



## Storage space needed

# Spring board meeting focuses on storing Society publications

Past publications of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS) drew most of the attention March 7 when the board gathered in Tulsa.

Members met in a session set aside from the biannual Oklahoma Archaeology Conference. President Ray McAllister opened the OAS session at 1 p.m. at Gilcrease Museum.

## Regular business of the session

**Minutes:** January's board meeting minutes, submitted by Pam Leader, were reviewed and approved as presented.

**Treasurer** Bob Sweet's report covered Jan. 1 through Feb. 29, 2020. It showed total bank balances were \$106,061.96, total income \$2,427, expenses \$3,115.96.

The president reminded the board the report excluded expenses OAS was incurring to support the Oklahoma Archeology Conference travel for Dr. George Sabo and his team. They were bringing the Spiro VR Experience to the Conference. The total cost expected was about \$1,200. The report was approved.

**The Membership report** was presented in advance by Pam Leader, Membership Chair. She sent a reminder mailing to the membership and has had added members since the January meeting. However, membership has fallen to 153 compared to 180 last year. The report was approved.

**The Communications Report** was submitted by committee chair Sharon McAllister. It showed modest increases in interest in Facebook and the OAS website. It was approved.

**Publications Report:** The winter Oklahoma Archaeology Journal was mailed, President McAllister said. OAS will try to publish a Journal twice a year. However, the editor has stepped down and a new editor is sought.

Present were President McAllister, Sharon McAllister, Paul Roberts, John Davis, Bob Blasing, Dean Vernon and Tamara Vernon. Visiting from the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network (OKPAN) were University of Oklahoma students Noah Place and Cody Webster.

## Past OAS publications:

Discussion focused on what to do with a large number of OAS publications stored at Sam Noble Museum in Norman. The museum's Dr. Marc Levine contacted the Society about storage of the boxes, as many as 50 of them onsite.

Board members did not favor simply giving away the publications. Allowing state chapters to get and sell publications was suggested by Roberts. The president said he would like to see OAS publications be made available online.

Dr. Don Wyckoff, Curator Emeritus of the museum, has emailed the OAS president to give background on why Sam Noble museum had the OAS copies, saying they were property of the museum.

Board member Roberts recommended the Society take inventory of publications for a better understanding of the issue. President McAllister suggested this could be accomplished at a Society Volunteer Day at Noble Mu-

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Dr. Alicia Odewale

## Archeology Society offers assistance in survey of Tulsa race massacre site

President McAllister has asked Dr. Alicia Odewale if Oklahoma Anthropological Society might support her survey of the Tulsa race massacre site.

An Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Tulsa, she said she would be grateful for help. She plans to reanalyze historical evidence at the site.

The request, mentioned at the OAS board meeting in March, prompted board members Paul Roberts and John Davis to say they supported the research and were interested in helping. Roberts volunteered to organize the OAS volunteers.

The riot occurred on May 31 and June 1, 1921 when white residents attacked black residents and businesses of the Greenwood District. Oklahoma National Guard troops managed to get control of the situation.

It has been called "the single worst incident of racial violence in American history." As many as 10,000 black people were left homeless. Property damage amounted to more than \$1.5 million in real estate and \$750,000 in personal property.

Although many survivors left Tulsa, residents who stayed were silent for decades. The tragedy was often omitted from local, state, and national histories.



## Trowel Marks

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### Trowel Marks Newsletter

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## President's Letter Ray McAllister



Hello, Society members, I hope this communication finds all of you well.

As I write, the activity of the world is grinding down due to the corona virus situation. It appears that the Society spring project, a survey in Eastern Oklahoma, will have to be canceled. Perhaps we may get a chance to get outside and accomplish the survey sometime in the summer, but for now it is difficult to plan an activity like that until we better understand how the pandemic will play out.

I hope we also will have a chance to organize a Volunteer Day at the Sam Noble Museum this summer as we did last year. Pay attention to our Facebook page and OAS website for further information on this and other Society activities.

How about some good news for a change? We are pleased to learn that on Aug. 1, Dr. Jennifer Haney will be joining the Oklahoma Archeological Survey as a member of the research faculty. Dr. Haney received her PhD from Penn State in 2019. Her dissertation focused on the use of forest resources by the Calusa of southwest Florida. Please join us in welcoming her to Oklahoma.

The OAS Spring Conference, March 5-7 in Tulsa, was an interesting and successful event held during the annual Oklahoma Archaeology Conference. At the Conference, professional, student, contract, tribal, and avocational archaeologists shared their insights and perspectives concerning the issues facing archeology in Oklahoma.

In its meeting room, the Society sponsored a Spiro Virtual Reality presentation prepared by Dr. George Sabo, Director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Many visitors tried Dr. Sabo's new technology for informing interested people of life in past times.

The society will continue to look for ways to serve and assist the practice of archaeology in Oklahoma in the field and elsewhere. Thanks for being an important part of the community dedicated to preserving and illuminating the fascinating past of our state.

## Board meeting

seum in the summer.

Sharon McAllister suggested going through the Society items stored at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, reducing what is there, then coordinating with the Survey to store publications owned by OAS.

President McAllister said it's unlikely OAS could sell all the back copies but some are in demand and can be sold. Blasing asked the OKPAN representatives if it was available online, would they would be interested in purchasing a hard copy from the storage? They said no. Blasing indicated he also would not make the purchase.

The Board agreed it is important to get OAS information available digitally when it was suggested to post it online for free but sell selected copies of the point guides and a subset of other popular publications. It might be better to spend on server space to archive electronic copies rather than find a physical storage space where there's a need to monitor, inventory, protect from moisture and insects, etc.

**Dig Committee Report:** Plans for a spring survey in the Nicut area near Muldrow have been unsuccessful, President McAllister said. He will contact the Survey for guidance and support for this project. The Survey's Scott Hammerstedt is planning another dig near the Muldrow area, targeting autumn.

**OAS trailer:** John Davis will deliver the OAS equipment trailer to the Spiro site about March 20 for use by the Archeological Survey.

**Chapter Reports:** Dean Vernon and Paul Roberts reported on current activities of the Central and Tulsa chapters. President McAllister said the Norman chapter resumed the previous week and once again is scheduling monthly meetings.

**Society elections.** Pam Leader and Bob Sweet were reaffirmed as Membership Chair and Treasurer respectively. The positions of Vice-President, Dig Committee Chairman and Publications Editor remain vacant. The president asked OAS members to please consider volunteering for these important posts.