

IACA CONGRESS 23-29 JULY, 2017 at Divi Carina Bay Resort, St Croix, USVI.

**MINUTES of the General Business Meeting of the XXVII IACA Congress, meeting on
Thursday 27th July 2017 at 6.00pm.**

1) **President's welcome and address:** A moment's silence to remember Alfredo Figueredo, Luis Chanlatte Baik, George Lechler, Hugues Petitjean Roget and Berrand Hoff.

A CD of the 2015 St Maarten Congress was brought to the St Croix Congress, yet required such alterations that a new 2015 CD was needed. A December 31st deadline for re-submission of papers was agreed at the meeting.

[N.B. Due to Hurricane Irma and damage at the SIMARC facility, the deadline has been extended to March 31, 2018 and it is hoped the 2015 Proceedings CD will be ready for the middle of 2018].

Peer reviewing of Congress papers: The President reported the Board suggestion that, as from this current Congress, the editor (and a co-editor) should be in charge of peer reviewing but restricted to those contributors who request it and whose papers would have "peer reviewed by request" above the title of the paper. Those requesting peer reviewing would also be required to be on a panel available to peer review. The list would be started immediately and then via contact through the website and Facebook when the Minutes were put on line so that any additional contributors could be added if they wished, thus avoiding privacy issues about blanket use of emails. **AGREED** - by majority show of hands.

2) **Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Task Force:** Josh Torres referred to a dialogue started at the Sea Level Rise and Climate Change round table in 2015 in St. Maarten, the recommendations from which considered the role IACA could and should play in meeting the coastal site threat. As the only regional archaeological organization, IACA had the unique potential to bring the authority of international professionals and scholars to address the problems and develop positions on such things via the creation of a formal committee/task force which specifically focused on Threatened Archaeological Sites in the Caribbean. While the group would focus on Sea Level Rise and Climate Change, it could also address other threats to archaeological heritage. The suggested committee/task force would liaise with IACA's Board in presenting concerns from NGOs and others in order to move these concerns for sites at local level up to IACA to try to help protect any threatened and endangered sites. Technical information and guidance on site recording and documentation and/or letters of support from IACA to government organisations could give the necessary push in raising concerns and give a voice and impact within the Caribbean community. **AGREED** - by majority show of hands. Future actions were to include developing some content for the web page. The task force would consist any interested IACA members with a board member (in this case, and for the time being Josh) serving as a liaison to the Board.

3) **Digital Library of the Caribbean.** Brittany Mistretta spoke on accessibility to Proceedings suggesting posting them on line to the DELOC on-line research network free open access archive www.deloc.com DELOC would post past and future Proceedings as a route to IACA becoming a partner and broadening the organisation's appeal. The benefit of being online outweighed claiming a small income from CD/DVDs. The problem of protection of site locations was raised with a response that authors redact sensitive information before publishing. **AGREED** - by majority show of hands.

4) **Treasurer's report:** A financial statement for the year 2015-2016 was projected and the Treasurer's Report for the financial year 2015-2016 was read in full to the meeting. The Report revealed IACA was in good health because the credit balance from previous years remained at a good level (more than twelve thousand euros) thanks to the financing of the organization of its

Congresses, the control of operating expenses and thanks also to the contribution made by Henry Petitjean Roget. The contributions obtained from Guadeloupe and Martinique this year amounted to more than twenty five thousand euros and guaranteed IACA confidence in the pursuit of its actions.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his continued good work.

5) Secretary's Report: The Secretary reported her role in dealing with correspondence from IACA members and her liaison with the Board. Since the last Congress she had successfully updated the membership list and it was hoped that with the efficient way in which registration for the current Congress had been made inaccuracies would be a thing of the past. However, she still held a list with undeliverable email addresses which, if anyone cared to look through these, she hoped to amend.

During the period of Congress she prepared Agendas for the Board and General meeting sessions and took Minutes at both of these which were submitted as drafts for approval. The Minutes of the General Meeting were then posted on the website for all to see.

Some people were surprised there were no elections for the Board taking place at the 2017 Congress. This was because all positions were newly elected at the St Maarten 2015 Congress and, the statutes having been consulted, it was shown that all positions were to be held for six years, with the exceptions of the upcoming and past Congress chairs.

6) Website/Newsletter report submitted by Scott Fitzpatrick: The Secretary pointed out that one thing to remember with regard to the website and Facebook was that there is a section of "island news" where brief seasonal field reports and other "news" could be added. If members did this on a regular basis it would be a great way to keep in touch with what was happening on islands between Congresses and also where issues needing IACA members' support or intervention might be posted.

