

## 2016 Treasurer's Report Society for the Anthropology of Religion

Overall Finances: We continue to be solvent

- Total amount in the coffers – \$66,366 as of September 30, 2016.
- \$6124 in revenue this year (all dues). This is just slightly higher than budgeted, which may reflect the raise in membership dues last year. By the end of 2016, I expect we'll have accumulated about \$2000 more, for a total 2016 income of **about** \$8000.
- Our only real expenses in 2016 are costs associated with AAA annual meeting, which should be about \$4700, so I expect we'll end the year in the black (even banking a little bit).

Membership

- As of Sep 30, 2016– 527 members. (This is down 24 people from this time last year, 4.5% -- but this is very much in normal range and relatively good compared to other AAA sections.)

2017 Budget

- Next year will be more complicated from the budgetary perspective because of the spring meeting.
- I've budgeted \$23,165 for 2017. This will include the usual AAA annual meetings costs but also the biennial meeting expenses. (For comparison purposes, in 2016, I budgeted \$7000.)
- The major expenses associated with the spring meeting are food and space, honoraria for the Rappaport speaker and panelists on the Presidential panel, equipment rental and funds to pay for disability services if needed.
- Based on current membership and past biennial meeting registration revenue, I budgeted for us to bring in about \$14,400 in membership dues and registration fees (about equally split -- \$7000/\$7000).
- This means, if we spend everything I've budgeted, we'll likely end 2017 at a bit of a loss.
- That said, I'm hopeful that we won't spend everything I've budgeted (the meeting being in New Orleans is helpful for this). And if the meeting is well attended, we'll get more back in registration fees which will bring us closer to breaking even. It's typical for sections that host biennial meetings to run a small loss in meeting years, which they typically recover the following year. So we should aspire to have a well-attended meeting, but not worry if we spent a bit more than we take in.

## Looking Ahead

We're doing okay with what we have. But there is still a need to be attentive to the need to raise revenue, especially if we want to keep up with inflation or start new initiatives (including a paid webmaster position).

Two things we can consider as ways of raising revenue

- Workshops (mentoring/publishing, teaching the Intro to Religion Course, other?)
- Raise student membership dues
  - I would not recommend raising professional membership dues again. Did it last year. But there was an error with the student membership rate – went down, not up. Bring it back to \$15?