

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

ISSUE 177

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I write my last message as PANYC President, as we have recently sent out our 2018/20 ballot and are still receiving responses until March 9th. Selected officers and Board members will be announced at the next meeting which is our March Annual meeting. This meeting is just around the corner-so mark your calendars for Thursday March 15th! We will be announcing the results of the latest election but will also be continuing the important conversation of the future of the organization, this year's Public Program and more. It will be held from 6-8 pm at Neighborhood Preservation Center at 232 11th Street, New York, NY.

Just a friendly reminder if your membership renewal is past due: if yours is in arrears from last year and you would like to bring dues current, or would just like to renew your membership, please bring the renewal form and membership fee either to the next PANYC meeting or mail directly to our treasurer: Shelly Spritzer, 301 E. 76th Street, Apt. 14, New York, NY 10021. Also any additional donations are tax-deductible too! Checks can be made out to PANYC. Please note in November we voted to increase dues to \$25 starting March 2018, however, the student rate will stay the same.

We have some interesting presentations and workshops being put together for PANYC members and as a reminder if anyone has an interesting topic to discuss or presentation of recent work that may be of interest to the general membership, please feel free to contact me at info@panycarchaeology.org.

Upcoming PANYC Membership Meeting Dates: Tuesday May 22 6-8pm, membership meeting

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Best,
Kelly M. Britt, PANYC President

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PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2017 | 6:00 PM

Neighborhood Preservation Center

232 East 11th Street, New York, New York

PRESENT: Britt, Cantwell, Czerkowicz, Freeman, Geismar, George, Juergens, Linn, Pickman, Rakos, Reilly, Spritzer, MacLean, Martin, Meade, Stone, and Wall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Britt welcomed all members present and introduced two new applicants: Helen Juergens and Matthew Reilly. All members then introduced themselves. Britt then said thank you to those who helped her send Ralph Solecki a 100th birthday present. He was very appreciative.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

There are 29 paid members for 2017. Nine have also paid for 2018. Spritzer has noticed a trend that people join and then never renew. All are in agreement that the member's list needs to be rectified and make sure that the contact information is correct. The list of members is passed around the table and checked to help update Spritzer with any new information. Martin, as Secretary, was then given the lists for updating. PANYC's bank account holds \$4234.38. Members discuss whether we should send out a snail mail membership renewal form, particularly to those who have not paid their dues, to make sure people know they need to renew their membership. Various methods of keeping members involved were discussed. For example, we could offer a membership card or send a confirmation letter. Martin and Spritzer will send a notice to those members who have not paid in two years as this invalidates their membership.

As members discussed membership retention issues Rakos sent three new membership applications around the table for review: Helen Juergens, Matthew Reilly, and Allison McGovern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADVOCACY

This committee will meet on November 29th.

MacLean updated the meeting about two things. First, she has not stopped working on the topic of the Center for Digital Archaeology (CoDA) webinars that he had brought to the board at the last meeting but the company has paused their programming while they implement some changes. CoDA has found funding and they will be able to offer webinars for free in the future. She asked for permission from PANYC to act as an organization representative on a phone call with this company to help them with ideas for future webinars. Members gave MacLean this permission.

And second, MacLean told those present that she has been contacted by a mortar specialist about creating a special event about bricks and mortar that could perhaps cosponsored by PANYC and a like-minded preservation organization, The Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC) for example. All present thought this sounded like a good event for outreach to members and into the larger community as well. There were a few questions. Will it cost PANYC money? Will we charge admission? Will it be at NPC or a different venue such as one of the local universities? All thank MacLean for her work on this new project.

EDUCATION

This committee will meet on November 29th.

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED):

ARCHIVES

Linn reported that all PANYC's archives have been scanned and uploaded into our Dropbox account. Stone categorized the archives she still holds as: tax-related papers, Columbia Law Clinic papers from the re-writing of the By-Laws; and duplicates to be shredded. Stone will scan these and send to the originals to the Treasurer. There was a general discussion about who has access to PANYC's Dropbox account. At this time, Dropbox is only meant for board access and board use. However, any PANYC member interested in any particular file can email our general email address and the board can share that file with that member. Those present also decided that this issue of access could be brought up at the next membership meeting.

