

# The Surveyor

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
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## *President's Message*

It's coming soon! In less than a month, we'll be in Denver for the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of CAS. As with the previous 89 conferences this will be informative and fun. Details for this year's conference are elsewhere in this newsletter. Members will also have some important decisions that will impact the future health of CAS. One important decision will be to decide whether or not to raise dues. This issue will be decided by the members at the Conference Business meeting. We must have a quorum in order to conduct any business so it's important that members come and cast their vote.

Just like every other organization CAS has been feeling the effects of inflation. State CAS also has assumed the cost of paying for liability insurance and Directors and Officers insurance for all chapters. Some chapters already were paying for insurance and they will no longer have that cost. Other chapters found that the lack of insurance was a significant impediment to organizing field trips. In addition to insurance, the cost of doing business has increased over time. State CAS also pays for the online member management system, credit card fees, website design and management, promotional materials and current and future technology updates for use at chapter and state meetings. In addition to voting on a dues increase, it's also important to vote for the new Executive Board members who keep CAS operating during the year.

Thanks to the Denver CAS conference planning committee led by Beth Fisher and Craig Dengel. They have been working hard for months putting together the location, logistics and myriad other details to create a successful conference. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Mark Mitchell with Paleocultural Research Group (PCRG). State CAS VP Larry Beidle has been busy recruiting speakers for the Day Speakers Program and presenters for a poster session. The Silent Auction to raise funds for the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund will be held on Saturday. There will be field trips on Sunday. Of course, the Happy Hour and Annual Banquet remain two big draws to attend. Please plan on coming and enjoy a fun weekend of archaeology related activities.

— *Geoff Peterson, President*

## CAS Quarterly Board Meeting Highlights

### **Highlights of the July 26, 2025, CAS Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting**

The Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) Board of Directors held its third 2025 quarterly meeting at the All Aboard Westcliffe Event Center in Westcliffe, Colorado, (with online access via Zoom) on July 26, 2025. The meeting was organized and hosted by Anne Whitfield and Colorado Rock Art chapter members. CAS President, Geoff Peterson, called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary, Lori Vanagunas, and eight chapters were present with Chipeta being the only chapter without representation. There was a quorum of individual Board members present.

#### **Officer and Committee News:**

The minutes from the Q2 Board Meeting on April 5, 2025, were presented by Recording Secretary Lori Vanagunas. One edit was presented by Karen Kinnear to add the word “state” to the last sentence in the Dues Increase section of the Working Group Reports. The minutes were then approved.

#### **Executive Secretary Report, Karen Kinnear:**

- Sharon Murphy passed in June after a brief illness. Twelve CAS members attended her memorial service in person, while one additional member joined via the online stream. Sharon will be deeply missed, and her passing leaves a profound void in our organization. We are thinking of hosting a fundraiser at the annual conference in October which may be used to establish a scholarship fund in Sharon’s name. Will discuss further after committee reports.
- Our insurance has been renewed for the year at a slightly lower cost than last year. This may be, in part, because there were no claims filed last year.

#### **Treasurer’s Report, Michele Giometti:**

- The financials for the second quarter of 2025 were sent with the Board material. We have four CDs worth \$25,627 and the general fund has a small profit. Linda Sand noted that we may want to shop around for a better CD rate and Michele noted that two will be maturing in November.
- *Southwestern Lore* is in the black now that we switched to offering the online version. Geoff inquired as to the number of SWL subscriptions that are being mailed and Michele indicated that 20 are being sent to institutions and 25 to 30 people.

#### **Committee/Special Reports:**

- **Governance** – Karen shared that she spoke with Sharon in May, at which time there was nothing new to report. With Sharon’s passing, we will seek to appoint a new chair before too long.
- **Membership Committee** – Karen Kinnear reported that we lost 15 members this past quarter. We have slight fluctuations but, overall, remain steady. Geoff Peterson wondered if we have too many committees and if we can combine or eliminate some.
- **Ways & Means Committee** – Karen Kinnear noted that there was nothing to report.
- **Education & Outreach Committee** – Mandy Posgai was not present. In her submitted report, Mandy noted that the committee continues to work on developing a state-wide

speakers list. The committee is planning to present at the Annual Meeting on the topic of policies and practices related to the sharing of Colorado archaeological site locations.

