

Visual Materials 2017 Annual Meeting minutes and Notes from the VM Office hour

The meeting was called to order at 4pm by Gerrienne Schaad, Chair of VM. After brief comments by the SAA Liaison Amy Cooper Schaad introduced the members of the section steering committee and thanked them for their service especially outgoing Member-at-Large Irlanda Jacinto, Past Chair Paula Jeannet Mangiafico, and Nikki Shayer our outgoing intern but incoming Communications Coordinator. Deborah Rice, *Views* Editor, and her team was also thanked.

Paula Mangiafico then gave her election report as follows: The VM Section Elections Committee, comprised of past Section Chairs Paula Jeannet Mangiafico and Matthew Daniel Mason, put out a call May 3, 2017 through the SAA and Visual Materials Section electronic discussion lists for nominations and self-nominations for new leadership positions. These two open positions included Vice Chair / Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large. The Committee also recruited promising candidates, including current graduate students and paraprofessionals, as well as early and experienced professionals. By the deadline of June 1, 2017, the committee compiled a slate of highly qualified candidates. This group included one candidate for the position of Chair-Elect and two candidates for Member-at-Large. The Committee then submitted the candidates' names and institutional affiliations to the election coordinator for the Society of American Archivists, and their biographies, statements, and self-portraits were distributed to the Visual Materials Section lists and websites. The election took place from June 28 through July 13, and the final tally reported Sandra Varry as Chair-Elect and Alexis Peregoy as Member-at-Large. The Committee expresses its appreciation to all the candidates and warm congratulations to Sandra and Alexis.

Schaad announced that the section was selling T-shirts and buttons and totes in a variety of colors for sale during the conference also on our café press [website](#). Kim Andersen announced the line-up of events for VM members to enjoy while in Portland. Deborah Rice reiterated the new *Views* magazine format and called for content.

James Eason then discussed the visual materials listserv (visualmat). Visualmat includes non-SAA members and has some very good material/advice/information that we may not want lost. We need to decide if we are keeping it or porting the users to the VMS listserv as SAA now allows section listservs to be open to non-SAA members. Conversation was opened to the floor. The results are that we cannot keep the history of the listserv past the last six months as that is all we have on the google servers. Andersen asks if we can port the users over automatically. Eason will check.

Schaad announced that the bylaws for the section need to be merged into the template format provided for by SAA, and will work on that ad hoc committee this fall for an election item in June 2018.

The section thanks Stephen Fletcher for his workshop last year at the Atlanta meeting. The digital photography workshop went really well, and morphed into a workshop for SAA. Congratulations.

Sandra Varry and Nikki Shayer briefly discussed the upcoming survey on social media for the section. The section would like input from section members on what they use Social Media for, how they use it, etc.

Stephen Fletcher brought up the topic of updating the Photography Bibliography and Alexis Peregoy informed the group on the progress of ensuring the bibliography stays current.

Schaad called the Business portion of the meeting to an end at 4:39, and introduced the Pecha Kucha.

Talks began with James Eason showcasing a photograph collection of the Panama Canal opening with nitrate negatives, ledger books, scrapbooks, and glass plates and challenges of processing and cleaning the collection. Elizabeth Clemons showcased the Tony Spina collection, a photograph collection depicting Detroit photos from the 1950s and 1960s. Next up was Annemarie van Roessel describing a photograph collection by Edward J Kelty from NYPL, of different circus troops across the country ranging from 1928-1936. Tess Colwell showcased maps from the Brooklyn Historical Society when they digitized those scrapbooks and finally, Matt Mason from Yale showed early images of the Portland area. The section meeting closed at 5:25.

Notes from the VM office hours held on Friday 4:15 pm-5pm are below:

Paula Mangiafico reported that she had a little more traffic during office hours than last year. She had printed up some info sheets and tip sheets on caring for photographs, and most were taken. Here are some visit highlights she has shared:

- Recorded Sound Section is thinking of name change that indicates their interest in moving image formats, and including more discussions and programs focused on moving image sound issues. If anyone would like help partnering with them to discuss collaborations for session or even the business meeting program, please contact Kim Andersen.
- People are interested in keeping up discussions about shared vocabularies and asked where one could find more info on this topic. A good but short conversation was had with the people who were present at the time. "We should do a taxonomy!" Please feel free to bring this to the Listserv for discussion.
- One member of our section stopped by, having been a member of our section for a while and stopped by last year. She finds our section meetings useful for "lone arrangers" like her who don't have a lot of connections.
- There was interest indicated that VM should invite someone to talk about visual materials in other fields like theater arts. We should continue to offer VM sessions that

Speak to all VM archivists, not just photographic. - It was mentioned in addition to other VM topics aside from photographs, RLIS often has meeting sessions that are broadly applicable, so everyone can get something out of them.