1. **Accomplishments**

**Membership**
As of October 2009, the SAR had a total of 603 members (420 regular members, 183 student members) which continues the slight downward trend first noted in the 2008 report. However, since our membership had been increasing steadily from a total of 559 in November 2004, 558 in November 2005, and 618 in November 2006, this does not seem to represent more than tendency observable in other, larger sections, whose membership has likewise been affected by the economic downturn. As such, this trend will likely continue for the near future, and we anticipate some more minor losses in the coming year. However SAR continues to be a vibrant mid-sized section and its net gain of student members bodes well for the future.

**Finances**
The SAR continues to be in a healthy financial position. We began the year with assets of $32,624 and, as of October 2008, had gained $6,533, bringing our pre-AAA meeting assets up to $39,157. Expenses from the AAA annual meeting have not yet been deducted from this amount, but it is particularly gratifying given that the costs we anticipated for the 2009 freestanding SAR meeting (held jointly with SPA) were more than set off by the gains made due to the excellent turnout at that meeting. Since there will be no freestanding meeting in 2010, and since we don’t anticipate any extraordinary costs, there is every reason to assume that we will stay within our budget in the coming year.

**Elections**
In the Spring 2008 elections, Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer (Georgetown) and Paul C. Johnson (U of Michigan, Ann Arbor) were elected for two year terms as new members of the Executive Board.

**AAA Annual Meeting**
SAR sponsored a total of 18 sessions at the 2009 AAA meetings in Philadelphia (up from 15 in 2008). These included two Invited Sessions (one single and one double panel). All sessions were well attended, as were the Business Meeting and Cash Bar reception. Our Program Committee consisted of Margaret Wiener (UNC) and Karen Richman (Notre Dame), and was expertly chaired for the third time by Melissa Caldwell (UC, Santa Cruz). The Business Meeting was the occasion for the third presentation of the Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion, which seeks to encourage excellence by recognizing an outstanding recent book in the field. The 2009 Winner of the Geertz Prize was Richard Price’s *Travels With Tooy: History, Memory, and the African American Imagination* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). The number of submissions for the prize has remained consistently high, and the wide range of topics and theoretical perspectives represented by these books reflect both the excitement and high quality of current work in the anthropology of religion, as well as the prize’s increasing prestige. We are grateful to the members of the Prize Committee, Misty Bastian (Franklin and
Marshall), Beth Conklin (Vanderbilt), Sue Kenyon (Butler), Daniel Martin Varisco (Hofstra), Stephan Palmié (Chicago), and its chair Andrew Buckser (Purdue) for their time and commitment.

**Spring Meeting**
Our biennial spring meeting was held jointly with the Society for Psychological Anthropology at Asilomar, CA, March 27-29 under the theme “Moments of Crisis: Decision, Transformation, Catharsis, Critique”. Aisha Khan (NYU) served as SAR’s Program Chair, joined by SPA’s Rebecca Lester (Washington University). We received submissions for 5 double panels, 26 individual panels, 12 workshops, two film screenings, and one interactive poster session, all of which were of outstanding quality and were accepted. In addition, the program chairs constructed and additional 21 panels from individually volunteered paper-submissions.

The level of attendance exceeded our expectations, and featured a good balance between SAR and SPA members, both among the presenters and attendees. We were particularly pleased that Vincent Crapanzano (CUNY) agreed to deliver the Roy A. Rappaport Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Religion. In addition particular care was taken to encourage sessions and workshops addressing student concerns.

**Internal Communications**
Our listserve address continues to be sar@weber.ucsd.edu, but Ryan Schramm (U. of Helsinki, Finland) has taken over from Jon Bialecki (Reed College) as moderator. He also updates the SAR website accessible at the www.aaanet.org address in an improved format.

**Outreach**
Our decision to hold the 2009 Spring meetings together with SPA proved to be highly beneficial for both societies. Not only did we achieve excellent levels of attendance, but also good synergy between religious and psychological thematic foci, and exciting theoretical exchanges across sub-disciplinary boundaries.

2. **Future Plans**
Since taking over in the editorship of SAR’s book series “Contemporary Anthropology of Religion” (published by Palgrave-Macmillan) in 2008, Laurel Kendall (American Museum of Natural History) has energetically continued to attract a high volume of excellent manuscript and proposal submissions. Currently, there are two manuscripts under press consideration, two manuscripts under revision, and 11 under review. The past year saw the publication of the first book under Laurel’s editorship, Thomas Pearson’s Missions and Conversions: creating the Montagnard-Dega Refugee Community. Asia, and a second book, Maya Mayblin’s Sins that Save: Gender, Morality and Suffering in Northeastern Brazil has been accepted for publication by Palgrave, and will go into press soon. Laurel has successfully negotiated a new cover design for the series, and continues to actively engage with Palgrave to ensure good communications between authors and the Press.