

SWAAG NEWSLETTER

Serving members of the Association of American Geographers in Arkansas,
Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

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Letter from the Chair

Let me be among the list to wish you the best in this New Year. Among our goals as a professional organization, I suggest, we strive to maintain the high profile of the revitalized interest in geographic literacy we have experienced over the last few years. This will entail getting our ideas to a broader spectrum of students as they settle into their discipline-based degree plans. High on their decision tree is the question, "What kind of jobs do you get with a geography degree and how well do they pay?" Currently, our answer is quite positive, as geographers are being hired for careers because of their well rounded knowledge base and research tools. Traditional venues and new opportunities are providing exciting careers; especially with the proliferation of GIS as a tool kit and emerging science.

We also need to work diligently with Junior and Community Colleges to coordinate content in introductory courses and two plus two program designs.

Another area where we can build community among geographers in academics and research as well as recruit new and bright students is by implementing advanced broad band technologies in our programs. In particular, we need to become involved with Internet2. This next generation technology will allow campuses to be regional interactive in

curriculum delivery and in cooperative research activities. Internet2 will deliver multi-media interactive programs, live or taped, and has the band width to move and serve enormous amounts of spatial and graphic digital data. Geographers have long been recognized as leaders in the production and use of maps, images and now the image map in their works. Internet2 will allow us to expand our craft and provide it to a larger user group.

Presently, there are about 160 universities that are wired to Internet2. Most are 1st tier campuses where innovation is easier to fund. But medium size campuses, like SFASU, which joined last year, can be significant nodes in the network. I encourage geographers in our region to begin to utilize this sophisticated medium. It has the potential to allow us to reach, teach and visualize the results of our mentors and our research to a greater audience. If you are interested in more information visit the Internet2 web site at: owner-i2-news@internet2.edu.

Darrel L. McDonald
Chair

SWAAG Business Meeting Minutes October 22, 1999, San Marcos, Texas

Secretary Darrel L. McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. McDonald

announced that Chair Brooks Green sends his regards, as he was unable to attend the meeting. Green received funding to return to Russia for research.

McDonald extended thanks and recognition to the SWTSU faculty for the splendid meeting. Note was made of the efforts of Lawrence Estaville, Fred Shelley, David Butler and Craig Colten's efforts, among the many faculty that contributed to the success one of the largest regional meetings in memory. There were approximately 400 attendees at the meeting. Equally important, the hospitable and helpful attitude of the student staff went far to make everyone's conference experience a pleasurable one.

Guests attending the business meeting included AAG Executive Director Ron Abler, AAG President Reginald C. Golledge and members of the National Councillor committee. There were about 25 individuals present for the business meeting.

Minutes of the 1998 business meeting were published in Vol. 7, No. 1 of the SWAAG newsletter. They were approved with no additions or changes were from the floor.

Fred Shelley who expertly coordinated the 1999 SWAAG meeting made several announcements. He brought to our attention that Cotton Mather was seriously ill. A card was circulated for signatures to offer well wishes from SWAAG geographers. In other announcements, it was mentioned that the Salt Lick field trip was on, times changes were given for the aerial photography field that was organized by Ron Eyton and details for the Green Hill dining adventure were reviewed.

Fiona Davidson, Treasurer reported an October 1998 balance of \$3,611. As of 18 October 1999 the balance was at \$ 1,195.56. Recent student awards and encumbrances will reduce this total somewhat.

Regional Councillor Brad Cullen gave an overview of the important issues of the last

quarterly meeting.

He pointed out that each issue of the *Annals* will be devoted to one subfield. Sections in the *Annals* will be: Environmental Sciences; Geomatics and Visualization; People, Places, and Societies; and Synthesis and Synergy. Section size will depend on number of accepted submissions. The new format will begin in 2001. There will be a managing editor to facilitate reviews, copy editing and related issues.

The *Professional Geographer's* new mission is to serve as a link between geography and the rest of the world. The format will be discussed at the San Marcos Council meeting. The new Book Review Editor of the *Annals* is: Dr. Deborah P. Dixon, Department of Geography, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. Her email is dixond@mail.ecu.edu.

