

MINUTES
Midwest Chapter, Visual Resources Association
Spring Meeting, April 11, 2003
Warwick Hotel, Houston, TX

Present: Brooke Cox, Jane Darcovich, Norko Ebersole, Leigh Gates, Jane Goldberg, Alma Koppeldrajer, Carolyn Lucarelli, Dennis McGuire, Rebecca Moss, Jodie Walz, Betha Whitlow

I. Introductions

Jane Darcovich called the meeting to order at 12:04p.m. We welcomed Carolyn Lucarelli from Pennsylvania State University as a guest at our meeting, since she did not have a chapter meeting of her own.

II. Review and Approval of Fall 2003 minutes

Fall minutes were distributed for approval. Jane Goldberg moved to approve. Rebecca Moss seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

III. Review and Approval of Treasurer's report

Betha Whitlow presented the treasurer's report. The membership mailing went out at the end of October, 2002. We have received 25 membership renewals as of April 11, 2003. Account balance prior to the meeting was \$682.59. Jane Goldberg moved to approve the report, and Dennis McGuire seconded. Report was approved.

IV. Discussion of Chapter Travel Award

As an established chapter, we feel it is now time to consider sponsoring a VRA-Midwest Chapter travel award. Initially, Jane D. introduced the award concept, suggesting that it could function to augment travel to the National conference, particularly when combined with a Tansey travel award. Rebecca Moss suggested that we open the application process up for people wanting to attend regional meetings, which many of our Midwest Members are unable to regularly attend with their current level of funding. Jane D. mentioned that funding for conference and meeting attendance is getting even tighter at many institutions, and that attending a national conference AND a regional chapter meeting may be out of reach for many of our members. Jane Goldberg also mentioned a desire to draw in regional members through our regional meetings.

We discussed the amount for the award. Rebecca Moss suggested we keep a minimum balance in our account of \$400 at all times, and offer a \$250 travel award. However, we would also like to continue to sponsor the national conference, which may be challenging while also supporting a \$250 award. Dennis McGuire suggested that the amount for the travel award or our conference donation could vary from year to year depending on what we can provide. Jane G. mentioned that we will need to have a higher membership renewal than we currently bring in order to support the award on a yearly basis.

In addition to continuing our new member recruitment and membership renewal efforts, several other ideas were presented for funding this award. Adding an additional fee to box lunches at meetings, and voluntary donations to the fund seemed more acceptable to the members present than raising dues for our relatively new chapter, which still wants for members.

Alma K. raised the question of our criteria. Will it be based on financial need, first time attendance, or level of participation? Rebecca Moss suggested that we keep our criteria the same as what the National Chapter has for such awards, as well as determining what criteria other regional chapters have for travel awards.

Dennis McGuire suggested that we implement the first award process over the summer, and allow the recipient to decide how it will most benefit them--for regional or for national travel. Since we did not have a quorum present, Rebecca Moss and Jane D. suggested that we put the concept out before our membership soon, which will still be in time to implement a summer award application process. Jane D. will discuss details of implementing the travel award with the incoming Chapter Officers, and will put the travel award information out to our members via e-mail for input and approval.

V. Chapter Officer Elections

Jane D. has been chapter chair since 1999, and will soon step down. Jane Goldberg submitted a slate of officers for approval, with Betha Whitlow (current chapter Secretary/ Treasurer) as the nominee for Chapter Chair, and Jane Fenger as the nominee for Secretary/Treasurer. Lacking a quorum, Jane D. will bring the slate to the members via e-mail for approval. Jane D will do the mid-year report for the board, and Betha will take over as Chapter President in time for the fall 2003 meeting. Jane F. will assume Betha's current secretary/treasurer duties in time for the fall 2003 meeting.

VI. Other Business

CIC: Rebecca Moss of University of Minnesota reported on CIC business along with Carolyn Lucarelli of Penn State. Rebecca mentioned that the CIC Art History chairs meet at CAA to compare collections. The CIC VRA group sends out surveys to other CIC members. They also met jointly with ARLIS at their Baltimore conference, but did not resolve much regarding what their agenda will be. Carolyn and Rebecca talked about the possibility of CIC members collaborating on funding for digital projects, or for metadata sharing. Rebecca mentioned that she doesn't want this sharing concept to be limited to CIC members, and is more interested in how such concepts may be implemented within VRA Midwest.

Portland Conference: Jane D. reminded people to apply to the conference with session and paper ideas. Betha Whitlow, as chapter liaison for the VRA Education Committee, also reminded members to submit their ideas about education programming and opportunities to the form provided on the Education

Committee portion of the VRA website.

Chapter Leadership Guide: Jane D. mentions that the Membership Committee is writing a Chapter Leadership guide, based on work Kathe Albrecht did for the Mid-Atlantic chapter. The guide will include how to form a chapter, manage meetings, write thank you letters and submit annual reports. The guide is not officially out, but it is on the VRA website. We should feel free to make suggestions and contributions.

Website: VRA is offering webspace on the main organization site for committees and chapters to post materials. This will assist us in maintaining our Chapter site, for there will be no need to move it from institution to institution. The website is currently maintained by Rebecca Moss at University of Minnesota. Betha will take over management of the web page once it is on the VRA server.

Fall 2003 Meeting: Leigh Gates will be involved with the ARTSTOR beta test this fall, and offered to host the fall meeting at the Art Institute of Chicago. Betha and Jane D. will also provide some programming at the fall meeting based on the workshops they attended with their VRA Education Committee Leadership awards. This programming will cover "Managing Difficult Behaviors," and "Influencing Skills for Positive Outcomes."

Jane D. motioned for meeting adjournment, Leigh Gates approved, and Dennis McGuire seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1p.m.