

**BYLAWS
REGISTRARS COMMITTEE – WESTERN REGION
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUM**

UPDATED BY COMMITTEE 2009

ARTICLE 1. NAME

This committee is a regional committee affiliated with the national Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums (hereinafter "RC-AAM") and shall be known as Registrars Committee – Western Region (hereinafter "RC-WR").

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The RC-WR shall collaborate with the RC-AAM in giving assistance to the American Association of Museums (hereinafter "AAM") to support and promote high standards of professionalism of museum registrars. The RC-WR has a special concern to contact personnel from all museums within the Western Region and to involve them in its activities. Committee activities shall include, but not be limited to, preparing programs and seminars of special interest to registrars for the annual meeting of the Western Museums Association (hereinafter "WMA") of the AAM, publishing a regional newsletter, and in general initiating or supporting local activities and projects that help to create an atmosphere of understanding and respect, of communication and cooperation among registrars, between registrars and other museum professionals, and between registrars and professionals in related service fields.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Types: There will be two types of membership: Voting and Non-Voting.

Section 2. Voting. Voting membership shall be open to those professionals who support the objectives of the RC-WR and who reside in the Western Region, (composed of the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington) such as registrars, collection managers, conservators, curators, administrators, corporate, contract or independent registrars, students, volunteers, retirees, etc.

Voting members shall enjoy all rights and privileges and shall receive the newsletter, announcements from the Regional Chairperson, notices from their State or Regional Representative, task force reports, invitations to local and regional meetings or seminars, and other written materials as available.

Section 3. Non-Voting. Non-voting membership shall be open to Collection Management professionals who live outside the Western Region (as defined in Section 2); persons who support the objectives of RC-WR, including those that work in areas other than Collections Management, as well as vendors associated with a for-profit organization which provides goods/services to cultural institutions. Non-voting members shall receive all benefits of a Voting member, except they shall not be eligible to vote nor hold office.

Section 4. Dues. Each type of member must submit annual dues. Annual dues shall be due and payable to the Treasurer on January 1 of each calendar year and shall be considered in arrears if not paid by February 1. The Treasurer shall invoice members for annual dues 30 days in advance of January 1. The amount of the dues shall be determined yearly at the annual business meeting by a vote of majority of those present.

Section 1. Elected and Appointed. There shall be four elected officers consisting of a Regional Chairperson (hereinafter "Chairperson"), a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer. There shall also be appointed officers for sub-committees as needed, including but not limited to: Nominations, Communications, Membership Services, Programming and Professional Practices, and at least Ten State or Regional Representatives (Northern California and Southern California each have a Representative).

Section 2. Terms. Each officer shall serve for a term of two years, except the Program Committee Chairperson, who shall serve for one year. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in any one office. The term of elected officers shall begin at the close of the annual business meeting at which their election is announced. The term of appointed officers shall begin on the date of acceptance of appointment.

Section 3. Eligibility. Only Voting members of the RC-WR, who are not members of the RC-WR Nominating Committee shall be eligible for RC-WR elective office. The candidates for the elective offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson must be individual members in good standing with voting privileges of the AAM, the RC-AAM and the WMA. If elected, the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson must maintain their individual memberships in those organizations. RC-WR appointed officers may be filled by any Voting member.

Section 4. Nominating Committee. Candidates for the RC-WR elective offices shall be selected by a three-person Nominating Committee appointed by the current RC-WR elected officers. The members of the Nominating Committee should, when possible, represent different museum or institutional disciplines, and should not be from the same local area. The person currently serving, as Vice Chairperson shall be invited to run for the position of Regional Chairperson at the end of his or her two-year term.

Section 5. Nominations. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate consisting of at least two candidates for each office and shall obtain the consent of each candidate and reasonable assurance of his/her ability to attend national and regional meetings before including his/her name. Candidates will be apprised of the extent that RC-WR can be expected to defray travel costs associated with meeting officers' responsibilities (See Section 8 regarding "...necessary and ordinary expenses incurred by RC-WR officers...").

Section 6. Write-Ins. The membership may make additions to the list of nominees by collecting three signatures of Voting members in support of a write-in candidate and the consent of the individual so nominated. The supporting signatures and a separate statement about the candidate must be received by the Nominating Committee at least 90 days before the annual business meeting.

