I. Section Officers

Position: President
Name: Susan F. Hirsch
Email: shirsch4@gmu.edu

Position: President-Elect
Name: Susan Bibler Coutin
Email: scoutin@uci.edu

Position: Secretary
Name: Madeleine Adelman
Email: mad@asu.edu

Position: Treasurer
Name: Kathleen Sullivan
Email: ksulliv4@calstatela.edu

Position: Senior Board Member
Name: Michelle Bigenho
Email: mbigenho@hampshire.edu

Position: Senior Board Member
Name: Angelique Haugerud
Email: haugerud@rci.rutgers.edu

Position: Junior Board Member
Name: Jennifer Hamilton
Email: jahSS@hampshire.edu

Position: Junior Board Member
Name: Erica Bornstein
Email: elbornst@uwm.edu

Position: PoLAR Co-Editor
Name: John Conley
Email: jmconley@email.unc.edu

Position: PoLAR Co-Editor
Name: Justin Richland
Email: jrichland@uchicago.edu
II. Status, Activities and Accomplishments this year

1) Provide the most recent membership numbers and list any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership:

Number of Members: 637

Factors affecting Membership:

Regular and student membership increased over 2011. The total listed above reflects the count in October 2011. There are no data available to determine what caused the increase. We speculate that an effort to engage the membership in an electronic survey and discussion of the future of PoLAR may have created additional interest in being a member of APLA. We have always believed that our relatively low dues make us an affordable choice. PoLAR's continued success no doubt helps to increase APLA's visibility and membership.

2) * Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets, if applicable). Also list any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances:

Financial Balance: $81,000.00

Publications: (if applicable)
PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review: publishing royalty $7545; permissions $53.00. Journal expenses $3700

APLA Treasurer and editors made a concerted effort to determine the real cost of the journal in order to budget more effectively in future. Discussions are ongoing with Wiley-Blackwell toward moving PoLAR to all electronic with an additional issue for a total of three issues per year.

Factors affecting Finances:

APLA has rebuilt our treasury, and, with the new Wiley-Blackwell contract in place, we feel on solid footing and able to weather financial problems that might arise. Our membership base appears solid and our dues remain affordable. Our major expense is the publication of the journal PoLAR. The move to all electronic journal issues over the next two years entails some risk as does the move from two issues per year to three. We do not know the effects of this move on our treasury, although we hope that it will be positive. We have some concern about dependence on universities for funding the editorial office staff, as this is precarious in a strained economy. Also, we find that copy-editing costs will continue to rise, especially with the anticipated three issues. We may need to draw on APLA funds to cover those costs and hope that additional revenue generated by the third issue might help to offset.

Conscientious work by our Treasurer, Kate Sullivan, was much appreciated!

3) * 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. Check with your program chairs if needed: When providing session information please note if these are invited, volunteered or co-sponsored.
Session Type: Invited  
Session: ABORIGINAL DILEMMAS IN THE CANADIAN SETTLER STATE: ANTHROPOLOGY, LAW, AND SOVEREIGNTY

Session Type: Volunteered, Co-Sponsored with  
Session: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF TRANSFORMATIONS I

Session Type: Volunteered, Co-Sponsored with AES  
Session: LEAKS, LIES, AND RED TAPE - STATE SECRECY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Session Type: Volunteered, Co-Sponsored with AES  
Session: Roundtable: FROM CLASS STRUGGLE TO INDIGENOUS RIGHTS? COMPARING PROCESSES, POLICIES AND POLITICS GLOBALLY

Other Events:

(Co-sponsored with SAE)

ASSOCIATION FOR POLITICAL AND LEGAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIETY FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF EUROPE CASH BAR AND BUFFET (FOLLOWING DOUGLASS DISTINGUISHED LECTURE) (Co-sponsored w/ SAE)

APLA Panel for Recent PhDs
APLA Board Meeting
APLA Business Meeting (including discussion of Distinguished Lecture)
APLA reviewed an additional 36 sessions that were on the program

4) * Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?

Requested Grant: Yes

If granted, who/what was it/they used for? (if applicable)

Ghislain Picard (Regional Chief, Assembly of First Nations of Quebec & Labrador) was granted a meeting registration waiver in order to participate in the APLA Invited Session: Aboriginal Dilemmas in the Canadian Settler State: Anthropology, Law, and Sovereignty.

5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

None.

