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Ellen Turco *Circa, Inc.*
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Jeanne Ward *Applied Archaeology & History Assoc., Inc.*
Annapolis, Maryland



2006 ACRA Board - Front row: Mike Polk, Laura Black, Nancy Ferrell, Karen Van Citters, Cinder Miller, Denis DeJoseph, and Brian Thomas. Second Row: Sarah Herr, Lucy Wayne, Steve Dasovitch, Terry Majewski, Jeanne Ward, Ellen Turco, and Chad Moffett.. Third Row: James Karbula, Joan Deming, Scott Stull, Bill Self, Ian Burrow, and Mike Roberts.

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ACRA's Mission

Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical, and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association by:

- promoting and supporting the business needs of cultural resources practitioners;
- promoting professionalism in the cultural resources industry;
- promoting and providing educational and training opportunities for the cultural resources industry; and
- promoting public awareness of cultural resources and its diverse fields.

A basic tenet of ACRA's philosophy is the cost efficiency of private-sector firms in meeting the need for expertise in cultural resource management. ACRA is strongly opposed to unfair competition from tax-supported contracting programs. We believe that a greater benefit to society, and to the resources, derives from the existence of a healthy community of tax-paying, job-generating, private-sector CRM businesses.

ACRA OFFICERS

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Karen Hartgen, *Hartgen Archaeological Associates, Inc.*

President Elect

Michael R. Polk, *Sagebrush Consultants L.L.C.*

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Ian Burrow, *Hunter Research, Inc.*

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Contact Nadine Miller Peterson
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ACRA Lapel Pins

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 employees of member firms
 for \$3 each.



ACRA
 1744 Washington Ave Ext.
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The American Cultural Resources Association

2006 ELECTION RESULTS

Prepared by Ian Burrow September 4, 2006

Officer Positions

Vice President of Government Relations
Ian Burrow

Directors

Large Firms (3 seats available)

Joe Joseph
Hope Luhman
Teresita Majewski

Medium Firms (2 seats available)

Loretta Lautzenheiser
(one seat unfilled)

Small Firms (2 seats available)

Tom Motsinger
Betsy Sheldon

Turnout

Overall: 34 of 90 (37.7 percent)

Large: 17 of 32 (53.1 percent)
(same for main and run-off elections)

Medium: 9 of 29 (31.0 percent)

Small: 9 of 29 (27.6 percent)

ACRA EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: James Karbula, Chair
Joan Deming

2006 Priority Goals:

The committee's priority agenda item since 2003 is getting the Business of CRM workshop up and running. This remains our priority goal.

Spring 2006 Board Meeting Summary:

Business of CRM Workshop

Announced SRIF, Mead & Hunt, Inc. and ACRA are currently under contract for development and presentation of initial workshop for ACRA Annual Conference 2006.

Activities 03/06-09/06:

- 1) Elicited Board comment on approach to recruiting new Education Committee members and ideas for the Committee to pursue.
- 2) Sent e-mail communication to Members only with Workshop flyer attachment to try and elicit new members and ideas for the Education Committee to pursue.
- 3) Minimal response, some enthusiasm for the Workshop to be taught at other conferences and with some slightly different topics.

On-going activities:

- 1) Business of CRM Workshop- monitor progress for development and delivery.
- 2) Elicit new members and new ideas- Role of internships in CRM?
- 3) White Papers- continued development, additional contributions.
- 4) Criteria for ACRA Rating/Listing of CRM programs- Previous distillation of Fall 2003 discussions into first draft of criteria for selecting academic programs to list on ACRA's website, need to develop criteria and programs.
- 5) Promoting CRM Training within Academia- on going activity as requested by academia, allied professional organization, or members.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Lucy Wayne, Membership Secretary

During discussions at the Columbus, Ohio Board meeting in September, it became clear that our new operating format with an Executive Secretary (Scott Stull) rather than an Executive Officer (Tom Wheaton) needed a little tweaking. This was anticipated when the format was initially set up. One of the most time consuming tasks that Scott has been handling has been membership - not just in terms of sending dues notices, but also in terms of keeping track of active vs. inactive members. As a result, Joan Deming suggested that the Board establish a Membership Secretary to handle these tasks. The Board unanimously agreed. I was, subsequently, appointed to the position for two years.

