



American Anthropological Association
 AAA - 2025 Business Meeting
 November 13, 2025
 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Eastern Time

- I. Call to order
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)
- II. Adoption of Agenda
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)
- III. Approval of the Minutes for the 122nd AAA Business Meeting
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)
- IV. Remembrance of Deceased Members
(Carolyn Rouse)
- V. President's Report
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)
- VI. President-Elect's Report
(Carolyn Rouse)
- VII. Secretary's Report
(Florence Babb)
- VIII. Treasurer's Report
(Lee Baker)
- IX. Executive Director's Report
(Ady Arguelles Sabatier)
- X. Resolutions submitted by members by the deadline of October 13th 2025
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)
 - A. Resolution 1: The AAA resolves that it will avoid actions or policies in support of academic boycotts of scholars or institutions as they: imperil academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas; target individuals for demographic reasons, including race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and citizenship; and do not permit individual members to follow their own conscience.
(Cynthia Saltzman)
- XI. New Business
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)
- XII. Adjourn
(Whitney Battle Baptiste)



American Anthropological Association

2025 Business Meeting

The 2024 AAA Business Meeting

The 122nd American Anthropological Association (AAA) Business Meeting was called to order by President Whitney Battle-Baptiste on November 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. virtually. The number of members was 75, which is fewer than the 250 required for a quorum, and thus it was determined that no quorum was present to conduct business. Members in attendance, online, voted via poll to suspend the rules and met as an informal gathering, there were 54 affirmative votes, 4 negative votes, and 15 abstentions. Any motions adopted by this body would be sent to the AAA Executive Board as advisory recommendations.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda and dispense the minutes from the 2023 meeting.

Carolyn Rouse, president elect/ VP, reads names of deceased members in remembrance.

Whitney Battle-Baptiste, president, delivers the President's report. She notes that this report was made available 24 hours beforehand on the AAA website, and to be more accessible to all members, the meeting was held online. She thanks the EPC Committee Co-Chairs and members and the LOC and everyone in Tampa for their support of the annual conference. She notes that the Chairs of the Ethical Treatment of Human Remains completed a report that was made available this year and is now available on the AAA website. She acknowledges Barbra Meek for her work as the chair on the AIAN committee. Whitney says that report has not been posted yet and says that she wants to still acknowledge the challenging work done on that report. Whitney notes the importance of updating the sexual harassment and sexual assessment policy which has been used as an example for other professional organizations, thanks to the AAC. Whitney notes that a new committee has been formed to discuss the future of anthropological communications.

Ady Arguelles-Sabatier, executive director, notes complex challenges surrounding pressure on higher education institutions in budget cuts and downsizing, and on the AAA in terms of post-pandemic disruptions. Ady says that she worked with Adam Gamwell to develop a member needs assessment and now she is leading the work to address those needs. Highlights from this included understanding how anthropology is practiced in and outside of the academy and understanding how to support members who practice in various ways by looking for new ways to develop and support and engage members. She mentions the need to review financial initiatives in terms of the 2027 Wiley publishing contract expiration. She mentions the decline in membership is due in part to annual meeting registration. She mentions that conservative spending practices have been implemented by restructuring staff and exploring new revenue options. Ady mentions the need to lean into the relevance of anthropology in understanding the complexities of today and supporting members. Ady thanks everyone for taking the time to join the meeting and invites all members to the welcome reception at the annual meeting.

Carolyn Rouse, president elect/ VP, thanks attendees for playing a role in these vital meetings. She mentions her role has been public facing with the goal of realizing a 21st century mission for the AAA. Carolyn mentions rearticulating the mission, bylaws, and structure that will support the association and

members. Carolyn mentions the strengths of the AAA in legitimating the discipline through journal portfolios and conferences and notes the AAA can improve in terms of advocacy.

Gabriela Vargas-Cetina, secretary, thanks attendees for being here, notes there are still nominations in process. 18 nominations have been made for the 6 positions, which is lower than last year. She notes that 15% of the electorate voted previously and encourages more member engagement. Gabriela thanks the SVA for their engagement with over 50% of their members having voted. Gaby shares ideas that the nominations committee has many ideas to improve the process of Nominations. Gaby thanks everyone that has helped her as the secretary and introduces Florence Babb as the new incoming secretary.

Lee Baker, treasurer notes continued efforts to stabilize the financial portfolio and operations budget and thanks the AAA staff and finance committee in finding creative ways to generate revenue. Lee mentions that current revenue is made through annual meetings, membership, and publications. Lee notes that money is lost on hosting the annual meetings, and publications are not making much money either. Lee asks attendees to help in bringing in more members to create more stability. Lee outlines that now right now the AAA is taking out 10% from its withdrawals to continue operating and cautions that this is not a sustainable way to counted operating. Lee says that the Ady and the AAA staff are working hard to continue generating funds. Lee ends again asking the membership to try to work to continue to help grow our membership.

Whitney Battle-Baptiste, president, acknowledges the chat function to answer live questions. She mentions that no resolutions were submitted by the 10/20/24 deadline and opens the floor to new business.

There is a question from the floor as to what can be done to engage practicing anthropologists. Ady says that she has been having conversations with diverse groups in this space. Ady describes a mater cooperative agreement that the AAA is forming with the national parks service. She says she wants to understand the issue, so they are listening to those in the practicing sphere. Lee also says that the AAA is always willing to listen and ready to be of service. Gabriela believes that this issue of incorporating practicing anthropologist has been around for years, but it has only been under Ady's recent leadership she believes we now have an idea of how to engage the membership. Carolyn talks about how she is helping build out a design program in her anthropology department at Princeton. Carolyn thinks getting feedback now would be important in her mission to reinvent AAA.

A question from the floor asks if there is a 2–3-year plan to correct financials. Lee responds that there is not a set plan, but that they are moving in the right direction in exploring new revenue sources, while the stock market continues to work in AAA's favor. Lee mentions that membership is the key in developing a path forward. Carolyn adds that there is potential to re-envision the publications and portfolios to support a 21st century AAA with the publication contract expiring in 2027. Whitney adds that input from the Section Assembly and journal section editors is needed here and will occur in the future.

