

NACIS Board Meeting
Hotel Frontenac, St. Louis, Missouri
October 10, 2007 3-5 pm

Present: Jenny Marie Johnson (president), Scott Freunds Schuh, Fritz Kessler, Margaret Pearce (secretary), Mary Beth Cunha, Ginny Mason, Dick Gilbreath, Max Baber, Martin Gamache, Michael Hermann (vice president), Gordon Kennedy (treasurer), Susan Peschel (business operations), Lou Cross (executive director), Dennis McClendon (past president).

Minutes of the spring board meeting are approved

Absent: Nick Springer

Elections | Susan Peschel

This year, 159 votes were returned! This almost doubled the voting rate from previous years. Online voting is a rousing success.

The outcomes of the election are: Michael Hermann, president; Brandon Plewe, vice president, Tanya Buckingham, secretary. New board members are: Neil Allen, Martin Gamache, Mary Beth Cunha, and Babs Buttenfield. Nicolas Ramirez is the new student member.

Membership | Lou Cross

The total membership for 2007 is 540 people. We are showing steady increases in membership: 386 in 2003, 397 in 2004, 443 in 2005, 510 in 2006.

Missoula | Lou Cross

NACIS 2008 will be at the "Holiday Inn-Downtown at the Park" in Missoula, at the conference rate of \$129/night. Some rooms are available at \$98 for government rate, available on a first-come first-served basis. The conference dates have been officially set at Oct 8-11. Carla Majernik of Adventure Cycling Association will be the keynote speaker at the banquet.

Treasurers Report | Gordon Kennedy

At the moment, it looks like we will end up at about a \$12,572 loss for 2007, compared to a \$2,980 loss for 2006. Nacis can carry this kind of loss temporarily because many conferences are profitable. For the long term, however, it is not the best circumstances. Gordon says we are bipolar in this regard. As the number gradually seeps in, the board begins to find a \$12K loss alarming, and we proceed to discuss what the reasons might be. Audio visual equipment costs have gone up, we have begun new spending on the student travel stipends, and the attendance for this meeting is not as high as for the popular spots like Madison. Lou asks, should we raise the conference registration fee? Mike says, let's not take a reactionary stance from just one meeting. Perhaps next year

we should revisit whether to raise rates or to reduce costs of meals and other services that we offer during the conference.

NACIS Awards Report | Jenny Marie Johnson

The number of applications for travel grant funds was low. The deadline was in August. Perhaps this should be moved to the spring? Or should it be moved closer to the meeting itself for visibility? In that case, what about the problem of finding an affordable airline ticket two weeks before the meeting? One sticking point is that students typically don't decide whether to attend the meeting until the fall semester. Dick will be the new chair of the awards committee, assisted by Martin and Jenny Marie. Dick will receive the applications and send the award notifications, and the review will be by committee as a whole.

A related issue is how to know whether someone will actually attend. We need a new policy stipulating that awards will be reimbursed at the conference, rather than sending a check to the recipients prior to the conference dates. So, new policy will be that the check will be waiting for a student at the registration desk. We will leave flexibility in case someone, especially a student, has a problem getting here.

No one applied for the free membership award. We need to get the word out about this award.

St. Louis update | Mike Hermann

Everything is fine with the Hotel Frontenac so far; there are no crises.

Dennis raises the question about low attendance. There was no local arrangements committee this year, so that affected attendance. Federal employees also couldn't attend at last minute because of loss of travel funds. Was there an effect from a lack of a printed preliminary program? The sense is that no, the pdf is a fine substitution, and people continued to register online; very few people register on paper from the printed pdf. We did send a post card; was this sufficient? Should there be a flyer instead? Jenny says that there was a considerable cost savings with the pdf and postcard method. Let's try this again for next year, and see whether this has an impact.

We were behind schedule considerably this year. This seems to be the main issue and definitely a situation to avoid for 2008. Both PCD and conference paper submissions were way down and this affected Mike's ability to put together a preliminary program in the first place.

Future conference venues

The only definite venue is Missoula for 2008. What lies ahead? Washington, DC is a new, viable option now on the table. Martin is networked in the DC area and thinks he

may be able to find us some gratis conference facilities. We can be creative and find an affordable hotel. Perhaps 2010 would be reasonable for a DC conference.

Mike says that David Lamberg of Trails Illustrated has offered Denver as another possible conference venue. What happened to State College? Paige provided a synopsis that it would be expensive; also, the football season is problematic. Jenny is concerned that new prez Mike be left with a strong possibility for the 2009 venue, and State College does not look stable. Denver is not an option because that would be two western cities two years in a row. Lou is pushing for a DC decision. At the next board meeting, State College and DC will be compared.

Other options continue to be Sacramento, New Orleans, and Sun Valley or another ski area because October is a cheap season.

By the end of the month, Mike and Lou will figure out what is possible in DC and how to make it happen for 2009.

2010 is our 30th anniversary. Napa Valley would be fabulous. Mary Beth has done the research and can provide a report on the affordability. Everyone is really excited about Napa and this quickly becomes the secondmost popular and viable option. Mary is awaiting the report on the success of the Welsh pony conference to pony up....

***Cartographic Perspectives* | Scott Freundshuh**

The big news is that Fritz Kessler is the new editor of CP. He will give his editor's report at the new board meeting on Friday.

Scott gave us the scoop on forthcoming issues and there is lots of exciting stuff forthcoming. But submissions are way down, only 20 manuscripts submitted in 2006. Also, the editorial board is not very diverse and the new editor will have to work on this limitation. The changes to the layout that John implemented are still in place; it's up to the new editor whether those changes remain or continue to evolve.

