



NEWLETTER

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MAY, 2010

From the President

Ahh, sunshine! Green grass! Lilacs! Spring has arrived! Spring always brings the ASDM annual meeting, and this year's gathering at the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen April 15-17 was fantastic! Over thirty museum folk from all across the state came to learn about caring for and organizing that scary archives box. A big thank you to the Dacotah Prairie staff for being such great meeting hosts. A big thank you, too, to the ASDM Program Committee – Phyllis Schmidt from Lemmon, Tim Hoheisel from Sioux Falls, Jaclyn Ludowese from Watertown, and Sue Gates from Aberdeen for all your help with planning meeting sessions and the silent auction. I couldn't convince everyone at the meeting NOT to overbid me on the auction items, but I did get a couple of great gift baskets – and the money went to a great cause.

Three board members were elected this year – Tracy Seiner of the Siouxland Heritage Museums in Sioux Falls and Randi Sue Smith from the D.C. Booth National Historic Fish Hatchery in Spearfish were both elected to their second terms and Sherri Rawstern of the Dacotah Prairie Museum was

elected to her first term. Thank you to Katie Bogue from Fort Sisseton State Historic Park, who has served on the board for the last two years.

The South Dakota Connects to Collections Project is winding down. Jane Williams and Helen B Louise reported on the survey findings about collections in the state at the ASDM annual meeting. The project's final report will be posted on the ASDM website upon its completion. It's great to have a solid framework of collections information to build on as ASDM plans future workshops and meetings. 2010 is going to be an exciting year for South Dakota's museum community. The Mountain-Plains Museum Association is coming to Rapid City September 13-17 for their annual conference. This is a great opportunity for all of us to meet museum colleagues from Texas to North Dakota. ASDM will be offering six scholarships to attend the meeting – watch for information on the website and in future mailings. MPMA also offers scholarships so it's well worth a look at their website (www.mpma.net) for more information. Mountain-Plains is a terrific conference that offers practical useful sessions, friendly people, and great evening events. ASDM will do all it can to make sure

South Dakota attendees are welcome and comfortable – no fish out of water here!

Attendees will also see the ASDM logo on all of the meeting tote bags.

ASDM is your organization – please let any board member know if you have suggestions or comments about ASDM's services.

Thumbs up or thumbs down – the more we know, the better job we can do for you.

Happy spring, all!

Ronette

ASDM Breakfast Business Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2010

Call to Order: Ronette Rumpca called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM CT.

Members in Attendance: A.J. Epling, Grant Wilson, Shelly Sjovold, Tracy Seiner, Adam Nyhaug, Rick Mills, Ronette Rumpca, Phyllis Lauer, Edward Schmidt, Phyllis Schmidt, Katie Bogue, Randi Smith, Crystal Nelson, Sherri Rawstern, Sandra Ackman, Barb Hurne, Sally Madison, Carolyn Weber

Minutes from the 2009 and the 2010 business meeting will be

published in the next ASDM newsletter.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

Profit and Loss by Class – on file.

Tracy Seiner reported that there are 75 members. This number is down from last year, but many members have renewed at a higher level. In 2009, ASDM received approximately \$75 from Gaylord through the cooperative buying program, with an even a greater amount expected for 2010. 1.

A motion was made by Barb Hurne to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Randi Smith. Motion carried. 2.

Newsletter Report:

Randi Smith reported that articles

for the newsletter should be submitted to her. Randi will then send them to Barb Hurne for formatting, who will in turn send them to Katie Bogue for editing. Once Katie has edited them, she will send them back to Barb, who will then process and mail out the newsletters.

Submissions for the newsletter are due to Randi by April 23, 2010. It was suggested that advice from an archivist be a regular newsletter feature. Barb mentioned that she would like to see more articles about what is going on at museums around the state. Tracy stated that a "Member Spotlight" article as a regular feature would also be a good idea. Ronette received 57 responses from members to the ASDM survey, and 54 of those responders indicated that they do read the newsletter.

Therefore, the newsletter is a

valued membership benefit. People are encouraged to contact any ASDM board member to find out more about the newsletter and about how to submit an article.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Election Results:

Four candidates ran for the three available positions. A total of 48 ballots were returned, and the successful candidates are: Tracy Seiner, Randi Smith, and Sherri Rawstern.