6) List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section, if applicable (please provide the title of the award, date presented, and full name, affiliation, and title of the project/paper/accomplishment of the awardees):
**Award Title:** APLA Graduate Student Paper Prize (Winner)  
**Date:** 2011-11-19 00:00:00.0  
**Recipient:** Chika Watanabe  
**Affiliation:** Cornell University  
**Project/Paper/etc:** Return and Repetition in Development Work: Discipline as a Temporal Modality in a Religiously-Based

**Award Title:** APLA Graduate Student Paper Prize (Hon Mention)  
**Date:** 2011-11-19 00:00:00.0  
**Recipient:** Ieva Jusionyte  
**Affiliation:** Brandeis University  
**Project/Paper/etc:** Performing Journalism on the Backstage of the State: Illegal Airwaves, Versatile Cables, and the Str

7) *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**  
APLA Graduate Student Paper Prize awarded annually. Winner is funded to attend AAA annual meeting and the winning paper is considered for publication in PoLAR.

Students were encouraged to attend the APLA/SAE Distinguished Lecture and reception. Many did!

Students are encouraged to come to the APLA Business meeting, which features section business, academic discussion, and networking.

Graduate students have a representative to the APLA Board.

The APLA listserve offers many postings of interest to students including job and conference announcements.

Students are encouraged to submit articles to PoLAR, and the editors have worked with many students toward publication.

At the AAA Annual meeting Susan Coutin represented APLA at the Section Summit on the Changing Job Market and Student Training: Linking Anthropology Departments and Practice.

**Early career scholars:**  
Each year APLA hosts the APLA Panel for Recent PhDs at the AAA Annual Meeting. This year about a dozen recent PhDs and students attended, which was hosted by Susan Hirsch, APLA President. The panel theme-- "Publishing a Journal Article"--was well represented by John Conley (editor, PoLAR), Angie Haugerud (editor, AE), Ilana Gershon (book review editor, PoLAR), and Cindy Isenhour (published as an early career scholar).

Early career scholars are encouraged to come to the APLA Business meeting, which features section business, academic discussion, and networking.

The APLA listserve offers many postings of interest to early career scholars including job and conference announcements.
Independent scholars:

No special activities were planned for independent scholars at the AAA Annual meeting.

8) 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:

At the AAA Annual meeting APLA President Elect Susan Coutin represented the section at the Section Summit on the Changing Job Market and Student Training: Linking Anthropology Departments and Practice.

The Distinguished Lecture co-sponsored with SAE as well as the reception that followed were designed as outreach across sections.

PoLAR produced an extra electronic issue of previously published articles focused on NGOs, which should be of interest to colleagues working in NGOs, agencies, etc.

9) 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 communication

list serve: used extensively to share information with APLA list serve members (job announcements, conferences, calls for papers, topics of interest) Kate Henne (listserve and communications manager)

APLA website: communication about basic APLA activities Kim Coles (webmaster)

PoLAR website: extensive communication about journal, including "overflow" material related to published issues. Kim Coles (webmaster)

AN column: Mona Bhan and Noelle Mole (APLA AN column co-editors)

10) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):

None.

III. What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: Membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

The APLA Board plans to

-Continue to foster growth in membership through listserve, website, and journal activity.
- Invest in overhaul of website to improve communication with membership and to support PoLAR.

- Develop a book prize to be awarded annually.

- Establish Digital Editorial Fellows program under mentorship of Online Content Editor.

- Begin to implement the move to all electronic version of PoLAR (e.g., continued discussions with Wiley-Blackwell, notification to membership).

- Reinvigorate graduate student participation on the APLA Board and at the AAA annual meeting (e.g., plan grad student workshops for the annual meeting; created liaison to grad students for meeting planning).

IV. 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.

The limit on the way we could use our credits toward AAA meeting sessions meant that we had much less capability to co-sponsor at the 2011 meeting. This meant less connections across sections than we've had in the past. From a participant on the Program Committee: "I wish we had been able to duplicate the great success of name placement of last year, but it was simply impossible with these new rules." Please revisit this.

We are appreciative of the results of contract negotiations with Wiley-Blackwell. This has put us on firm financial footing. However, we have had some difficulty with section-level negotiations with W-B (see below).

We worry about continued involvement of talented graduate students in our section and in the discipline given the uncertain job market.

It would be helpful to have more capability to reach the membership through routine President's Blasts. We are concerned that not all APLA members are on our listserv. Can we create a listserv from the actual membership list?

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

Please continue to monitor relations with Wiley-Blackwell. The contract negotiation result was much appreciated; however, as APLA/PoLAR undertakes negotiations toward going all electronic, we are concerned with lack of transparency, specifically, the difficulty of getting accurate information about costs. Also, we want more attention from W-B to marketing.

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

Thanks for all your assistance over the past year. Special thanks go to Oona Schmidt for her dedication and responsiveness in dealing with issues pertaining to the journal. Specifically, she had the vision to work toward all electronic publication and the patience to work with the editors and publisher to facilitate moving toward this goal.
It would be helpful to have more capability to reach the membership through routine President's Blasts. We are concerned that not all APLA members are on our listserve. Can we create and routinely update a listserve from the actual membership list?