Annual Report 2019

Retirement SIG

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Our primary purpose is to encourage ARLIS/NA members as they near or enter retirement to remain engaged with the Society. This purpose responds to the Strategic Direction regarding Art Information Professionals, albeit at the end of their careers, by making ARLIS/NA a welcoming place for retirees to remain active and to play a role in informal mentoring, providing a link to earlier history of the profession and of the Society, and to continue to contribute financially to the organization.

Since the 2017 Annual Report of the Retired Members SIG, this group has met twice, first at the 2018 New York City conference with 9 attendees and two Board/Committee members making presentations. There were eight members at the 2019 Salt Lake City conference.

2017/18 Co-Coordinators: E. Lee Eltzroth and Carol Terry
2018/19 Co-Coordinators: Carol Terry and MaryHelen Jones
2019/20 Co-Coordinators: Carol Terry and Suzy Frechette

The main topics of discussion continued to be situational mentoring, archives and planned giving. We also reflected on how our professional lives and ties continue to enhance our retirement years. The coordinators reached out to members who renewed at the Retired rate to encourage membership in the SIG. The listserv persists but has not been actively used. Welcome messages are sent to all new members.

Our significant contribution was organizing an oral history project with the Documentation Committee, with the idea that the protocols would be established to keep the project going into the future. Four hour-long audio interviews were held in Salt Lake City: Janis Ekdahl, Milan Hughston, Carol Terry and Elizabeth O’Keefe. These have been transcribed and are in the ARLIS/NA Archives. Interviews with two former ARLIS/NA Presidents, Ann Abid and Susan Craig, were scheduled for the St. Louis 2020 conference. Contacts were made with other retired members, including former Presidents, with the hope of arranging interviews at the Montreal conference in 2021 and in Chicago, 2022.

Current statistics as of February 19, 2020:
   28 members of the Retirement SIG according to 2020 renewals*
   41 ARLIS/NA members paying at the Retired rate
   xx subscribers to the listserv, some of whom are no longer members
   75 names on the spreadsheet maintained by the coordinators

*However three of these members contacted us to let us know they had not checked off the Retirement SIG. Unfortunately the new membership directory software no longer has SIG lists, and since lifetime members don’t renew, the reported number is too low.