MPMA Report – Strategic Plan /State Representatives:

Ronette reported that each elected

board member has been assigned an area of responsibility within MPMA; marketing, membership, cooperative programs, conferences, governance, and sustainability. The state

representatives want to remain voting members on the board. The state representatives have been holding quarterly conference calls, which they feel gives them more cohesion and a better way to bring new representatives into the program. It is also a great way to find out what other states are doing with matters such as finances, programs, workshops, etc. The representatives want to encourage MPMA to begin exploring ways that board members can participate in meetings via conference call and the internet service since travel costs are becoming a larger financial burden for many institutions.

2010 MPMA Conference in:
The MPMA conference will be held in

Rapid City at the Ramkota, September 13-17. ASDM will offer six scholarships up to \$750 each, to eligible applicants. The scholarships were created as a way to encourage members to attend so that a strong South Dakota presence at the conference.

2009 ASDM Survey: Ronette sent a 20-question survey out to 215 institutions. This includes all ASDM members and over 100 non-member institutions. She received 57 responses from members and 22 from non-members. The survey asked people to rate the benefits offered by ASDM on a scale of 1-5, with one being the lowest and five the highest. The combined overall ratings averaged around 4-5. Most surveys revealed that people seemed to be happy with what ASDM was offering to members. The survey revealed that the newsletter is read by many people and when asked if they wanted to receive it electronically or by mail, 15 stated e-mail preference and 30 stated mail preferences. It appears the majority wants a hard copy of the newsletter.

Of the 57 respondents, 30 had attended an ASDM annual meeting in the last five years, and 27 had attended a workshop. The reasons for not attending had more to do with travel constraints rather than meeting or workshop subject matter. The workshops and the annual meeting should continue to be held in various locations across the state. The majority of the respondents like the current format of the annual meeting—two days, every year. Most members have viewed and used the website. The final

report of the survey results will be in the newsletter and on the website.

Other: Ronette asked everyone to be thinking about possible locations for next year's annual meeting, and that it should be held in the western part of the state. A motion was made by Tracy to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 AM CT, seconded by Adam Nyhaug. Motion carried. Submitted April 23, 2010
Carolyn Weber, Secretary

ASDM Breakfast Business Meeting April 25, 2009

Call to Order: Ronette Rumpca called the meeting to order at 9:00AM MT.

Members in Attendance:

Jordan Wilms, Eleanor Marousek, Anne Rogers, Carolyn Weber, Janice Bartles, Edward Schmidt, Phyllis Schmidt, Linda Velder, Helen Louise, Ronette Rumpca, Patricia Miller, Joe Heim, Geri Heim, Tracy Seiner, Randi Smith, Christine Paig Diers

REPORTS: Sales by Item Summary Report – on file.
Balance Sheet Report – on file,
Profit and Loss by Class – on file.

Tracy Seiner reported that the association has 77 institutional members and 14 individual members. Thirty-one members attended ASDM workshops in 2008. When ordering items from Gaylord Brothers, all members should use the code #ASDM04, because the

association is awarded a percentage of the total purchase price when mentioning the code. A motion was made by Linda Velder to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Christine Paig Diers. Motion carried.

Tracy presented the on-line statistics. In 2008, the website received approximately 1,500 hits per month. Thirty-four hits per day were noted in December 2008, and 40 per day were noted in March 2009, showing a slight increase. The largest number of hits fell under the visit length of 0-30 second, followed by 30 seconds-2 minutes. It was mentioned that there should be a link to the MPMA website from the ASDM website.

MPMA Report: No one from ASDM was able to attend the mid-winter meeting. The annual meeting is scheduled for October 5-9, 2009, in Cheyenne. Ronette said that there appears to be a good distribution of topics for the annual meeting. In 2010, the annual meeting will be held in Rapid City MPMA is working on a strategic plan for the entire organization. One of the goals they want to define is the relationship between MPMA and state organizations. What does each expect from the other? How connected to ASDM should MPMA be? What kind of a working relationship should there be between the two? Members should keep these things in mind and let Ronette know your ideas and thoughts.

NEW BUSINESS Board Elections: There were no

nominations from the floor. The board members were unanimous as stated on the ballot: Barb Hume, Ronette Rumpca, Carolyn Weber, and Jordan Wilms.

ASDM Map Report: The ASDM map is placed in tourist racks around the state and a supply is given to each member. The map's member list needs to be updated as well as the format. Tracy Seiner has received quotes for the cost of laying out a new format and printing the map. A printing company from Watertown is the least expensive at \$736 for 15,000 maps. The maps will be reprinted in purple.

