Submitted By:

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Board Members:

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- John Conley (PoLAR Co-Editor) - jmconley@email.unc.edu
- Justin Richland (PoLAR Co-Editor) - jrichland@uchicago.edu

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 656

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

APLA membership increased slightly from 637 at this time last year to the November 2013 figure of 656. We have not gathered data regarding factors that have contributed to this upward trend, however, I attribute the increase to several factors: (1) outreach to junior scholars and to students, (2) our lively and informative business meeting, (3) the increased success and visibility of our journal, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, (4) the services that we provide to members via our list-serve, website, and *PoLAR on-line* virtual issues, and (5) the vitality of our research area. Additionally, this year we are holding a joint meeting in spring 2013 with the American Ethnological Society, so meeting publicity may also have contributed to membership growth.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 101,664.21

Publication Sponsored budgets.

*PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*: publishing royalty $6297.57. Journal expenses $3832.75.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

These figures are current as of November 2013, and do not reflect year-end expenses of several thousand dollars as we, obviously, had not charged our meeting, travel, and awards expenses back to the fund balance as yet. It does include all but the December dues income, which will offset some of the incoming meeting expenses. Additionally, we have budgeted for some one-time expenses, such as travel funding for a speaker at the Spring 2013 joint AES/APLA meeting as well as a reception at the Bar Foundation during this meeting. Our section and publication finances are healthy. The publication of our peer-reviewed journal, *PoLAR*, continues to be one of APLA's primary scholarly and financial endeavors. APLA continues to rebuild its treasury, while also expanding its activities in directions that increase APLA's and *PoLAR*’s scholarly visibility, successes, and member participation, including
our now vastly improved web presence in 2012, launching our mentored publishing internship program in 2012, strengthening our graduate student and recent PhD workshops at the 2012 annual meeting, participating financially and with volunteered labor in launching and building the Emerging Leaders in Anthropology Program in support of NASA, hosting invited speakers at our 2012 annual business meeting, and in 2013 teaming up with AES for a joint meeting in Chicago, which will have a legal and political anthropological focus. We are concerned that diminishing returns to the sections from the publishing contract could impact our strong efforts to expand our scholarly visibility, production, and member participation, because protecting PoLAR remains a central financial concern for APLA.

We are concerned about the impending shift of Wiley-Blackwell funds to the AAA central office and away from the sections. We use the remainder of our publishing royalty to fund some of our activities, but if this revenue declines, we will have to begin using funds from our dues stream for these activities.

Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology
Session: Moving the Boundaries of Justice: Studies in the Ethnography of Impunity in Latin America

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with American Ethnological Society
Session: Imagining the Corporate Person

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with American Ethnological Society
Session: DIRECT DEMOCRACY AND THE GLOBAL UPRISINGS OF 2011

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Society for Psychological Anthropology
Session: POLITICAL SELVES

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with Counsel on Anthropology and Education
Session: PUBLIC BORDERS, PRIVATE CROSSINGS II: ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACHES TO MAPPING NEOLIBERALISM, GLOBALIZATION, AND CORPORATIZATION IN SCHOOLS

Session Type: Invited Co-Sponsored with AES
Session: POLITICS AND THE EVENTEDNESS OF NATURE

Session Type: Special Events
Session: APLA Panel for New Ph.D.s: LAUNCHING A CAREER IN ACADEMIA

Session Type: Special Events
Session: APLA and NAPA Panel for New Ph.D.s: PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY IN POLITICAL AND LEGAL CAREERS
Session Type: Special Events
Session: APLA Board Meeting

Session Type: Special Events
Session: APLA Business Meeting

Session Type: Other
Session: Llewellyn Salon (organized with the AAA Executive Program Committee, led by former APLA President Bill Maurer and current APLA president Susan Coutin)

Session Type: Other
Session: APLA reviewed an additional 43 sessions that were on the program.

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: APLA Graduate Student Paper Prize (Winner)
Date: 11/17/2012
Recipient: Rachel Dotson
Affiliation: Indiana University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Citizen-Auditors and Visible Subjects: Mi Familia Progresa and Transparency Politics in Guatemala

Award: APLA Graduate Student Paper Prize (Hon Mention)
Date: 11/17/2012
Recipient: Eli Elinoff
Affiliation: University of California, San Diego

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?
No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?
Incomplete

List spring meeting activities
We did not hold spring meeting activities during 2012, however we will be holding a joint meeting with AES in April 2013.

Mentorship:

Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)
Undergraduate and/or graduate students.
During 2012, APLA became one of four sections to collaborate with NASA in the new Emerging Leaders in Anthropology program (ELAP). Through a competitive process, we selected a mentee (Matt Canfield, NYU), who has been paired with an APLA mentor (Bill Maurer, UCI).

We awarded our annual Graduate Student paper prize in 2012, and the recipient is funded to attend the AAA meeting. The winning paper is also considered for publication in *PoLAR*.

Students were encouraged to attend the APLA Business meeting, which featured a discussion of public anthropology.

Graduate students have a representative to the APLA board.

Our listserv posts job, conference, and grant opportunities that are of interest to students. *PoLAR* encourages submissions from students and first-time authors, and our editors work closely with them on their publications.

APLA president-elect Madelaine Adelman represented APLA at the CoPAPIA meeting.