- **Long-Range Planning Committee –**

- Beth Fisher inquired about the Education Grant. Karen explained that state CAS can provide chapters with up to \$250 for public education initiatives; the Chapters are required to provide 20% in matching funds. She will send Beth additional information about the grant.
- Beth reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee has been meeting since January with the goal of determining where we want to be in five years and thereafter. The chapters have all weighed in and are doing their own things but have some common challenges.
- The committee hopes to centralize tools and processes and has provided three goals as guiding principles:
  - Build community
  - Have tools to get job done
  - How to get involved volunteers and collaborative tools
- The Committee is considering how to apply the guiding principles that are in support and alignment with the CAS mission.
  - CAS Mission Statement: The Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) is a non-profit organization committed to the stewardship of archaeological resources in Colorado. We achieve this through public education, research, conservation, advocacy, and enhanced opportunities for responsible participation in archaeology for interested individuals and organizations.
- The committee looked at what CAS does, why people joined, what was working, and what wasn't working and came up with ten goals that focused on areas that need improvement or assistance.
  - Goal #1 – Ensure that all committees have chairs and sufficient members and that all Boards are fully staffed.
  - Goal #2 – Ensure that the tools and platforms are available to support the work of the boards and committees.
  - Goal #3 – Ensure that our current website and member platforms are meeting our needs.
  - Goal #4 – Create and strengthen processes for communication that keep people informed of what is happening at all levels and how they can engage with the organization and with archaeology.
  - Goal #5 – Create a policy and procedures manual to ensure effective functioning of state Boards and committees and smooth transitions as board and committee members change.
  - Goal #6 – Collaborate across the state and chapters to support our public education mission pillar.
  - Goal #7 – Utilize educational grants to support our public education mission pillar.
  - Goal #8 – Develop an effective message and a plan for communicating it advocates for archaeology as important, fun, and interesting.
  - Goal #9 – Reestablish the Scientific Advisory Committee.
  - Goal #10 – Establish a budgeting and fundraising process.

- **Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund Committee –** Kris Holien stated that the committee has been looking into raising scholarship funds via a sweepstakes instead of a raffle. This is

because raffles require a state license, but sweepstakes do not. There is an online platform, TapKat, which helps non-profits conduct fundraising and no purchase is necessary to enter. We have a Navajo rug which we could use to solicit donations. Carla Hendrickson from the Pueblo Chapter noted that everyone should consider donating items. The platform takes 10% of donations and an additional 3% for credit card donations. Larry Beidel made a motion to pursue looking into the sweepstakes option with Beth Fisher seconding the motion. A discussion ensued and it was further noted that the sweepstakes can be shared with anyone, so it doesn't have to be only CAS members donating. Geoff Peterson called for a vote; no opposition was presented and the motion carried.

- **Awards Committee** – Jack Warner reported that three nominations have been submitted but he's hoping for more. The C.T. Hurst and Ivor K. Hagar nominations are due by August 15<sup>th</sup> and chapter achievement nominations are due by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The nomination form can be found on the CAS website (<https://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/>) under the Scholarships & Awards tab. Jack also noted that pins are given at the annual conference. Lori Vanagunas inquired about the pins as she had never seen any. Beth Fisher commented that perhaps we can consider providing longevity pins, but a discussion concluded that a list of membership longevity would be difficult to compile.
- **Publications** – Karen Kinnear reported that we have a new Publications chair. Jaimie Adams from Eastern New Mexico University is excited to fulfill the role! Jaimie conducted her graduate school research in Colorado and is currently a member of the CAS Rock Art Chapter. Her newsletters have been heralded as being top notch and everyone applauded her contribution. Darwin Thompson put forth a motion for Jaimie to be Publications Committee Chair and Larry Beidle seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous and the motion carried.
  - Karen Kinnear reported that the Summer 2025 edition of *Southwestern Lore* has already been published, which is well ahead of last year's schedule!
  - Jaimie noted that she will look at the website and social media. She would like to start an Instagram account, too. Linda Sand will send the Facebook contact information to Jaimie.
- **State Archaeologist Report and PAAC Update** – Neither Holly Norton nor Sarah Allaun were able to attend but Kris Holien noted that History Colorado is conducting survey work at the Pawnee Grasslands in August and September. There is still space for volunteers so check out History Colorado's website for information.
- **Historic Preservation Program** – No report.

**In Tribute of Sharon Murphy** – Karen Kinnear stated that we would like to honor Sharon Murphy's vast contribution to CAS with possibly nominating her for the Ivor K. Hagar Award. We are also thinking of taking donations at the annual conference to set up a special scholarship fund in her name. Sharon joined CAS in 1979 and has been an ardent supporter of the organization since then. Larry Beidle suggested talking with her family to see if there's an organization they support where funds can be donated. Karen would like to compile memories and accolades so, if you knew her, please send them to Karen by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Old Business:**

**2025 Annual Conference Status Report** – Beth Fisher reported that the 2025 conference will be held in the Tivoli Student Union ballroom on the Auraria Campus October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Friday evening, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Update on Advocacy Efforts** – Geoff Peterson reiterated that letters to legislators are effective but should be sent on behalf of the individual and not the organization.

