

March 3, 2016

To: Robert H. Berlin, Executive Director

From: Jennifer D. Keene, Vice President

RE: Report of the Vice President for the period April 2014-April 2015

I respectfully submit the following:

The Facebook/Social Media Committee

Three members completed their terms (Rick Herrera, Janet Valentine, and Mike Doidge). The continuing members were Terry Beckenbaugh, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and Heather Salazar, Mark Grimsley SMH Fellow in Social Media. The new members added were Greg Stern (then a PhD student but now a graduate) from Florida State University, Mary Elizabeth Waters, a PhD student from UNC, and Galen Perras, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa. Greg Stern was elected chairman of the committee. The new committee performed a herculean task by composing a formal social media policy for the SMH. The Facebook site now has a clear statement of the page's mission and purpose, along with guidelines for acceptable postings. The least controversial new policy involved changes in how members can post announcements of scholarly works. Concerns had been raised that "likes" connected to postings announcing or endorsing scholarly publications implied that the SMH also endorsed the scholarly value of these works. Instead, the SMH follows standard scholarly practice by publishing formal book reviews in the *Journal of Military History*. The new policy allows authors to post announcements that their scholarly work is published – this is clearly self-promotion and therefore alerts members to the existence of new publications without implying that the SMH endorses them. The second issue, maintaining a professional, scholarly tone to exchanges proved more complicated. The committee rejected the idea of serving as gatekeepers who decided what and what not to post. Instead, offensive posts or threads were removed periodically throughout the year. This committee deserves heaps of praise for undertaking the tiresome and thankless task of trying to make people behave professionally.

Marshall Lecture Selection Committee

The Marshall Lecture Committee had already selected the Marshall Lecturers for 2016 and 2017 when I assumed office. The Marshall Lecture Committee invited Rick Atkinson to deliver the annual George Marshall Lecture at the AHA in Atlanta, January 2016, and from the reports of former vice-president Bill Allison the evening was well-attended and successful. The Committee had also selected Craig Symonds for 2017. The committee will need to meet soon to decide on who will deliver the 2018 address.

Grimsley Fellowship Selection Committee

The Grimsley Fellowship Selection Committee had also already selected Heather Salazar, a PhD candidate at Ohio University, for 2015-16 term when I took office.

Regional Coordinators

Steve Waddell, West Point, took over from Greg Daddis as the new Region II Coordinator.

With a budget of \$6,000.00, the Vice President facilitated Regional Coordinators in supporting the following activities:

- Northern Great Plains History Conference, 30 Sept.-3 Oct. 2015, in Bismarck, ND. Proposed by Carole Butcher, North Dakota State University. First Division Museum-Cantigny (FDMC)–SMH prize for the best paper in military history by a graduate student presented at the conference: \$800 split between FDMC (\$400) and SMH (\$400). First Division Museum-Cantigny (FDMC)–SMH prize for the best paper in history by an undergraduate student presented at the conference: \$400 split between FDMC (\$200) and SMH (\$200). Frames ~ \$25 for two. Total SMH Award: \$650.
- The Rocky Mountain Military Affairs Society sponsored lecture, February 24, 2016 at USAF: Proposed by John D. Prince, Capt, USAF, the SMH sponsored refreshments. Total SMH Award: \$100.
- Workshop on World War II and Environmental Change in the United States, Ohio State University, February 25-27, 2016. Proposed by Richard Tucker. The SMH funded conference lunches. Total SMH Award \$500.
- Missouri Valley Historical Society Conference, March 3-7, 2016 . Proposed by George Eaton, the SMH will again co-sponsor a reception and paper prizes (McCormack Award for Best Undergraduate Paper in Military History and Carroll Award for Best Graduate Paper) with the Cantigny First Division Museum. Total SMH Award: \$1180.
- Early Atlantic/American Working Group at Temple University, March 14, 2016. Proposed by Greg Urwin. SMH funded refreshments. Total SMH Award: \$300.
- James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference, Temple University, March 18-19, 2016, Proposed by Michael Diaz. The SMH will sponsor a reception and refreshment breaks. Total SMH award: \$500.
- Ohio Academy of History Annual Conference, April 1-2, 2016 at Kent State University at Stark: Proposed by Dr. Kevin Kern, the SMH will sponsor a breakfast reception and refreshment breaks. Total SMH Award: \$540.
- Conference: War and Sexual Violence, CUNY Graduate Center, April 28-29, 2016. Proposed by Frank Jacobs, the SMH will sponsor a reception and refreshment breaks. Total SMH award: \$500.

To date (3/4/2016) \$4,270 of the \$6,000 budget has been disbursed or encumbered, leaving \$1730 for award. This is a lot of money left over. There are several possibilities moving forward: SMH Regionals Coordinators actively advertise in their regions that these funds are available; the SMH reduce the amount of money budgeted if it is not needed by the Regional Coordinators; the SMH lift the \$500 cap to \$1000 – just this measure alone would have resulted in the money being spent.

NEH (National Endowment for the Humanities)

The NEH contacted the Vice-President to discuss the possibility of the Chairman of the NEH coming to the annual conference to discuss the NEH's Standing Together grant initiative. Unfortunately, the timing was not right for the Ottawa conference, but discussions are ongoing about the chairman coming to the 2017 convention to speak to the SMH membership.

Teaching Initiative Recommendation

The President and Vice-President have been discussing ways that the SMH could engage more actively in promoting the teaching of military history. Other societies, especially the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Society, offer useful models and examples of how a major scholarly society can promote teaching and scholarship. The benefits of a teaching initiative include: providing more services for our members; offering mentoring and guidance for graduate students; promoting the *Journal of Military History's* value for instructors; strengthening our case about the importance of teaching military history; and potentially expand our membership by broadening our "big tent" to include secondary school educators.