

2014 Treasurer's Report
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
Submitted by Lauren Leve
12/5/14

I'm pleased to report that the SAR is solvent.

We began the year with **\$57,338.34** and have added **\$6929.86**, bringing the total SAR funds to **\$64,268.20** as of October 31st. That income is primarily from membership dues (plus \$300 in royalties). Of this, \$5292.41 came from professional members, and \$1337.45 came from student memberships. By the end of December, when November and December dues are added, I expect we'll be up to about **\$8200 total revenue** for the year, bringing the total SAR treasury to roughly **\$65,538.64**.

Our end of year total will be slightly lower, since we've not yet subtracted the expenses associated with the AAA Meeting (Geertz Prize; student paper prize; food, space and equipment costs; or the President's travel.) However, I don't expect that these costs will exceed our 2014 revenue. So I think we will break even or even turn out to have saved a little money when everything is tallied in January.

Membership

As of September 2014, our membership total is 552 people. These numbers represent a decrease from last year, when Amy Stambach reported a membership of 642 members as of September 2013 and when we brought in **\$8848** of revenue from memberships. This may seem like problem. However, I'm told this is typical for sections that hold biennial conferences and that we'll likely see an increase in members next spring, as people renew their AAA memberships to submit papers for the annual conference and, particularly, join our section ahead of their participation in the San Diego conference.

In addition, the AAA recently updated its database, removing inactive former members that had been included improperly for the last few years. The important thing to understand is that this happened across the AAA and that the previous (inflated and incorrect) membership numbers were never included in the revenue figures. So financially there's no impact to the drop in official memberships, which is just a correction and probably does not reflect on any actual decline in membership beyond the normal drop in non-spring conference years.

For the record, this makes us a solidly mid-size section: in the top 15 of the 40 AAA sections/societies. (SCA has about 1500, AES and SMA have about 1300 and 1100, respectively, and then it drops to a cluster of others in the high 600s and 500s).

2015 Budget

For 2015, I've budgeted **\$20,190** in expenses. This includes all costs associated with the spring meeting in San Diego, as well as next year's Geertz Prize, Student Paper Prize, and AAA expenses.

If we spend all of this, we may end next year slightly in the red, depending on how many people join the section and/or attend the San Diego meeting. However, it's fairly typical for Societies that have biennial meetings to lose money that year and make it up the following one. And we're well within the capital to expense ratio allowable by the AAA, so I don't see any immediate reason for concern.

Dues

Given this, and that we want to encourage people to join and to renew their memberships, not create a barrier to that, I'd recommend that we maintain our current dues structure -- \$15 professional memberships, \$5 student.

If anyone has any questions, I'm happy to answer them.