

Middle States Division AAG Executive Board Phone Meeting
Approved Minutes
February 14, 2013

Members present: Kelly Frothingham (President), Paul Marr (outgoing President), David Fyfe (Vice-President), Mark Blumler (Secretary), Adam Kalkstein (Editor, Middle States Geographer), Grant Saff (Regional Councilor), Jo Margaret Mano (Executive Director)

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am

1. Minutes of the November 2, 2012 meeting were approved.
2. Grant Saff gave the Regional Councilor report. Two primary issues are credit card payment for the regional meeting, which is currently impossible, and funding of Regional Presidents and Councilors to attend the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that Grant should request that AAG Central make available its online payment system so that payments for the regional meetings could also be made online. Since SEDAAG appears to have online payment, they should be contacted to determine if they might be willing to make their system open to us. Also, Regional Presidents and Councilors are expected to attend a two-day meeting right before the national meeting, but since the AAG does not fund them for the national conference, they may find it overly expensive to stay. The Board suggested to Grant that he circulate a petition among the Regional Councilors to put additional pressure on Doug Richardson over these matters.

In other matters, the AAG has agreed to send a group to talk to administrators at your university to persuade them as to the value of GIS courses, etc. There has been discussion of AAG subsidies for child care at regional meetings, since the regional divisions cannot cover the cost. Also, it was suggested that it would be useful for the regional divisions to consult the various Specialty Groups about having SG liaison representatives.

3. Kelly Frothingham discussed preparations for the upcoming 2013 meeting, set for 10/18-19 at Buffalo State. The plan is to have three rooms for concurrent sessions, with possibility of expansion to a fourth room if necessary. The proposed menu met with approval, and it was suggested that coffee, tea, and fruited water all be offered during the breaks. A reduced rate is being offered by the Holiday Inn Buffalo Downtown of \$99 + tax. It was agreed that we would continue with the current payment system of checks or cash, in part because of the difficulty that would arise, if using Paypal, in trying to refund cancellations such as those caused by Sandy last year. Since students often do not have checking accounts, it was suggested that the professor mentoring a student might wish to accept the student's cash and write his/her check for the conference.

4. Jo Mano provided the Treasurer's report. She noted that her bank is attempting to charge for small numbers of check deposits, but as long as she maintains a minimum balance this should not be a problem. Also, she noted that we have a healthy balance, and suggested that we need to spend some of the funds. She suggested lowering the student conference rate, but it was felt that it already is cheap enough. Alternatively, it was suggested that money could be used to support travel of the regional president to the national meeting, though only after determining that the AAG is unwilling to provide such funding

It was noted that there need to be more buzzers for the Geography Bowl, and that buzzer mailings before each meeting are a considerable cost. Two suggestions were that the buzzers should be passed to the VP at the end of the meeting, or that we could use TurningPoint and its associated clickers. The Board appointed Paul to look into the latter.

5. The current issue, number 45, of the Middle States Geographer (Adam Kalkstein, Paul Marr) has been delayed due to a dearth of reviewers, but should be completed shortly. Adam proposed the creation of an Editorial Advisory Board to provide reviewers, and this was approved. There was some discussion about the journal should continue to be hosted at Buff State.

6. Kelly discussed elections. Since ideally the 2016 conference will be in NJ or thereabouts (given that it will have been in Buffalo, York, and Binghamton previously), there also should be an attempt to recruit the 2014 Secretary from schools in the NJ region. As for the SAGE representative, there seems to be less concern at the national level than there had been, but still a call will be place in the newsletter.

7. The newsletter is almost ready to send out.

8. The website has undergone a facelift, with some additional changes still to be made.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Blumler, Secretary