

2017 Treasurer's Report- Business Meeting
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
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11/30/17

Bottom line: Good stewardship by Adeline and other past presidents. We have a reasonable endowment for a non-publishing section. That said, we (as most AAA sections) have been slowly losing membership and funds over the last decade or so. Good to see everyone here. Please keep your memberships updated and encourage your friends to join and/or do so so we can continue to provide community and programming and keep the Society (and the anthropology of religion) strong!

Overall Finances

*We began the year with **\$64,384**. Between January 1 and September 30th, we added **\$19,261** in revenue and subtracted **\$14,290** in expenses (as of 9/30), bringing the total SAR funds to **\$70,355** as of September 30th.*

That income is primarily from membership dues and registration fees for the spring meeting in New Orleans. Membership had brought in **\$6156** as of September 30th, and registration fees from the meeting, **\$10,605**. We also got an unexpected **\$2500** from AAA, which basically represents a distribution of AAA profits from publication contracts (so we share in the general wealth created by the sections that publish).

My expectation is that we'll add another **\$1998** or so in membership dues by the end of the year, bringing our 2017 revenue up to about **\$21,260**.

Spring Meeting

Our largest expense, always. And also the greatest benefit that the Society offers its members. We saved a lot of money because it was held in New Orleans and Adeline took advantage of free space and audiovisual equipment from Tulane (these are usually our highest expenses associated with biennial meetings).

In all, we spent **\$15,140** on the meeting in total, with the major expenses being food and beverages, contract services and AAA support, and stipend for the Rappaport speaker and Presidential Panelists.

Membership

As of September, SAR had 475 members (353 professional, 121 students, 1 life member). This is down about 15% from last year, when there were 551 members at the same time of year (and down from 2015 when there were 531).

For reference: AES – down 11%; SCA and Middle Eastern Studies down 17% respectively, SAC down 21% -- although some sections are also growing... (SLA, CSAS, ALLA). Overall more down than up in sections, although AAA stayed about the same (lost only 20 people).

Take home: we are doing as well as anyone in this economy. But each lost member has consequences over time, so, please, be active in this society and encourage your friends to join.

2018 Budget

For 2018, I've budgeted **\$8300** in expenses. This includes the Geertz and Student paper prizes, food and space at next year's AAA, and payments to AAA for staff support and labor.

Based on membership numbers in June, when I had to submit the budget, I'm expecting about that much in membership-based revenue. So we are continuing strong, thanks to good stewardship by the President and Board.