



## *The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.*

**Board of Directors  
Via Zoom**

**Minutes**

**November 18, 2023**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:37 am by President Chuck Williams. A quorum was present. Attendance: Angie Jaillet-Wentling, Janet Johnson, Kenneth Burkett, John Nass, Roger Moeller, Laura De Young, Meli Diamanti, Kira Heinrich, Suzanne Haney, Mary Alice Graetzer, Phil Neusius, Sarah Neusius, Jonathan Burns, Amanda Valko, and Judy Duritsa.

**Minutes**—the minutes of the previous board meeting were accepted as distributed on a motion entered by Janet Johnson, seconded by Roger Moeller, PASSED

**Treasurer's Report**—a written report was distributed to the Board. Ken Burkett reported that 2024 membership is at 50% and on track. A motion to accept the report was entered by Roger Moeller, seconded by Amanda Valko, PASSED

### **Old Business**

**Financial: Elmer Erb Permanent Fund Report/Elmer Erb Research Grant Program**—Kurt Carr submitted a written report which was distributed to the Board. He was unavailable but Phil Neusius and Janet Johnson could answer questions. The Fund is profitable. The Research Grant Program has received little interest and the trustees will embark on a promotional campaign to make likely applicants aware. Perhaps the Education Committee will be able to provide contacts for this purpose. Report was filed.

**Annual Meeting Committee**—2024 Comfort Inn and Suites, Carlisle, PA, April 12-14, 2024—The committee met prior to the board meeting. The registration will be \$35 with banquet at \$45. The committee will be meeting with the venue to determine room rates. Field trips are being explored as well as banquet speakers. **The Call for Papers is out with a deadline of March 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Archaeology Month Committee**—SPA is in charge of the poster for 2024. Janet and Amanda are working on the theme and evaluating the number of poster to be printed since we no longer go to the PA Farm Show.

**Awards Committee**—John Nass asks for any changes to update the awards be sent to him ASAP so the information is current on the website and in the newsletter for awards and scholarships. The committee will work with Chapter 21 to appropriately resubmit their application from 2023.

**Education Committee**—poster session 2024—Angie reported that Ben Ford will probably be heading that up with the Education Committee. Announcements will be sent out to the schools. Contact information will be updated and made geographically appropriate since we will be in central PA.

**ESAF Representative Report**—Amanda Valko presented a written and verbal report:

### **SPA 2023 REPORT TO EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION**

The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology held their 92nd annual meeting on April 14-16, 2023 in Dubois, PA with the SPA Board of Directors as host. The theme was Digging Deeper in Pennsylvania.

Archaeology Month was held as usual in October this year. The poster was designed by the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council this year and featured the “Historical Archaeology of Penn’s Woods”. This poster focuses on three different sites and dendrochronology. The three sites are Pymatuning Reservoir/Westford CCC Camp 1935-1938, Penn Roosevelt/Stone Creek Kettle CCC Camp 1933-1935 and Carroll Cabin Farmstead 1775-1952 with a comparison to a tree ring cookie dated to 1687.

Activities were scheduled throughout the state by various chapters and institutions. Indiana University of Pennsylvania held a family Archaeology Day event at the university.

Two archaeology workshops were held during October. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Archaeology Month workshop co-sponsored by the Heinz History Center, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and Mon-Yough Chapter #3 was held at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. The theme was “By Thought, Word and Deed: Ways of Expressing Social Identity” on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

The Annual Workshops in Archaeology theme was “Discovering the Past: The Sciences of Archaeology” and was held on Saturday, October 28th, 2023 at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, PA.

The SPA still produces its two publications. The SPA Newsletter is published in March, September and December. Editor of the SPA newsletter is Judy Duritsa. The *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* is published twice a year in the spring and fall. Our editor is Dr. Roger Moeller. Our web site at [www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com](http://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com) is being maintained by our webmaster Roger Moeller. The web address is still the same at [www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com](http://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com). We are still on Facebook which is maintained by Jonathan Libbon at <https://www.facebook.com/SocietyforPArchaeology>.

The SPA currently has 12 active chapters throughout the state. We had elections at our 2023 meeting and our officers now are:

President – Chuck Williams  
First Vice President – Angie Jaillet-Wentling  
Second Vice President – Ben Ford  
Secretary – Judy Duritsa  
Treasurer – Kenneth Burkett

The SPA has a total of 359 memberships. This includes memberships in the following categories: Student – 16, Individual – 164, Family - 48, Sustaining – 23, Life – 66 and Institution – 42.

There were three SPA member deaths in 2022-2023: Dr. W. Fred Kinsey, Donna Smith and Christine Davis.

Our 93rd annual meeting will be hosted by the Board of Directors of the SPA and will be held April 12-14, 2024 in Carlisle, PA.  
Amanda Valko, SPA Representative to ESAF

**Keystone Grants/Petroglyph Projects Update**—Ken Burkett reported that the project will be very interesting with some sites misplaced and some entirely gone but with new finds along the way. Site locations are being confirmed. There is a learning curve involved and some new tech including night time photography that is producing good results. Ken and Brian will be available for chapter programs as they develop and complete the project.

**Nominating Committee**—Elmer Erb Trustees (2) for election in 2024—Kurt Carr reports that Greg Lattanzi and Phil Neusius will stand for re-election.

**PAC Representative Report**—No report available. Jonathan Burns did report that PAC is looking at a state **certification program** that would be a joint venture with SPA and possibly schools or museum institutions. Jonathan is open to seeing the documents from the old certification program that was in place at Carnegie which was the source for the Carnegie Field Associates. Jonathan is looking at Virginia’s program for guidance. Jonathan Burns will be forming a committee which preliminarily consists of Sarah Neusius and Ben Ford, and will notify the board as to the members.

