

American Association of Biological Anthropologists
Report of the Secretary
2021-2022 Activities
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The year 2021, marked the fourth year that the Secretary position existed as a separate one from the Treasurer. The duties, responsibilities, and opportunities to represent the AABA continued to evolve, and this report summarizes some of the key developments and accomplishments.

Webinar Series

In 2021 the Secretary continued to work with the Program Committee and Vice President to host a number of webinars for our organization. These developed in 2020 in response to the global pandemic, when VP Leslea Hlusko organized ways for the membership to stay connected and continue professional development opportunities. The duties of the Secretary thus expanded to help support this effort, and now include overseeing the social media campaign before the Webinar through Facebook, Twitter, and on the AABA web page; uploading links to videos of past webinars after they are over; and maintaining the Webinar playlist on the AABA Youtube page.

Annual Conference 2021

In 2021 the AABA hosted its first all-virtual conference. In order to promote press coverage, a Press Packet was put together highlighting talks and sessions throughout the month of the conference. This was disseminated to science journalists who serve as correspondents for *Science*, *Live Science*, *New Scientist*, and *Science News*. In addition, the walls.io account for the conference was overseen by the Secretary, with links to all our social media accounts.

Name Change

After the membership voted to change our organizations name to *American Association of Biological Anthropologists*, global changes were made by Ed Hagen on the website; the letterhead, and all public correspondence were also changed. This was done before the name change became official in June (when our articles of incorporation were officially changed in the State of Kansas) in order to reflect the majority opinion of the membership.

The Secretary oversees all the social media accounts, and the names were changed to “AABA” on Facebook and Youtube, and “BiologicalAnth” on twitter. The URL for the website remains physanth.org so the new official address, bioanth.org redirects to that.

Email and Media Accounts- Administration

In addition to changing the public facing dimensions of the social media accounts, the actual administrative emails were changed. A system was implemented whereby the new Secretary will inherit password for the accounts, all of which are now linked to ABAOfficers (at) gmail; and only needs to change the recovery/verification/dual authentication phone number to their

personal number. This was organized to keep continuity of administration beyond the individual holding the office.

Youtube Page

The AABA has had a Youtube page for several years, and it was populated with wonderful videos recorded by the IDEAS program. With the addition of Webinars, it was decided that the page could be leveraged to increase interaction with our discipline and our organization. In Spring of 2021 my former undergraduate/research assistant, Urvi Kaul (now a graduate student with Deborah Bolnick at UConn) did a complete overhaul and curation of the page. She watched each individual interview from the IDEAS program and added an interesting blurb; created playlists for various topics; and worked within the Youtube page management options to make it easy to navigate to topics when our Youtube channel is opened. We now have playlists that organize the Webinar series as well.

AABA Web Page

The role of websites has drastically changed since ours was first created, and several discussions have begun to update ours in keeping with the times. Along with Ed Hagen, the Secretary serves as one of the main administrators of the organization's web page so one major change has to be making the behind-the-scenes operation of the page much more streamlined and user friendly because not everyone is as smart as Ed.

The Secretary's office will therefore be an integral part of whatever we transition to. In order to begin the discussion and bring important information to the Webmaster, I began the process of asking the most immediate stakeholders some preliminary questions. Namely:

- a) should our website be just a membership-management site, or an all-inclusive site for our discipline?
- b) how can administration be organized such that updates by Executive Committee members on their respective pages be more timely?
- c) how can we transition all of the stored content in our current page to a new one?

Initial conversations with the other officers as well as the Media and Communication committee have been noted, and are just the starting point. Along with the Webmaster, the new President and Secretary will determine the process to continue this important and major change.