

President's Letter

Beverly Perkins

Don't believe in uncontested elections? Then run for office! I am convinced that the hardest part of being WAAC Vice-President/President is wheedling your colleagues into running for a position on the WAAC board. And if you think it's hard to get people to run for Member-at-Large, try getting people to run for Vice-President!

Having just wheedled a bit at you, I have to say that I really enjoyed being a Member-at-Large and being Vice-President/President. I got to know some GREAT people, and I learned about WAAC and its mechanics. WAAC really needs the participation of its members to continue to be such an outstanding organization.

We need to thank all of the members who ran for office – Thank You.

Congratulations to Camilla Van Vooren who was elected incoming Vice-President and to Chris Stavroudis and Leslie Rainer who are our new Members-at-Large. Thank you to Maureen Russell and Chris Stavroudis who so valiantly served as Members-at-Large. We are glad to have Chris back, and Maureen will be greatly missed at board meetings.

You are in good hands this year as Laura Downey Staneff moves from VP into the Presidential position. She has chosen Teresa Moreno to be the WAAC Secretary for the upcoming year, and they are already working on the meeting in Tucson.

Chris Stavroudis receives the University Products award. AIC President Tom Chase presented the award to Chris at the annual AIC meeting in Minneapolis. John Dunphy of University Products presented an award check to Chris. This Award is given to a conservator who has exhibited distinguished achievement in the conservation of cultural property. As WAAC members, we certainly know of the commitment Chris has to our health and the health of WAAC in general.

Carolyn Tallent is honored for a decade as Editor of the WAAC Newsletter. Carolyn received a WAAC life-time membership in recognition of her hard work as Editor of the esteemed WAAC *Newsletter*. Carolyn also received a beautiful hand-bound commemorative book created by Jana L. Dambrogio of NARA.

Hairy Treatments and Dancin' Boots – The Buffalo Bill Historical Center was a welcoming venue for a conference that proved to be full of high quality presentations. We would like to thank Sue Simpson Gallagher for her generous hospitality. Sue's art gallery on the main street in Cody was a beautiful venue for the opening reception and her father, Senator Alan Simpson, was a delightful speaker. And a special thank you Cody Artist Harry Jackson who so warmly and graciously welcomed us into his studio. Not only did we learn at the meeting about our colleagues' solutions to some sticky conservation problems; we learned a few new dance steps under the stars from instructor Steve Gillis.

Silent Auction- Thank you to all the WAAC members who brought and bought items. Once again, Robert Gamblin's donated set of Conservation Colors was the high bid item. The silent auction raised \$1,337 that will be used as seed money for the maintenance of the outdoor sculpture at the BBHC. The silent auction will continue next year in Tucson.

I wish to especially thank my dear friend Alexis Miller who was such an excellent WAAC Secretary. She not only carried out the normal duties of Secretary, she also provided me with warmth, guidance, and humor when it mattered most.

Earlier this year I was wondering why I felt the need to run for WAAC President in order to bring the annual meeting to Cody, Wyoming. I finally realized that it came down to match-making. I wanted to introduce the organization I love, WAAC, to the region I love, Wyoming. It may not have been a match made in heaven but it was a memorable three day stand.

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