



AWA News

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(Vice) President's Notes

LIt has been a busy couple of months for AWA. Since the last newsletter, AWA board members have tackled a number of big issues, as well as continuing our work on some smaller projects.

As many of you know, earlier this year, the Washington State Legislature held hearings concerning the future of the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP). A major goal of the hearings was to establish a new home for OAHP. For many in the historic preservation community (AWA included), this seemed like a good idea, since the Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) agency, OAHP's parent agency, never appeared very supportive. Options included leaving the office under CTED, making it a stand alone agency, or placing it under any one of a number of other agencies. The front runners for a new home for OAHP were the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, and the Office of the Secretary of State. Dave Delyria and Pam Troutman were at the hearings, and Dave presented AWA's concerns regarding the future of OAHP. Out of the options presented, the Secretary of State had the best presentation and their desire to have OAHP and their commitment to support the office were astounding. However, opposition by Governor Locke has put everything on hold, and for the time being, OAHP will remain with CTED.

In February, the AWA board met to hammer out a set of rough reporting guidelines. We sought advice and direction from a variety of sources, and I think we were pretty successful. Inside this issue is some background on how and why we are creating guidelines, as well as the draft guidelines for membership review and comment.

AWA has been working on a variety of other items. We now have a draft web site up, which is currently being hosted by Bellevue Community College. Look inside this newsletter for the address. Let us know what you think of the web site, what you would like to see on it. The board has also been talking about putting together an e-mail list of all AWA members (at least those who have e-mail). This would allow us to keep the membership up to date on issues that may be time sensitive, for example any future hearings on OAHP.

Coming up is the 1999 Northwest Anthropological Conference, in Newport, Oregon, where we will hold our annual business meeting to discuss some of these issues, especially the draft guidelines, and OAHP. In addition, it is time to elect new board members. The current board has worked hard to make AWA a meaningful organization. **Members should begin thinking about whether they want to serve on the board, or nominate someone.**

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Paul Solimano

