

To the members of the PCA/ACA,

The Governing Board wanted to update you about the actions we have taken since the election for the new Board members at the end of June.

It was decided that the best way to complete any kind of agenda was to have as many Board members meet in person as possible. On July 25, 2014, the Board gathered in Columbus at the law offices of the firm representing the PCA/ACA, so that the Board could have legal counsel available throughout the meeting. Attending the meeting in person were Allen Ellis, Gary Edgerton, Gary Hoppenstand, Jay Nelson, Mike Marsden, Lynn Bartholome and Bruce Drushel. Attending virtually were Paul Booth, Elwood Watson, Jim Von Schilling and Roger Adams. Royce Smith and Tricia Jenkins were unable to attend due to travel conflicts. Vicki Karaminas also did not attend. Jim Petrie and Kevin Kinross were present when requested as legal counsel for the organization.

The first agenda item was to deal with the lack of a President for the PCA/ACA, and the Board revisited the issue of the 2014 elections held in Chicago. The election was discussed and the Board again voted to invalidate that election of the President. Instead, the board resolved to vote for an interim President who would not be allowed to run for the open position while being the interim. After discussion, Mike Marsden was appointed the Interim President of the PCA/ACA until the annual conference in New Orleans 2015. To fill the opening left by Jennifer Tebbe-Grossman's resignation from the post of Vice-President of Awards, Roger Adams agreed to take the position on an interim basis. He may choose to run for the position in the 2015 election in New Orleans.

The position of Vice President/President Elect remains open. After consultation with legal counsel, it was decided that an election for that position should be held electronically in the fall. The person successfully elected will hold the position of Vice President/President Elect until the New Orleans 2015 conference and then become President for a full term. The membership will also vote for a new Vice President/President Elect at the conference, reestablishing the cycle of leadership.

The Board discussed contradictory and unclear language in the bylaws and decided to create a subcommittee made up of Gary Hoppenstand, Lynn Bartholome and Elwood Watson to examine the current bylaws and initiate a rewrite of them with the advice of legal counsel. At the Chicago Board meeting in March 2014, the Board voted to create a VP position for Diversity and Outreach. This did not go through the proper bylaw change process, so this position will be rolled into the bylaw rewrite as well. This committee is charged to complete its suggested revisions by October 1 so that the Governing Board can discuss them at the Mid-Year Board meeting. Any suggested changes will then be presented to the membership for commentary per the current bylaw change process before the Board votes to make changes.

The contradictory and confusing language in the bylaws as it impacts the current electoral process initiated the creation of a second subcommittee charged with examining this issue and generating a proposal to clarify the procedure by the midyear Board meeting. This group, including Paul Booth, Bruce Drushel and Gary Edgerton, was also charged with investigating and working to resolve

complaints from Royce Smith, Joe Hancock and Gary Burns regarding the election process that transpired in April 2014 at the Chicago conference.

A third subcommittee was created to investigate and suggest resolutions to complaints of gender discrimination brought by Mary Findley and Joy Sperling regarding the makeup of the Governing Board and actions by Board members, respectively. The committee charged with reporting its findings at the midyear Board meeting are Lynn Bartholome, Tricia Jenkins and Gary Hoppenstand. James Von Schilling will be an alternate if necessary.

The Board discussed at length the dismissal of Kathy Merlock Jackson from her post as Editor of the *Journal of American Culture* before the customary five-year term was complete. Due to the fact that the Board believed that it had been misinformed about Dr. Merlock Jackson's relationship with the publisher and about the details surrounding the work she had done with the *JAC* since becoming the editor, the Board decided to recommend to the publisher that Dr. Merlock Jackson be allowed to complete her five-year term as Editor and also to apologize to Dr. Merlock Jackson for the hardship caused by the Board's actions before and during the Chicago conference. Interim President Mike Marsden has contacted Wiley, and they have agreed to issue a formal contract for Dr. Merlock Jackson through the end of December 2017.

The Board also determined that it is not being informed of costs and accounting procedures often enough. In order to have a better understanding of the functioning of the PCA/ACA financially, the Board has resolved to ask the Interim President to arrange for more detailed financial reporting from the Treasurer, Executive Director of Operations and Executive Director of Events.

The Board hopes that with an emphasis on better transparency, the issues that have divided portions of our membership might resolve themselves and that the PCA/ACA may move forward in a more positive direction.

Sincerely,

The Governing Board of the PCA/ACA