APLA also held 5 graduate student workshops designed to enable 4-5 graduate students to meet with faculty in order to discuss research around a key theme. The 2012 workshop topics were:

1. After“Studying Up”: Anthropologists and Elites, 40 Years Later
2. Language and Linguistic Analysis in Political and Legal Anthropology
3. Using Documents and Archives in Ethnographic Research
4. Governance, Jurisdiction, and the Politics of Scale
5. Law, Property, and Infrastructure

**Early career scholars.**

The Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA) organized two special panels for graduate students and recent Ph.D.s interested in learning more about career options and the current state of job markets. One panel focused on the academic job market and featured Catherine Besteman, *Colby College*, Jennifer Goett, *Michigan State University*; Jeffrey Martin, *University of Hong Kong*; Ramah McKay, *University of Minnesota*. A second panel, co-sponsored by the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA) and chaired by APLA president-elect Maddie Adelman, was devoted to practicing anthropology in political and legal careers outside the university setting. In addition to Madelaine Adelman (*Arizona State University*), panelists included Amy Paul-Ward, *Florida International University*; Terry Redding, Beta Research Associates, Redding Services; and Tim Wallace, *North Carolina State University*, and President, National Association of Practicing Anthropologists.

Early career scholars are also encouraged to attend the APLA business meeting, which provides opportunities for networking, discussion, and section business.
The APLA listserve also features announcements of interest to early career scholars, such as conference and grant opportunities. 

**Independent scholars.**
APLA’s panel on practicing anthropology in political and legal fields explored opportunities available to independent scholars.

**Outreach:**
**Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.**
APLA collaborated with NAPA on a workshop on careers in practicing anthropology.

APLA also is collaborating with NASA in the Emerging Leaders in Anthropology Program.

APLA has launched a digital fellows program, in which our on-line *PoLAR* associate editor has trained fellows to create “spillover” content (such as on-line discussions) and virtual issues that bring together previously published articles around a contemporary theme.

APLA launched a collaboration with AES to host its Spring 2013 meeting, so some of this planning occurred in 2012.

The 2012 APLA business meeting featured a discussion of public anthropology, led by Catherine Besteman and Hugh Gusterson.

**Communications:**
**Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.**
Email: used for APLA and PoLAR board communications

List-serve: used to distribute job announcements, grant opportunities, conference announcements, section business, and related topics. During 2012, Kate Henne was our communications liaison. In 2013, she has been replaced by Veronique Fortin.

APLA website: Used to communicate APLA activities. During 2012, Kim Coles was the website manager. For 2012, the number of website views was over 10,000. In May 2013, Kim Coles will be replaced by Andrea Ballestero.

PoLAR website: Maintained by Kate Henne, our PoLAR on-line editor. With the new
PoLAR website, we are able to track the number of visitors to the site and popular pages. On average (not including May-July traffic, as it was not tracked), the new PoLAR site receives 900-1000 visitors per month, most of whom are referred via Facebook. Looking at our most popular days and features, traffic is content driven—that is, for example, a link to an interesting article or featured piece sent around Facebook directly enables readers to access content.

Facebook: APLA has a Facebook page, which is managed by Kate Henne.

Twitter: APLA also has a Twitter account, managed by Kate Henne.

AN column: Mona Bhan and Noelle Mole have been APLA AN column co-editors. In 2013, they have been replaced by Leo Coleman and Allison Fish.

Governance:
Changes in bylaws or governance structure.
None.

Initiatives:
What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?
The APLA Board plans to:

- Co-host the AES spring meeting on the theme, “Anthropologies of Conflict in a New Millenium.”

- Maintain the quality of our journal, PoLAR.

- Develop a book prize competition.

- Establish a fund and solicit contributions so that our student paper prize will eventually be endowed.

- Participate in the AAA “Open Anthropology” publishing initiative by allowing PoLAR articles to be used for virtual issues, as appropriate.

- Further coordinate communications in order to leverage effectiveness of multiple media.
- Make the APLA website more dynamic.

- Continue to mentor junior scholars through ELAP, graduate student workshops, and our digital fellows program.

- After lengthy deliberation, the APLA board and PoLAR editors opted not to go to digital only publishing of our journal, PoLAR.

- Host a workshop on “Writing for Public Anthropology” at the 2013 AAA meeting.

- Feature a substantive discussion at our annual business meeting rather than focusing only on section business.

Ask AAA:

Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

Our chief concern is the future of publishing in our discipline. We would like to be involved in further evaluation of the alternative publishing models that were discussed at the 2012 Section Assembly meeting, and would consider appointing an internal APLA committee to stay abreast of these discussions. Our book review editor, Ilana Gershon, serves on CFPEP. We are also concerned about the impact of redirecting revenues from sections to the AAA. It would be useful to identify a way for sections to participate in this broad discussion outside of the SAEC meeting.

We would like to be able to generate a listserve that accurately reflects our membership. Currently, as new members join, we do not receive an automatic notification of their contact information, which prevents us from immediately adding them to our list serve. Likewise, when memberships are dropped, we do not learn about this, and we do not take people off of our list serve. It will be particularly important to identify members in the future, so that membership benefits can be directed to them.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.
We are concerned about the future of publishing in Anthropology. This issue has already been raised, but we would like to identify a mechanism through which our section can participate in decision-making on this issue throughout the year, not only at the Section Assembly meeting.

Another concern is how our discipline can better communicate its value to a sometimes skeptical public.

Lastly, we are concerned with future careers and with the disconnect between academic training and job opportunities. We would like to reach out to practicing anthropologists to strengthen the resources that we make available to students and early career scholars who do not take an academic path.

**What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.**

Is there a way to have our membership rolls automatically generate a listserve so that the listserve would be up to date? It is unfair for new members not to receive information, simply because we do not have an easy way of identifying them.

We are grateful to Oona Schmidt for her leadership and responsiveness both regarding publishing models more generally and regarding our own consideration of becoming digital only.