

President's Letter

Daniel Cull

Dear Membership,

First and foremost I'd like to thank Dana Senge for organizing such a splendid annual meeting. The city was a wonderful choice with some great venues hosting a fascinating range of talks and events - personally I particularly enjoyed seeing talks from beyond

the usual fields of discussion, and learning about the roles the conservation profession plays beyond the laboratory bench. It was incredibly inspiring, if also sad, to see the work that Texas based conservators had put into disaster recovery and training for smaller institutions within their state. I hope you all enjoyed the meeting as much as I did.

I would also like to extend thanks to several outgoing board members for their hard work and dedication over the years of their service. Without their work the organization would simply not function and so it is truly appreciated. Outgoing board members I'd like to thank include; Members-at-Large Beverly Perkins and Ria German-Carter, Treasurer Natasha Cochran, and President Dana Senge; thank you all.

I'm sure many are wondering who the new board members are then! I'd like to first thank Leslie Rainer and Ellen Carrlee for forming the nominations committee and assisting me in establishing the slate for the election. I greatly appreciate their hard work in making the election a success. So without further ado I'd like to announce that Nicholas Dorman was elected Vice-President, and Pamela B. Skiles and Christel Pesme were elected as Members-at-Large. I have appointed Ozge Gencay Ustun as the new treasurer, and I'd like to add an extra thanks to Natasha Cochran for her work over the last few months to bring Ozge Gencay Ustun up to speed and transition the position. So on behalf of the board, myself, and you the membership, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new board members.

It's customary in your first president's letter to announce the location for the next annual meeting. However, before I do that I'd like to briefly delve into one of the things I'm hoping will come to the fore at the meeting. When a WAAC position is transitioned, there is a binder of information that is passed from one person to another. These binders hold a fair bit of interesting information and institutional knowledge about WAAC. I was thrilled in receiving the President's binder to read through a series of letters in which various conservators discussed the founding of the organization, and a desire right from the start to look outwards, and to incorporate other allied professionals into the world of WAAC.

I found it fascinating to discover that the welcoming and relaxed atmosphere that so many refer to WAAC as having was there intentionally from the outset. I mention this because this year's meeting will coincide with the annual meeting of the Western Museums Association (WMA), and we hope that over the coming year we are able to organize ways in which our two separate meetings are able link up and learn from one another. I hope that if you have a burning desire to see something happen at, or an idea for, the annual meeting you will let me know as soon as possible; before all the details start to become finalized. So in closing, the news you've all been waiting for is that the 2012 Annual Meeting will take place in Palm Springs, CA, between 22nd and 25th October. I hope to see you there!

Oh, and a very Happy (belated) New Year to you all.

Cheers,

Dan

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