Based on Joan's experience in similar positions in state-level organizations, and discussion among the Board members, tentatively, the Secretary will be responsible for the following tasks (the Strategic Planning Committee is developing a formal job description for the position):

1. Create a master membership/mailling list based primarily on input from the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer.
2. Mail (snail mail) dues invoices in November each year.
3. Follow up the mailed notices with email reminders.
4. Collect the dues, match to the membership list and forward to the Executive Secretary for deposit.
5. Follow-up with people who have not paid by email, phone, second notices.
6. Maintain the membership list.
7. Provide the list of those eligible to vote (members in good standing as of Feb. 15 each year) to the Nominations Committee chair.
8. Provide the list of members in good standing and any subsequent updates to the Executive Secretary in order to maintain the web page members list.
9. Report to the Board on the status of membership.

One of my goals for this position is to try and contact as many former ACRA members as possible and entice them back into the fold. I will be working closely with the

Membership Committee to identify the reasons companies should join ACRA. The Committee is going to help me put together cover letters for the dues invoices that will spell out all the good things ACRA does for its members. The Committee will also work on recruitment and retention.

For all of you who are now members of ACRA, here's a summary of things to expect from this new position:

- Look for your dues invoice in November of this year.
- Dues must be paid by February 15 in order to remain a member in good standing (yes-you will get reminders-I nag!).
- Dues should be sent to me-not to Tom Wheaton (he's in Mexico living the good life) or Scott or the Treasurer. My address is: Lucy Wayne, SouthArc, Inc., 3700 NW 91st St., Suite D300, Gainesville, FL 32606 (yes-it will be on the dues invoice and enclosed envelope).
- If dues are not paid by February 15, you will not be able to vote in ACRA elections, you will not continue to receive MembersOnly, and you will be removed from the web page Members listing-because if you don't pay the dues you are not a member.

Finally, if anyone knows of a firm which was once an ACRA member or should be an ACRA member, please forward their contact information to either me or Steve Dasovitch, Chair of the Membership Committee. We'll see if we can get them back. Contact us at:

Lucy Wayne, Membership Secretary
lucy@southarc.com or toll free at 1-888-707-2721

Steve Dasovitch, Membership Committee Chair
sdasovich@sciengineering.com

The goal here is to maintain our existing membership and add new members. Let's all recruit a new firm this year

Center for Excellence in Geospatial Technologies at Statistical Research, Inc.

Helping ACRA members fulfill their goals and exceed their clients' expectations through the correct, appropriate, and affordable use of advanced geospatial tools

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Christopher D. Dore, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Center for Excellence in Geospatial
Technologies

cdore@sricrm.com or 520.721.4309



ACRA CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

By Charissa Wang Durst, 2006 Conference Host

The 11th Annual ACRA Conference in Columbus, Ohio, took place September 7, 2006, through September 10, 2006, at the historic Westin Great Southern Hotel. Fantastic weather greeted the conference all three days, which meant that attendees were able to walk to restaurants and enjoy tours in bright sunshine.

The ACRA Board Meeting was held on Thursday, September 7. After working all day, the Board enjoyed an all-you-can eat traditional German dinner at Schmidt's Sausage Haus in German Village. Many board members elected to walk back to the hotel in order to work off excess bratwurst and cream puffs as well as to enjoy the historic brick streets and houses. Some then became trapped in the maze-like 32-room Book Loft, which stayed open until 11:00 PM.



2006 Annual Board Meeting



Board members dine out in historic German Village.

On Thursday and Friday, attendees enjoyed the inaugural presentation of The Business of CRM workshop. Friday attendees were especially impressed at the number of owners and upper management in the audience. Comments regarding the workshop were all positive (See Michael Roberts' testimonial, Page) ; as a result, it will definitely be offered at the 2007 conference in St. Petersburg.

On Friday, ACRA also offered a tour of the Newark Earthworks, a National Historic Landmark and one of only three sites in North America included as one of the 70 wonders of the ancient world by Oxford University archaeologist Christopher Scarre. (The other two are Cahokia and Chaco Canyon.)