AWARDS

Cantwell announced that it is almost time to send out announcements for the two awards. The committee will send a notice to members for nominations in December. There was a discussion about a special award to be presented at the upcoming 2018 Public Program for one year only. This will be decided by the board at a later date.

ELECTIONS

Britt told those present that nominations for PANYC elections need to be set for January. This committee is formed by the President and Secretary and one other person. Stone offered to help with the elections and joined the committee. Rakos, current President Elect, indicated that she will not run for President. Thank you to Lynn Rakos for all of your important work.

HHT

Britt will write a letter to John Krawchuk to introduce PANYC to him more formally. Perhaps there are internship opportunities for PANYC member's students at HHT which could be useful to both entities.

LPC

The main discussion was about how PANYC could most efficiently look up the properties going to public meeting that are more in need of our attention. At this point the process is complicated and time-consuming and we would like to streamline it. PANYC members wondered if there is a way to check in with a research staff member at LPC who would help us highlight those properties of interest. Geismar will reach out to the LPC to see if this is possible.

MAS

Geismar reported that things have stabilized at the Municipal Arts Society. Liz Goldstein, the new President, is interested in archaeology but it has not gone further than that.

MEMBERSHIP

At this time the two applicants present (Juergens and Reilly) were asked to leave the room. Both of them, and McGovern, were unanimously voted in. The new members were brought back into the meeting room and wholeheartedly welcomed into PANYC.

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED):

Next there was a discussion about increasing PANYC's annual dues. They were raised two years ago from \$15-\$20. Many members wished to raise them to \$25. There was some dissent among those present over raising them as there were questions regarding the purpose of a raise and whether we needed to do so if there was no shortfall. However it was also proposed that if we want to be more relevant it would be helpful to have some cash reserves. The student rate would stay the same. The matter was put to a vote. Stone moved for a vote, Geismar seconded the motion. The vote was: Yes-10; No-3; Abstain-3. The motion to increase the dues to \$25 per year was passed. This will not go into effect until March 2018.

MET CHAPTER

As of now the Met Chapter is dormant. MacLean has offered some time to the chapter and she and Wall plan to talk about future ideas. Wall pointed out that Met Chapter dues are \$30 per year with \$20 of those dues going to the main group in Albany.

It was announced that NYSAAA is asking for papers for the spring meeting.

NEWSLETTER

PANYC thanked our new Newsletter chair Elizabeth Meade for her wonderful first issue of the newsletter. Meade asked a few questions of the members present. She thought we should start thinking about the purpose of the newsletter in general. Is this for internal use only? Should it be used as a tool for PANYC's archaeology and preservation advocacy? Does anyone want to add any other sections? Should we put in a section for current research? Members agreed with Meade that these are good questions to ask of the newsletter. Many felt that it could become more of a public newsletter. Britt agreed but suggested that PANYC keeps it internal as of now as we delve more deeply into the topic of social media and see how it could be useful if used correctly.

NYAC

Stone announced that in lieu of a poster this year, NYAC will be hosting a video competition. The members expressed dismay about the lack of poster.

PUBLIC PROGRAM

Rakos has been in contact with Tracy McFarlan at MCNY about the 2018 public program. McFarlan says they would like PANYC to tie into one of their ongoing exhibits for this coming program. They suggest the "New York at Its Core" exhibit and as it has a broad reach tying a program theme to it should not be difficult. The event will probably take place on a weeknight, either May 3rd or May 17th, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The program will consist of three speakers and the awards presentation. This allows for more time for discussion questions with the speakers. The MCNY has said that there will be no fee for the program this year if PANYC sells 75 tickets. On a related note, PANYC members will not be free this year which will help us sell 75 tickets. The topic is still somewhat up in the air but Rakos is almost certain that Schuldenrein and Wiley, who presented a paper at last year's program, have a concept for an entire program. They will write up a blurb to be approved by the board ASAP.

Questions still to be determined: does the ticket include museum admission for before the program begins because the program itself takes place after museum hours? Will there be a student discount or can PANYC cover the cost of students as well as the speakers themselves?

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED):

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

Stone and Britt reported that they have been given access to the website login from Loorya. Britt also announced that she started a PANYC Facebook page but she is in the beginning stages and it is not yet public. She asked for photos to put up on the page. Members will send photos to Britt when she tells them the size or the format for photos.

