

Vice President's Report – Business Meeting
American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Atlanta, 2016
M. Anne Katzenberg

Annual Meeting Information

This year there was a slight increase in abstract submissions (1110) over last year (1080). Preferred format as submitted: 381 podium, 573 poster and 156 either. The final program contains 325 podium presentations and 768 posters.

Twenty-five proposals were submitted for symposia. All were accepted, but not necessarily in the preferred format. Following reviews and recommendations for podium and poster format, two organizers of symposia submitted as podium symposia withdrew rather than go forward as poster symposia.

I created 35 sessions in addition to the 23 symposia, of which 7 are podium and 16 are poster symposia in individual rooms. There is a total of 58 sessions. Notices of acceptance, day of presentation and format were sent out on December 9, 2015. The camera-ready annual meeting document was sent to production on January 12, 2016. The abbreviated on-line program was posted shortly after that.

Dedicated time for poster viewing 4:00 – 6:00 on Thursday and Friday and 5:00 – 6:00 on Saturday (continued from 2015 where this was successful) means that afternoon podium sessions end at 4:00 (5:00 on Saturday). Some afternoon symposia go slightly over time. Questions for future meetings – since afternoon poster symposia are posters, should they run until 6:00? I compromised this year and had them end at 5:00 but with the possibility to leave the posters up until 6:00.

There are four concurrent podium sessions throughout except five on Saturday afternoon to compensate, in part, for less podium time due to dedicated poster time. The fifth podium session on Saturday afternoon is a 2 hour session.

Array of additional activities and workshops related to career development, mentoring, teaching and diversity (thanks to all organizers and especially Susan Anton who looks after many Committee on Diversity Events).

Withdrawn presentations – As of mid-March, there are many fewer requests to withdraw presentations than there were in 2015. Only two people have requested withdrawing from podium sessions. It may be that requiring payment at the time of abstract submission is one factor in the lower number of requests to withdraw presentations.

AAPA abstract submission and registration system (Ed Hagen)

Everything is now done on-line from symposium submissions and reviews, to abstract submissions and reviews, through to the creation of the Annual meeting supplement, which still requires formatting, but is largely generated by the system. Thank you Ed Hagen for making it all work. Changes this year include more formatting (using WORD style feature) prior to generation of the program document requiring much less work on the part of the VP. Ed also provides an on-line program which can be updated right up to the time of the meeting. This year, the on-line program was posted on physanth.org quite early and resulted in people catching some errors which I was able to correct prior to the official program going into production.

Meeting evolution

Thanks to Susan Anton and previous planners for changes to the “shape” of the meeting which now runs for three full days and this now seems to be well-established. This includes an earlier business meeting and Saturday annual lunch. Survey information this past year focused on additional ideas to accommodate presentations in our ever growing meetings. Recommendations include having more concurrent podium sessions and rejecting more abstracts.

With the dedicated poster viewing and auction on Thursday we did not plan a plenary session this year. If this is something that you feel should be reintroduced next year, please let Josh know.

Acknowledgements and thanks

Thank you to the members of the program committee, many of whom stayed on from previous years: Jonathan Bethold, Abigail Bigham, Deborah Bolnick, Carola Borries, Scott Burnett, Michelle Buzon, Troy Case, David Cooper, Susanne Cote, Dan Eisenberg, Masako Fujita, Tracey Galloway, Lee Gettler, Lesley Gregorika, Lauren Halenar, Geoff Hayes, Laurie Kauffman, John Krigbaum, Sang-Hee Lee, Kristi Lewton, Andrew Marshall, Elizabeth Miller, Charles Musiba, Herman Pontzer, Tracy Prowse, Terry Ritzman, Theodore Schurr, Mary Silcox, Julie Teichroebe, Dan Temple, Claire Terhune, Christina Torres-Rouff, Ben Trumble, Amy Rector Verrelli, Julie Wieczkowski, and Program Assistant, Kim Edwards. Thanks to members of the AAPA Executive committee for reviewing symposium proposals.

Ed Hagen, webmaster and system designer extraordinaire – thanks for all you do.

Thank you to the other officers, Susan Anton, Karen Rosenberg and Anne Grauer for sharing your wisdom.

Very special thanks to Frank Williams and John Redmond, LAC Co-Chairs and the local arrangements committee in Atlanta for their attention to details and all their hard work. Thanks to Lori Strong for working with exhibitors and with LAC to prepare AV and room set-ups new reusable signs and catering.

Table 1: Comparative Meeting Metrics					
Meeting	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Portland	Knoxville	Calgary	St. Louis	Atlanta
Registrations	1601	1634	1416	1552***	1536***
Abstracts submitted	1045	1053	1019	1080	1110
Accepted	1018	1004	955	1065	1100
Format: podium	395	328	381	376	381
poster	553	618	528	592	573
either	97	107	110	112	156
Symposium (submitted/accepted/ presented)	16/16	23/20	22/20	22/22/21	25/25/23
Podium	8	6	7	6	7
Poster	8	14	13	15	16
Contributed Sessions	29	35	36	39	35
podium	18	17	19*	21*	18
poster	12	16	16	18	16
Evening poster	0	1	1	0	0
Withdrawals		19	30	37	9
* Includes half-sessions					
*** pre-registrations only					