

2016 Regional Coordinator's Report:

- Annual Meeting Expenses:
 - No plenary: Southwest President – innovation to repeat?
 - SWCRS Graduate Student Luncheon: \$100
 - Travel Grant: \$300
 - Created a budget
- Policies & Procedures Documentation
 - Drafted from previous documentation
 - Comprises Operating Agreement, Policy File, Regions Handbook, Appendices of guidelines, reports, and forms
 - Emphasizes distributing leadership, defining roles, delineating protocols
 - Policy File and Appendices should be revised annually to reflect what we actually do
 - Should serve as archive of region's history
 - Overview Sections
 - Recommend approval as drafted to be revised this year to incorporate additions and changes from meeting (elections)
- Regional Development Grant:
 - \$4000 for Pre-SWCRS Workshop
 - Annual funding available for research/program in region: details on AARweb.org
 - Proposal to REC due June 1
 - Proposal to Grant Jury due July 1
 - Grant announcement August 15
 - Grant report due one month after completion of research/program
- AAR Atlanta:
 - New Regions Director: Ardyth Bass
 - Operating Agreement Addendum: Regionally Elected Coordinator (REC)
 - Deborah Minor (Regions Manager & CFO) transitioning to part time
 - Regions Posters in Exhibit Hall: designed by BJ Parker, highlights of region
 - Special Topics Forum sponsored by Program Committee and Regional Coordinators: Expanding the Possibilities for Scholarly Conference Presentations: Alternatives, Innovations, Enhancements – BJ Parker, Katherine Downey, Southeast and Rocky Mountains RECs
 - Regions Committee Meeting Highlights
 - Annual Meeting Travel Grant Program: AARweb.org
 - 25 \$500 grants plus complimentary meeting registration
 - Financial need and desire to participate in Annual Meeting: graduate student, un/underemployed, retired, or contingent; lack of sufficient institutional/external funding
 - Special consideration to under-represented minorities
 - AAR membership, record of attendance history and consistency
 - Application due May 1, announcements by May 21
 - AAR will pay for regional meeting translator and ADA services: Need to add blurb to both Policy File and Call for Papers

- Policy File should be electronically available to membership and in a form to facilitate updating annually
 - Second signer needed for region's bank account: Who?
 - AAR Presidents Visit:
 - Strategic planning emphasize membership and regions
 - Annual themes/plenaries interconnected: Role Religion Plays in the World Today
 - Tom Tweed: Valuing the Study of Religion
 - Serene Jones: Revolutionary Love – Political Force to Remake the World
 - Eddie Glaude: Religion and the Most Vulnerable
 - David Gushee (Mercer) elected
 - “Love, Hatred, and Vulnerability”: Theme for SWCRS 2017?
 - Encourage facilitated conversations instead of papers
 - Student Director can serve a 3rd year: Need to add to Policy File
 - AAR eager to help fund Student Director expenses: drafted recommendations to Board
 - Regional Meeting Travel Grants: \$300, regionally coordinated
 - Must be AAR member, demonstrate need
 - Application deadline after November (after SWCRS acceptances) and before February (SWCRS registration deadline): Feb 1? Dec 15?
 - Need to add to Policy File
 - Websites to facilitate communication and collaboration
 - AARweb.org: Regions information, handbook
 - AAR-SW needs: P&P (Operating Agreement and updated Policy File)
 - Facebook for Regions Committee (setting up)
 - Facebook for AAR-SW
 - Who to set up region's websites? (add to Policy File)
- Meeting highlights
 - SWCRS Theme
 - SWCRS Directors Meeting
 - Registrations
 - Highlights
 - Special Events:
 - AAR Film
 - Hallway exhibit
 - Presidential Address
 - Junior Scholar Grant Session
 - New program unit sessions
 - Special Session: Religious & Literary Studies Scholars