

NCAC Spring Meeting Minutes April 11, 2015

Business Agenda Items:

A. Secretary/Treasurer Report

1. Current Budget:

As of the date of the meeting the Council had balances of \$1732.74 in checking and \$4,725.53 in savings.

2. Membership/Dues:

Twenty-two have paid dues at the time of the meeting

E. General Discussion

1. Becoming an associated society of the Register of Professional Archaeologists:

Pat Garrow, President of the RPA, attended the meeting spoke about becoming an affiliated society with RPA. A copy of Pat's handout is attached. There is a yearly fee based on the size of the associated organization. For the Council the fee would be \$100. The Council would have to alter its by-laws to note that we would embrace the Register's Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance. While many on the Council are already members of RPA and have agreed to abide by their standards, it was recommended that a vote on joining RPA be postponed until those who are not members of RPA have a chance to review the standards and make an informed decision.

RPA's Code and Standards can be found at the following link:

<http://rpanet.org/?page=CodesandStandards>

2. Contributing to The Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR)

Vin Steponaitis has proposed a three step process (see tDAR memo attached) of getting all archaeological reports transferred to tDAR. The first step consists of sending approximately 1,100 reports dating before 1988 to tDAR to be funded by NCAC at the cost of \$4500. Vin moved that the Council provide the funding for this initial transfer. The motion was seconded, and passed by a show a hands.

Discussion for Step 2, concerning reports from 1988 to present at OSA, and Step 3 all future reports. Steve Claggett and Deloras Hall spoke to these steps. OSA supports the tDAR initiative. There are approximately 6,200 reports on file at OSA that would need to be scanned. OSA has access to a high speed scanner. and scanning would not likely cost a lot of money. Finding the money to pay for the upload of the reports would be more difficult. For future reports, Deloras noted that they will be updating their survey report guidelines soon (if anyone has suggestions, please let the OSA know by the end of May). One of the revisions would be that all reports would need to be uploaded to tDAR and would be the responsibility of the archaeology firm.

Access to tDAR is free and would be granted through a login and password system that would be controlled by OSA. It was mentioned that everyone on the Approved Consultants List would likely be given the login and password.

The Affiliated Societies Program

The Board of the Register of Professional Archaeologists approved an affiliated societies program for the Register at the January, 2015 Board meeting. That program would be open to state level archaeological professional councils, state archaeological societies, and regional, national, and international archaeological societies. The basic requirements for becoming an affiliated society will be for the society to embrace the Register's Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance as their own statement on ethics, and payment of an annual fee to the Register that is based on the size of their membership. The following fees will apply:

Societies with 1-250 members, \$100 per year.

Societies with 251-499 members, \$250 per year

Societies with 500 or more members, \$500 per year.

Members of affiliated societies who are not affiliated with one of the four supporting societies (Society for Historical Archaeology, Society for American Archaeology, American Anthropological Association, or the Archaeological Institute of America) will be eligible for an annual registration fee of \$75. That is a \$50 savings over the normal unaffiliated fee.

When a society becomes affiliated with the Register in 2015, all society members who are applying for the first time and meet the registration requirements of the Register of Professional Archaeologists, are eligible for the annual registration fee of \$75. All society members who are already registered as unaffiliated registrants will be able to take advantage of the \$75 annual fee in 2016.

To become an affiliated society, please send a copy of a board resolution that your society will embrace the Register Code of Conduct and Standards of Research Performance, a copy of your bylaws, and a list of your officers and members. Those documents will be forwarded to the Register of Professional Archaeologist's Registrar for action.

If you have questions about this program, please contact Patrick H. Garrow, RPA, President of the Register, at p_garrow@hotmail.com, or call him at 865.548.8802.

April 8, 2015

Dear N.C. Archaeological Council Colleagues,

At last spring's NCAC meeting in Chapel Hill, we discussed the possibility of creating an online archive of North Carolina CRM reports, and I was given the job of looking into whether this could happen. Based on many discussions and meetings since that time, I would like to propose a plan for meeting this goal, which I hope we can discuss and vote on at our upcoming meeting in Chapel Hill.

If we were to create such an archive, the ideal place to put it would be tDAR (www.tdar.org), a national digital repository designed specifically for archaeological reports and data. tDAR meets the standards of "trusted digital repository," which means that there is both an institutional commitment and the technical expertise to insure that any digital files posted there will be maintained in perpetuity, in the same way one would expect for a conventional paper archive. tDAR is ready and eager to receive our reports. Uploading a report entails paying a modest fee.

As a practical matter I believe that creating such an archive can proceed in three distinct steps:

1. Scan and upload all CRM reports from 1960 to 1988. The RLA has already scanned all the reports in this category that were included in the National Archaeological Database (NADB), over 1,100 in number. tDAR is willing to accept and curate all these digital reports for a highly discounted, one-time fee of \$4,500, less than \$5 per report. This is an incredible deal and I think we should take it.
2. Put statewide guidelines and procedures in place to insure that all future reports are uploaded to tDAR as they are completed. Again, this will entail a small cost that will be absorbed in each project's budget, but it will insure that all these reports will be easily available to researchers online. In other words, one won't have to travel to Raleigh to find them. I've discussed this with Steve Claggett, Dolores Hall, Matt Wilkerson, and all are supportive of this idea.
3. Find, scan (if necessary), and upload to tDAR all the reports between 1988 and the implementation of step 2. This will be the hardest step, but I believe it's eminently achievable. The good news is that many of these reports already exist in electronic form. The bad news is that someone will have to track them all down, and scan the ones that aren't electronic. We'll also have to find funding to pay for the uploads. But again, I believe this is achievable.

I propose that NCAC start this process by funding the upload of legacy reports described in step 1. I also propose that we actively work in coming months with OSA and other state and federal agencies to implement step 2. For now, we can either appoint a committee to work on step 3, or set it aside until steps 1 and 2 are completed.

Best,
Vin

Vincas P. Steponaitis
Director, Research Laboratories of Archaeology
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