The bus departed at 8:30 AM and the program started with an introductory program at The Ohio State University-Newark. The talk was presented by Dr. Bradley Lepper, Ohio Historical Society Curator of Archaeology, and Dr. Richard Shiels, Professor of History and Director of the Newark Earthworks Center at The Ohio State University-Newark.

Dr. Lepper and Dr. Shiels then met everyone at the Octagon Earthworks, located on land currently owned by The Ohio Historical Society but leased by the Moundbuilders Country Club since 1910. The group first climbed the



ACRA members line up to view the Octagon Earthworks

observation platform to gain an overview of the entire site, and then walked the perimeter path. The timing of the tour and golfers worked out so that the group was able to climb and stand on the so-called Observation Mound, opposite the opening to the octagon earthwork. The tour of the Octagon Earthworks concluded with a view of the circular enclosure connected to the octagon.



Dr. Richard Shiels introduces the history of the Newark Earthworks



ACRA members descending Observation Mound

The group then went on to the Great Circle, a gigantic circular enclosure approximately 1,200 feet across. At the center of the Great Circle is a large mound (or a set of cojoined mounds) called the "Eagle Mound" due to its appearance (to some people) of a bird in flight.

At 1:00 PM, the tour bus deposited a tired by exhilarated group at the Davis-Shai House, where they were served a sit-down meal with live entertainment. The Davis-Shai House specializes in serving local specialties, and selections from this day's menu included Ohio Corn Chowder, Curried Chicken and Mushroom Crepes, and Caramel Apple Bread Pudding. After lunch, the group split up and toured the house and grounds, which were rehabilitated in 2000 by host firm Hardlines Design Company.



The tour bus driver was very accommodating and took the group up High Street to view the Ohio Statehouse, the Arena District and the Short North arts district. The group also continued to The Ohio State University where the bus drove around hallowed ground, also known as OSU football stadium and home of the Buckeyes. Back at the hotel, a large group gathered in the lobby for a walking tour of the historic



Dr. Bradley Lepper explains the construction of the Great Circle



Entry to the Octagon Circle earthworks.



Lunch at the Davis-Shai House



View of the Main House from the upper balcony.

HISTORIC SOUTHERN THEATRE

Southern Theatre, adjacent to the hotel. The tour was lead by R.J. Sontag, Operations Manager for the theatre, and began in the historic lobby. The extensive tour covered the Main House, the stage, and backstage areas such as the green room and dressing rooms. Attendees also viewed the upper balcony, which has been known to cause vertigo due to its extreme steepness.

ACRA members gather in the historic lobby of the Southern Theatre



PLENARY SESSIONS

On Saturday, the actual conference kicked off with the Plenary Session where Nellie Longworth gave an update on what's been happening on Capitol Hill, as well as a follow up on the results of ACRA's visit to representatives during the 2005 conference. Brian Thomas, an archaeologist who was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, gave a very informative speech on effective ways to communicate with local representatives. He also provided a rundown on what Members of Congress do when they receive a communication from the public. Brian's surprise tidbit of the day was the fact the Congress can check to see whether or not someone has voted in past elections.

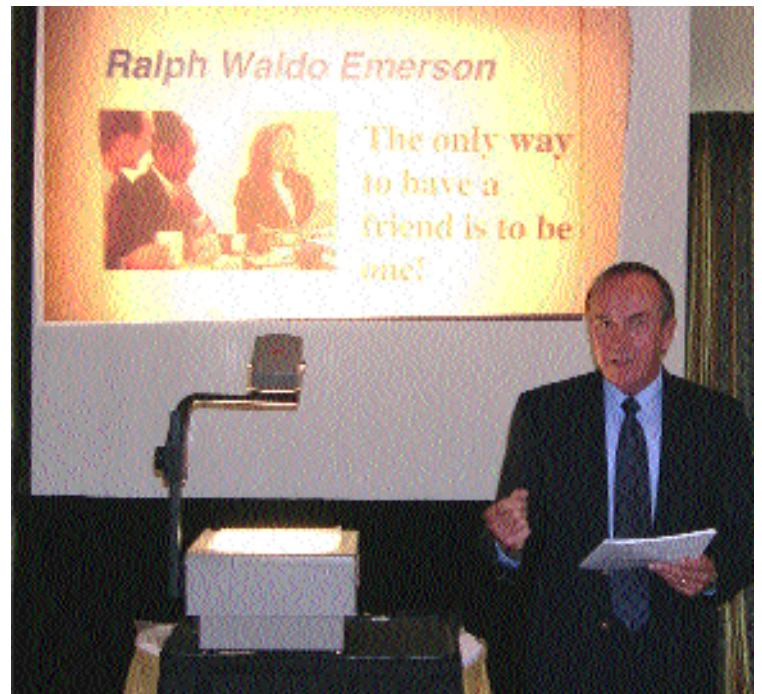
Finally, Dennis Davis gave a hilarious presentation of working with so-called "difficult people." He also provided guidelines on identifying personality traits to determine whether certain audience members could be considered "difficult" themselves.