IMLS/ASDM Grant Role: Ronette Rumpca asked what the role of ASDM is in conjunction with the grant. Helen Louise stated that all members should be ambassadors for the grant. ASDM as a whole, and its individual members, will serve as conduits for communication. The ASDM website will post information, updates, final reports, surveys, and mailing lists related to the grant. Helen would like as many members as possible to view the survey findings and identify opportunities.

MPMA Annual Meeting in Rapid City in 2010: Ronette asked the members what role they thought ASDM should have at the meeting. It was suggested that we could sponsor a reception for about 250-300

people. ASDM members could serve as mentors to others in South Dakota museums as a way of encouraging them to attend the meeting. We could set up a room at the meeting to serve as a hosting area/home base for South Dakota museum attendees. We could offer scholarships to people who want to attend, but may not be able to for financial reasons. We may be able to offer discount prices on hotels in the area. We could place literature and the ASDM map in bags that are given out to MPMA attendees. We could secure some items for the silent auction. We could concentrate on marketing the Rapid City annual meeting at the Cheyenne annual meeting. We could serve as greeters at the Rapid City annual meeting.

ASDM Membership Survey: Ronette would like to send out a survey to all members and non-members to get feedback. Some of the question in the survey will include: are summer workshops good, should the annual meeting be changed to every two years with workshops offered in the off year, if you are not a member—why not? Adjourn: A motion was made by Carolyn Weber to adjourn the meeting at 9:20, seconded by Christine Page-Diers. Motion carried. Submitted May 1, 2009, Carolyn Weber, Secretary

Annual Meeting Presentation Online from **Matthew Pretzel, SD State Archives:** A few individuals asked at the ASDM

meeting if we'd make our presentations available online. You can find both mine and Sara's presentations at the following website

this is also our "Collection Care" website that features small hints and tips for preserving "archival" materials.

Gaylord Discount Reminder

Don't forget! As a member of ASDM, you can receive an exclusive discount from Gaylord Archival Supply! You can get 15% off your entire order, as well as free shipping on any order of \$100 or more. To receive the discount, simply mention the code **ASDM04** when placing your order. A portion of your order is also donated back to ASDM, so it's a great deal for everyone!

Survey Says . . . Last summer a survey was mailed to both ASDM members and non-member organizations in South Dakota asking a variety of questions about ASDM. Of the 105 member surveys sent, fifty-seven were returned. Twenty-two non-ASDM members responded. The results were enlightening, and sometimes surprising. We asked respondents to rate ASDM's current benefits on a 1-5 scale (1-poor/5-excellent). All of the current benefits – annual meeting, workshops,

newsletter, website, ASDM member map, and 15% Gaylord discount – received ratings of 4-5.

The current annual meeting format, a two-day annual meeting, received the highest rating, with a one-day annual meeting coming in second. A two-day biennial option got the lowest rating. Thirty member respondents indicated they had attended an ASDM annual meeting in the last five years, and twenty-seven said they had been at a workshop. The most common reasons cited for not attending either the annual meeting or the workshops were inconvenient location or time. The high cost of travel/lodging came in as the third most cited cause for non-attendance. It was gratifying to learn that fifty-four of the fifty-seven member respondents read the ASDM newsletter. Of those who indicated a preference, thirty prefer a hard-copy newsletter and fifteen would like it by email. Thank you to everyone who returned the survey form. This kind of information helps ASDM know what South Dakota's museum community likes about the organization and areas where benefits or services can be improved.

MPMA -

What's That? South Dakota is part of the Mountain-Plains Museum Association region. MPMA states include North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.

MPMA was founded in 1953 and provides services to museums in its 10-state region. Its central office is in the Denver area and governing structure includes a board of directors and numerous committees. Newsletters, networking opportunities and a discount purchasing cooperative program for collections care items are available to members. MPMA advocates on behalf of museums and through the Council of Regional Associations (CRA).

MPMA has been reviewing and updating its strategic plan over the past year. As part of that process and as the South Dakota representative on the MPMA board, Ronette Rumpca was a part of a sub-committee reviewing the relationship between the state museum organizations and MPMA. She asked the ASDM board for ideas and suggestions about ASDM's relationship with MPMA and took those responses to the subcommittee for consideration. As a result of this process, the sub-committee submitted a report to the entire MPMA board in February with a list of recommendations concerning the state organization/MPMA relationship. Among the recommendations made were:

- maintaining the status of state reps as voting members on the MPMA board
- writing a draft position description for state reps to be reviewed and approved by the MPMA board
- Instituting regular quarterly conference calls for all ten state reps to foster better

communication and help the group become more cohesive. This process will also make it easier for new state reps to "learn the ropes" of MPMA before attending the board meetings.

