

AIC MEMBER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Los Angeles, CA
21 May 2009

AIC President Martin Burke called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the *Conservation 2.0* meeting. He reiterated that AIC relied on its members and their response to surveys and other communications. Burke thanked AIC members for their participation and, particularly, offered thanks to the general session program committee and the specialty group program chairs.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Lisa Bruno asked for any comments on the 2008 Member Business Meeting Minutes, which had been posted on the AIC website months prior to the meeting. With no comments forthcoming, Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes. Jane Klinger seconded the motion and the minutes of the 2008 Member Business Meeting were approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Prior to reporting on the state of the organization, Eryl Wentworth thanked the AIC Board of Directors for their support and for their dedication to advancing AIC and its mission.

Wentworth addressed the continued financial strength of AIC and FAIC and the fortification of AIC's infrastructure through five years of growth. With the new website launched, along with the web-based database, communications are being enhanced both internally and externally.

Generous support from several foundations and agencies are enabling AIC and FAIC to embark on new projects to advance the field. With funding from the NCPTT, the specialty group conservation catalogs are being converted to a wiki, and additional wiki projects are already being planned. In 2008, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded FAIC a \$1 million endowment grant to support collaborative photographic workshops, and planning for the first workshops to begin in 2010 has already started. In recent years, additional support for professional development programming has come from the NEH and Getty Foundation that has allowed us to, for instance, provide scholarships and develop new curriculum. The Samuel H. Kress foundation has greatly benefited the field by supporting the development of manuscripts for publication, providing travel funds for international speakers at conferences like our own, and giving emergency funding to deploy AIC-CERT members. IMLS has generously supported both training of AIC-CERT members and the team's emergency response efforts.

While noting the success of the activities of AIC-CERT, Wentworth focused on the outreach and collaborative aspects of this important initiative. AIC and Heritage Preservation work closely together on emergency response efforts. Heritage Preservation serves as a coordinator for emergency response information through the Heritage

Emergency National Task Force and their website. AAM is part of the task force and has been helpful in informing their members about AIC-CERT. AAM also tells those who wish to donate money to assist in response efforts to contact FAIC and donate to AIC-CERT. AIC-CERT has received excellent media coverage and this initiative has definitely increased our visibility nationally. Overall, increased advocacy, marketing, and outreach activities over the past year have raised our profile significantly.

With generous support from the Getty Foundation and IMLS, FAIC is embarking on a strategic planning initiative to enable FAIC to better serve and promote the field of conservation. Through this process, ideas are being elicited from leaders in conservation and conservation science, as well as leaders in other areas that touch our field—allied and affiliate organizations, foundations, The History Channel, Ovation, representatives from the insurance and appraisal fields, and many others. Additionally, FAIC is actively soliciting information from members, non-members, and end users of conservation services through a series of surveys.

On a final note, AIC is working with IMLS and Heritage Preservation in developing and presenting the fourth forum of the *Connecting to Collections* initiative, taking place in Buffalo, NY on June 16 and 17.

Nominating Committee Report

Committee Vice Chair Teresa Morano called for nominations of Fellows for the open position on the Nominating Committee. Sue Murphy was nominated by Barbara Heller and seconded by Jill Whitten. Vicki Cassman was nominated by Nancy Odegaard and seconded by Lisa Goldberg. Both nominees agree to serve. A paper vote was taken during the Business Meeting, and Vicki Cassman was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for a three-year term.

The Committee Vice Chair announced the newly elected AIC Board members. They are Meg Craft, serving as President; Pam Hatchfield, serving as Vice President; and Catharine Hawks, who will be serving her second term as Director, Committees and Task Forces.

Awards Announcements

AIC President Martin Burke announced that the Award for Outstanding Commitment of the Preservation and Care of Collections, a joint award with Heritage Preservation, has been awarded to the Shelburne Museum and Historic Cherry Hill. The presentations will take place at the awardees' sites in cooperation with them.