Archaeologist and Georgia State Representative Brian Thomas



Nellie Longworth presents the latest news from Capitol Hill.

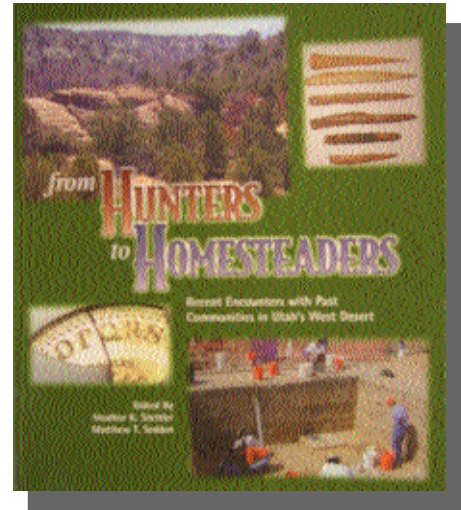


Mr. Dennis Davis talks about how to deal with "difficult people."

ACRA DISPLAYS ITS BEST



One of the Best of CRM report display tables



from Hunters to Homesteads - Alpine Archaeological Consultants Inc.

ACRA DISPLAYS ITS BEST

A minor panic ensued at 10:00 AM when the hotel briefly ran out of coffee cups and then ran out of coffee! The caffeine-deprived were able to distract themselves by observing the table displays, which featured the Best CRM reports from ACRA firms around the country, as well as a history and display of past ACRA Award winners.



The history of the ACRA Awards display table.

Lunch was served in the Grand Ballroom of the Southern Hotel. During dessert, the 2006 ACRA Awards were presented. This year's ACRA Industry award winner was the Kern River Gas Transmission Company, nominated by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. The ACRA Quality Product award went to Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd. and the Bureau of Reclamation. Representatives from both ACRA members firms and their clients were present to accept the awards (See ACRA Awards, Page 16).



Left to Right: Quality Product Award: Margery Green, Archaeological Consulting Services and John Czaplicki, Bureau of Reclamation. Industry Award: Brent Arnold of Kern River Gas Transmission Company and Kimberly Redman of Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

After lunch, attendees broke up into two concurrent sessions. One session focused on the highs and lows of running a business, with one session on terminating employees and another on hiring techniques.

Mr. Dennis Davis returned for another amusing session on steps to take when dealing with non- or under performing employees. Scott Stull did a hilarious impersonation of a slacker employee who refused to commit to improving in order to test Dennis' management techniques.



Executive Secretary Scott Stull.

The hiring panel featured owners and senior management personnel from ACRA member firms: Duane Peter of Geo-Marine, Jo Reese of AINW, Mike Polk of Sagebrush Consultants LLC, and Jeanne Ward from Applied Archaeology & History Associates, Inc. The panel fielded questions from the moderator as well as from the audience. There was a lively discussion on the use of "set-up" situations to observe the reactions of candidates under adverse conditions, such as in a restaurant.