Alice Kehoe raises a question about a colleague who is advocating to get Anthropology into engineering curriculum. She reports that her colleague has found that many engineering programs now ask for their students to take social sciences courses.

Myesisha Barbers outlines a documentary she is working on and asks if we could bring in black directors to the annual meetings to generate revenue for black directors. Carolyn says the SVA film festival has too many films, so they are looking at different models. Ady mentions they are thinking about storytelling as an overarching theme of relevance in anthropology.

Christian Frendopolo asks for information around the future of publications because that information has not been shared with editors yet. Whitney says that no final decisions have been made yet. Sean Mallin says that we are still in the conversation stage with editors and says that the AAA is still exploring their options and echoes Whitney and says that he should be hearing from AAA soon.

Ellen Messer has some comments about how to reach out to the public. She says that the meeting is in Tampa and that she thinks it is important to highlight the work of local anthropologists in Tampa. Ellen says she thinks it is important to think about the work that Anthropologists create. Carolyn responds to Ellen and says she wants to reimagine interest groups into working groups that produce robust knowledge for the AAA.

Toni Copeland asks what our membership was pre COVID and what it is now. Ady responds that we are now around 6,000 members and pre COVID the AAA had over 10,000 members. Ady says that the AAA is extremely focused on the member value proposition to continue having a sustainable organization.

Toni Copeland asks what the percentage of student members is to see where memberships are dropping off the board in what demographic, if there are certain populations that have increased/ decreased is important to know. Ady notes that the DSP has declined significantly this year because of departmental funding issues, and we need to do a better job of understanding what students need. Gabriela notes that we have lost almost all of our international members. Whitney updates to say 33% of AAA is undergrad and grad students.

Jaida Samudra says that when she receives surveys from the AAA, she often finds them poorly designed and encourages the AAA to use a professional survey service.

Whitney thanks everyone who came to the meeting and she asks for a motion to adjourn. Carolyn passes a motion to adjourn and Gaby sections. Whitney thanks everyone and ends the meeting.

Please take a moment of silence to honor the memory of the following colleagues, whose death we note since the 2024 Annual Meeting.



AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems



Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Thomas Hylland Eriksen, PhD
Professor of Social Anthropology, University
of Oslo

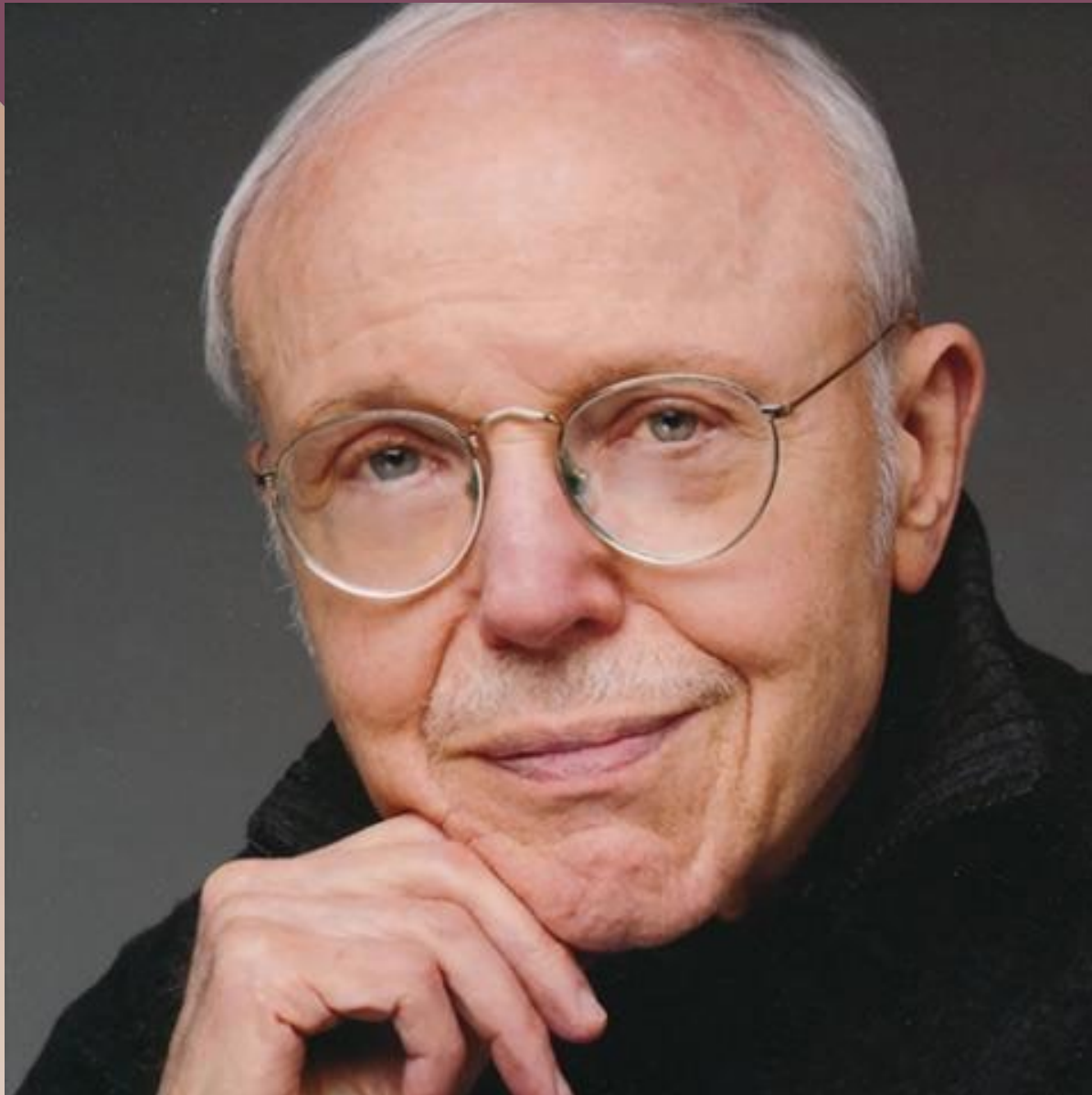
“Thomas Hylland Eriksen was, above all, a generous man. He shared his insights freely, and he was heard. Though not religious, he held a near - religious faith in humanity’s ability to learn and live together”.