This national award recognizes the extent to which Historic Cherry Hill serves as a model for what relative small organization can do to care for its collections. The awarding committee was especially impressed not only by the swift and successful fundraising, planning, and construction of the new storage facility, but also by Cherry Hill's ongoing work to refine its conservation plan and its collaborative relationship with its community.

Receipt of this award recognizes the Shelburne Museum's long standing commitment to preserving its extraordinary collection. Of particular note by the awards committee was the museum's innovative planning in caring for such a unique and varied collection. The challenges inherent in caring for a collection that includes everything from boats to homes to artistic works are substantial, and the Shelburne Museum is exemplary in its dedication and innovative planning.

The President's Award was presented to the Digital Photographic Documentation Task Force for their excellent work in producing *The AIC Guide to Digital Photography and Conservation Documentation*. Task Force Chair and editor Jeffrey Warda graciously accepted the award on behalf of the task force. Gawain Weaver and Dan Kushel were also present to receive certificates as members of the task force. This award recognizes the authors for their success, knowledge, teamwork, and for the time they devoted to the project. It especially recognizes their willingness to lend their unique expertise for the benefit of all conservators. The other task force members were Franziska Frey, Dawn Heller, and Tim Vitale.

AIC President Martin Burke also announced a Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Zora Pinney, who, because of a recent broken ankle, could not be present to accept. This honor is in recognition of her many years of involvement in the world of art conservation, particularly in the arena of art materials education. Her work has had an immensely positive impact on the careers of countless individuals (artists, conservators, and scientists), as well as the field of conservation as a whole. In addition, Zora has led an active and leading role in associations such as the Western Association for Art Conservation, the National Art Materials Trade Association, and the American Society for Testing and Materials, where her expertise and vision helped establish standards for artists' materials and made artists more aware of the importance of understanding the materials with which they worked.

One of the primary ways Zora Pinney helped artists learn about and gain access to high-quality materials was through her store, ZORA'S, an important resource for many years. By making a gift of the store's inventory, trade literature, and business records to the Conservation Science Department of the National Gallery of Art, ZORA'S continues, even after closing, to serve the field of conservation.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Brian Howard thanked the executive director, finance director, and the immediate past treasurer, Rick Kerschner, for their support throughout the year. He reported that the 2008 audit received a clean, unqualified opinion. Howard noted that the financial controls in place now include an Audit Committee, whose members review the draft audit and meet with the auditor and staff prior to recommending approval of the audit to the AIC Board.

The recession that began in 2008 resulted in a 26% loss in investments. Individual donations are also down. Yet, over the past three years, membership increased by 54% and meeting revenue by 35%. These reserves, still over the board-approved minimum of

30% of operating costs, have protected AIC from suffering reductions in staff or services. Even with a combined investment loss of \$1.2 million, the combined budget deficit was approximately \$400,000.

When the final audit is received from the auditor, the consolidating statement of activities and consolidating statement of changes in net assets will be posted on the website. This information was traditionally provided every year in the newsletter and is now posted online. In addition, 2009 budget information will be posted.

Professional Development Report

Education & Training Board Director Karen Pavelka provided a brief update on professional development activities. The program continues to run smoothly and, in 2008, offered 21 in-person and online courses. Following the \$1 million endowment grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2008, work has begun to develop the first photograph conservation workshop, which will be offered in late 2010.

AIC President Martin Burke noted that the interim report of the Green Task Force is being posted on the new AIC website.

Old Business

Suggestions for ways to increase individual donations were made. It was also suggested that, following the vote not to proceed with an AIC certification program, AIC take up to six months for introspection, then re-examine its long-term goals, and examine publications and core documents to determine priorities for the organization. Terry Drayman-Weisser was given a standing ovation for her years of dedicated service to development of an AIC certification program. Advocacy and outreach were also discussed. AIC's recent work in advocacy, particularly for NEH funding, was lauded. Importantly, NEH will receive \$16 million in preservation and access and a new program, Sustaining Humanities Collections, has been created. AIC outreach activities have also increased in recent years. Summaries of these activities can be found in the newsletter and on the website.

New Business

No new business was raised.

President Martin Burke adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.