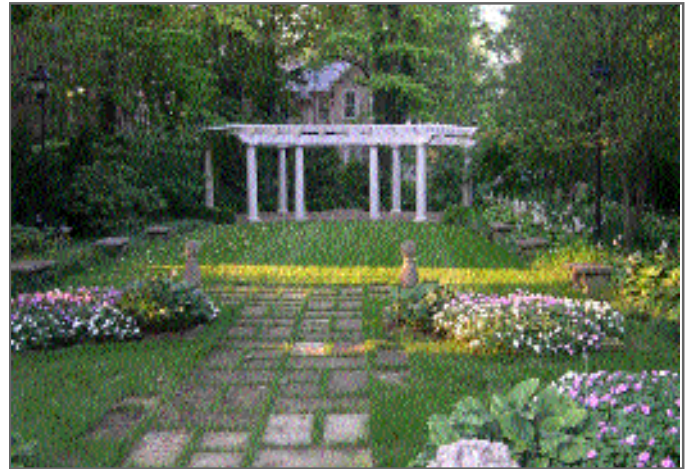
The other afternoon session focused on topics all firms should be familiar with: audits and employee handbooks. Ms. Emily Boberg-Courts, an auditor from the Ohio Department of Transportation and well-known to many Ohio-based firms in the audience, went over basic regulations, how to calculate overhead, and

common mistakes made when determining what is or is not eligible for overhead. Mr. David Wm. T. Carroll, Esq. of the firm Carroll, Ucker and Hemmer then gave an extremely useful presentation on what should (and should not) go into an employee handbook. Interesting topics included guaranteed work for temporary hires, how specific job descriptions allow you to more easily terminate employees, and treatment of employee behavior AFTER they are off the clock.

The conference concluded with free food and alcohol at the historic Kelton House Museum and Garden. Since the weather was fine, the party took place outside, which allowed visitors to wander the gardens as well as tour the house. Many attendees opted to walk to and from the hotel and were able to observe the nearby Topiary Garden, which depicts Seurat's famous painting, A Sunday On The Island Of La Grande Jatt. Those who took the bus were treated to the sounds of an enthusiastic bus driver cheering the OSU-Texas game on the radio. There was also a lot of "local flavor" at the hotel bar that night, and rioting was minimal!



Mr. David Carroll discusses the importance of an Employee Handbook



Topiary Garden at Kelton House Museum.

Sunday morning consisted of an informal board meeting to discuss the conference, its pros and cons, and what could be done to improve things next time.

I would like to say that our office greatly enjoyed organizing the conference and working with all the interesting and qualified people for workshops, sessions and tours. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun, and hoped all those who came out to Columbus did, too. After the Sunday session, this author went home, ate lunch, and promptly took a four-hour nap!



Charissa Wang Durst (right) still smiling as the conference nears conclusion.



Members relaxing at the reception in the gardens of the Kelton House Museum.

TESTIMONIAL FOR ACRA'S CRM WORKSHOP

As were other board members, I was fortunate in being able to attend the Friday workshop. I was surprised at the number of owners and senior staff in attendance. This created a wonderful opportunity to find out that we didn't know it all. Our instructors were great in allowing just enough informality to get great comments, examples and insight from those with experience for all of us and to help the newbies. Not surprisingly the handout was well put together and the additional materials were appropriate but not overwhelming. I will spare you all from a blow by blow discussion of the content. Needless to say it was appropriate for the topic at hand. As to the topic it is interesting to note that it was not a copy of the inspiration for the workshop - the earlier "Business of CRM" workshops presented for several years by ACRA. This workshop's content "Contracting and Project Management" was basically new stuff leaving the other things we need to know as business persons for additional in-depth presentation (other workshops??).

Two very important tools in the workbook were a listing of "Common Pitfalls in Project Budgeting" and a "Not-to-be-used Word List" I'm using them already!!

In short I came away from the workshop believing that this workshop should be presented again and at several venues, not the least of which is at our individual firms for CRM professionals at ALL levels if possible, or regionally for multiple firms and individual members. I also came away with the thought that this and similar workshops could be one of the greatest member benefits ACRA could endorse and should go a long way in increasing membership.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Roberts, RPA
John Milner Associates

ACRA SALARY SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Brian Thomas, Chair
 Teresita Majewski
 Steve Dasovich
 Kurt Schweigert
 Nurit Finn
 Nancy Farrell

- For all answers, provide the size of the sample (not just the %).
- Provide the population size, sample size, and sampling error for the survey.
- Under "Financial statistics" and "Employee Breakdown" the ranges and standard deviation should be provided.
- Provide a list of job descriptions in the Compensation section.
- We would like to see a breakout of Compensation by region (perhaps using the regional breakdown the ACRA has on our webpage), company size, and ACRA/non-ACRA firms.

