ARLIS/NA Group or Appointment: Mountain West Chapter

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Date:

- **Leadership Update** (incoming officers names and roles):
  - Richard Zwiercan, Chair Elect
  - We are in the process of nominating a treasurer-elect to replace Liz Ehrnst, outgoing treasurer. The new treasurer would begin their term January 2021.

- **Membership** (current and incoming members):
  - Membership is down from 23 in 2019 to 15 in 2020. Membership dues and donations is down from $1000 in 2019 to $300 in 2020.
    - Membership by State:
      - Arizona: 3 members
      - Colorado: 1 members
      - Montana: 0 members
      - Nevada: 0 members
      - New Mexico: 5 members
      - Utah: 3 members
      - Wyoming: 0 members
      - Outside the MW Chapter region: 3

- **Activities** during the past year:
  - The Mountain West Chapter hosted and organized the Salt Lake City conference in 2019. By all accounts, it was a successful conference! Just about every member of the Mountain West Chapter, and then some, were involved in the planning and organizing of the conference.

  - The incoming chair, Stephanie Beene, and the chair for 2019, Amanda Meeks, planned and organized a virtual meeting in September 2019. We invited our members to read one of two reports and come prepared to discuss them at the meeting: [Information Maintenance as a Practice of Care](#), or the Ithaka Report, [When Research is Relational: Supporting the Research Practices of Indigenous Studies Scholars](#). While the virtual meeting attendance was low, we had an
engaged discussion about the reading topics and considered how these topics tie into our unique location, communities we serve, and art librarianship more generally.

- The treasurer’s report for 2019 shows that more focus needs to be on recruitment and retention of professionals and paraprofessionals who work in art libraries across the southwest. Our membership numbers significantly dropped, but we are unsure why that has happened. If we are unable to maintain more members, we will be unable to provide travel awards and financial support for other initiatives.

- Ongoing projects:
  - We are in the process of nominating and electing a treasurer to replace Liz Ehrnset, whose term ends in December (2020). Rachel Castro has been nominated for the position and would serve from 2021-2023.
  - The Chapter is working with our Board Liaison, Stefanie Hilles, on travel award issues due to the cancellation of the 2020 conference in St. Louis.
  - We will be meeting virtually as a chapter instead of convening in person, as we normally do, at the annual conference.
  - The chapter had expressed interest in meeting for a local, mini-conference, but that idea has been tabled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will revisit this idea at the virtual chapter meeting - perhaps there can be a virtual mini-conference in the near future.

- Preliminary goals for next year and Connection to ARLIS/NA Strategic Directions:
  - As “past chair” and with new board members in 2021:
    - Leadership and advocacy, organization advancement, diversity and inclusion:
      - Brainstorm on the best ways to Increase membership in our highly diverse and rural region. This may include partnerships with GLAMS, public institutions, or non academic higher education institutions, or tribal institutions in the region.
      - Investigate cross-pollination or collaboration through events, topics, or ideas with other chapters, SIGs, Sections, or Divisions, when topics fit members’ interests (for professional development) and work with the Executive Board and/or the Education Committee to sponsor, attend, or host (webinars etc)
    - Innovation and Technology and Collections and Access
      - Potential online forums or miniature conferences, TBD
      - Small events at Mountain West Universities where a majority of our members are located, or where potential new members can meet up
- Centralize communication about events and meetups through the ARLIS mountain-west listserv or other means, such as Slack
- Investigate Humanities Commons for migrating the Mountain West Chapter website

- Other (please share anything else you want the membership to know about your group or your role):