

WISCONSIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2014 Meeting
Lizard Mound County Park
May 17, 2014

Members present: about 35 **Board members present:** about 15

Meeting called to order by president Sampson at 10:00am.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary's Report:

Jake Pfaffenroth:

The Fall 2013 meeting minutes were posted.

In November, the board voted to approve the purchase of two insurance policies that cover both general liability and directors & officers. The cost of these policies is combined \$832 per year. Extended deliberation among board members resulted in majority conclusion that these policies are necessary to legally and financially protect the Society in today's world. The policies went into effect January 1, 2014.

Our General Liability policy will provide financial and legal assistance in the event that the Society is found responsible for accidents/injuries to members and the general public at Society events and at the Society's Heim Mound property in Middleton.

Our Directors and Officers policy provides indemnity coverage for any person volunteering to serve as an officer or director of the Society. Wisconsin law requires that all corporations (the Society was incorporated in 1903) provide indemnity for all of its directors, in order to legally/financially protect individuals serving on the board from negligent decisions/actions of individual board members.

Motion to approve the report made by Connie Arzigian, seconded by Amy Rosebrough, approved by the board

Treasurer's Report:

Jake Rieb:

So far in 2014 there have been 304 paid memberships, totaling \$6,045 in dues.

Website digital and back issue sales so far for the year gross \$1,063, which already surpasses last year's total.

The Society's checking account is being moved to the Bank of Prairie du Sac for convenience. This saves money by avoiding Associated Bank's monthly service fee and will earn a small amount of interest (0.1%) on the checking account. \$20,000 of

reserve money was moved into two \$10,000 CDs each with an interest rate of 0.4% (1-year) and 0.7% (2-year). Once the transfer is totally completed a third CD will be opened for another \$10,000. These three CD accounts should earn the Society at least \$200 per year in interest. There will still be approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 in our primary checking account at any time, giving plenty of cushion for a couple budget years.

Merchandise sales are improving, with the vast majority of back issues available digitally. Physical paper copies of journals are still selling, but tend to be the most recent issues whereas the digital sales are more diverse.

Jake Rieb has been taking steps to encourage membership renewal. He recently sent reminder emails to everyone who had not already renewed for 2014, which did result in a large number of renewals. Renewal postcards are being mailed to members without email.

Motion to approve the report by Kent Dickerson, seconded by Jeremy Cobble, approved by the board

Education and outreach committee report

Jeremy Cobble:

There have been two main events held by the Society so far in 2014: This past March we were at the Milwaukee Public Museum archaeology fair with displays, hands-on items, and flintknapping. The second event so far are the meeting, tours, and displays today at Lizard Mound country park. In September we will have a display table at Quarry Quest in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Next year Jeremy would like to set up something at the Valley View artifact show.

Editorial committee report:

Connie Arzigian:

The Newsletter Editor role transitioned from Kurt Sampson to Norm Meinholz, who produced and distributed the first issue.

The next journal issue is going to be a great one with a lot of great articles

The Editorial team plans to include more color images and is exploring the various paper and printing options. The current printer, production process, and other logistics are enabling us to include more color pages and stay within budget.

The editorial team and the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center are almost done making digital scans of ALL remaining copies of the Wisconsin Archeologist. The complete collection through 2010 will be made available for purchase on CD or USB thumb drive. The price of the Complete Collection is To Be Determined.

The committee is also discussing formalizing a process for people to request using copyrighted material. This is for cases where people want to use material that may be beyond the reasonable limits for copyrighted material.

President Kurt Sampson formally thanked Norm for his role as Newsletter Editor.

Awards committee report:

Robert Boszhardt (not present), read by Kurt Sampson:

The Awards Committee received five proposals totaling \$2150. The board had allocated \$500 for the award, so one proposal for \$450 was chosen to receive the award. The committee recommended that the board approve awarding \$450, and that the remaining \$50 be rolled over to the 2015 award. The recipient will be made public after accepting the award.

Motion by Kurt Sampson to approve the committee's recommendation, Seconded by Jake Rieb, approved by the board

Website and Media committee report:

Jake Pfaffenroth:

The website has an estimated 350 visitors each month. The Facebook page has over 700 "likes".

In January 2014 the website was updated to "version 2" that has a better menu, is easier to read, and looks better in general. It includes a Videos page with our first recorded lecture. Donation options were added to the membership renewals page. There is a new information page for Heim Mound. Finally, project summary pages were added for each recipient of the WASRA research award.

Since the Fall 2013 meeting the Committee have finished uploading digital PDFs of all issues from 1901 through 1981, which are available as complete volumes for \$5.99. We have also uploaded PDFs of issues from 2001 through 2012. These "new" issues are available as individual or double issues, mirroring how they were printed (\$12.50 per single issue, \$25 per double issues). Keeping the PDF prices the same as physical copies provides a cost incentive to become members rather than just purchase the issues as discounted PDFs.

Over 100 people have renewed their 2014 memberships online. As reported by Treasurer Jake Rieb, back issues sales through the website have grossed over \$1000 so far this year, which is already more than last year combined.

Future tasks include expanding education resources online, adding more individual Chapter pages, and recording more lectures.

Preservation of sites committee:

Amy Rosebrough and Rob Nurre:

Some maintenance of Heim mound will probably happen later in the summer to clear foliage. There will be an event at Man Mound this summer (date To Be Determined). There are plans to improve the interpretive displays at Man Mound in the coming months.

Kurt Sampson talked about the mound site preservation conference that was held. It was an opportunity for people dealing with mound site maintenance issues to come together and discuss techniques and issues, and how best to practically care for mounds.

NEW BUSINESS

A member recommended that the subscription page stays in the journal so that people without computers or with old computers can still become members very easily. The editorial Committee noted the request.

Dues increase

Jake Rieb brought up the long-standing issue of whether or not to raise membership dues. Some limited discussion has recently take place among board members via email. Informal consensus at this point is that dues will be raised, but the amount has not yet been decided. An original suggestion was to raise dues by \$5, but many board members actually suggested raising dues for some memberships by \$10. Jake Rieb suggested we form a special committee to come up with a proposed set of increases. A special committee was formed to discuss the issue via email, come up with a set of proposed increases, and have the board vote on them before the fall meeting, if possible.

Special Dues Committee:

Jake Rieb, Jake Pfaffenroth, Connie Arzigian, Rob Nurre, Kurt Sampson

Milwaukee area event programming

Katie Egan-Bruhy and Mark Bruhy are stepping down as Milwaukee area event programmers. Rachel McTavish from UW-Milwaukee will take over the role.

Chapter reports:

Kenosha Chapter: Reported on the creation of a county park hopefully planned for 2015–2016.

Rock River Chapter: An Effigy Mound bus tour starting at Horicon Marsh is planned for the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.