Frederick Charles Gamst

Frederick Charles Gamst, PhD
Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus,
University of Massachusetts

“He had 63 years of firsthand experience with the railroad industry, as an operating employee, trade union officer, university researcher, and professional consultant — variously in North America, Australasia, China, Europe, and Africa. In 1995 he received the Conrad Arensberg Award from the American Anthropological Association”.



McKim Marriott

McKim Marriott, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology,
University of Chicago

“Marriott spent more than four decades of his academic career at UChicago, where his scholarship pushed the boundaries of South Asian anthropology, and his teaching and mentoring inspired generations of students”.

Devva Kasnitz

Devva Kasnitz, PhD

Executive Director of the Society for
Disability Studies

Adjunct Professor, CUNY SPS Disability
Studies Program

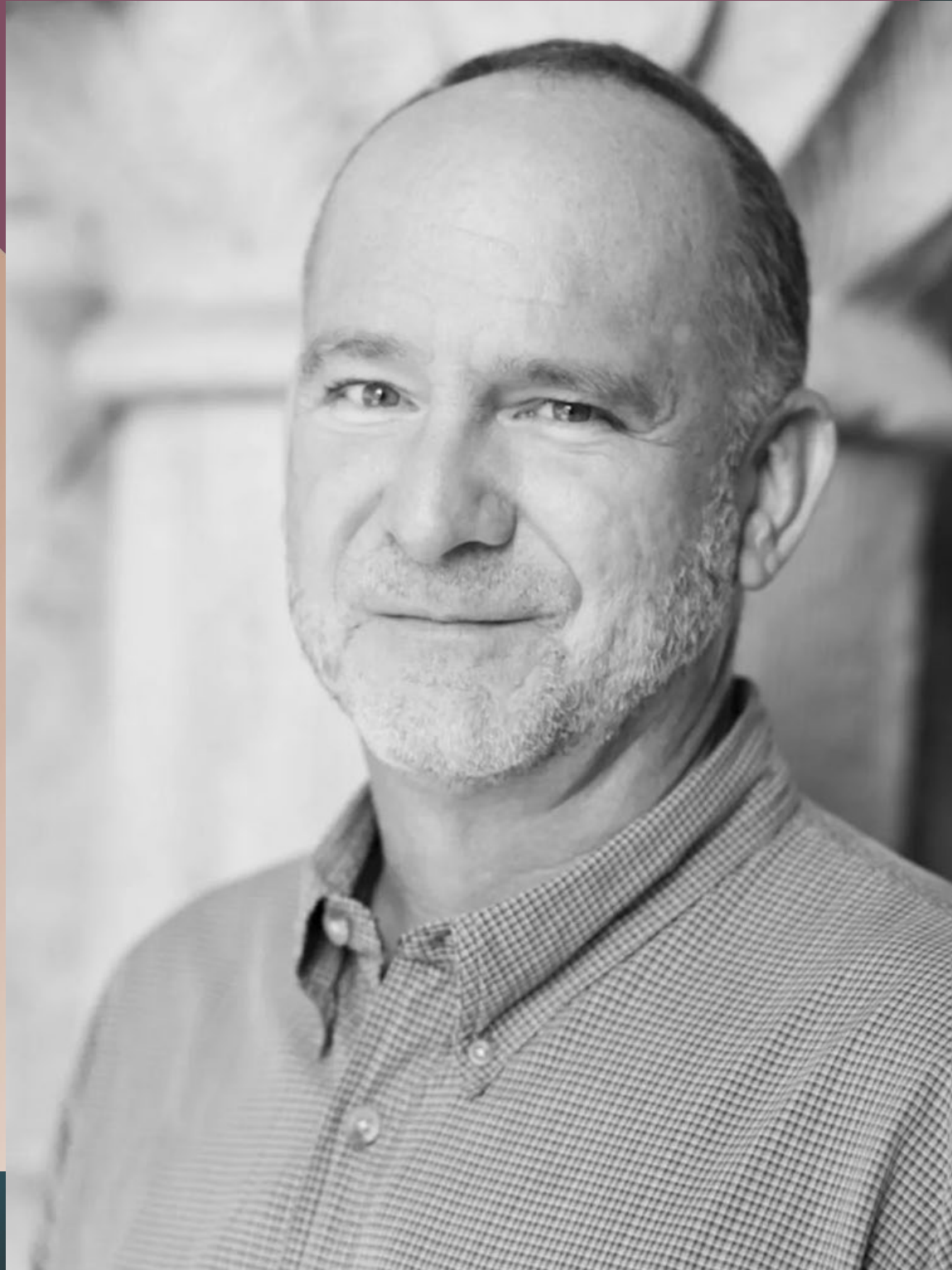


“She contributed so much to our world in so many ways, encapsulating chutzpah and meshuggener as truly positive terms – she was disruptive, proud, and persistent. She encapsulated tenacity, grit, bravery, resilience, and hardiness. Without her, disability studies and anthropology would not have met as such a vibrant field of study”.

William K. Powers

William K. Powers, PhD
Professor of Anthropology, Rutgers
University
Editor and Publisher, Lakota Books
Publishing Company

“Through his academic articles and books, Powers made several enduring contributions to the discipline. Together his writings form much of the literature assuring preservation of traditional Lakota knowledge and worldview”.



James Ferguson

James Ferguson, PhD
Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus,
Stanford University

“There is little wonder that he became a model for so many students, a model for how to conduct oneself with dignity and humility, how to write with clarity and without jargon, how to think deeply and critically.”



Elfriede Hermann

Elfriede Hermann, PhD
Professor of General Anthropology,
University of Göttingen

“Her passion for social and cultural anthropology, her dedication to the people of the Pacific, and her research on climate change shaped our academic community. She was an unwavering advocate for her students, inspiring many with her knowledge, generosity, and commitment”.



