Submitted by: Amy Lucker

Having hired a new management firm, TEI, last year, the keyword for this year has been transition. While never easy, the combined efforts of TEI, the ARLIS/NA board, and many volunteers, including committee and chapter chairs made this a successful, and relatively efficient process.

The first elements for transition were our financial records, banking processes, and membership files. Moving from Canadian to U.S. based financial systems proved somewhat more time-consuming than had been expected, but all changes were completed. Time and money savings have already been realized, as we no longer need to send materials across international borders for signatures and processing. Our membership database was successfully migrated off of MemberClicks, and is now fully operational and supported by TEI. This represented yet another cost savings, as we no longer need to pay for the MemberClicks software.

Other transitions of note include: a number of websites are now hosted and maintained by TEI such as the ARLIS/NA website, the Boston (and all future) conference website, chapter websites (DC/MD/VA, Midstates, NW), and committee websites (Development, IRC). Any and all chapters and committees remain welcome to take advantage of this offer. The Development Committee also worked with TEI to create a prospects database, which will help this committee in its important work of finding, tracking, and maintaining sponsors and donors. Transitions still in process include moving the ARLIS/NA listserv (ARLIS-L) onto a platform hosted by TEI.

TEI has also taken over the production of Art Documentation. As part of this process, Don McMurray did the advertising solicitations; he was extremely successful, again with benefits to the ARLIS/NA bottom line. We are very grateful to Nancy Short, our Organization and Conference Manager from TEI whose patience and good humor were as critical to our success as was her support. We are sorry that she will be leaving TEI, but recognize that we will remain in good hands, and look forward to working with Chris Roper who will be our TEI manager after Nancy leaves in May.

Despite the economy our membership numbers have remained strong. Response to the Boston conference was unexpectedly enthusiastic; as of the week prior to the conference, we have over 550 registrants, close to 50 exhibitors, and one of the most exciting programs we have seen. Other accomplishments of our organization include:

- The International Relations Committee (IRC) organized a successful trip to Germany; a trip to the UK is planned for next year;
- The first Kress Foundation European travel grant will be awarded at this year’s convocation in Boston;
- Again, despite the economy, many of our award and conference sponsors have supported us, such as ARTstor, Ars Libri, F.A. Bernett Books, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, Howard Karno Books, Worldwide Books, and others;
- Our partnership with the Visual Resources Association remains healthy and we are working actively with them in preparation for next year’s joint conference in
Minneapolis. In addition, the Summer Educational Institute (SEI) continues to be a strong draw; the 2010 conference at the University of New Mexico will once again be sold out. ARLIS/NA and VRA continue to work together to develop this program and ensure its continued relevance and sustainability.

While this year has seen much hard work and many accomplishments, some items on the “to-do” list remain to be addressed. A committee has been formed to work on a Strategic Plan for the next five years, as our current strategic plan is now out-of-date. There remain some transition items still to be addressed by TEI, including finalizing the move of the listserv, and establishment of the system dashboard for use by the board and committee chairs.

ARLIS/NA is in extremely good financial health, especially given the economic environment, and is in excellent shape organizationally, with strong leadership at all levels, and reliable and effective management support.