

**Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG)**  
**Business Meeting Minutes**  
Albuquerque Convention Center, Isleta Room  
24 October 2014

- Murray Rice called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm
- Maria Lane motioned that the 2013 SWAAG Business Meeting Minutes be approved. John Tiefenbacher seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- Mona Domosh provided the **AAG President's Report**
  - "Life in the AAG is good!" The Association has money and the meeting in Chicago is shaping up nicely. Overarching themes at the meeting include geohumanities, radical interdisciplinarity, physical geography, GIS, and international health.
  - The five-year survey of AAG members will be happening during the summer of 2015. The purpose of the survey is to understand what members want, what the AAG is or is not giving its members for their dues, what the AAG wants to see happening, etc.
- Ron Hagelman provided the **Regional Councilor Report**
  - The AAG is undergoing a strategic planning process, of which the regions are now a part. The AAG wants to better understand how it can help the regions and vice versa. During the 2014 AAG meeting in Tampa, AAG leaders met with regional councilors and chairs to develop best practices manual for meetings. This effort led to the development of knowledge communities on the AAG website, a cyber-meeting place. The AAG also wants to provide help with the financial management and abstract management of regional meetings, but this has been difficult to realize thus far.
  - Regional councilors voted at their last meeting for an increase of the graduate student dissertation award from \$500 to \$1,000.
  - There is some conversation about how the AAG can help departments with non-tenure track / contingent faculty. Ron asked that any thoughts on this issue be emailed to him.
  - The AAG established a new award for departmental excellence in undergraduate and master's level education in geography. The process for this award needs to be put in place by the regions, which will forward their nominations of departments to the AAG.
- Murray Rice provided the **Chair's Report**
  - The revised SWAAG website is available at [sw-aag.org](http://sw-aag.org) and now provides a centralized and consistent place for information on the organization including officers and contacts, student competitions, *The Southwestern Geographer*, etc. The website is intended to be living document and Murray asks that members send website updates to the current officers.
  - *The Southwestern Geographer* was relaunched and is now available online.
  - The regional councilors and chairs meeting in Tampa was a positive experience. The AAG office really wants to know what's going on and is making a sincere effort to communicate. There is a consensus among regional people that joint meetings are

important, that periodic consultations are valuable, and that an infrastructure for regional meetings would be beneficial.

- Michaela Buenemann provided the **Secretary's Report**
  - The Newsletter went out in August and is available on the website.
- Laurel Smith provided the **Treasurer's Report**
  - The treasurer's report is attached to the minutes and will be posted on the website before the next newsletter comes out.
- Maria Lane provided the **Local Meeting Organizer's Report**
  - "The meeting happened!"
  - 302 people registered. SWAAG had more attendees than GPRM. There were about 180 students and 120 non-students. If it had been a 50:50 split, there might have been more pay-back; the initial plan was to return \$10 per head to the regions.
  - It was a great experience to co-organize meeting. UNM handled the local arrangements; KSU handled the registrations, website, etc. Maria suggested that we consider co-organizing all meetings, even if it's not a joint conference: e.g., next year's organizer can handle this year's registrations, abstracts, etc.
- John Tiefenbacher provided ***The Southwestern Geographer* Editor's Report**
  - The journal's past issues have all been digitized and are now available for free. However, users must register (free) to get access.
  - Volume 16, 2013 was published in April.
  - We are now in Volume 17, 2014, which will continue until the end of December.
  - The journal will now have three or more sections (research, commentary, pedagogical / courses – lesson plans / exercises / activities, not reviewed).
  - Getting the website in order was the most significant work load.
  - The review process has been a struggle: it is tough to get reviewers to agree/disagree to review and tough to get reviewers to submit reviews in time.
  - To speed up process, it would be helpful to have another co-editor.
  - John encouraged all to submit manuscripts.
  - Chris Brown suggested that we post course materials as a 3<sup>rd</sup> piece in the journal on the website. Michaela Buenemann noted that there should be some quality control in what gets posted, including course materials. Chris Brown agreed to look into possibilities.
- **Old Business**
  - Discussion regarding this year's **student awards**
    - Laurel Smith noted that there were few submissions this year because competitions weren't announced early enough and frequently enough. The email went out late but went to the listserv and all students who had registered at that point. Laurel created a list of things that can be done better next year. Handling of the student competitions is the SWAAG treasurer's responsibility. There is a strong sense to have special sessions for student competitions, but also a strong sense to have students present in relevant sessions. Some feel that papers should not be co-authored, but that would marginalize students who get funding from their major advisors.