Nelson Graburn

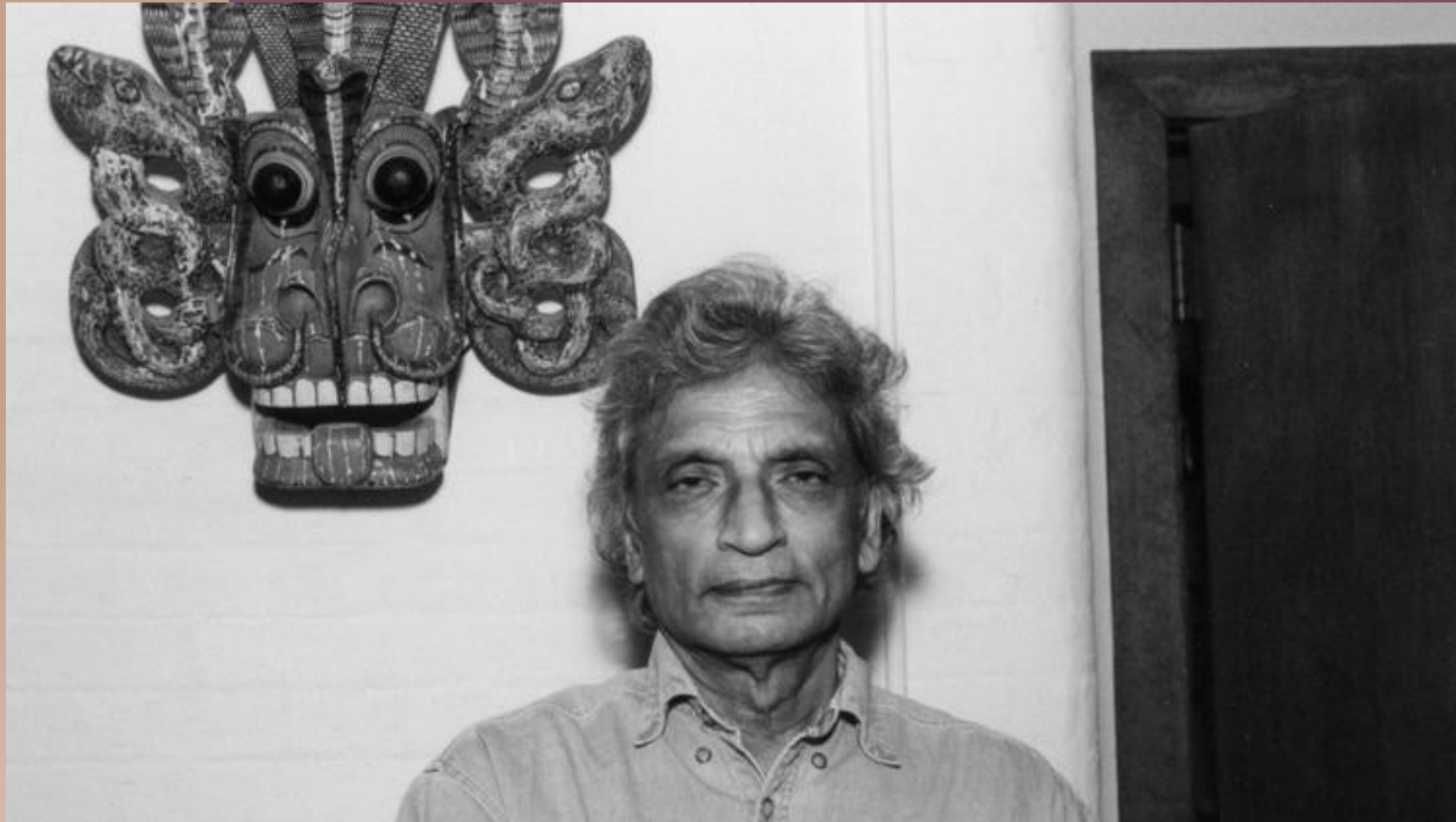
Nelson Graburn, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology,
University of California, Berkeley

“Colleagues remember him as generous, supportive, present, and cheerful at department and campus events, arriving in characteristic style behind the wheel of his beloved 1964 Shelby Cobra. Professor Graburn's legacy lives on through the dozens of Ph.D. students he mentored and the global network of scholars he inspired in the field of tourism studies”.

Gananath Obeyesekere

Gananath Obeyesekere, PhD
Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus,
Princeton University



“A person of big ideas and an even bigger humanistic imagination, Obeyesekere was a gentle and thoughtful truth -teller and a quintessential free man. He remains a shining light to generations of colleagues and students at Princeton and beyond.”

Nancy Flowers

Nancy Flowers, PhD

“During her lifetime, she made incredible contributions to the fields of photojournalism and anthropology. Today, Dr. Flowers is an inspiration to us all. She showed us that it is never too late to pursue our dreams and make a difference in the world”.



Ralph Holloway

Ralph Holloway, PhD

Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University

“He will be remembered fondly by his colleagues, not only for his commitment to teaching and his love of research, but also for his wit, his political passion, and his devotion to the trumpet, which he played throughout his life and even during his final illness”.

