

## President's Letter

**Samantha Springer**

Dear WAAC Members,

It is my pleasure to write the last newsletter of the year. I will be your last guest writer before our incoming president, Sue Ann Chui, takes over in January.

As an outgoing member-at-large, or MAL as we are often called, I want to share my experience with you as a part of this welcoming group. I am a recent transplant to the Northwest, and one of the first things that I looked forward to doing after moving to Portland three years ago was attending a WAAC meeting. Almost immediately I was encouraged by previous MALs and presidents to not just attend a meeting, but to run for an office as a way of getting involved, meeting other

conservators from the region, and really getting a feel for how things are done in less densely populated areas. Something in the way they talked about the board, how WAAC is run and comes together as an organization inspired me to take the leap and get involved.

I will forever be grateful that I joined the WAAC family. Doing so has given me a greater respect for how the organization works and has continued for 44 years. Not only has this experience allowed me to make professional connections, but personal ones as well. As someone who has primarily worked in the Midwest and lived on the East Coast, being a part of WAAC helped me to get to know the institutions and people of the Western region. These are the people that I go to when I have an obscure question, need to brainstorm, need a local source for a material I just ran out of, or someone to help out at the last minute. Everything they say about WAAC meetings is true- they are more fun, more casual, and they inspire heated conversation and dialogue. Once you've served on the board it seems to get into your system. At every meeting I see previous members pitching in to make the meeting run smoothly.

### Annual Board and Business Meeting

During the annual meeting, the board meets to review a number of business items which are then announced at the business meeting to the members. There is more detail about some of these items throughout the newsletter, so don't think this is all you will hear about them. First off, the election results. Congrats to Anne Getts and Jacinta Johnson who will be your two new MALs. They will serve alongside Tish Brewer and Rowan Geiger, the current MALs going into their second year. Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton and I will be rotating off the board. A big congrats to Tricia O'Regan at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco who is the new Vice President and has already started narrowing down meeting locations for 2020! We also thank all those who ran, but did not get elected. Your enthusiasm is appreciated, and we hope that you will consider running again in the future.

This is not a change, but you should all know that Sue Ann will finally move from acting president into her role as president planning the **45th annual meeting at the Getty**. The meeting's dates are set for **November 6 - 8th, 2019**, so mark them on your calendar! To facilitate the planning Michelle Sullivan, assistant paper conservator at the J. Paul Getty Museum, has taken on the role as secretary. WAAC thanks Denise Migdail for her service as secretary over the past five years.

As an organization we continue to be cautious about our membership numbers. We learned that while our membership was up slightly at the time of the meeting due to the unique location of Ghost Ranch which drew many new members, membership renewal has dropped. That being said, if you are reading this you are a dues paying member, so I don't need to convince you to become a member or to renew your membership. So instead I'll ask you to please remind your colleagues to renew their membership to WAAC to keep this organization going. Put a reminder on your calendar, whatever you need to do. Without our members we can't maintain the great meetings or this newsletter. Just a reminder, \$5 of your membership dues goes to CoOL, and WAAC is one of the few memberships that is dedicated to sending out a print publication. Related to this, the board voted to increase dues by two dollars next year to cover increases in postage.

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President's letter, continued

A topic of much discussion from last year was the website. Since then Walter Henry has retired as our web editor. We wish Walter well in his retirement and thank him for all that he has done for our organization. He has been developing the WAAC website on CoOL since the beginning, and it feels that no amount of thanks can be enough. Fortunately Justin Johnson has stepped up and will take on this role moving forward. To facilitate this transition and the development of a new website the board has created a new non-voting position, Webmaster. Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton has graciously volunteered to take on this role.

Annual Meeting

This year's meeting was opened by Lesley Poling-Kempes, an award winning author, who set the stage for all of us at Ghost Ranch by providing historical context about the location. She told the tale of four remarkable women who came to the Southwest in the early 1900s, one of whom was Carol Bishop Stanley, the founder of Ghost Ranch. It was a strong reminder about the importance of history, research, and uncovering untold stories. Later that morning Jean Portell further connected the dots to Georgia O'Keeffe and Carolyn Keck who were also both connected to Ghost Ranch. There were many other wonderful talks and discussions competing with the beautifully unique location over the following two and a half days. Some attendees were able to eke out time for hikes in the nearby cliffs and landscapes that many of us are familiar with from Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings. My personal highlight was getting to the Georgia O'Keeffe house and studio during the reception as it has been on my bucket list for a long time. A special thanks to Dale Kronkright and the staff at the museum for making that possible.

There are many people to thank in pulling this meeting together. Sue Ann Chui did an amazing job stepping in as acting president to help organize the local arrangements committee. This meeting would not have happened without the willpower and determination of the Santa Fe conservation community. A huge thank you goes out to them: Susan Barger, Rae Beaubien, Jo Anne Martinez Kilgore, Dale Kronkright, Patricia Morris, Steven Prins, Bettina Raphael, David Rasch, Maureen Russell, and Landis Smith. The board members helped to cull papers, recruit nominees for the election, and organize the auction. The auction, by the way, brought in a ground-breaking amount, over twice any previous auction.

We had a number of supporters from the conservation and arts community who supported the meeting, the reception, the Angels project, as well as the auction. Thank you to Tru Vue, FAIC, Gamblin, Golden, Bostick Sullivan, Displays Fine Art Services, and Artisan Materials Expo. It was wonderful to see many local supporters as well supporting the keynote speaker, Angels project, and reception. These supporters were: New Mexico Humanities Council, Ghost Ranch, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Gruet, and Abiquiu Inn.

The Angels project took place on the day before the meeting started. It was organized by Susan Barger with Gretchen Gürtler from the Mesalands Community College's Dinosaur Museum and Natural Sciences Laboratory in Tucumcari, NM and assisted by Axel Hungerbeuhler also from the Mesalands Museum. Thanks to all of the Angels: Rae Beaubien, Tish Brewer, Sue Ann Chui, Geneva Griswold, Julie Parker, Laura Pate and her mother, Marta Pinto-Llorca, Linnaea Saunders, Steven Scisenti, Scott Simkins, Brian Simmons, and Emiline Twitchell. They were split into two groups, but when the materials at the Florence Hawley Ellis Museum of Anthropology were rehoused earlier than planned everyone pitched in to work on rehousing the delicate dinosaur bones at the Ruth Hall Museum of Paleontology. The project was supported by a grant from FAIC as well Ghost Ranch.

It is bittersweet to be writing this letter as I say goodbye to my duties as a member-at-large. I will miss the buzz of communication in my inbox, but I know that opportunities await in the future. I hope this is just the beginning of a long relationship with WAAC.

With hopes of seeing you at next year's meeting,

Samantha

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**Internet**

Articles and most columns from past issues of WAAC Newsletter are available on-line at the WAAC website, a part of CoOL (Conservation OnLine) <http://cool.conservation-us.org/waac/>.

**Deadline**

Contributions for the January *Newsletter* should be received by the Editor before **August 15, 2018**.