Indexing

EBSCO indexing is in Academic Search Complete and we received our first royalty from that (fifty bucks). Susan notes that we received one cancelled subscription because of the full-text option now available. Web of Science turned us down for indexing. We continue to be abstract indexed through GEOBASE. Indexing should be a priority for the new editor because *CP* visibility remains critical.

Access to back issues

A related issue is access to back issues for members unaffiliated with academic institutions. Martin points out that Nacis members without access to EBSCO are now unable to retrieve the last two years online for free. How can we allow all Nacis members to be able to search and read back issues of *CP* online? This could be solved through a

special members-only log in. Gordon adds that the cost of creating such a members-only log in would be a perfect use of our financial reserves.

Copyright questions

How do we make sure that copyright is legally held by NACIS? We need to know whether an author should be signing a paper document, and whether there should be a blanket statement about copyright printed in the journal. Ginny will take on this question because she is our woman in the Library of Congress.

New board

Cycling off: Denis Wood, Trudy Suchan. Cycling on: Pat Kennelly.

Board dismissed at 5:10 pm. Next meeting is Friday.

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NACIS Board Meeting II

St. Louis, Missouri

October 12, 2007, 12:15–2 pm

Present

Neil Allen, Tanya Buckingham (secretary), Barbara Bутtenfield, Lou Cross (executive director), Mary Beth Cunha, Scott Freundsuh, Dick Gilbreath, Michael Hermann (president), Jenny Marie Johnson (past president), Gordon Kennedy (treasurer), Fritz Kessler, Ginny Mason, Susan Peschel (business manager), Brandon Plewe (vice president), Nicolas Ramirez (student member)

Absent

Martin Gamache, Nick Springer, Erik Steiner (webmaster)

State of NACIS membership | Michael Hermann

NACIS has seen substantial growth for a small group. Discussed the need to analyze where the growth is. Important to keep the growth manageable to support the friendly, congenial atmosphere of the organization. Interest in doing an analysis of who is staying and leaving when local interest is responsible for bringing in new members. The current membership is 540 members. (Previous years: 2003: 386, 2004: 397; 2005: 443; 2006: 510).

Treasurer's report | Gordon Kennedy

2007 will likely end with a large deficit. Due to the good financial condition of the Society, we are able to absorb this deficit. However, it would not be alright to continue with this practice.

Formation of a Fiscal Committee | Gordon Kennedy

Gordon announced the recommendation to establish a Finance Committee to determine how much of a cash reserve the organization should maintain. The committee will determine what the necessary base reserve should be for securing the longevity and security. Additionally, what the amount beyond the rainy day fund should be for reinvestment into NACIS.

***Cartographic Perspectives* | Scott Freundsuh**

Mark Harrower will be looking into the costs of scanning *CP* and provide digital access to the membership using Google's Raster Text Mining capabilities. Decisions about how to proceed will be made as cost analysis is made available.

Scott will be meeting with Fritz in January to do the official handoff of *CP* editorial duties. Jim Anderson may attend. New editorial board is nearly complete, with a very good, diverse board in place. Funding for travel to support this was agreed to and added to the budget (\$1000 per person).

A discussion about including advertising in *CP* resulted in the decision that advertising could create a conflict of interest and that the organization is not in need of the additional income at this time.

Committee Updates and Members

Nominations Committee Jenny Marie Johnson announced that the nominations for the 2008 election are well underway, will be set by Jan. 15 as specified in bylaws.

Marketing and Promotions Nick Springer

Awards, Scholarships and Travel Funds Dick Gilbreath, Martin Gamache and Jenny Marie Johnson

New finance committee plans to meet, Mary Beth Cunha and Nicolas Ramirez expressed interest in working with Gordon on this task.

nacis.org Next year suggested to include continued access to the page of bios. People from many parts of the field are finding the website and it is having an affect on membership—word really getting out there via the website.

Quarterly updates | Michael Hermann

Announced a plan to check in quarterly on the progress of committees, tasks and goals set at the board meeting. First Quarter reports are due January 15, 2008.

Status on Missoula Montana

The contract with the hotel is signed after some negotiation. There will be a fee for the meeting room space, which financially works out with the negotiated contract. More specifics about the 2008 meeting will be discussed at the spring board meeting.

Post Missoula site location possibilities

2009: Washington, D.C. or State College, PA

2010: Sacramento, CA

Others possible sites: Palm Springs, CA; Keystone, CO; Denver, CO

Need to consider increasing our goal for room rates to be under \$120 instead of \$100.

NACIS Award for Excellence

Outgrowth of marketing committee. Added \$600 to the budget for the award. Specifics to be discussed at the spring meeting.

Other Business

MAPPS case: Agreed that NACIS will send a representative to the URISA, Ginny Mason will attend. Will do some research over the next 48 hours to determine what role NACIS should play in the meetings.

LCD projectors: To save money in St. Louis NACIS purchased two LCD projectors.

Practical Cartography Day: Encouragement for PCD to be more interactive and move paper-session types of presentations to Thursday/Friday of conference.

Budget amendments, add:

\$2000 for travel expenses for *CP* handoff

\$1500 for scanning of past *CP* issues

\$4000 (\$2000 each) to Business Manager and Executive Director to cover conference expenses, when needed

\$600 for excellence award

Spring Board Meeting

To be held in Milwaukee, WI at the AGS library in March or April. Date to be determined later in the year.