

## SWAAG 2013

Nacogdoches, Texas/Stephen F. Austin University

### Business Meeting

25 October 2013

Murray Rice called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Bill Doolittle motioned that the 2012 SWAAG Business Meeting Minutes be approved. Sarah Bednarz seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Ron Hagelman provided his **Regional Councilor Report:**

Information items:

- 1) A change has occurred in the way the content of the AAG Newsletter is being delivered (now online only in the form of a weekly update). The Association wants feedback from members on this change.
- 2) Past-President Sheppard's column on changing the name of the AAG to the American Association of Geographers (still AAG!). Council wants feedback on this proposal.

All SWAAG members present unanimously approved *a resolution in support of changing "The Association of American Geographers" to "The American Association of Geographers."*

- 3) There is a new AAG/GTU Student Travel grant program that will be managed by the AAG. The AAG and GTU will be looking for donations to help fund the program. The Association of American Geographers (AAG) and Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) have partnered to raise funds to support student attendance at the AAG annual meeting. The AAG-GTU Student Travel Awards provide travel subsidies of \$200 to help undergraduate and graduate student members of GTU attend AAG meetings. Please support our geography students by making a donation to the AAG-GTU Student Travel Awards Fund by using the online form. GTU student members in need of AAG-GTU travel funds can submit applications online at the GTU website. The deadline is February 1, 2014.
- 4) The new Long Range Planning process is under way with a goal to strengthen the AAG Regional Division network (among a number of others). The AAG Council has invited regional chairs to participate in a two hour luncheon and discussion meeting, followed by a two hour workshop on Friday afternoon, April 11, 2014 at the Annual Meeting in Tampa. The Council approved funding to support regional chairs attendance in Tampa, FL. Details have been sent to acting regional chairs.
- 5) Doug Richardson is working on a strategic plan for the AAG Archives. From the minutes: *Richardson suggested that the AAG develop a strategic plan for its AAG Archives, addressing issues such as preservation, consolidation, and expansion of the current collections; enhancing public and international access to the AAG Archives; digitization and dissemination of AAG's existing Archives; and the archival curation, preservation, and access to AAG's rapidly growing current and future digital archival materials.*

*And also to explore the possibility of housing a consolidated AAG Archive at the Library of Congress' Geography and Map Division.*

- 6) "Regional Super Meetings" among one or more regional divisions have been discussed as a way of helping regions that have had declines in their participation and or leadership change over. Also discussed: advertising regional divisions at the national meeting to enhance recruiting and participation at the regional level
- 7) Please submit Diversity Award nominees for next year (The AAG Enhancing Diversity Award honors those geographers who have pioneered efforts toward or actively participated in efforts toward encouraging a more diverse discipline over the course of several years.). This year the award will go to Jay T. Johnson, University of Kansas; Laura Smith, Macalester College; and Renee Pualani Louis, University of Kansas; recognizing their valuable contributions to Indigenous Geographies. We are encouraged to help build the pool of nominees earlier this season. We have one current nomination from SWAAG, but there should be others!
- 8) Julian Bond has been selected for this year's Atlas Award and will present in Tampa; see flyer or AAG.org for details.
- 9) The AAG is considering extending the child care subsidy currently available for the AAG annual meeting to the regional meetings, although with a smaller maximum limit of \$150. If accepted by the regional divisions, the subsidy would be paid for from AAG central funds rather than regional division funds. As with the annual meeting subsidy, the subsidy for the regional meetings would be limited to child care from licensed providers within the city where the regional meeting is held similar. People seeking the subsidy would have to submit an application, again similar to that for the Annual meeting.

Murray Rice provided the **SWAAG Chair's Report:**

Provided information about a survey he conducted regarding SWAAG's operations generally, including issues related to our annual meeting and the *Southwestern Geographer*. See **Appendix A** for a powerpoint slide summary of this report. Despite waning submissions of late (as noted at this meeting), a recent online survey of SWAAG membership indicates strong support for continuing the region's journal, the *Southwestern Geographer*.

Michaela Buenemann provided the **Treasurer's Report:**

Even with \$1800 in student awards for this meeting, SWAAG's funds remain solid. The balance as of 9/30/2013 was \$3974.48.

