

AFRICAN SPECIALTY GROUP MEETING, CHICAGO, 3/8/06

Present: Seth Appiah-Opoku, Charles Abbott, Mill Moseley, Pádraig Carmody, Gwendolyn Faulkner, Andrew Chisena, Tamer Mott, Adegoke Ademiluyi, Peter K. Kyem, Tamara Johnson, Kobena Hanson, Kwabena Konadu Agyemang, Jonathan Bascom, Ann Laudati, Sue Grady, Francis Koti, Paddington Hodza, Calvin Masilela, Sophia Harmes, Ben Ofori-Amoah, Gordon Matzeke, Edna Wangiri, Tom Smucker, Gashawbeza Bekele, Aklilu Amsalu, Oladumi Foluso, William Osei, Florence Margai

1 Chairs Update:

- ASP sponsored 6-8 sessions at this year's AAG Meeting. Encouraged members to attend all sessions.
- Membership has increased from last year's 250 to over 300 this year
- State of ASP coffers is very strong. The balance as at January was \$4200. This is an improvement from last year's figure of \$800.
- Revenue from our journal (AGR) and membership dues has increased
- Our newsletter is out on LISTSEV
- Send e-mail to the President if your name isn't on the LISTSERV
- Stressed the need to re-introduce students' awards at annual our meetings.

2. Report on AAG Group Chairs' Meeting:

- Specialty groups were encouraged to submit membership reports on the AAG website.
- Discussed how to schedule sessions to avoid conflicts.
- ASG members should not submit sessions without permission from the group.
- The new AAG President emphasized the need for the association to take a position on national issues.

3. AGR Interim Editor's Report:

- Florence Margai explained that she took over the interim editor's position almost two years ago.
- Encouraged more libraries to subscribe to the journal.
- Explored on-line publication.
- Publication delayed last year because of the change in publishers.
- Next issue should be out soon.
- Encouraged members to submit high quality manuscripts.
- Members who didn't receive copies of the previous issue should send email to the President.
- Until we get more funds, we cannot produce two volumes of the journal a year.
- Distributed advert for the AGR Editor's position. The search committee is chaired by Joseph Oppong.

Suggestions to Editor:

- Publish two or more volumes per year.
- Every other year, we should publish a session organized by our group at the AAG conference.

- At the end of our the AAG annual conference, the editor should send out email inviting presenters to submit their manuscripts for publication

4. National Geographic Society:

Two officials from this organization asked for members input on how the following topics on Africa should be taught in the classroom:

- Cultural geography
- African history
- Physical geography
- Population, economy and environmental health issues
- Website: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicaction/>

5. ASP Social

Calvin Masilela suggested Vee-Vee's African Restaurant and Cocktails, 6232 North Broadway, Chicago, IL.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Seth Appiah-Opoku