Kentucky, for example, Gov. Matt Bevin has questioned the need for universities to support liberal arts programs, stating that state-supported universities should emphasize computer science and engineering majors. According to the Kentucky state representative, two degree programs (majors in Geography) in that state have been eliminated in the past few years (Morehead State Univ.; Eastern Kentucky Univ.), and the Geography program at Northern Kentucky Univ. has concerns that “performance-based funding” is a direct threat to their Geography program. In West Virginia, reorganization at Concord Univ. has placed Geography within a new Department of Social Sciences, which also includes programs in

Psychology and Political Science, and at West Liberty Univ., the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (which housed two geography faculty and two degree concentrations involving geography) was dissolved for the 2017-2018 academic year, with the geography and history programs being absorbed by the Department of Humanities.

One final concern that was mentioned in one of the state reports but that AAG Councilor Kupfer has heard expressed by others involves the long-term visibility and perceived importance of SEDAAG to our member departments. The Tennessee state report, for example, noted that their survey of programs did not receive enough feedback to provide a complete picture for the state of SEDAAG, leading him to conclude that SEDAAG may not be well-known by some programs and more advertisement is needed in the future to increase involvement. This issue is complicated by the number of universities in which many geography courses are embedded in non-geography departments (especially in smaller schools) as part of general education requirements, with most enrollments in lower-level core classes. In terms of the annual meeting, the problem may manifest in lagging attendance and participation at a time when faculty and students are faced to choose between which conferences to attend, with selections often limited by shrinking state and university support for conference travel. This broader challenge is one that will be discussed in the upcoming year.

Spring 2018 Southwest Division Report – Darren Purcell

The 2017 meeting was held October 25-28 in Huntsville, Texas and was hosted by Sam Houston State University. 2018 will SWAAG convene at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA October 4-6.

The Southwest Division of the AAG hosts a variety of departments and programs distributed across all states within the region. Our division includes faculty/department representatives from the following colleges/universities:

Arkansas	New Mexico
Arkansas State University University of Arkansas University of Arkansas – Forth Smith University of Central Arkansas	New Mexico State University University of New Mexico
Louisiana	Oklahoma
Grambling State University Louisiana State University Louisiana Technological University Northwestern State University University of Louisiana at Lafayette University of Louisiana at Monroe University of New Orleans	East Central University Northeastern State University Oklahoma State University University of Oklahoma University of Central Oklahoma
Texas	
Baylor University Sam Houston State University Texas A&M University- Kingsville Texas A&M University- Commerce Texas Tech University University of Texas University of Texas- San Antonio	Stephen F. Austin State University Texas State University- San Marcos Texas A&M University Texas Christian University University of North Texas University of Texas- Dallas University of Texas- Tyler

The SWAAG Conference and Business Meeting was held October 25-28, at Sam Houston State University. The meeting was successful by all measures and included numerous paper sessions, panels, poster sessions, the SWAAG geography bowl, and student awards. AAG President Derek Alderman and local historian Jeff Littlejohn, who spoke about the development of internment camps in the region, provided keynote presentations.

Louisiana State University

Pending the final approval from the administrations (LSU Board of Supervisors and Louisiana Board of Regents), the department anticipates to launch two separate/distinctive PhD programs in Geography and Anthropology in the fall 2018 (currently the department offers a Geography & Anthropology PhD program with concentration in either geography or anthropology).

In addition to 3 concentrations (Geography BS/BA with concentration in GIS, Geography BS/BA with concentration in Disaster Science and Management, Geography BA with concentration in Environment Studies), the department will add a new concentration, "Geography BS with concentration in Climatology", in the fall 2018.

University of New Mexico

UNM Geography & Environmental Studies faculty attended the March 20th groundbreaking ceremony for the new 137,000 ft² Physics & Astronomy and Interdisciplinary Science building (PAÍS). PAÍS will bring together the Dept. of Physics & Astronomy with six data driven research centers from across the College of Arts & Sciences to foster new collaborations. The centers included faculty from Geography & Environmental Studies, Biology, Earth & Planetary Sciences, Anthropology, and Chemistry & Chemical Biology. One of the centers, the new center for the Advancement of Spatial Informatics Research and Education (ASPIRE), represents a substantial investment in the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies. ASPIRE will house GIScience faculty, graduate students, undergraduate researchers, and staff, an open graduate spatial computing facility, and a state of the art visualization facility capable of displaying 100 million pixels simultaneously.