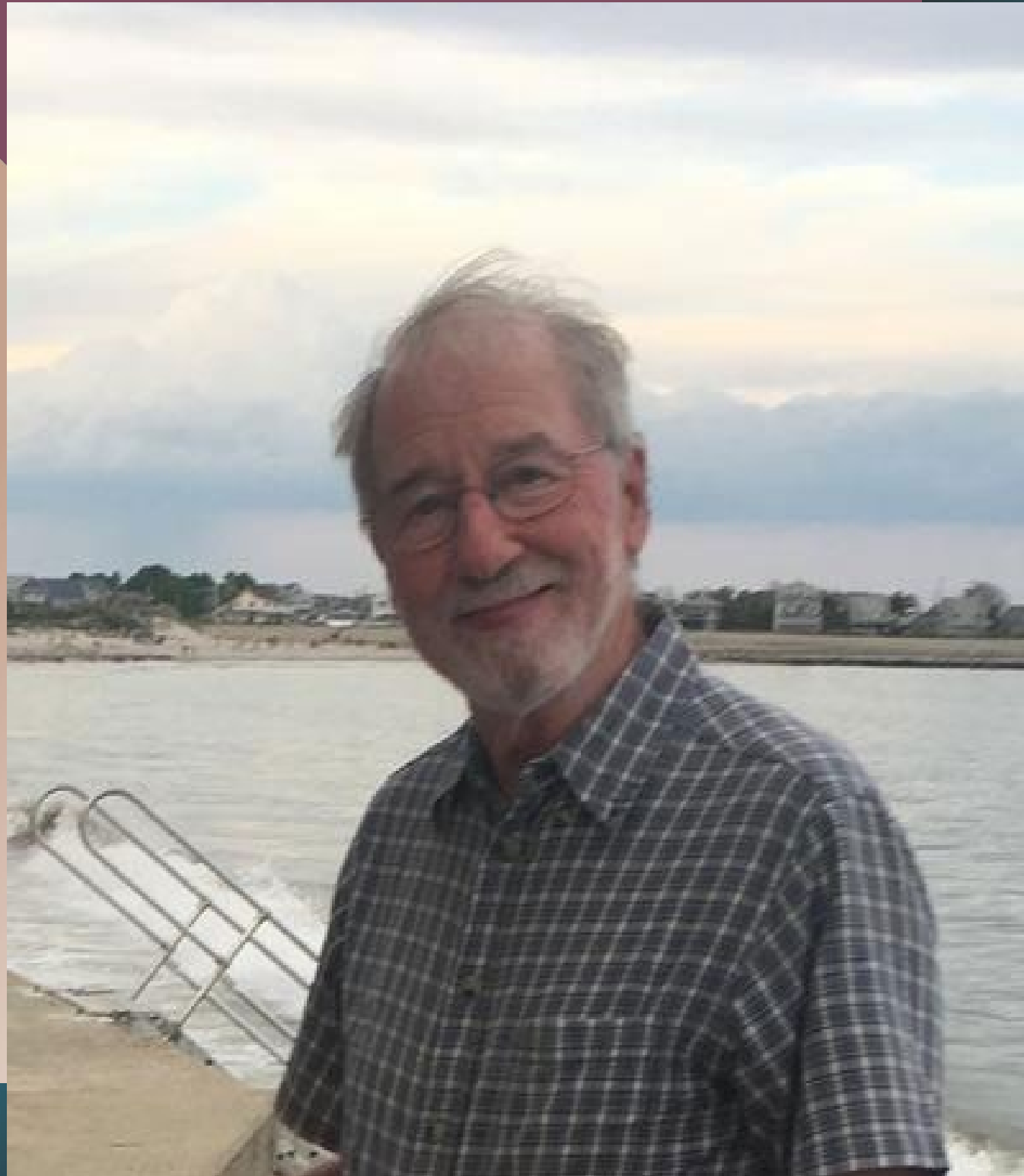


Ann McElroy

Ann McElroy, PhD

Associate Professor Emerita, University of
Buffalo, SUNY

“Ann enjoyed reading, writing, and traveling, and supported causes of social justice, environmental stewardship, civil rights, and the cultural heritage of Buffalo. She filled her home with art, music, the natural beauty of flowers and plants, books to overfill a library, and the warmth of love and laughter, and filled the hearts and lives of all who knew her with care, devotion, and a lifetime of fond memories”.



Philip Rightmire

Philip Rightmire, PhD

Research Associate in the Department of Human
Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University

Professor of Anthropology, SUNY, Binghamton

“Philip had a remarkable gift for connecting with others and creating lasting bonds. Whether he was enjoying a quiet moment with family or sharing his knowledge with colleagues, his presence was always a source of warmth and reassurance”.



Merrill Singer

Merrill Singer, PhD

Professor Emeritus, University of Connecticut
Director of Research, Hispanic Health Council

“His impact on a wide range of scholarly fields, including medical/health anthropology, applied anthropology, and global health, among others, would be difficult to overstate. Our hearts are with Merrill’s family, and with all those who knew and admired him”.

Namika Raby

Namika Raby, PhD

Lecturer Emerita of Anthropology at
California State University, Long Beach

“In addition to her work at The World Bank and the FAO, Dr. Raby taught at CSULB for over a quarter century (1991–2018) before retiring as lecturer emerita in 2018.

Dr. Raby is survived by her loving daughter, Leila Scott; her son -in-law, Travis Wilder; and their four -year-old son, Sea. She also leaves behind siblings and extended family members in California, Canada, and Sri Lanka”.



Alex Weingrod

Alex Weingrod, PhD

Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev

“Weingrod was predeceased by his beloved wife Bracha and is survived by their four children, Danny, Aaron, Nomi, and Dena; seven grandchildren; and nine great -grandchildren. A frequent presenter at annual AAA meetings, Weingrod was known as a formidable scholar and a mentsch, blessed with a generous smile and sharp wit. He will be sorely missed”.



Gretel Peltó

Gretel Peltó, PhD

Professor Emeritus in the Division of
Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University

“Dr. Peltó was deeply committed to mentoring students and collaborating with colleagues. She often said her most rewarding work came from these relationships. Known for her warmth, intelligence, and generosity of spirit, she inspired and helped shape a generation of scholars and practitioners”.



Michel Callon

Michel Callon

Professor Emeritus at the École des Mines in Paris

“We have lost a dear companion who remained actively engaged in analyzing economic change until recently, as evidenced by his latest publications. The academic community has lost an eminent colleague whose sharp mind had a gift for making the world a little more intelligible and people a little smarter”.

Ross Hassig

Ross Hassig, PdD

Independent Scholar, Historical Anthropologist

“He earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from Stanford University in January 1980. He was an assistant professor of anthropology at Vanderbilt from 1979 through 1983”.

Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall, PhD

Primatologist and Anthropologist

Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute

“Dr. Goodall dedicated her life to conservation and education, founding the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots youth program to inspire action on behalf of animals, people, and the environment. Her work linked science with moral responsibility, embodying the spirit of curiosity, compassion, and engagement that lies at the heart of anthropology.”



William O'Hare

William O'Hare

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Three Rivers Community College



“For more than twenty years, he widened his students’ horizons by creating courses that exposed them to diverse cultural traditions such as Tuvan throat singing, Japanese kimono, karimbas, and more. Will’s passions and projects extended beyond teaching into practice and performance. He was a student and performer of, among other things, mandolin, shakuhachi, bagpipes, and Irish traditional flute. He founded the band Full Gael and for many years was a regular guest artist at Old Sturbridge Village.”