MacLean asked what the intention of the Facebook page is and Britt responded that it will be for sharing event announcements, advocacy and public relations. Perhaps it could even notify people about LPC hearings. There was a group discussion about why we would do Facebook versus just keeping up the website. It was the general consensus that the website will stay and get updated more regularly by the website committee, but that other forms of social media are important for PANYC to use in order to become more vital again. Spritzer reported that GoDaddy has lowered the cost of their yearly fee for next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Britt discussed with those present the NPC networking event again. It has not happened yet but is planned for December. The new moderator is Cheryl Woodruff from the Washington Square Park Conservancy. This will be a largish event with 10 other organizations but in a small space so just a few members of each group will be invited. The date options as of now are December for 11 or 13 from 6-8 PM. There should be an update at the next meeting. As of now Britt, MacLean, and Geismar will attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Britt focused the meeting onto a large topic at this point. What is PANYC's meaning for today? What is the purpose? Many see that our membership retention issues are connected to this. PANYC needs to find a new way to be relevant to today's NYC archaeology and the larger city population in general. Those present had interesting points to add to this discussion.

Geismar spoke as a founding member of PANYC. She can remember the excitement at the time. There was such an important purpose for PANYC and this made everyone connected and involved. Geismar would like PANYC to find a new goal, perhaps an emotional one that will keep members invested and to give us purpose again.

All present agreed with Geismar and the discussion that followed involved the idea of re-thinking our mission statement or re-assessing how we use it. What can we do as an organization now? What should we be focusing on?

George added in that she sees Education and Advocacy as two very important ways for PANYC to connect to the city. Perhaps we can find better ways to engage the student population of the city. She sees her anthropology students get so engaged with the social anthropology material. We should start thinking about the topic of a Public Archaeology.

Stone pointed out that our internal plans for reaching out to our actual members will be important as well. The professional development workshops and webinars that MacLean has proposed will help us become more

PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED):

visible and vital to our own members again. Stone proposed setting an achievable 5 year goal for the organization. Linn also believed that providing programming to like-minded organizations and our own members will help us find our purpose.

Then there was a brief discussion with Britt, MacLean and Meade about how best to cultivate better relationships with reporters or writers on social media so that PANYC can be less reactionary and instead to plan in advance with these writers to get our information out to the public. MacLean pointed out that some professional development options help people learn how to engage with the press and social media better for example. Meade agreed with this and saw the advantage to cultivating relationships with reporters so that they cover our work with the correct information. Britt suggested looking at news outlets like Metrofocus as well. PANYC will also start sending out press releases about the public program and about other events that are important for our organization's work as a public advocate for archaeology and preservation in the NYC region.

Throughout the meeting a few people also suggested that we may need to have more meetings again to keep members involved. All agreed and plan to set all meeting dates at the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

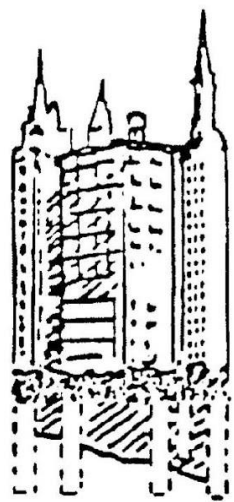
END OF MINUTES

HELP US IMPROVE THE NEWSLETTER!

We hope you are enjoying the new PANYC newsletter! We have plans for the continued improvement of the newsletter, but we need your help! If you would you like to submit something for a future newsletter, let the group know of your upcoming publication, or if you know of an event that will be of interest to the group, please let us know! Your thoughts and suggestions for making the newsletter better are welcome, too! Please send all submissions to the newsletter editor:

Elizabeth Meade
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440 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor
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PANYC

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2017/2018

Please Circle Your Membership Option:

Full Member (includes Newsletter): \$20.

Adjunct Member (includes Newsletter): \$15

[An adjunct member is a non-voting member currently working toward an advanced degree and/or who is employed in a field related to archaeology]

Newsletter Subscription: \$10.

Additional 501C3 Tax Deductible Donation: \$_____

Please mail this form along with your check, made payable to PANYC, to:

Shelly Spritzer, PANYC Treasurer
301 East 76th Street, Apt. 14
New York, NY 10021-2446

Please indicate the year(s) for which you are renewing membership:_____

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