New officers were announced. Darrel L. McDonald will be chair, Fiona M. Davidson will be secretary and Jonathan D. Phillips will serve as treasurer for the next two years. In addition, the new Regional Councillor for SWAAG will be William E. Doolittle. Fred Shelley was the other candidate considered for the position. The nominating committee of Sent Visser, Andy Schoolmaster and Brad Cullen were thanked for their efforts.

John P. Tiefenbacher commented on the *Southwestern Geographer*. John emphasized that there were ample copies of the early volumes available and encouraged members to purchase the journal to help defray the publishing costs. John will be the sole editor for the next volume as Julie Clausen stepped down as co-editor. John pointed out that reviewers were doing an excellent job with a 3-6 week turn-around for manuscripts. He asked for more manuscripts so he can prepare the next volume to be issued in late August. Estaville inquired to the status of the ballot to require \$ 10.00 dues for SWAAG members.

The vote was in favor of dues. Initial dues will be collected during the upcoming year. The dues will be allocated between the journal (\$ 7.00) and student competition awards (\$ 3.00).

Several folks asked how the process would be carried out. After various suggestions, it was decided to check with others regions as to how they collect dues. An update will occur early in the new year.

AAG President Reginald Golledge stated that Cullen was an excellent Councillor. He also commented about the fine-tuning in progress for the *Annals* sections. Interviews for editors will be carried out at the Pittsburgh meeting. Golledge challenged geographers to increase membership to 10,000 by 2004. He felt this task could be accomplished by recruiting more individuals from the industrial, business and corporate worlds as well as from academic institutions.

Golledge stated that the 1st grant to establish the National Geography Learning Network was not funded. Other avenues are being pursued including identifying private funds as seed money. Golledge complimented the efforts of SWT and the Grosvenor Center in this endeavor.

Ron Abler added congratulations on a fine meeting hosted by Southwest Texas. He mentioned that their will be a single book editor for the *Annals* and the Professional Geographer. He stressed that the Washington offices has several services available to geographers. An important contact to help get things done is Kevin Klug; particularly in the areas of the annual meetings and mailing lists needed throughout the year.

No other business was introduced and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

PAST CHAIR'S REMARKS

In October 1999, while many of you were enjoying the SWAAG meetings in San

Marcos, Texas, I was gathering demographic data from the State Statistical Committee in Ryazan, Russia and observing village and agricultural landscapes of deep, rural Russia. I had a tremendously productive and rewarding time, yet, I missed not being present at the meetings in San Marcos. I understand from my colleagues at the University of Central Arkansas that the meetings were exceptionally good.

Each year I look forward to the SWAAG meetings and mingling with my colleagues in the Southwest Division of the AAG. I must say that I have truly enjoyed serving as chair of the division for the past two years. It was a pleasure to have worked with Bill Doolittle, Darrel McDonald, and Fiona Davidson. Many others of you have had occasion to contact me about various items. Thank you for all that you did and continue to do!

I appreciate all of the work many of you do for the Division and the devotion you have for geography. I look forward to many more years of contact and association.

Brooks Green

Future SWAAG Meeting Sites

College Station – Fall 2000

Daniel Z. Sui gave an update on the Fall 2000 meeting to be held at Texas A&M Univeristy.

Arrangements have already been made to have Paul Adams and E. Fu Tuan as keynote speakers. More information can be obtained from Sui at: d-sui@tamu.edu or contact: Robert Bednarz at (409) 845-7174 or by email: bednarz@tamu.edu.

There has been a change in the location of the Fall 2001 meeting. Andy Schoolmaster will be completing his services with the Applied Geographers that year. He suggested a joint meeting to be held in Ft. Worth or Denton.

The executive committee consulted Michael Yoder and decided to support the change of venue. As a result the Fall 2002 meeting will be in Laredo at TAMU. For information contact: Michael Yoder at 210-326-2634 or by email: myoder@tamiu.edu.