Bette E. Landman

Bette E. Landman, PhD
President Emerita of Arcadia University

“Through her extraordinary vision and unwavering dedication to access and inclusion, Dr. Landman touched the lives of countless students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of this community, as well as the higher education community at large. She will be greatly missed; her spirit, vision, light, and legacy will forever remain a central part of the University”.



DATE: November 12, 2024
TO: 2025 AAA Business Meeting
FROM: Whitney L. Battle-Baptiste, AAA President
SUBJECT: President's Annual Report – 2025

Ghosts:

It has been a year since our gathering in Tampa, Florida, and we continue to navigate a nation adjusting to the constant uncertainty of the times. Government shutdowns, fractured international relations, a new ballroom at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and still, no Epstein papers. Amidst this turbulence, we will be coming together in a time fraught with anger, disappointment and concern, but also in recognition of our shared resilience. The theme for the annual meeting “Ghosts” feels even more resonant now.

This past year has been unlike any other, and I could not have navigated it without the incredible support of our AAA staff, as well as the Executive Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee for the annual meeting, both chaired by D. Ryan Gray. His dedication and hard work have shaped what promises to be a thought provoking and supportive community exchange to sustain us through the complexity and change. As a discipline, we must continue to pull together, collectively, for each other and for what anthropology offers the world.

Transformative Leadership:

Looking back on 2025, it has been a year of realignment and purpose, communication, and commitment between our members, leadership, and staff. One of the most significant undertakings has been preparing for a new publishing future for our portfolio. Under the tireless leadership of President-Elect Jeff Maskovsky and Sean Mallin, the Future of Anthropological Communications Committee (FoACC) has worked diligently to chart our path forward. Their efforts and sustained dialogue with section leaders and editor will ensure that we enter the next phase of publishing negotiations with a clear vision and unified purpose.

Present Tense:

Under the leadership of President-Elect Carolyn Rouse, the Anthropology Advocacy Council continues to offer a vital forum and has become a space for reflection and conversation about the world around us, inviting members to engage with the ethical, political, and intellectual questions that define our moment and support the anthropologists that make up our vibrant community. This work is difficult but essential, and it speaks to our collective determination to strengthen the Association's foundation for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Whitney Battle Baptiste
AAA President

President-Elect AAA Executive Board Meeting Report November 2025

Since the November 2024 AAA Board Meeting, my primary focus has been co-Chairing the Anthropology Advocacy Council (AAC) with Emily Metzner and with the incredible staff leadership of Jeff Martin and the assistance of Ellen Christensen. I have also sat in on meetings with the Future of Anthropological Communications Committee (FOACC) led by Jeff Maskovsky and Sean Mallin. Finally, I met with the AAA Executive Director and President in bi-weekly meetings.

The work of the Anthropology Advocacy Council (AAC) culminated with a new Charter. It was approved by the AAA Executive Board in November 2025 and will be voted on at the November Business Meeting. The new Charter positions the AAC as essentially an ethics board that provides council to the AAA regarding ethical, political, and social concerns relevant to the AAA. The AAC has no executive power but instead provides and/or enlists expert council around member concerns, political position statements, and the association's mission.

For example, one of the AAC's new roles is articulated within the revised "Policy and Procedures for Issuing AAA Statements" protocols. While the AAA has devolved explicitly political statement writing and signing to the Sections, the AAA has signed onto statements related to the mission of promoting and protecting the discipline of anthropology, anthropologists, and anthropological knowledge production. In 2025, before a decision was made about signing, AAC members were asked for input. In one instance a Cultural Heritage Working Group was formed to develop multiple effective strategies for dealing with a political moment of historical erasure, in addition to writing or signing statements.

In 2025, the AAC continued to use *Present Tense*, a curated collection of topical essays, as a channel for voicing member expertise around critical emergent issues. Four new collections were published in 2025: "Death by Data Erasure," "Language, Censorship & Power," "Teaching and Theorizing in a Time of Peril," and "Collateral Damage: The Ripple Effects of USAID's Collapse." *Present Tense* is now published in *Anthropology News* thanks to Sean Mallin's leadership.

The specific work of the AAC can be found in the council's annual report, under "Advocacy" on the AAA website, and in *Anthropology News*.

Carolyn Rouse
President-Elect/Vice President

AAA Secretary's Report, November 2025

11.5.25

Submitted November 5, 2025

At the AAA meetings in Tampa, FL in November 2024, I sat in on meetings of the Executive Board (EB) and Nominations Committee as part of my onboarding for my new role as AAA Secretary. This was helpful at the outset of my three-year term of service, which officially began at the conclusion of the Tampa meetings.

Along with serving on the AAA Executive Board, much of my responsibility is in chairing the Nominations Committee. Knowing that the number of submissions for open positions on the Executive Board and the Nominations Committee had declined in 2024 from past years (for a variety of reasons, likely including the lesser enthusiasm for the Florida meetings), I was proactive in establishing a plan for more frequent virtual meetings of the committee.

In November 2024, the EB had postponed approval of the Nominations Committee's proposed slate of candidates until January 2025 so that EB members could review all the nominations materials. At the Board meeting in January, I summarized the committee's process and rationale for presenting the slate as it appeared at the Tampa meetings (including several candidates running unopposed). The Board voted to approve the full slate. It would be my objective to begin the process of identifying well qualified candidates for open positions on the EB and Nominations Committee much earlier than in the past. We would also set up new mechanisms to ensure a greater number of qualified nominees in the pool of candidates by the close of this year's nominations period.

The Nominations Committee met three times in the spring, so that the committee, including new members, would become familiar with and have input into the work ahead. I encouraged members to begin contacting anyone they hoped might consider candidacy for nomination during this year's submission period August 15-October 1. Some individuals contacted expressed interest and agreed to follow through during that period.

Also in the spring, I asked the committee to undertake revision of the AAA bylaws section on Nominations, which had not been updated since 2015. The existing section of the bylaws was substantially out of sync with current practices by the Nominations Committee. I drafted a new version, and the committee made helpful suggestions for further clarification. One key aspect of our proposed changes was in the renaming of the current Minority Seat. Various alternatives were suggested. Our proposed bylaws changes were brought to the Executive Board for discussion at the March 3 meeting and there was further discussion at the Board's May meeting, when the EB voted to propose renaming the Minority Seat as the Ethics and Inclusion Seat; with that modification, the EB approved the bylaws changes. Although we were unable to have the

new version of the nominations bylaws ready for the AAA membership's elections this past spring, it is ready well in advance of the next elections in spring 2026.

