

COMA of AAG Annual Business Meeting
Minutes
7:15-8:45 pm, Chicago, April 24, 2015

1. Welcome. Approximately forty members attended the annual business meeting this year. Several past officers and chairs of the group were in attendance and refreshments were served.
2. Minutes of the 2014 annual business meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Chair's report. Williams reported summary statistics for the meeting and notes from the Specialty Group Chair's meeting held earlier Wed.
 - a. COMA sponsored or co-sponsored 17 sessions with 81 presentations.
 - b. COMA FaceBook page has attracted 133 followers.
 - c. The COMA knowledge community list run by AAG has 282 members (up from 218 last year). The group membership reflects paid members and approximately 50/50 faculty vs. student/professional members.
 - d. The Chair reminded members and officers that annual reports for COMA are posted to the AAG knowledge community group "library" page.
 - e. COMA's budget remains stable at \$2800-3,000. The amount does not reflect any outstanding meeting expenses/awards (Psuty awards). Dues remain at \$5/faculty-professional and \$1/student per year.
 - f. Treasures Report (See Appendix)
4. Awards
 - a. New incentive funds for Psuty Merit Award participation. The members voted unanimously to award an incentive stipend of \$50 per student for the 13 participants in the 2015 Psuty competition and to allow incentive stipend awards to future Psuty competition participants. The number and value of stipends will be decided by the board each year prior to the annual meeting.
 - b. The Student Illustrated Paper session had no competitors in 2015 and no prizes were awarded.
 - c. The Psuty Student Paper Merit Award had 13 participants in 3 sessions.
 - i. Honorable mention:

Valeria I. Torres-López - University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, Geography Department, "Beach geomorphological assessment at Ocean Park Beach, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2014-2015)."

William Baker - Texas A&M University, "Rip Current Hazard at Playas Jaco and Cocles, Costa Rica."

ii. Award for best physical geography paper:

Brianna Hammond - Texas A&M University, "Using Foredunes to Quantify Rate of Recovery of Assateague Island, MD."

iii. Award for best human geography paper:

Jessica R.Z. Simms - Louisiana State University, "Resilience on Louisiana's Gulf Coast: social networks and disturbances."

d. The R.J. Russell Award had no nominees in 2015 – no prize was awarded.

e. Members voted unanimously to amend the by-laws governing the Psuty Merit Award competition to include an application deadline of one week prior to the closing date for paper submissions to the AAG and to require participants to present their paper in a Student Paper Merit Award session organized by COMA.

5. Elections

a. Tom Crawford completed his term as Secretary-Treasurer of COMA. Board members completing their terms this meeting were Brian Marks and Robert Munroe (student rep.).

b. Brian Marks (Louisiana State University) was elected Secretary-Treasurer of COMA for a term of three years.

c. New board members elected were: Peter Michael Link (University of Hamburg) and Mayra Roman-Rivera (student rep., University of South Carolina).

d. Offices to be filled next year in San Francisco: chair, vice-chair, two board member positions and student rep.

e. The continued contribution of Rich Daniels as the de facto officer/web editor was gratefully acknowledged.

6. Paper of the Year Award

a. Members voted unanimously to create a Matthew Fontaine Maury Paper of the Year Award. The award will be given to recognize a published, peer-reviewed paper that has made the most significant contribution to advancing coastal or marine geography, during the calendar year of the award. All dues-paying members of the COMA specialty group are eligible and must be sole or first author on the paper. Members voted unanimously to add text describing the award to the COMA by-laws.

7. New business

- a. A proposal to increase student awards by \$50 across the board, beginning 2016, was passed (\$150 for Student Illustrated Paper prize; \$250 for Psuty Student Paper Merit Award prize).
- b. Field trip ideas for the San Francisco meeting were briefly discussed, with requests for input from coastal-related specialists from the area sought.
- c. There was discussion concerning improving scheduling of COMA-sponsored sessions to avoid conflicts and to group COMA-sponsored sessions closer together.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Minutes provided by:
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Treasures Report

Appendix

Secretary-Treasurer's Report for June 2014-May 2015
By Brian Marks, COMA Secretary-Treasurer (2015-16)
Corrected to remove AAG Billing Errors

Current account balance as of 5/31/15: \$850.89
CORRECTED Current account balance as of 5/31/15: \$2,611.61

AAG 2015 annual meeting expenses total = \$2,295.73
CORRECTED AAG 2015 annual meeting expenses total = \$1,142.99

AAG 2015 annual meeting expenses item by item:

Plaques, 4/6/15, = \$455.00 ← ERROR
Reimbursement for 2015 reception to Birkenholtz, 4/29/15 = \$697.74 ← ERROR
Reimbursement for 2015 reception to Munroe, 4/30/15 = \$92.99
Norb Psuty award #1, 4/30/15 = \$200.00
Norb Psuty award #2, 4/30/15 = \$200.00
Bolter travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Davies travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Baker travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Jaspers travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Meszaros travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Chen travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Barrineau travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Malone travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Ordonez-Gauger travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Torres Lopez travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Selch travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Simms travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00
Hammond travel grant, 4/30/15 = \$50.00

Other recurring annual expenses:

COMA web site \$99.99
RJ Russell Plaque \$80.00 (estimated)

COMA came out of the 2014 annual meeting with a balance of \$2,611.61 (as of 5/31/14). Just before this year's past annual meeting, the specialty group's balance peaked at \$3,074.62 (on 3/31/15). COMA has earned 635.00 in dues from June 2014-May 2015. For the same period last year, June 2013-May 2014, the dues and donation totaled \$643.