This ad hoc committee was given two goals:

1. Examine results from recent salary survey and determine what information is needed in order to post the survey on ACRA web site.
2. Review and evaluate the survey questions and content and explore revisions of the survey prior to using it again in the future.

On July 5, 2006 the committee came up with these items for which we requested further information on the recently completed survey from our vendor:

- Provide a list of all survey questions used in the survey.
- Remove government agencies, non-profits, and universities from the totals

This information was provided to Scott Stull, who forwarded it to Laura Rothman of Zweig White on July 5, 2006. On July 24, 2006, Ms. Rothman responded via email: "Yes, this information is available. It will take a little bit of time, but we should be able to do it within the next 3-4 weeks." No further information has been received from the vendor.

No action has been taken on evaluating revisions to the current survey.

2006 ACRA AWARDS

By Charissa Wang Durst, Awards Committee Chair

The 2006 ACRA Awards luncheon presentation took place on September 9, 2006, in the Grand Ballroom of the historic Westin Great Southern Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. The guest speaker and presenter was Michael Polk, Owner and Principal Archaeologist of Sagebrush Consultants, LLC, in Ogden, Utah. Mike established the firm in 1983 and was one of ACRA's original board members. He also served as ACRA's first secretary, its second president, and is currently the incoming president. Prior to establishing Sagebrush, Mr. Polk worked for a variety of institutions including: San Diego State University, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, Idaho State University in Pocatello, Bureau of Land Management, Vale and Prineville, Oregon, Michigan State University, and Environment Consultants, Inc., Dallas, Texas.

This year's jury consisted of three archaeologists who currently serve on the ACRA Awards Committee. Nurit Finn is the President and Owner of Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc. located in Anamosa, Iowa. She holds degrees in Anthropology from Bryn Mawr College and the University of New Mexico. Her 15 years of professional archaeology experience in the Midwest and Southeast includes positions at the University of Alabama and Louis Berger, Inc. Nurit specializes in hunter-gatherer societies, particularly Paleoindian and Archaic periods, lithic analysis, and statistical analysis.

Denise DeJoseph is a Project Archaeologist with HRA's Seattle office. Denise holds a M.S. in Archaeological Sciences from the University of Glasgow, emphasis on dietary reconstruction. Her particular expertise is in the management of archaeological, historical, and Native American resources pertaining to hydroelectric re-licensing. Her Cultural Resources Management experience includes hydroelectric and cogeneration projects in the Sierra Nevada and southern California, and research/management strategies related to eroding coastal sites in the Western Hebrides in Scotland.

Bill Self has over 30 years of experience in cultural resource management and provides the project direction and coordination necessary to complete even the most complex archaeological contract work. Since 1973, he has served as Forest Archeologist on the Inyo National Forest, as State Archeologist in the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, as a Senior Scientist with Bechtel Corp. and as Principal

Investigator of William Self Associates, a full-service cultural resource consulting firm (since 1988).

ACRA's award categories are for Industry, Public Service, and Quality Product. This year's jury elected to make an award in the Quality Product and Industry categories.

The ACRA Quality Product Award recognizes an ACRA company's innovative or long-term research, preservation of a cultural resource for future generations (such as a building or archeological site), or an outstanding report, brochure, book, etc. This year's Quality Product Award recognizes the comprehensive documentation of a complex associated with the recent past.

This year's Quality Product Award recognizes a video documentary that tells the story of irrigation farming in the Navajo community of Ganado, Arizona. Jurors commented on using a DVD as a "new way of thinking about Section 106 compliance" and its accessibility to the larger community.

The film was produced as an educational aspect of the mitigation requirements for the reconstruction of the historic Ganado dam and subsequent repair and upgrade to the water delivery system that formerly irrigated community farms. The film was produced for the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office, and earned a warm reception from community members when it premiered at the Ganado Chapter House in October 2005.