Section 7. Written Ballots. Elections of officers shall be by written ballot, and shall be held every two years. Ballots will be prepared and transmitted to the voting membership by the Nominating Committee at least 60 days before the annual business meeting of an election year. To be valid, ballots must be returned to the Nominating Committee chairperson, physically or electronically, at least 30 days before the annual business meeting, unless a specific date by which they must be returned is clearly stated on the face of the ballot. Ballots must be tallied by the Nominating Committee, which shall submit ballots and tallies to the Secretary for verification. Election to office shall be by simple majority. The results will be announced at the annual business meeting.

Section 8.

Duties. The **Chairperson** shall preside at all meetings of the RC-WR, prepare a written agenda for all meetings, prepare an annual report for presentation at the annual business meeting, submit an annual budget for consideration and approval at the annual business meeting, appoint, in consultation with the other elected officers, the necessary appointed officers and such other temporary chairpersons and task force personnel as may be necessary to conduct the activities of the RC-WR. The Chairperson will also serve on the Executive Board of the RC-AAM. In order to perform required duties in conjunction with the RC-AAM, the Chairperson shall be prepared to travel to the AAM Annual Meeting and the WMA Annual Meeting. In the absence of the Chairperson at any of the required meeting, the Vice Chairperson will assume the Chairperson's responsibilities.

The duties of the **Vice Chairperson** shall be to preside at or attend in the absence of the Chairperson, any RC-WR, RC-AAM or WMA meetings, as listed above, to fill the vacancy should the Chairperson be unable to serve a full term of office, and to assist the Chairperson in carrying out the objectives of the RC-WR. This position shall also act as the archivist for the RC-WR and, in consultation with the Chair, oversee various appointed positions and sub-committees.

The duties of the **Secretary** shall be to record the minutes of the annual business meeting and any special business meeting called by the Chairperson, and to provide a copy of these minutes to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion in the Winter Newsletter, to keep a file of active correspondence and records of the RC-WR, to maintain the membership list and to distribute the newsletter to the membership every quarter, to make the membership list available for mailings, and to validate results in the election of officers, to facilitate amendments to the Bylaws as outlined in Article VI.

The duties of the **Treasurer** shall be to maintain the accounts of the RC-WR funds, to be responsible for all receipts and disbursements of RC-WR monies, to prepare a financial statement for presentation at the annual business meeting, to assist the Regional Chairperson in preparation of an annual budget, to invoice members for annual dues, to notify members of dues in arrears, and to forward all membership updates, additions, and renewals to the Secretary.

Necessary and ordinary expenses incurred by RC-WR officers and members in the performance of their duties to the RC-WR shall be considered for reimbursement by the Treasurer from RC-WR funds provided for in the annual budget. As budget permits and as necessary, the RC-WR will provide financial assistance for the elected Chairperson (or in the Chairperson's absence, the Vice Chairperson) to travel to the WMA Annual Meeting to attend the RC-WR annual business meeting and the WMA board of directors meeting, to the WMA board of directors mid-winter meeting, and to the AAM Annual Meeting to attend the WMA board of directors spring meeting and the RC-AAM executive board meeting. Funding for the Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer to attend the RC-WR annual business meeting may be provided as required and budget permits. The Chairperson's memberships in RC-AAM and WMA will be paid from RC-WR funds.

The duties of the **State or Regional Representatives** shall be those enumerated in Exhibit A.

The duties of other **appointed officers and sub-committee chairpersons** shall be those enumerated in Exhibit B.

All officers shall have their files in order and ready to pass along to the new officers at the annual business meeting at which election results are announced and new officers are announced. Duties of each officer shall also include other responsibilities as specified in these bylaws or as assigned.

Section 9. Incomplete Term. If an elected officer cannot complete a term of office, the remainder of the term shall be completed by the next runner-up in the election. If the next runner-up is not available to serve, the last appointed Nominating Committee shall provide a slate of at least two candidates for the vacant office and a special ballot-by-mail election shall be held with all due expedition.

If an appointed individual cannot complete a term of office the appointing officer shall choose a replacement for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual and Special. There shall be an annual business meeting for the presentation of a budget, reports from officers and committees, review of the year's business, introduction of new officers and such other business as may be necessary. This meeting shall be held during the annual meeting of the WMA. Other meetings may be called by the Chairperson to deal with special business of importance to the membership. The minutes of such meetings shall be distributed promptly by the Secretary to the membership via inclusion in the following Registrars' Quarterly.

Section 2. Topics and Agenda. Topics for consideration at the annual business meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson at least 60 days in advance of the meeting. An agenda for this meeting shall be prepared by the Chairperson and distributed to all members at the annual business meeting.