The Nominations Committee had two meetings in late summer-early fall to develop momentum for our efforts to generate a robust pool of candidates this year. In fact, by the October 1 deadline we received a total of 25 submissions for open seats on the Executive Committee and 11 submissions for seats on the Nominations Committee—a total of 36 complete submissions (doubling the total of 18 in 2024). On October 20 and November 3, the committee had two virtual meetings to discuss all submitted nominations and to vote on slates, to be ready to pass along to the EB in advance of the November AAA meeting in New Orleans. The Nominations Committee will meet in person in New Orleans on Wednesday November 19 to welcome incoming members in attendance, evaluate our process for forming slates and conducting other business this year, and to plan for the year to come, always seeking to improve our process and outcome.

It continues to be very challenging to get AAA members to step up and run for leadership and service positions in the Association. I again encourage all Board members and Section leaders (indeed, all AAA members) to assist by reaching out to those they feel would be strong candidates for the coming year. My work as Secretary included full participation as an officer on the Executive Board and making an appearance virtually and emailing Section leaders to urge their collaboration. I also carried out the usual responsibilities of Secretary in approving minutes of the Board and certifying the results of Section and AAA elections. It bears noting that voting by Sections was low in some cases and should be encouraged.

This year's nominations process marks a significant departure from past years, when the committee members often had to fly to the meeting site on Monday before the meetings to meet for a larger block of time the following day, Tuesday. This put a great deal of pressure on the Chair, Staff liaison, and all committee members and left no room for any problems arising, since the proposed slates had to be passed along to the Executive Board by Tuesday evening. The meetings were sometimes hybrid, which was more difficult than fully virtual meetings or in-person meetings for forming slates. We found our new format to work very well.

The slates for open seats in 2026 that I will present to the Executive Board in New Orleans and that will be voted on by AAA membership in spring 2026 are the following:

For Executive Board: Archaeology Seat; Biological Seat; Linguistic Seat; Undesignated Seat

For Nominations Committee: Biological Seat; Linguistic Seat; Undesignated Seat

Respectfully submitted,

Florence E. Babb

AAA Secretary

Attachments: Proposed Bylaws changes and Current Bylaws section on Nominations (last updated 2015)

DATE: November 5, 2025

TO: 2025 Business Meeting of the American Anthropological Association

FROM: Lee Baker, AAA Treasurer

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Report of the AAA Finance Committee

Finance Committee Members: Lee Baker (22-26), Chair; Santiago Guerra (22-26); Kelsie Aguilera (20-24); Dianna Shandy (21-25); Kwame Harrison (22-26); Whitney Battle-Baptiste (21-25- ex officio); Carolyn Rouse (23-27- ex officio)

Staff: Ady Arguelles-Sabatier, Laura Roznovsky, Christian Martinez, Michael Mastropasqua

Investment Summary

The AAA portfolio has delivered strong results through the first eleven months of 2025. The aggregate investment portfolio is up 11.3% YTD, generating approximately \$1.46MM in investment gains while supporting \$710K in net withdrawals.

To provide context: the S&P 500 has advanced 17% YTD, with returns heavily concentrated in the "Magnificent 7" mega-cap technology names. Broader market benchmarks that provide more balanced exposure to US equities—such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average (+13% YTD) and S&P 500 Equal Weight Index (+9% YTD)—tell a more representative story. AAA's 11.3% return compares favorably to these diversified stock benchmarks, particularly considering the portfolio's more conservative 60/40 allocation and lower volatility profile.

Portfolio Highlights

Manager diversification has contributed meaningfully to overall returns. International Equity has been the standout performer, with the Brandes International account up 30% YTD on the strength of its fundamental value discipline. Among domestic holdings, the Davis Large Cap Value strategy leads the US Equity cohort at +15% YTD.

While the Small Cap Equity allocation has been range-bound this period, we expect it to benefit from more accommodative Federal Reserve policy going forward. Similarly, AAA's Bond (+6% YTD) and Real Estate (+5% YTD) allocations appear well-positioned, as both asset classes historically perform favorably in declining interest rate environments.

Outlook

Global capital markets have staged a significant recovery since the volatile start to the year. The broad-based rally from April lows has been supported by resilient corporate earnings, expectations of Federal Reserve rate cuts, and improved investor sentiment. While the fundamental backdrop remains constructive, the RJ investment committee recently raised S&P 500 estimates to 7500 forward looking target, we anticipate elevated volatility as markets consolidate recent gains,



particularly among the richly valued mega-cap cohort. AAA's current asset allocation remains consistent with IPS targets and will continue to be rebalanced as appropriate.

Operation Finances

The 2025 Annual Meeting is performing strongly from a revenue standpoint, thanks to the Executive Board's rightsizing of registration costs. However, as of November 12th, registration stands at 4,105 - trailing both pre- and post-covid attendance except for the 2024 Annual Meeting in Tampa, which was boycotted by a portion of our membership. While we had a record-breaking response to our 2025 Call for Papers, over 800 speakers failed to register by the deadline and were removed from the program. For comparison, in 2024, we removed roughly 230 speakers, and in 2023, about 500. In a survey to those speakers who did not register, many indicated financial limitations as the purpose for not attending.

Our Publication portfolio revenue remains stable through the 2023 - 2027 Wiley contract. Under the leadership of Jeff Maskovsky and in collaboration with an external publishing consultant, AAA is exploring future business models and portfolio alignment in preparation for our 2027 contract negotiations. In 2025, using a formula established in 2022, a pool of \$156,941 was distributed among publishing Sections based on their proportional contribution to AnthroSource revenue.

Other revenue streams have shown mixed results. Development revenue is currently tracking at roughly 50% of its year-end target and Section revenues are at 75%. Membership numbers continue to recover slowly, though revenue remains lower than expected—partly due to AAA maintaining free and reduced membership options, and partly due to low membership numbers in 2024 being recognized over the first three quarters of the year. Current membership revenue stands at \$746,439, or 66% of the budgeted total.