Most of the film is in the Navajo language with English subtitles, which addresses the Navajo elders' concerns about young people's lack of knowledge about their traditional farming practices, history, and language. The mitigation work also included extensive archival research, archaeological survey, and identification of traditional cultural properties that could be at risk from the construction of a new irrigation system.

Reclamation workers worked closely with the Ganado Water Users Association, the Farm Board, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, NRCS, and others to identify methods to mitigate the loss of the historic irrigation system. The film captures the concern, and the hope for the future, made possible by the revival of the irrigation system. Agricultural demonstration projects are already underway at

Hubbell Trading Post, and local Future Farmers of American chapter is also looking for possible initiatives with the help of Ganado Farm Board members.

For the innovative use of Section 106 to meet mitigation requirements that also benefits the Navajo community and general public, the 2006 ACRA Quality Product Award was awarded to the Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office, Arizona, and their consultant, Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd., of Tempe, Arizona.

Accepting the award was Mr. John Czaplicki of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Ms. Margery Green of Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd.



President elect Michael Polk (right) with 2006 ACRA Quality Product Award accepted by John Czaplicki, Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Office; and Margery Green, Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd, Phoenix.

The Industry Award honors an ACRA member firm's client (mining, energy, transportation, etc.) that has shown a commitment, above and beyond what is required to meet regulations, to the preservation of cultural resources. Previous awards have recognized sponsorships ranging from a single project to the recognition of on-going commitment. This year's award recognizes the support of a gas transmission company for long-term and on-going cultural resources work. The jury was impressed with the range of techniques that the company funded in analysis, including obsidian hydration, thermoluminescence, lake sediment coring, and GIS.

Since the period between official government approval of the project and actual construction was only a matter of weeks, the company's support of creative mitigation program prevented costly construction delays at

archaeological site locations. The jury noted that the book "From Hunters to Homesteaders" was a nice synopsis of the archaeology and history of the region while also providing a great resource for the public.

The construction of a natural gas pipeline crossed four states. The Utah portion alone was 341 miles and crossed 163 cultural resources eligible for the National Register. The project included the preparation of a historic context for linear features in Salt Lake County as well as a synthesis of regional prehistoric data. The results serve as a model for future historic and prehistoric contexts in Utah.

The gas company supported a cultural resources mitigation program in advance of the actual construction of the pipeline, and embraced a non-traditional mitigation program to synthesize and disseminate information to the general public. The project also included traditional archaeological data recovery and graphic reconstruction of a Virgin Anasazi Pithouse.

For embracing a non-traditional cultural resource mitigation program that went above and beyond simple archaeological data recovery, the 2006 ACRA Industry Award was given to The Kern River Gas Transmission Company of Salt Lake City, Utah, and their consultant, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. of Montrose, Colorado.

Accepting the award was Mr. Brent Arnold of Kern River Gas and Ms. Kimberly Redman of Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.



President elect Michael Polk (right) with 2006 ACRA Industry Award accepted by Brent Arnold of Kern River Gas Transmission Company, Salt Lake City; and Kimberly Redman of Alpine Archaeological Consultants.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

It has actually been pretty quiet for Government Affairs lately.

NHPA Reauthorization:

The good news here is that Rep. Pearce introduced a bill reauthorizing NHPA with relatively minor changes (after a good bit of pressure from John Nau). The subcommittee also solicited and accepted a lot of input from the cultural resources professional community.

The bad news is that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Democratic staff does not like the House bill. Since there are no conferences on small bills like this, one side will have to accept the other side's bill (the Senate bill is reauthorization with no changes). Nellie thinks this will be a test of John Nau's political skills.

ACHP Human Remains Policy:

Thanks to the hard work of Cinder Miller, ACRA provided very well thought out comments on the proposed changes to the Human Remains Policy.

Kay Simpson also reports that the Task Force subcommittee on Creative Mitigation met after a long hiatus, but since she couldn't attend and hasn't seen the minutes, we don't know yet what came out of this meeting.

Small Business Administration:

Nellie reports that no particular progress has been made on proposed changes to the classification of small businesses. The SBA did make an inflation adjustment last December and will do so again this December.