- encourage MPMA to explore ways to allow attendance and participation in MPMA board meetings via conference call or other means that would eliminate the need for extensive travel.
- keep MPMA updated on who each state rep is and letting them know when a new state rep starts in a timely manner.

These recommendations help clarify the relationship between state organizations like ASDM and MPMA. If you have any questions about MPMA, please contact Ronette at 605-773-6011 or email ronette.rumpca@state.sd.us.

Bits and Pieces: Information and update from SD Museums

Audience Research and Evaluation: How do I get information about visitors when I am already overwhelmed with work? What questions should I ask? What do I do with the data once I collect it? Where can I get my car fixed? While we can't help you with the last question, we can help you with the first three!

The American Association for State and Local History's affinity group, Visitors' Voices,

invites you to join them. Visitors' Voices brings together AASLH members, and others, who are interested in audience research and evaluation in history institutions. Whether you are just getting started in visitor research or you're an experienced researcher - or somewhere in the middle - you are welcome to join us. Membership is FREE, and open to everyone; you do not have to be an AASLH member. Get started by joining our online discussion group at

Do You Need Maps? If you are in need of more ASDM maps to distribute at your museum, please contact Tracy Seiner at (605) 367-4210 or

Please include your name and institution, as well as how many maps you would like in your request.

Dr. Harry F. Thompson has been named Executive Director of the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. Thompson, who has been serving as the interim executive director since August 2009, has served CWS since 1984. He succeeds Dr. Arthur Huseboe, who became director emeritus on July 31, 2009. Thompson has held a variety of positions at CWS, including archivist, curator, managing editor, and most recently, director of research collections and book publications, and director of the Dakota Conference.

Amanda Jenson hired as Collections Assistant of the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. Jenson, a recent Center for Western Studies intern in archives, became Collections Assistant at the Center for Western Studies on February 2. In this new position, she will work principally with the archives and Krause Library but also with art and artifact collections.

Center for Western Studies Annual Fundraising Event June 15 features JoAnne Bird
The Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls will hold its 21st Annual June Event on the evening of Tuesday, June 15th. The 2010 June Event program is titled "Celebrating the Art of JoAnne Bird."

JoAnne Bird is a multi-talented artist with a passion for her artistic creations. She has been a professional artist since 1968. Her work has evolved to a truly unique style. JoAnne's paintings depict her Native American Heritage - many spiritual in nature and dating back to early Native American history or legend. She feels that her paintings bring out the old in a modern way. Once a realist, she now considers herself an impressionist. Her paintings are created through a combination of controlled paint-throwing and the use of a palette knife.

JoAnne will be presented with the Western America Award at the June Event "for achievement in any and all fields of endeavor that relate to

the preservation and interpretation of the history and cultures of South Dakota, the Northern Plains, and the American West." A retrospective exhibition of her work will also be featured in the Madsen/Nelson/Elmen Galleries of the CWS Fantle Building from June 16-September 25. For more information please visit

Performance Subsidy: Kevin Locke is an approved performer for the South Dakota Arts Council. Museum performances scheduled between May 3rd and June 30th will be subsidized by a 30% SDAC grant.

Kevin Locke (Tokeya Inajin is his Lakota name, meaning "The First to Arise") is known throughout the world as a visionary Hoop Dancer, the preeminent player of the indigenous Northern Plains flute, a traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator. Kevin's concerts and presentations at performing arts centers, museums, festivals, schools, universities, conferences, state and national parks, and historic sites number in the hundreds annually.

He also tours with The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble. Kevin as a solo performer offers full concert programs as well as in-school educational programs. Preview the teachers guide online at

for a view of

suggested lesson plans and activities for each grade level.

The Native Dance Ensemble concert program of traditional American Indian dance features a troupe of highly-regarded Men's Fancy Traditional Dancers, women's Fancy Shawl and Jingle Dress Dancers, and Eagle Dancers to compliment Kevin's Hoop Dance; Lakota flute music, and vocals. The group also offers education programs for theater venues.