AAA is actively exploring strategies to diversify its revenue and strengthen long-term financial stability. These efforts focus on expanding professional development opportunities, developing new membership models, building partnerships with aligned organizations, and pursuing philanthropic support and mission-aligned sponsorships. By broadening its revenue base, AAA aims to reduce reliance on traditional funding sources and ensure a more resilient financial foundation to advance the association's mission and support the anthropological community.

Despite the headwinds, the 2025 reserve account balance was \$14,022,552 and grew 4% through September. Since 2019, AAA has received reserve allowances and government subsidies between \$1,200,000 and \$2,400,000 annually to support an operational deficit.

The proposed 2026 budget requests \$1,200,000 from reserves—reflecting a 20% decrease from the \$1,500,000 requested in 2025—to sustain core operations and member services while we continue investing in strategic revenue diversification aligned with our strategic plan. Year-to-date, AAA has withdrawn \$700,000 from reserves and anticipates an additional withdrawal of \$600,000 to cover annual meeting expenses.



Expense savings have been realized through staff realignment, subleasing our office space (with our current subtenant planning to extend through 2026), and consolidating systems following a comprehensive technology audit. Working with a fractional CIO, AAA is now implementing recommendations to modernize our digital infrastructure and improve the online user experience for members, sections, and the public alike.

Sections continue to have autonomy in managing their budgets within Association guidelines. Collectively, the 2026 section budgets are projected to produce a net operating deficit of \$203,736. Beginning in FY 2027, the 2025 Executive Board decision to limit section budgeted deficits to 4% of individual operating funds will take effect, ensuring continued fiscal sustainability across all units.

While FY 2026 reflects a leaner financial posture, it also marks a year of strategic renewal. We are using this moment to rethink our systems, diversify our revenue, and invest in the long-term vitality of anthropology and its practitioners—across sectors, career stages, and communities.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Presented November 2025 Business Meeting

Ady Arguelles-Sabatier, Executive Director & CEO

This has been a year of renewal for the American Anthropological Association. Across higher education, we continue to see profound changes: departments closing or merging, research priorities shifting, and the humanities and social sciences under constant attack. In this environment, our work as a professional home for anthropologists has never been more essential. The Association has remained focused on providing stability, safeguarding the values that define our discipline, and sustaining the community that holds anthropology together.

Our work this year has centered on strengthening the financial and operational foundations of the Association while deepening our engagement with members and the broader world. We began the year with a clear mandate to align our operations with purpose, manage our resources carefully, and provide valuable support to our members. I am pleased to report that the Association achieved a modest operating surplus and relied less on reserves than planned. Meeting revenue exceeded both 2023 and 2024 levels, and expenses remained under budget.

Membership has significantly recovered after a difficult year marked by the 2024 meeting boycott. As of September, we had 7,832 members, a fifteen percent increase from the same time last year. This growth reflects renewed confidence in the Association and in the work we are doing to serve members and strengthen anthropology's place in the world. Members are also re-engaging through digital channels, events, and service opportunities. In 2025, we saw a 100% increase in nominations overall and a 63% increase by position. Visits to our website increased by 17% year over year, and first-time visitors nearly doubled, signaling that AAA's reach is expanding significantly beyond its existing membership. The sense of collective purpose that defines AAA is rebuilding in tangible ways.

Our publishing revenue remains stable under the current contract with Wiley, which runs through 2027. The Future of Anthropological Communication Committee has led a thoughtful review of our journals and is exploring how to position AAA for the next contract negotiation. This work, grounded in collaboration with Sections, will help us build a more sustainable and impactful publishing portfolio that reflects both the diversity and unity of our field.

The Association has also taken important steps to modernize its operations. We reorganized staff responsibilities to create greater coherence and accountability, renewed our office tenant's sublease to maintain cost savings, and began working with a fractional chief information officer to improve data systems, cybersecurity, and the overall digital experience for members. We also completed a full review of our nominations process and overhauled the Board Member Orientation to ensure that volunteer leaders have the support needed to serve with purpose and accountability.



Beyond the internal work, this has been a year of reconnection and public engagement. Through the leadership of President-Elect Carolyn Rouse and the Anthropology Advocacy Council, we have established a more intentional approach to advocacy. The Council is guiding our efforts to defend anthropology from political interference, department closures, and restrictions on teaching and research, while also helping to advance a proactive vision for how anthropology contributes to public life. We launched the **Defending Anthropology** initiative, which brings together partners such as the ACLS, Scholars at Risk, the National Humanities Alliance, and the NAACP to support departments under threat and to equip members with tools to respond effectively.

Our partnership with the Society for Applied Anthropology has deepened through joint support for ACRN's Departmental Advisory Initiative, a program that helps departments design sustainable curricula rooted in career readiness and applied research. The **World on the Move** exhibit is under new management and continues to expand its reach, bringing anthropology's insights into museums and classrooms with international prospects.

The Association's financial footing is growing more stable, our governance is stronger, and our members are more engaged than they have been in several years. The year ahead will be about building on this progress. The 2026 budget reduces our reliance on reserves by twenty percent and channels investments into modernization, member value, and long-term sustainability. We will continue refining our governance structures, strengthening our revenue base, and investing in programs that help anthropologists build careers, publish their work, and advocate for their departments and communities.

As we look to 2026 and our Annual Meeting in St. Louis, we are reminded of why associations matter. In a time of uncertainty, they provide continuity. In a time of fragmentation, they offer community. And in a time of constraint, they make possible the collective action that sustains a discipline. The American Anthropological Association stands today as a more resilient institution—one that continues to serve not only its members but the future of the discipline itself.

Respectfully submitted,
Ady Arguelles Sabatier
AAA Executive Director/CEO



Resolutions submitted by members by the deadline of October 13th, 2025

Resolution 1 submitted by Cynthia Saltzman:

The AAA resolves that it will avoid actions or policies in support of academic boycotts of scholars or institutions as they: imperil academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas; target individuals for demographic reasons, including race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and citizenship; and do not permit individual members to follow their own conscience.