Association of Senior Anthropologists 2011 Annual Report

Submitted by:

Herbert S. Lewis (hslewis@wisc.edu)

I. Section Officers

Position: President
Name: Herbert S. Lewis
Email: hslewis@wisc.edu

Position: President-elect
Name: Paula G. Rubel
Email: pgr4@columbia.edu

Position: Treasurer
Name: Margo L. Smith
Email: mlsriplow@msn.com

Position: Secretary/Column Editor
Name: Paul L. Doughty
Email: p_doughty@bellsouth.net

Position: Past President
Name: J. Anthony Paredes
Email: janthonyparedes@bellsouth.net

Position: Program Editor
Name: Alice B. Kehoe
Email: akehoe@uwm.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: 203

Factors affecting Membership:

Membership has remained stable during the past year after reflecting a substantial increase in response to a membership campaign the previous year.

A number of senior anthropologists indicated their intention to join after the 2011 annual meetings as a result of heightened awareness of the ASA as a result of

-- Well publicized and attended annual meeting sessions
-- Complimentary luncheon combined with annual business meeting
-- Appearance of volume containing papers delivered at previous AAA sessions: Expanding
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:** 15,937

**Publications:** (if applicable)

Not Applicable

**Factors affecting Finances:**

This reflects a $10,000 gift from an ASA member to be used to defray the travel expenses and transcription of interviews pertinent to the project "The Final Participant Observation." Approximately half of the gift was spent in 2011.

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, Co-Sponsored with not

**Session:** FIRST FIELDWORK

**Session Type:** Volunteered, Co-Sponsored with not

**Session:** OF MENTORS AND MENTORING

**Session Type:** Volunteered, Co-Sponsored with not

**Session:** Special event: Informal presentation of first results of project, "The Final Participant Observation"--Cultural Anthropologists Confront Their Mortality"-- by anthropologist Philip Singer and film-maker Peter Goodman.

**Other Events:**

Annual Business Meeting combined with Complimentary Luncheon

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

**Requested Grant:** No

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

Not applicable
5) List spring meeting activities (if applicable):

Not Applicable

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:
Date:
Recipient:
Affiliation:
Project/Paper/etc:

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

Not Applicable

Early career scholars:

Not Applicable

Independent scholars:

Not Applicable

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:

Not applicable

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:

Continued satisfactory use of the list serve for periodic communications--

Website enriched over the year with various additions: obituary for Walter Goldschmidt, paper on "transformation" of American anthropology since the 1960s, program and abstracts for AAA sessions, photos, AN columns, information about the new book (Expanding American Anthropology, 1945-1980: A Generation Reflects.)

Continuing contributions to Anthropology News each month
10) Changes in bylaws or governance structure (if applicable):

Not applicable

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

Planning for one or more sessions for the annual meetings
A new "blast" for membership recruitment

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.

We have a continuing concern. Here are the words from last year which are still appropriate. We still have had no response, a year later:

Failure of AAA Executive Board to act positively on 2009 resolution from ASA for a retiree/emeritus dues rate across all income levels...

We realize that the Association has financial problems but it has been almost three years since we sent a reasoned analysis and polite but impassioned request that our American Anthropological Association conform to the pattern of comparable academic associations and offer significantly reduced membership dues to long-term retired members. It is a considerable disappointment to us that we must once again come to the EB with the same plea. (Please refer to our earlier communications with the Executive Board.)

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

See above

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

Just continue to do the excellent work you do on behalf of the Association and the discipline of anthropology--and please request action on ASA's request for reduced dues for retired members