Spring 2018 West Lakes Division Report – Julie Cidell, Regional Councilor

The West Lakes region is experiencing some ups and downs in its programs. The "ups" are 1) new programs at Indiana State, re-establishing Geography and Sustainability as a major and a Master's degree, as well as a PhD in Spatial and Earth Science; 2) progress on a new major in geography at Missouri Western State in a combined history/geography department; 3) the development of a combined Computer Science and GIS bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois; and 4) honorable mention for Macalester College in the AAG's Program Awards.

The "downs" include 1) pressure on many undergraduate degree programs at state universities in Wisconsin, as well as the "merging" of two-year schools with four-year schools with little guidance or understanding of what the process will entail. (Thanks to the Executive Council for their letter of support to University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point; the current indication is that the programs on the chopping block might be saved after all.) 2) Most Illinois public universities are still experiencing a decline in enrollment, which is of special concern to smaller programs like geography. No direct threats yet to geography majors, but it's something to keep an eye on.

Our 2017 fall meeting at West Plains, MO, was lightly attended given its location on the very edge of our region, but the field trip to the site of recent major flooding was well-attended and a great illustration of the intersection of human and physical geography. This fall's meeting in La Crosse, WI, will be the first weekend in November.

Appendix B

Survey of AAG Regional Division Election Practices:

2018 Survey of AAG Regions on Election Procedures

Report by Patrick Lawrence, East Lakes Regional Councilor and Chair, Regional Councilors

April 8th, 2018

As requested by the AAG National Council a survey was sent to all AAG Regional Councilors with questions addressing how they conduct elections of their executive committees including regional councilor. This report is a summary of the results of that survey conducted in March 2018 via SurveyMonkey. A total of 8 out of 9 regions completed the survey (Middle States was in process of leadership change and was not asked to participate)

1. Do you have operating by-laws for your region that outline procedures for selection of regional committee members, including councilor, chair, secretary etc.?

YES-7 NO-1

2. How do you select your regional councilor?

ELECTION-8

3. How do you select your regional executive committee members?

ELECTION-7 VOLUNTEER-1

4. How long are the terms for your regional executive committee members?

ONE YEAR-1 TWO YEARS-3 THREE YEARS-4

5. If you conduct an election for regional councilor, how do you determine nominations?

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS-6

Comments: "chair shall appoint a nominating committee for each and all elections to be comprised of no fewer than three persons representing at least two states and three institutions of the Southwest Division", "Call for nomination, plus executive committee members solicit volunteers on an individual basis"

6. How is your election conducted?

ONLINE BALLOT-6 IN PERSON VOTING AT REGIONAL MEETING-1

Comments: "online ballot, although we will mail ballot if requested", "ballots are currently mailed out, we are exploring online elections"

7. Is election conducted at regional meeting where only those present are able vote?

YES-1 NO-7

8. In the election are all members of your region able to vote

YES-6 NO-2

9. Do you have any bylaw procedures or other means to address the situation if there are no nominations and position(s) cannot be filled?

NO-7

Comments" "interesting question, we have never had such a situation, I don't think our bylaws have anything on this"

10. Are any specific efforts made to solicit a diversity of candidates for both regional councilor and regional executive committee, including gender, minority status and type of department (e.g., non-PhD or non-Masters' granting programs)?

YES-2 NO-4

Comments: "the executive committee has tried to ensure gender alternation in exec members and in regional councilor nominations, but there is no formal process", "discussions about this are held at our annual spring executive board meeting and in emails among our board as we try and recruit people to run for various offices". "To vote for regional councilor, one must be a member of NESTVAL or member of AAG, to vote for all other officers and state/provincial representative positions, one must be a member of NESTVAL"

11. We are seeking any suggestions, ideas or input as to how to be more successful in recruiting individuals to serve in regional executive positions, please provide any you may have here:

Comments: "we tend to start identifying those who join the region and show up at SWAAG as those to draw from, we have not had to ask for nominations from department chairs", I think having open discussions at the regions annual business meeting and at the regions annual executive board meeting are important". "My division has low overall participation in regional meetings and activities, so it is difficult to find people willing to volunteer to serve as councilor or officer". "I wonder if merging some of the smaller and less active regions would provide a bigger pool of participants". "offer free AAG Annual meeting registration to regional executive members besides just councilors"

12. Please feel free to provide any additional comments related to your regional elections

Comments: "getting people to volunteer to run for positions is definitely work"