Section 3. Orderly Meetings. The parliamentary procedures contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall assist in establishing and maintaining the orderly procedures by which meetings are governed in all cases where such rules are not inconsistent with these bylaws or any special rules or order which the RC-WR may adopt.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. At Annual Meetings. These bylaws may be amended at any annual business meeting by a resolution of a least two-thirds of voting members in attendance, provided that such amendments shall have been submitted writing to the Secretary by five members in good standing no less that 90 days prior to the annual business meeting, and shall have been distributed by the Secretary to the membership no less than four weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

Section 2. By Mail. These bylaws may be amended by mail provided such amendments shall have been submitted in writing to the Secretary by five members in good standing, the proposed amendments are mailed by the Secretary to the membership with a ballot indicating a specific date by which the ballot must be returned, and that 60% of the Voting membership approved the amendment.

Exhibit A to Bylaws

Duties of the RC-WR State or Regional Representative

Appointment. The State or Regional Representative (hereinafter "Representative") is an appointed position serving a term of two (2) years. The appointment is made by the officers of the RC-WR. Candidates who have demonstrated a track record of active involvement in the RC-WR, and are current Voting members in the Committee, may be considered for the position.

Responsibilities. The Representative is responsible for establishing and maintaining communication with the constituents of his/her area to further the objectives of the RC-WR. The Representative will function as a clearinghouse of information, channeling questions and focusing interests for future activities. The Representative is also responsible for encouraging RC-WR membership in the region.

When the WMA is held in a Representative's state or region, he/she is expected to be particularly involved in coordinating the RC-WR activities, such as the pre-conference workshop, in cooperation with local RC-WR members. All Representatives may be called upon to work with the RC-WR Chairperson to organize programs and seminars of special interest to membership attending the WMA Annual Meeting.

The Representative is expected to make regular contributions to the RC-WR Newsletter regarding plans for activities and events of interest to the region and to provide the RC-WR Chairperson with a summary report of the state or Region's activities one month prior to the annual meetings held by the WMA and the AAM.

Exhibit B to Bylaws

Duties of Appointed Officials and Sub-Committee Activites

Communications:

The duties of the **Newsletter Editors** shall be to prepare for distribution a regional newsletter which should include notices of the annual business meeting and other activities relevant to registrars, communications from the officers and members, reports on the decisions and activities of the RC-WR and RC-AAM, and other items of interest to Registrars.

The **Website Manager** shall be responsible for maintaining the rcwr.org website for the membership. Content for the website will be coordinated by the Chair and supplied by the officers as needed.

Membership Services:

The duties of the **Development Officers** shall be to solicit contributions or underwriting of special activities as requested by the Chairperson, to work with the Treasurer in acknowledging all contributions, to encourage commercial services, vendors, and other professionals in for-profit businesses to become Non-Voting Members, and to suggest to Non-Voting Members ways in which they can participate or benefit from their membership in the RC-WR.

The **Membership Coordinator** will assist the officers in inviting colleagues to join the RC-WR. This position will work specifically with the Secretary in this capacity and with the Chair as needed.

Media Librarian:

New Reads Editor will provide book reviews of new and recently published books and/or articles pertaining to collection management and preservation issues. When possible they will also provide a listing of additional resources. The New Reads Editor should submit at least one review per newsletter and be in contact with major publishers of books relating to the museum industry to maintain current list that can be placed on the RC-WR website and newsletter of new books in the field.

Programming and Professional Practices:

The duties of the **Program Committee Liaison** shall be to develop (in consultation with the Regional Chairperson) programs, projects, seminars, etc. of special interest to registrars attending the WMA Annual Meeting.

Museum Studies Liaison shall serve as a link to the regional museum studies program's students. They shall provide students with information about the RC-WR. They will coordinate the graduate students to submit their thesis papers as session proposals for WMA or at local state conferences. Once presented, the students will be asked by the RC-WR Chair to publish their papers in an upcoming newsletter. The position shall also connect the students with mentoring registrars in their local region.

AAM Liaison shall keep the membership apprised of current AAM policies and developments with regards to collection management registration and when applicable overall museum operations. This will include attending related meetings, registering for online webinar courses and reporting back to the membership via an email update or submission of an article in the quarterly regional newsletter.

Other areas that can be reported on:

- Legal Issues
- Professional Development (AAM courses)
- Funding Opportunities (grants; stipends etc.)