***Pennsylvania Archaeologist***, Editor, Roger Moeller reports for 2023

Issue 93(1) for Spring 2023 appeared on time.

Issue 93(2) for Fall 2023 appeared on time.

I have several mss in progress for the spring issue of 2024.

The ms flow continues to be steady.

Sarah Neusius is a very active Book Review editor with a small, but steady stream of reviews.

**PHMC Marker Committee**—Ken Burkett reports there is no movement on this from the state. There is no funding provided for the program. There is the Sheep Rock 2023 site pending. A site submission for 2024 should be in place.

**Publications**—No report is available. No new publications are pending.

**SPA Field Trip 2024**—Sarah Neusius and John Nass have been exploring possible trips. There are a number of factors to consider: cost, distance, duration, bus vs. van or car pool. The trips cannot be too expensive that will exclude our members nor too long or far for those who are still working full time. They are exploring the southern mounds and a car pool trip to Ohio. More details will be provided in the SPA Newsletter and at Annual Meeting.

**Website /Web Sales Roger Moeller, web master**

#### **WEB TRANSACTIONS REPORT YEAR 2023 to DATE**

Paper Back Issue Sales	\$125.91
PDF Back issue sales	682.14
Civil War Sites Tour	1928.33
Memberships	2445.34
Annual Meeting	6099.22
Total PayPal Transactions	\$11,281.34

#### **Web site:**

Total page views: 41,437.

Average page views per day is 132.

The most popular pages are Annual Meeting (2,512), Chapters (2152), and Publications (1532).

Most likely place (78%) visitors come from are Direct address, Bookmark, or Link in email.

About 19% of the visitors come from search engines.

Outside links are 1.8% with Facebook and PHMC topping the list.

The most popular downloads are:

Historic Markers

Annual meeting program

Length of stay: 85% were under 30 seconds.

Stays of more than 60 minutes: .3%

#### **Workshops in Archaeology—2023 reports**

**State Museum Workshop**—Janet reports that attendance was down probably due to the schedule conflict with the ESAF meeting but also because the topic (Science in Archaeology) was more technical and perhaps uninteresting to the general audience who usually attend. The new curator is interested in continuing the workshops but no firm plans are in place for 2024.

**Meadowcroft Workshop**—John Nass reported a decrease in attendance also and also feels the topic (Social Identity) was the reason for this. He noted that there were not that many SPA members in attendance. During the board discussion, some felt that the out of the way venue of Meadowcroft might also be a factor and thought a more accessible location might help attendance although the opportunity to visit Meadowcroft is important.

#### **New Business:**

A Proposal to deliver the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* via Pdf format:

Submitted by Roger Moeller, Editor

**Membership forms should offer a choice between receiving the *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* as a paper copy or as a pdf. There would no difference in price.**

The pdf will full color graphics as provided by authors will be emailed to each member when the printer receives the complete document to create the paper cps. This is about 6 weeks earlier than the paper cps will be mailed.

#### **Advantages:**

- Faster receipt of the complete issue.
- While color graphics might appear in the paper issues, the resolution and overall appearance will be better on the computer screen.
- Pdfs are more portable than paper cps.
- Pdfs can be enlarged on the computer screen for easier viewing.
- Pdfs can be searched rapidly for keywords.

- There is no cost to create and distribute pdfs.
- Missing and lost issues can be rapidly replaced for free.
- Pdfs are the green alternative in publishing.
- Individual articles or the entire issue can be printed.

**Responses to the downside:**

- SPA will lose money because people will share pdfs.
- We already sell 93 issues and hundreds of individual articles as pdfs. Whatever sharing might be happening already is not hurting sales. People have even ordered multiple cps of the same article obviously to share.
- The mission of the SPA is to promote archaeological research. If they share, then we are reaching people we might not otherwise.
- We are spending \$7.00 per issue to print, ship, and mail. Every pdf member is \$7.00 saved.
- Not everyone wants a pdf.
- They can still select the Tree Killer option (aka paper).

**Comments:**

It would be an interesting study to see who is purchasing pdfs of issues and articles. Are they already members who want the convenience of pdfs? Would they become members if we offered pdf memberships?

Membership for two issues is at least \$30.00. Paper back issues are \$10.00 each plus \$5.00 per order. So it is possible to get the two paper issues for \$25.00 plus tax (for PA residents). The two pdf issues are only \$20.00 plus tax (for PA residents).

Since we have the funds, we can lower the basic membership fee for those selecting the pdf option. It does not cost anything and it is an inducement to save us on printing, shipping, and postage. **(Note: This was not included in the motion.)**

Discussion: This would be a preference and entirely voluntary. The SPA cost for mailings have been steadily increasing especially out of country. We lose \$2.00 per year on our 6 Canadian memberships but it is not enough to raise dues.

A **motion** to add the **option** to the membership renewal form was entered by Kira Heinrich, seconded by Laura DeYoung, **PASSED**

**Discussion for the good of the Society**

Ken Burkett brought up the suggestion that the SPA might consider adding a You-Tube channel. Discussion: Technology involved and time needed, using video from programs and workshop and possibly site visits. Angie mentioned several You-tube channels for DCNR and others as examples. Kira reported that the process is intense and more time and tech than you would think. This is something to be investigated and reported back for the future.

Everyone is reminded that row officers will be up for election in 2025 with nominations being considered next year. Please consider serving in an officer. The Secretary's office is one that has a learning curve and should be started now. It is very important to the continuity and viability of Society that dedicated people will step up for these jobs.

Reminder: the SPA Winter Newsletter deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Duritsa  
Secretary, SPA