As an incentive to book one of these few remaining SDAC subsidized performances, we are offering a limited number of Kevin's new Lakota Cultural Appreciation Packages, which include Earth Gift, The Hoop of Life, and Lakota Hoop Dancer.

To learn more about this offer, the specific tour dates available, and SDAC funding for this program, call Robin Troup
800-961-9601.

You can also email at

Member Spotlight: We Welcome Our New Members!

The member spot light is a new section of our newsletter where we can provide information and highlight interesting fact about our member museums across the state. We hope this will be a tool for you to use to network with other museums as you look for information in developing your collections, educational programs, and interactions with your local areas. If you are

tool for you to use to network with other museums as you look for information in developing your collections, educational programs, and interactions with your local areas. If you are interested in having your museum spotlighted in an upcoming issue of the ASDM newsletter, please contact:

Shelly Sjovold at
605-367-4210 ex. 3010
ssjovold@minnehahacounty.org



**Museum of Visual Materials,
Sioux Falls, SD**

Contact Information: Jeremy Brech, 271-9500

Website:

<http://www.sfmvm.com>

What will people see displayed or what do you want people to know about your museum?

The Museum of Visual Materials is located in the greenest building in Sioux Falls. They are in the final stages of LEED certification. The museum is a hands-on museum where everyone is welcome to touch their collections which include books, photographic records, and arts and crafts as well as other items. Visitors are encouraged to come to the museum to create and learn.

What do you collect?

The Rose Faithe family donated both the building and all the

contents to the Museum of Visual Materials.

Articles can be donated but would need to go through an approval process before being added to the collection.

What is a unique educational program or a way you involve your community?

Though their educational programming the museum is trying to bring in community members to introduce what they know and share their craft (such as cooking, sewing, or knitting) and teach others in the community. A main focus of their classes is the eco-friendly aspect of their mission such as recycling and using green resources. This summer they are hosting a CAMP GREEN for students in K-2 where they will focus on saving the Earth, recycling and other eco-friendly activities.

Is there anything significantly historical about your building?

The museum is in one of the oldest buildings still standing in downtown Sioux Falls. The building was originally the Consolidated Tank Company, the earliest wholesale gasoline and oil dealer in Sioux Falls.

**Museum of Geology, Rapid
City, SD; South Dakota
School of Mines**

Contact Information: Heidi Minkler, 394-2467

Website:

<http://museum.sdsmt.edu/>

What will people see displayed or what do you want people to know about your museum?

Visitors coming to the Museum of Geology will see fossils from the Badlands and other locations in South Dakota, specimens, and a world class mineral collection.

What do you collect?

The museum collects fossils, minerals and specimens and does take donations. The most unique specimen in their collection is an Oreodont from the Badlands that was pregnant with twins at the time of its death.

What is a unique educational program or a way you involve your community?

The Museum of Geology hosts two annual events. One is called "A Night at the Museum" which is held in October where children can trick or treat at the museum and learn about the fossils and specimen on display. The second event is held during Easter and is a Dinosaur Egg Hung where visitors can learn about dinosaurs.

Is there anything significantly historical about your building?

The museum has been in three different buildings on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and is celebrating their 125th Anniversary this year. Their exhibits are located in the O'Harra building and they are just finishing construction on a new building to house their Collections, Laboratories, and Research Facility. They plan to begin moving in the next few weeks.



**SD State Railroad Museum,
Hill City, SD; Grounds of the
1880 TRAIN**

Contact: Rick Mills, 877-6629
Website:

***What will people see displayed
or what do you want people to
know about your museum?***

The SD State Railroad Museum was custom built to both house their artifacts and have a railroad track to connect the museum to the 1880 TRAIN. The main feature is a 75 foot long by 8 foot high mural and timeline which illustrates the railroad development in the country and how it affected both state and regional railroad development. The mural was designed by a local artist, Ross Johnson from Rapid City, SD.

What do you collect?

The museum collects railroad memorabilia, photos, timetables and other railroad items from the 1850s to the present day. On the facility is the Robert and Jo Anna Warder Research Library that will allow visitors to come in and research railroad papers, records, books and employee records. The will also take new donations and want to have a comprehensive collection of records from the region and state.

***What is a unique educational
program or a way you involve
your community?***

Because they are on the grounds of the 1880 TRAIN, the museum will be able to collaborate with the Train and offer educational programs for adults and children riding train

ASDM BOARD

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