

ARLIS/NA Twin Cities Chapter Meeting and Joint Session with VRA Midwest

Saturday, March 26, 2011: 5-6 pm

At the ARLIS/NA and VRA 2nd Joint Conference, Hilton Rochester Room, Minneapolis, MN

In attendance (10):

Kristen Mastel, Chair, University of Minnesota

Christy Dent, Chair Elect, University of St. Thomas

Greta Bahnemann, University of Minnesota

Talia Earle, St. Catherine's University (MLIS student)

Kathy Heuer, College of Visual Arts

Shannon Klug, University of Minnesota

Jessica McIntyre, Minneapolis Institute of Art

Rebecca Moss, University of Minnesota

Jessica Shaykett, Secretary/Treasurer, American Craft Council

Visiting: Bailey Diers, University of British Columbia (MLIS student)

The ARLIS/NA Twin Cities Chapter held its spring meeting, including a joint session with VRA Midwest, on Saturday March 26, 2011 at the Minneapolis Hilton.

Kristen Mastel, chapter chair, and Wendall Sullivan, VRA Midwest chapter chair, convened the joint meeting at 5pm. Introductions from members of both chapters were made. It was decided that the first half of the meeting would be devoted to joint discussion and during the second half hour each organization would break apart to discuss individual chapter business.

Wendall Sullivan began by asking both ARLIS/TC and VRA Midwest members for suggestions on ways to drive chapter membership. The following means were discussed:

- VRA Midwest members stated that the VRA is in the process of developing workshops to be hosted by the regional chapters. These workshops will be independent of chapter meetings and open to anyone, not just VRA members. This would increase visibility of the organization. There was general consensus among the group that regional workshops are a great idea, however, there was some concern that with the VRA Midwest covering such a large region, members of ARLIS/TC may still have to travel a considerable distance.
- Recruiting MLIS students for membership. Students in attendance at the meeting were asked by Wendall why they came to the conference. Reasons mentioned include a strong desire to learn more about art librarianship, the location of the conference relative to where they live, and the opportunity to network with experienced professionals. This led to a discussion about the use of mentorship to encourage membership retention and growth.
- Reaching out to new national members. Chairs receive a notice when local professionals register for the national organization. While interested parties can register for VRA Midwest at the time they join the national association, this is not the case with ARLIS/TC. There was some agreement that ARLIS/TC should take advantage of the new opportunity to register members through the ARLIS/NA membership portal.

In the concluding minutes of the joint session, members from both organizations discussed the need to update chapter websites with current membership and meeting information. Now that both organizations have their websites hosted through the national chapter, there was agreement that it should be easier to maintain and would take the burden off the webmaster.

The ARLIS/TC members then broke off to have a chapter meeting. Kristen Mastel began by thanking the TC members who devoted so much of their time to conference planning.

Jessica Shaykett, secretary/treasurer, reported the current balance of the chapter checking account to be \$724.86. She then spoke about her experience representing ARLIS/TC at the St. Catherine's MLIS Professional Associations Fair on March 14th and announced two new members resulting from the event, Audrey Butlett and Talia Engle.

Kristen Mastel mentioned that the leftover ARLIS/TC chapter postcards were sent to library programs at the University of Wisconsin, St. Catherine's University, and the Minneapolis Community Technical College. Kristen also shared with the group that ARLIS/NA itself was coming out with promotional materials to distribute to students enrolled in MLIS programs nationwide.

Kristen asked members to share what they took away from the joint conference this year. General successes identified by the group included: full and informative sessions; enjoyable, well-planned tours and icebreaker gathering; and the variety of vegetarian options featured at both the Walker and member lunch events. The main complaints about the conference overheard by members of ARLIS/TC were the chilly meeting rooms and the lack of free internet access at the Hilton.

Kristen mentioned future potential visits or summer gatherings at the Target Corporate Center and/or the American Craft Council Library.

The meeting concluded at 6pm.

Submitted by Jessica Shaykett