Facebook report: In July 2015 David Haynes relinquished control over the IACA facebook page. At the time it was a private group that had less than 10 members. Once opened, the settings were changed to create a public page. Now anyone could join but must be approved by the editor first to prevent vendors, etc. from trying to join and sell things. The group had 253 members as of July 19, 2017. The banner photo was periodically changed and content added, and also content from members approved.

Webpage: The editor initially transferred old files from Mary Hill Harris and purchased a new domain name. It was quite cumbersome to start from the ground up, particularly with mirrored pages in French and Spanish, and this option was later abandoned. As a non-web designer, something easier to use was needed with technical support if needed. As such the editor went to the University of Oregon computing who guided him through the process of putting everything together. As of now the address is: <<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/iaca/>>. While not ideal, there may be a way to guide a new more generic web address to this instead. Over the past year new content has been added per request.

7) Caribbean Environmental Archaeology Interest Group: Christina Giovas and Michelle Lebre initiated the group in 2015 creating a mission statement, an interest group and contact emails. Google initially refused to accept the Group address but this was overcome. In 2016 a symposium was hosted at the Orlando SAA with a successful full group of presenters with some papers already on early view in the journal *Environmental Archaeology* – request for papers from members available.

8) Michiel Kappers' database proposal reported by Christina Giovas acting as liaison been IACA Board and ArchaeoLink-Americas.org. She reported there had been a strong interest in using the

tools that ArchaeoLink provided. Licence discounts for IACA members (on a voluntary basis) were available. **AGREED** - by majority show of hands for IACA support and/or email ArchaeoLink-americas.org directly.

9) **IACA 2019:** A power point presentation was given by Kevin Farmer for the nomination of Barbados for IACA 2019. **Dates: 21-28 July 2019.** He noted the Barbados Museum housed half a million artefacts in its collection and had been publishing journals since 1933. If successful Barbados would be the third country to host an IACA Congress three times - joining Puerto Rico and Martinique. Kevin outlined the availability of good hotels, transport, convenient stores, and reasonable food facilities, plus student accommodation possibilities at UWI with their fleet of coaches. Tours (historic and prehistoric) would be arranged e.g. Historic Bridgetown with the Garrison and docks, Trents plantation with slave burial site with cave, military forts and Mount Gay distillery. He hoped 2019 would have an emphasis on youth and become the space where more of what happened with youth as in SIMARC in St Maarten would occur. Barbados had direct flights from London, Miami, LIAT, Jet Blue from NY and Atlanta. Accra Beach, suggested as the Conference location, was not inclusive. Breakfast and lunch would be included in the price of a room. There were cheaper hotels and food outlets available nearby. A show of hands was requested to a) accept Barbados for 2019 and b) Kevin Farmer as chairperson for that Congress. **AGREED** – Unanimously by show of hands.

10) **Archive for IACA memorabilia:** This suggestion was taken up by Susana Guimaraes, Conservator, Musee Edgar Clerc, Guadeloupe, (susana.guimaraes@cg971.fr) with the need to know amounts of material involved and conditions for survival of the material: **AGREED** - by majority show of hands.

11) **Request for nominations for location of Congress 2021:** Jorge Ulloa Hung suggested Havana. He recalled the proposal of hosting by Cuba had problems in the past and that IACA had been obliged to move to another island, but he would try his best or, if not successful, suggested the Dominican Republic in Puerto Plata rather than Santo Domingo. Henry Petitjean Roget outlined the reasons why Cuba had not been possible previously. The Motion was put to the vote for permission to pursue the possibility of Havana, stressing the need for funding from outside Cuba and also local Cuban institutions to be 100% reliable. Suggestions from the floor that cooperation with the City Historian and UNESCO office should be broached, also the Association of Caribbean Historians who had successfully held a conference in Cuba. Jorge was mandated and accepted the mandate. **AGREED** - by majority show of hands. **It was agreed that the Board should compile a letter to Cuba.**

12) **2017 Congress:** David Hayes gave closing comments on the 2017 Congress. He outlined the success of arrangements for the Congress being made predominantly on-line. He thanked Brooke Persons for her help with much of the organising as well as the financial backers of the Congress, a list of whom was projected. He reported 115 papers had been submitted although, as often happened, a number were unable to be presented. A deadline for submission of papers for publication in the Proceedings from this Congress was announced as 31 December 2017, to allow time for peer review, if requested. David announced this would be the last Congress CD to be produced with technology moving forward to a change to thumb drives in future.

The President added thanks for all organising staff and for a very successful Congress.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Approved by the Board and submitted by Quetta Kaye, Secretary, 28th November 2017.