

Visual Materials Section 2017-18 Midwinter Meeting Report  
Kim Andersen, VM Section Chair, 2017-18  
March 21, 2018

The 2017-18 Midwinter Meeting was held Friday, March 16, 2018, at the home of Laurie Baty in Alexandria, VA (thank you, Laurie, for your generous hospitality). Attending in person were Kim Andersen, Laurie Baty, Beth Bilderback, and newcomer Dana Puga. Miriam Meislik, Sharon Mizota (VMCAS Chair), Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Renga, and Sandra Varry participated remotely. Kim Andersen's technical problems drastically impeded remote attendees' ability to participate and a medical emergency at home late Friday night sealed the fate of the planned Saturday meeting session; Kim Andersen cancelled it.

Despite these obstacles, work was accomplished on the long-range plan, the Standing Rules (formerly called the Bylaws), and a VM leadership manual (which will be a very helpful working document for all present and future VM officers). We also discussed the following:

- the necessity of updating and keeping up to date our online Google calendar AND tasking all leaders of VM projects and initiatives with articulated deadlines for completion of their work so that work does not stagnate indefinitely
- the need to be relevant to our constituency by finishing and posting an updated bibliography, getting our VM basic curriculum educational resource completed and online, and seeing that good conference sessions related to VM work are offered at the annual conference each year (getting a VM member on the program committee would help with that)
- the need to fully exploit our web presence in general by celebrating the accomplishments of our membership on our website starting with an honor roll of all the VM members past and present who are SAA Fellows.

Drafts of the following documents are in progress as Google Docs shared with the Steering Committee, and those drafts will be completed by the end of March and distributed for membership input due by the beginning of May:

- Revised Standing Rules incorporating the proposed 2016 revisions and newest suggested revisions (once finalized in May, they will be put to a vote of the membership at same time as officers are elected electronically)
- Revised Long Range Plan
- Proposed VM Section leadership manual
- A listing of all VM Section SAA Distinguished Fellows and their citation, if available.

Gerri Schaad and Paula Mangiafico, Nominating Committee, have begun their work assembling a slate of candidates for chair-elect and member-at-large.

Deborah Rice, Views Editor, and her team continue excellent work but report struggling to acquire articles for some of the content areas and are exploring solutions.

The VM Bibliography has been re-posted on saavms.org and is linked in two places. Work updating it has been delayed and hinges on Stephen Fletcher's moving forward with his work on the ICA-PAAG project.

Kim Andersen, Sandra Varry, Sharon Mizota (VMCAS Chair), and Tre Berney (AMIS Chair) had an inaugural planning conference call (in February), continued discussion during midwinter, and are continuing to plan for the AMIS-VMCAS-VMS Joint Meeting at the SAA Conference 2018 in DC. Laurie

Visual Materials Section 2017-18 Midwinter Meeting Report

Kim Andersen, VM Section Chair, 2017-18

March 21, 2018

Baty suggested screening *The Hail-Storm* <https://www.hailstormdabney.com/>, a 20-minute film using archival materials. Because of a component of the Virginian Humanities grant, the film creators should be available to make a presentation on the film at the combined Section meeting. It was suggested that section members view the film in advance of the meeting and then the creators could show clips for the discussion. (See [https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Dabney\\_John\\_ca\\_1824-1900#start\\_entry](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Dabney_John_ca_1824-1900#start_entry))