Rebecca Sheehan provided the **Secretary's Report:**

The Newsletter went out in early September.

Darrel McDonald provided the **Local Organizer's Report:**

"The meeting happened!"

Approximately 135 people attended the meeting.

Mid-South ASPRS contributed \$600 to the meeting.

Additional money was raised through external sources.

Sarah Bednarz suggested that letters of thanks be sent to the Stephen F. Austin students who graciously volunteered at the meeting. All at the meeting agreed. Rebecca Sheehan, the secretary will be responsible for writing and sending the letters with input from President Murray Rice. (Letters completed/sent.)

***Southwestern Geographer* Editor's Report:**

According to Darren Purcell and Erik Prout, volume 16 has stalled due to a variety of issues. One problem is a lack of manuscripts being submitted to the journal. Purcell explained that the journal needs members of SWAAG to submit papers and help with book reviews.

Michaela Buenemann added that the website needs to be updated where the journal can advertise.

John Tiefenbacher said that going to online publishing would eliminate the problem of an insufficient number of manuscripts before publishing a volume. Instead, the year published would be adequate for online publishing.

Members attending the meeting were in favor of Texas State University's offer to host and edit the journal. Maria Lane motioned and Craig Colten seconded the motion for Texas State University representatives to submit a written proposal for the management and editing of the journal, including moving the journal into an online publication.

**Old Business:**

- a) The future of the *Southwestern Geographer*. See above.
- b) Student Awards.  
A committee was formed to explore options for using current SWAAG funds to reduce future student registration fees.
- c) SWAAG website.  
Murray Rice has reserved the domain SW-AAG.org in anticipation of changes to the current outdated website. Also, it was suggested that the listserv be combined with the website. John Tiefenbacher motioned and Craig Colten seconded a motion to proceed with a new SWAAG website, with details as to hosting and administration to be determined in the coming months.

**New Business:**

- a) Nominations for all three SWAAG executive positions.
  - a. Nominations at the meeting included: Chair, Murray Rice (would be 2<sup>nd</sup> term); Secretary, Michaela Buenemann; Treasurer, Laurel Smith. Additionally, nominations for all positions would be open for another two weeks. After the two week period, Darren Purcell volunteered to do the voting poll for all SWAAG members.
- b) Geography Bowl.
  - a. In 2013 at the AAG in Los Angeles, SWAAG had an ad hoc team that competed. A few members at the meeting suggested that SWAAG may wish to encourage future SWAAG meeting organizers to include a regional

competition, where the winning SWAAG team would go on to compete at the national meeting.

c) Future SWAAG Meetings.

- a. Programs show much enthusiasm in wanting to host SWAAG meeting.

Regional meetings were scheduled to 2018! They include:

2014 – University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Hosted with Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division

2015 – Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Hosted with Applied Geography Conference

2016 – University of North Texas, Denton, TX

2017 – Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

2018 – Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Proposal: host with Southeast Division of The AAG (SEDAAG) in New Orleans, LA

Other new business:

SWAAG Chair (Murray Rice, University of North Texas) announced that the 2014 SWAAG Chair will attend this year's regional division chairs' meeting in Tampa, including long range strategic planning events with the AAG council.

Julie Winkler discussed the current proposals for the AAG to extend financial support for childcare to the regional division conferences.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Sheehan.

## Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG)

