

## **New England Archivists Annual Business Meeting**

March 20, 2010

Campus Center, UMass Amherst

1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Peter Carini called the meeting to order and welcomed conference attendees to the annual business meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Annual Business Meeting minutes of March 29, 2008 were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Peter Carini presented the NEA's balance sheet for 2009 on behalf of Treasurer Andy Wentink. Overall, NEA's financial status is in good condition with a current balance of \$79,489.25 and overall assets of \$89,603.29. Despite the healthy financial well being of the organization, NEA ran a deficit budget in 2009 and we are on track to do so again this year. The chief reason for the deficit budget is the added cost of reengineering the organization away from paper-based communication and toward online communication through services such as the membership directory, e-balloting, online membership renewal and meeting registration. Decreasing the cost of postage is saving NEA money, but the Board understands that it will need to raise funds to sustain the online presence in the future; one possibility is web sponsorship.

All members voted to approve the Treasurer's Report.

### **Nominating Committee**

Kathryn Hammond Baker presented her report on the nominating committee. This was the first year NEA conducted an e-election and it was very successful. Two lessons were learned: it is critical to keep email information of members up-to-date and e-balloting increases voter participation. Four positions were decided by the election.

Vice President/President Elect: Nova Seals

Secretary: Silvia Mejia

Representative-at-Large: Ellen Doon & Jessica Steytler

Ms. Baker thanks all of the candidates for being willing to serve NEA as well as members of the Nominating Committee: Keith Chevalier, Julia Collins, Christie Peterson.

### **Awards**

Peter Carini announced the winner of the Hale Award for 2010. Maria Bernier of Salve Regina University will use the award to attend the "Rare Books for Archivists" workshop sponsored by SAA.

### **President's Report**

Peter Carini reported that the Strategic Plan is essentially finished and the Action Plan will soon be added to NEA's website. Mr. Carini called for a vote to accept the Strategic Plan. Two members abstained from voting and one member opposed the plan. The Strategic Plan was approved by the remaining members.

Mr. Carini thanked the Board for their service. In particular, he thanked Maria Bernier, Kathryn Hammond Baker, Anne Sauer, Kelcy Shepherd, Krista Ferrante, and Rodney Obien for all of their

hard work over many years on the membership directory. Thanks also to the membership for their great feedback and contributions.

### **Online Membership Directory**

Maria Bernier reported on the recent release of the online membership directory. Members should have received email notification to access the directory. She reminded the membership of the importance of maintaining personal information, so that NEA can continue to reach all of its members. Ms. Bernier encouraged members to offer feedback on the directory including suggestions for added features.

The Board is currently working on the development of a privacy policy to ensure the protection of member's personal information. It will be added to the NEA website upon approval by the Board.

### **Remarks from Incoming President**

Peter Carini introduced Elizabeth Slomba as the incoming president.

Elizabeth Slomba began her remarks by describing what NEA meant to her. She referred to a recent disaster at her own library that resulted in the flooding of her office. She was able to respond to the disaster quickly and effectively due in large part to the training she has received at NEA workshops and sessions over the years. It is her hope that other NEA members have had similar experiences that have called to mind the importance of NEA to them. While her recent disaster is just one dramatic example of the importance of the organization to her, Ms. Slomba could just as easily refer to similar lessons learned about improving access, reference, processing, preservation, digitization, new trends in archives, and a whole range of archival activities.

NEA is embarking on a new strategic plan, compiled by the Board over the past year. Many of the objectives outlined in the plan are in response to members' requests and she hopes members will continue to offer feedback. NEA has also been working to improve communication with members. This year's e-election is one example and there will be others to come, such as online membership renewal and meeting registration. The Board will continue to keep members involved in and aware of the progress of the Strategic Plan. NEA is an organization made up entirely of volunteers; it is what makes our organization so wonderful. Ms. Slomba encouraged members to volunteer to serve NEA, because the organization needs input from all its members in order to remain vital and relevant.

### **New Business**

Cyndi Haberson of the Newsletter Committee announced that the first annual student writing contest awarded its prize to Gabrielle Daniello. Nine essays were submitted and the winning essay will be printed in the next issue of the *NEA Newsletter*.

The Fall 2010 meeting will be held at Keene State College in New Hampshire on November 5-6, 2010. The Spring 2011 meeting will be held at the Pembroke Center at Brown University on April 1-2, 2011.

### **Adjournment**

The Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.