NAGPRA:

Rep. Hastings (Congressman from Kennewick) has introduced proposed changes to NAGPRA that will send human remains to officials/professionals for study first before turning them over to the tribes. Nellie suspects this is simply a political ploy to help him get reelected, but she

will check into it. John McCain dropped language he had introduced to change NAGPRA in the Senate. Bottom line-we need to keep an idea on NAGPRA for potential changes.

4f Language Changes:

The Federal Highway Administration has apparently asked for changes in the 4f language. This may just be clarification, but Nellie is checking into it.

Political Coordination with State Preservation Organizations:

Joe Joseph has suggested that ACRA establish a list of contacts and system for coordinating with state/local preservation groups when action is needed at the federal level (for example last spring's assault on NHPA). He has offered to head a committee to set this up.

New NPS Director:

Not much to say about Fran Minella's resignation. Nellie says Fran had some difficulties with Congress and that may be a factor.

State Level Activity:

Elisabeth Sheldon provided an update on the Alabama Sunset Commission and Historical Commission activities, for which ACRA had previously sent a letter. The Sunset Commission met in June and commended the Historical Commission for addressing issues which had been a concern. The state is in the process of filling the Executive Director's position at the Historical Commission. The Executive Director will then be instrumental in filling the State Archaeologist's position, which is also open at the moment.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

By Mike Polk, Newsletter Liaison

September 6, 2006

Currently, the Newsletter Committee includes Jeanne Harris, Editor, based in Sydney, Australia, and Mike Polk, Newsletter Liaison. News is generally gathered together for each issue by the liaison and forwarded to the Editor who puts together the issues. It has been a struggle to find enough material at times for the issues, but many people in ACRA have provided information to help make many of the issues very informative and interesting.

Since the last annual meeting, in November 2005, the ACRA Edition has been published on schedule as a bi-monthly newsletter. Issues published include those for December 2005, February, April, June and August 2006. Following are lead articles and number of pages for each of the issues:

December 2005, Vol. 11, No. 6:

2005 ACRA Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C.)
This issue had 20 pages.

February 2006, Vol. 12, No. 1

Utah Antiquities Section Under Fire
This issue had 16 pages.

April 2006, Vol. 12, No. 2

Representative Brad Miller Meets with ACRA Board
This issue had 22 pages.

June 2006, Vol. 12, No. 3

An ACRA Update on the Preserve America Summit.
This issue had about 18 pages.

August 2006, Vol. 12, No. 4

Summary of "How to Keep Good Employees" Panel Discussion.
This issue had about 20 pages.

This issue had about 20 pages.

The newsletter continues to publish information that the committee believes is important and wanted by the membership of ACRA. What the committee needs most is input from the board and from the membership as a whole as to whether the newsletter is providing the organization with something valuable and informative. Specific feedback is needed to help us better focus and meet the needs of ACRA. Questions of particular value to us include:

1. What is the board's assessment of the newsletter content and format over the last year?
2. Does the newsletter provide useful and timely information?
3. What, specifically, could be improved or changed to help make the newsletter a more useful tool?

ACRA

EDITION

1744 Washington Ave Ext, Rensselaer, NY 12144

ACRA's Members-Only Listserv

ACRA now has an online discussion group just for members. "MembersOnly" is a listserv that operates much the same way as ACRA-L, with the exception that it is only available to ACRA members. Its purpose is to offer the board, members, and the executive director a venue to share the latest news from ACRA; promote dialogue between members on current issues; and enable members to post announcements or inquiries.

To subscribe to the list, a member must contact ACRA's Executive Secretary, Scott Stull. Once you have supplied Scott with your e-mail address, he will subscribe you to this list. Contact Scott e-mail: scott@hartgen.com.

2005-2006 ACRA EDITION SCHEDULE

DEADLINE	PRODUCTION
June 5	June 16
August 7	August 18
October 7	October 13
December 4	December 14

ACRA Edition

is a bi-monthly publication of The American Cultural Resources Association. Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association.

This publication's purpose is to provide members with the latest information on the association's activities and to provide up-to-date information on federal and state legislative activities. All comments are welcome.

Please address comments to:

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