- Laurel Smith expressed thanks to the judges of this year's student competitions: Mike Demers, Sarah Bednarz, Robert Bednarz, John Comer, Kirsten DeBeurs, Chris Duvall, and Steve Stadler.
  - Ron Hagelman suggested that we use AAG Knowledge Communities in addition to the SWAAG Listserv to get out student competition announcements. Michaela Buenemann suggested that we develop a Facebook page and announce the competitions there as well.
  - Thanks were expressed to Sarah Bednarz for continuing to maintain the SWAAG Listserv.
  - Darren Purcell reminded us that we should ask our students to prep for the student competition; after all, we know it happens every year.
  - There was some discussion to include the cash award in the call to help motivate students to apply.
- **New Business**
    - **Discussion and Nominations for SWAAG Executive and Regional Councilor Positions**
      - Nominations at the meeting included: Michaela Buenemann for Chair, Laurel Smith for Secretary, Jason Julian and Chris Duvall for Treasurer, and Andrew Klein for Regional Councilor.
      - Murray Rice asked that additional nominations be emailed to him ([rice@unt.edu](mailto:rice@unt.edu)) in the next two weeks.
    - **Geography Bowl**
      - Darren Purcell commented that it a Geo Bowl is a great deal of work and potentially costly, but that we currently do not know exactly how it is run. If we want to make it happen in 2015/2016, it will require a bit of work. No volunteer stepped forward at the meeting to look into things.
    - Maria Lane noted that it would be nice to include geocaching competitions in every meeting; there was no such competition this year.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Michaela Buenemann, SWAAG Secretary

**Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers (SWAAG)**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
31 August 2014

Date	Description	Receipts (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Balance (\$)
<b>8/31/13</b>	<b>Balance forward</b>			<b>3,974.48</b>
10/30/13	Verma - 3rd Place SWAGG Grad. Paper Award		(100.00)	3874.48
10/30/13	Leon - 3rd Place Undergrad Paper Award		(100.00)	3774.48
10/30/13	Fromknecht - 2nd Place Undergrad Paper Award		(150.00)	3624.48
10/31/13	Aucoin - 1st Place Undergrad Paper Award		(200.00)	3424.48
11/21/13	75Q:Texas State Univ check	63.03		3487.51
11/4/13	Blinn Geographic Society - 2nd Place Undergrad Poster Award	(150.00)	3337.51	3,174.48
11/5/13	Jia - 2nd Place Poster Award		(150.00)	3187.51
11/7/13	Lester - 2nd Place Graduate Paper Award		(150.00)	3037.51
11/8/13	Medel Valdivia - 1st Place Graduate Paper Award		(200.00)	2837.51
11/14/13	Jones - 1st Place Grad Poster Award		(200.00)	2637.51
12/9/13	Brady - 3rd Place Grad Poster Award		(100.00)	2537.51
1/31/14	Rentschlar - 3rd Place Grad Paper Award		(100.00)	2437.51
1/31/14	Nguyen - 1st Place Undergrad Poster Award		(200.00)	2237.51
2/12/14	Rice - Reimb. for SWAAG website exp.		(97.17)	2140.34
3/31/14	Stephen F Austin State Univ	666.21		2806.55
8/29/14	SWAGG capitation FYE 2014	1,500.00		4306.55
<b>8/31/14</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>4,306.55</b>

Source: Michelle Ledoux, AAG Membership Director  
Submitted by: Laurel Smith, SWAAG Treasurer