

***Minutes of the Meeting of the Applied Geography Specialty Group (AGSG)  
Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at the AAG Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois***

---

**Present:** Doug Heivly (Chair), Ed Butterworth (Vice Chair), Barry Wellar (Past Chair), Nairne Cameron (Secretary/Treasurer), Seth Marcus (Web Site), Jeff Dickey, Sonya Glavac, Nancy Olson, Joseph Poracsky, Alyssa Nelson, and Shea Rose.

***1. Opening Business***

Doug Heivly opened the meeting and introduced all the members. The agenda for our March 8, 2006 meeting was adopted. The group also accepted the April 6, 2005 minutes.

***2. Chair's Report***

*Membership*

Doug Heivly reported that the AGSG had 568 members at the end of December 2005. This total is up from 500 members in 2004. Our membership is comprised of 167 due-paying members (@\$10 each), and 401 students. We discussed the possibility of more actively engaging the members, in particular, the students. Seth Marcus suggested that we involve the students by holding a paper competition. We had previously planned to initiate a student paper competition, but didn't realize the launch of this initiative last year.

In terms of member contact details in the AGSG database, 85% of the members have a listed email address, with the remainder (approximately 50-75 members) having only a postal address. There was a suggestion to send out a letter to these members and encourage them to provide us with an email address to simplify our communications.

*AGSG Board*

Two new board members were appointed at the Denver meeting last year. Ed Butterworth was elected Vice Chair and Nairne Cameron was voted in as Secretary/Treasurer of the group. As well, Nancy Olson and Dave Clark came on board as new directors. Dave Kaplan and Robert Ford retired.

Doug reported that there are two individuals who would like to become more involved in the AGSG. John Passerello (sp?) is a retired?? geographer who has started a Yahoo list serve. Kelly Sparks (GIS Training Source, Inc., Colorado Springs) has volunteered to help out with the newsletter.

*Action Item:* Nairne to obtain contact details for John Passerello from Doug Heivly.

*2005 AAG Conference*

At the 2005 AAG Conference in Denver, Barry Wellar presented the Fourth Annual Anderson Lecture. Jack Dangermond and Larry Somers provided introductions. Both a board and business meeting were held at the 2005 AAG Conference.

The AGSG co-sponsored a number of sessions at AAG 2005. At the 2006 Conference, the AGSG co-sponsored a total of 6 sessions. Those interested in co-sponsoring contacted Doug Heivly directly.

Barry Wellar prepared a memorial statement in memory of William B. Wood, the 2001 Anderson Award medal recipient. The statement was read in the 2006 AAG Applied Geography sponsored sessions.

#### *Other*

The AGSG website has been kept updated. Last year, we had also discussed the Applied Geography Conference (November 2005, Washington). Seth Marcus and Ed Butterworth attended this event.

The group approved the Chair's report.

### **3. Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Nairne Cameron, AGSG Secretary/Treasurer reported that the balance of the AGSG account was \$8,236.68 as of December 31, 2005. The only disbursements in 2005 were \$95 for citations (Barry Wellar), and 2 payments of \$200 each to Jeff Dickey for his web-hosting and minute preparation support to the group for the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 years.

Barry Wellar incurred some expenses (certificates, overheads, copying materials and an AAG luncheon ticket) at the last Denver conference. The group approved reimbursement of these expenses in principle. Barry will be forwarding further details to Nairne following the conference.

The group approved the Secretary/Treasurer's report.

### **4. Elections**

Barry Wellar announced that he would like to step down as the Past Chair in the near future. He recounted that in the past there has been regular turnover in the chairmanship. In fact he himself served as Chair more than once. Doug Heivly stated that the AGSG Chair is responsible for attending the next AAG meeting and must possess an email address to conduct AGSG business.

Ed Butterworth was nominated to be the new Chair of the group by Barry Wellar, and Nancy Olson seconded the motion. All board members were in favour.

Doug Heivly will serve as Past Chair for the AGSG in 2006-2007.

The next item was to select a new Vice Chair. Responsibilities of the Vice Chair are as follows: work with the Chair, mobilize and motivate the board, take initiative to research

the workings of the AAG, and perhaps most importantly be ready to assume chairmanship of the group when the current chair steps down.

Nancy nominated Seth Marcus as the new Vice Chair. However, Seth declined the nomination, as he could not guarantee to be at the AAG Conference next year. Nancy then nominated Sonya Glavac as Vice Chair. Sonya accepted, and Jeff Dickey seconded the nomination. All board members were in favour.

Nairne Cameron indicated that she would like to continue as Secretary/Treasurer of the AGSG for one more year, but plans to step down from this position at the 2007 AAG Conference. All board members were in agreement with Nairne's plans.

Finally, Barry Wellar will be heading up the Anderson Award committee next year.

### ***5. Anderson Award***

Barry Wellar recalled that an Anderson Award fund had been established to collect money to buy medals. The fundraising drive was so successful that enough money was collected to cover 200 years of medals. The arrangement was that the medals would be purchased from the Fund, while the cost of the accompanying certificates would be covered from the AGSG account. The individual donors were alerted to the surplus of funds and they expressed a preference for their donations to be applied more immediately elsewhere. The matter is now in Doug Richardson's hands. Once Barry hears back, he will contact the donors regarding the reallocation of the moneys.

Barry plans to talk to Richard Wright and other previous Anderson awardees about identifying worthy candidates to be nominated for the Anderson award. We discussed the possibility of further advertising for nominations beyond the one notice that appears in the AAG newsletter.

Dr. T.R. Lakshmanan will be delivering the annual Anderson Lecture on Friday, March 10. Barry encouraged the AGSG board members to attend the lecture and to bring along friends to ensure a good crowd. Next year, Bill Garrison will be giving the Anderson Lecture in San Francisco. He is a well-known transportation geographer who has contributed much to the field.

### ***6. AAG Conference Co-sponsored Sessions***

Ed suggested dividing up the program to identify applied sessions. When working with Oscar last year, Ed learned that the *local/regional* conference committee is in charge of deciding on the program and sessions. Wellar suggested that instead of combing through the program, it would be far easier to take the initiative ourselves and organize and sponsor our own sessions and then contact other specialty groups.

### **7. Web Site**

Seth Marcus thanked Jeff Dickey for his help with the AGSG web site. Seth had updated the site recently. He noted that we are still lacking some information about past Anderson winners. Nairne suggested sending a message out to the entire AAG membership using the list serve asking for the missing information on past Anderson winners. We also discussed posting information on Applied Geography academic programs on the web site.

### **8. Student Paper Competition**

The group decided to move ahead and launch a student paper competition to encourage students to become more involved in applied geography. Nancy Olson offered to lead the Student Paper Competition Committee for one year (until AAG 2007), and Jeff Dickey and Doug Heivly volunteered to assist. Nancy will email Dave Clark as well and see if he is interested in participating.

Seth Marcus brought forth a motion to allocate a \$600 budget to the Student Paper Competition Committee for the 2006/2007 year. Sonya Glavac seconded this motion. No board members were opposed.

### **9. Adjournment**

Ed Butterworth adjourned the meeting.

*Minutes prepared by Nairne Cameron on March 28, 2006.*