ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR ANTHROPOLOGISTS Annual Report for 2007

1. > Membership: 153
   Membership grew gradually over the last decade to a peak of 161 in 2005, after which there was a (statistically insignificant) decline of 8. ASA is exploring how to attract the approximately 400 known retired anthropologists who have not yet joined us, and perhaps a thousand more who are “senior” but either not retired or not listed as such in the AAA Guide. Note that contrary to what many assume, we are totally inclusive and anyone can join—age is not a criterion for membership—and we have several members who are far from being retired from formal employment.

   > Finances: The ASA fund balance more than doubled over the last 11 years. The balance has been stable for the past 2 years.

   > AAA Meeting: As in previous years, we had a successful well-attended half-day session of papers on anthropologists of previous generations, or who have been inappropriately neglected. We are posting the papers (when authorized by presenters) on our website.
   
   Again as in previous years, we held a business meeting followed by a gratis luncheon for our members. Forty attended, that is, 25% of our members attended our business meeting! The combination was, as always, greatly enjoyed.

   > No spring meeting.

   > We are resuscitating and updating our website accessed through AAA.

   > Outreach – our monthly column in AN is our principal outreach.

   > No changes in by-laws or governance.

2. Future plans:

   > Continuing annual half-day AAA meeting sessions which have been very successful in terms of both attendance and audience participation. For AAA 2008, organizers Myrdene Anderson and Alice Kehoe are soliciting papers under the session title “Beyond Googling: Elusive Figures in Anthropology.”

   > We have a manuscript of papers from our sessions from 2003 through 2005, now (January 2008) undergoing final editing from a professional editor. We expect to submit the manuscript by March 2008 to an academic publisher with whom we have been discussing publication.

   > No formal collaboration.

   > We are expanding our website to include contributed papers, comments, requests, and current news.

   > We are considering several ways to build our membership. We estimate there are about 2000 anthropologists listed in the AAA Guide who are of our “senior” generation (judging from year of Ph.D.), of which approximately 470 are listed as “retired” in the Guide. We plan to invite them to join ASA and use our website.

   > We are totally inclusive, anyone can join—we are the GAD for older anthros.

3. Recommendations:

   (1) that every AAA member who has “Retired” status be automatically listed in ASA and invited to become “Active Member” by checking off $10 dues on renewal form. We think this may not only be the easiest way to recruit members and to inform suitable AAA members of the ease of joining ASA, but also an important means of retaining the general strength of AAA by facilitating continuing engagement in the Association. We would of course limit our communications to Active AAA Members, and hope AAA staff may assist us in this.

   (2): The AAA should have a one-day registration fee for people who can’t attend the entire meeting, and/or a reduced registration fee for persons giving papers or participating in panels who are not anthropologists. (A one-day fee could function as a reduced registration fee for such people.)