### Treasurer's Report

21 October 2013

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Receipts (\$)</b>	<b>Disbursements (\$)</b>	<b>Balance (\$)</b>
<b>8/31/12</b>	<b><i>Balance forward</i></b>			<b>4,274.48</b>
11/2/12	Swann - 1st Place SWAGG Grad Paper Award		(200.00)	3,924.48
11/2/12	McNair - 2nd Place SWAGG Grad Paper Award		(150.00)	3,274.48
11/2/12	Slaughter - 1st Place SWAGG Grad Poster Award		(200.00)	3,724.48
11/2/12	Jewell - 2nd place Grad. Poster Award		(150.00)	4,124.48
11/2/12	Walker - 3rd Place Grad Poster Award		(100.00)	3,424.48
11/2/12	Jackson - 1st Place Undergrad Paper Award		(200.00)	3,524.48
11/7/12	Lester - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award		(100.00)	3,174.48
11/7/12	Whitney - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award		(100.00)	3,074.48
11/12/12	Richman - 3rd Place Grad Paper Award		(100.00)	2,974.48
4/3/13	AAG contribution to WGB 2013	500.00		3,474.48
4/23/13	Gray - SWAAG WGB 2013		(125.00)	3,349.48
4/24/13	Sinha - WGB 2013		(125.00)	3,224.48
4/24/13	Joslin - WGB 2013		(125.00)	3,099.48
4/24/13	Sirdeshmukh - WGB 2013		(125.00)	2,974.48
5/15/13	Void CK#16758 for N. Sirdeshmukh and reissue	125.00		3,099.48
5/15/13	Sirdeshmukh - Reissue CK#16758 WGB 2013		(125.00)	2,974.48
7/3/13	Sirdeshmukh - SWAAG WGB 2013 2nd payment		(125.00)	2,849.48
7/3/13	Sinha - WGB 2013 2nd payment		(125.00)	2,724.48
7/3/13	Gray - WGB 2013 2nd payment		(125.00)	2,599.48
7/3/13	Joslin - WGB 2013 2nd payment		(125.00)	2,474.48
8/27/13	SWAGG Capitation FYE 2013	1,500.00		3,974.48
<b>8/31/13</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>3,974.48</b>
<b>8/31/13</b>	<b><i>Balance forward</i></b>			<b>3,974.48</b>
<b>9/30/13</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>3,974.48</b>

Source: Michelle Ledoux, AAG Membership Director  
Submitted by: Michaela Buenemann, SWAAG Treasurer

Appendix A

**Results of SWAAG Member Survey**  
Fall, 2013

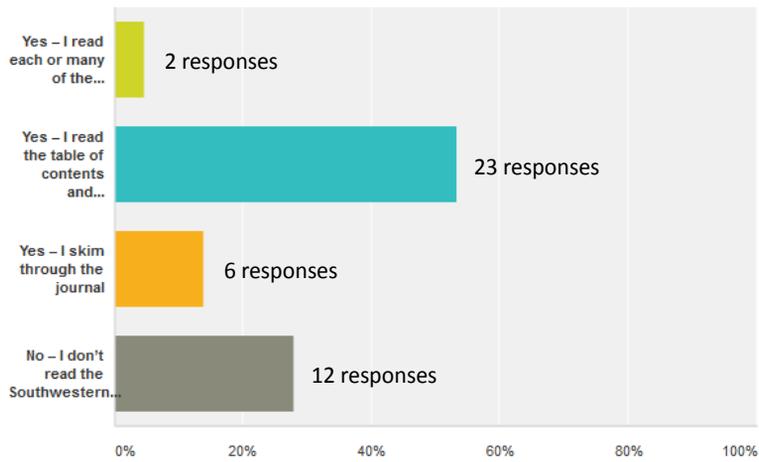


# SWAAG Member Survey: Summary of Results

Fall, 2013

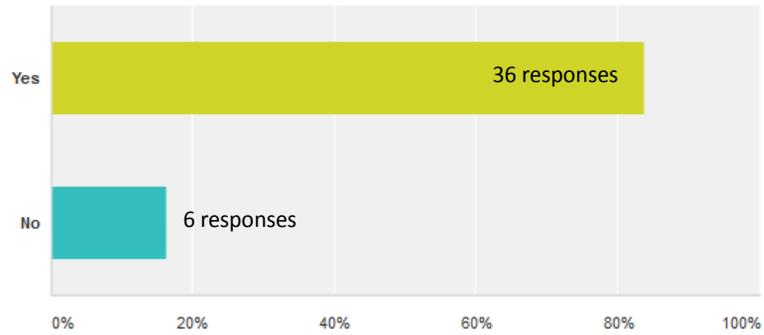
## Do you read the Southwestern Geographer?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



### Is it important that SWAAG continue publishing the Southwestern Geographer?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



### What could the Southwestern Geographer do to encourage more submissions and/or distribution?

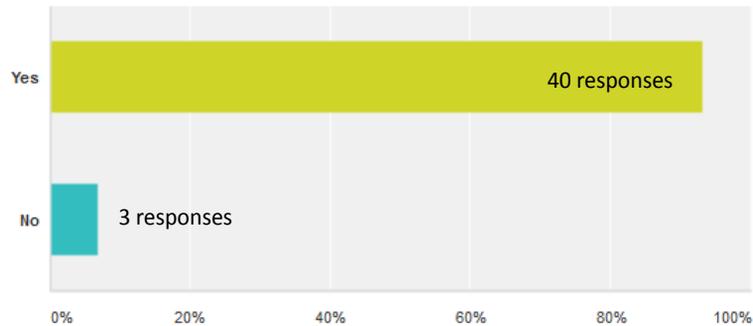
Answered: 36 Skipped: 7

#### ***Top Comments Summary***

More/better communication about journal	11 mentions
Move to online publishing	8 mentions
Editorial improvement/more timely publishing	6 mentions
Themed/special issues	3 mentions

**Cost issues aside  
for the moment, would you be in favor of  
the general idea of SWAAG creating a  
single membership and meeting  
registration system that we could use every  
year? [emphasis added]**

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



**What would be one change with our  
SWAAG annual meeting that would make it  
more relevant to you and your work?**

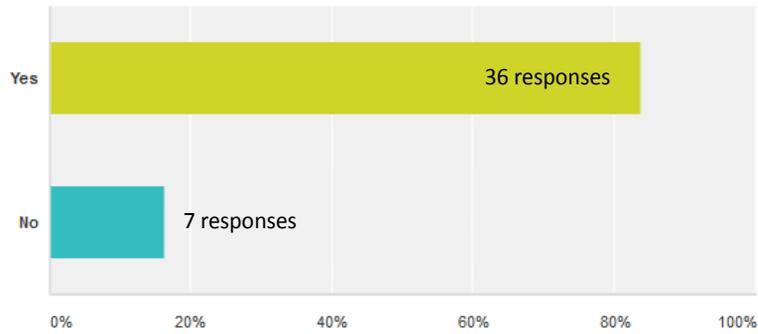
Answered: 25 Skipped: 18

***Top Comments Summary***

Happy with meeting as-is (no change)	10 mentions
Encourage participation from non-university geographers	3 mentions
Encourage grad students/junior scholars	3 mentions
Ensure no other conference conflicts (e.g. Applied Geog. Conference)	2 mentions

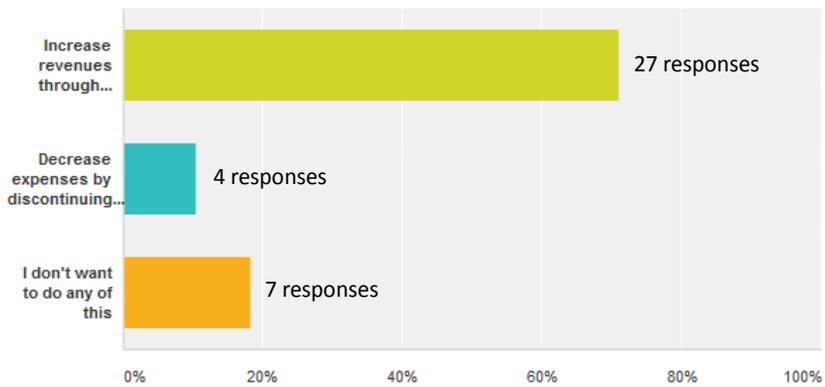
### Are you in favor of the general idea of increasing our student support?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 0



### If SWAAG does provide more dollars for student support, we would need more money to award. What would you prefer we do to provide this money?

Answered: 38 Skipped: 5



**If SWAAG does provide more dollars for student support, we would need more money to award. What would you prefer we do to provide this money?**

*Responses to "Other" (i.e. not "increased revenues", "decreased spending", or "not interested in any of this")*

***Top Comments Summary***

Willingness for a modest dues increase (go to perhaps \$15-\$25; current is \$10)	4 mentions
Look into revenue sources other than dues (e.g. "SWAAG swag sales")	2 mentions