**Membership Management Platform** – Geoff Peterson reported that we are having issues with secondary membership mailings through Member365. Karen reported that the Membership Committee is aware of the problem and is working to fix it.

**Working Group Report:**

- **Dues Increase** – Mike St. Clair reported that, as previously discussed at prior meetings, a dues increase is needed to cover the insurance premiums and other costs of doing business. The proposed numbers are ready to be voted on at the annual conference. Mike won't be there but feel free to use his name in the discussion. A motion was made to send the proposed rate increases to the members at the annual meeting for a vote to approve the increase. The motion was passed. Karen will send an email to all members ahead of time.

**Current rates:**  
Individual - \$16  
Family - \$20  
Student - \$8  
Student Family - \$10

**Proposed rates:**  
Individual - \$21  
Family - \$30  
Student - \$10.50  
Student Family - \$15

**New Business:**

**Field Trip** – Anne Whitfield indicated that 12 people signed up for the field trip tomorrow so there is availability for the additional 11 people from the Pueblo chapter.

**Rock Art Trunk** – Jerry Grandel noted that the Pueblo Heritage Museum has been digitizing their rock art trunk, and asks if each chapter can pitch in. Contact CRAA if you're interested in helping.

With no further discussion items, the meeting was adjourned at 3: 00 p.m.

—Lori Vanagunas, State CAS Recording Secretary

## CAS 2025 Annual Conference and Member Meeting

### [Registration](#) for the CAS Annual Meeting is Open!

The CAS Annual meeting will be held in Denver, on the Auraria Campus next to downtown Denver, October 3-5, 2025, and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

**Friday, October 3**, 9am to 3 pm: Field Trip to the 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Excavation on the Auraria Campus.  
**Friday, October 3**, 7 pm: State Board meeting. All members welcome on Zoom. (Link will be sent later in September.)

**Saturday, October 4**, 8 am to 5pm: Presentations, Posters, Silent Auction for Alice Hamilton Scholarship Awards, Members Meeting (with voting). Breakfast and Lunch provided. Cash Bar.

**Saturday, October 4**, 6 pm to 9 pm: Banquet dinner and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Mark Mitchell

**Sunday, October 5**, 9 am: Field Trip to Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve  
Field Trip to Museum Collections: History Colorado Collections (tentative) and Douglas County Repository.

### Parking at Auraria

We've gotten reduced price parking! If you will be driving to the Auraria Campus, we will have a discount price of \$8.25 (normal weekend parking is \$25-30). Make sure to select this option on your registration. We'll send the code to you before the meeting.

### Hotels

There are two hotels with reduced rates for us. SpringHill Suites on the Auraria Campus ([Book your group rate for Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting](#)), and the Sheraton in Lakewood. Please reserve your stay directly with the hotel.

Maps and more detailed directions will be sent to you before the meeting.

### Keynote Speaker

Our Keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Mitchell, Director of Paleocultural Research Group, will be speaking on: *Prologue to Lewis and Clark: An Archaeological History of the Mandan People*.

If you'd like to learn more about Plains Archaeology, and the Mandan People and their fascinating culture and economy, here are a couple of references that vary in how technical they are and the price. Check with your favorite bookseller.

*Crafting History in the Northern Plains: A Political Economy of the Heart River Region, 1400–1750 (Archaeology of Indigenous-Colonial Interactions in the Americas)* by **Mark Mitchell**

*Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People* by Elizabeth Fenn

*Archaeology of the Great Plains*, W. Raymond Wood, ed.

*The Archaeology of the North American Great Plains (Cambridge World Archaeology)*

by [Douglas B. Bamforth](#)

### **Silent Auction for Alice Hamilton Scholarships**

Donations to the silent auction can be brought to the meeting. If you've got cool stuff that is ready to be put to a good cause, bring it along.

### **Volunteers**

Want to get involved? Volunteers are needed during the day to help with setup, registration, the silent auction, and take down. Send an email to [dcasmemberengagement@gmail.com](mailto:dcasmemberengagement@gmail.com) to volunteer, even if you can only help for a short while, it is appreciated.

### **Registration**

Use this [link](#), or go to the State website: <https://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/annual-conference>.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Denver.

—*Beth Fisher and Craig Dengel, CAS Annual Meeting Planning Committee*

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## *Proposed State CAS Dues Increase*

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Good day to you! My name is Mike St Clair. I am a member of the Pikes Peak Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), and I am also a member of the CAS Board of Directors and Chair of the Dues Increase Working Group.

I'm writing to let you know that at the next CAS Annual Meeting and Conference in Denver, October 3-5, 2025, CAS members will be asked to vote on a proposal to increase state CAS dues paid by members. Note: The proposed increase is for CAS statewide dues only, and local chapter dues are excluded from the proposed increase.

State CAS dues have not increased since 2002 (23 years!). Inflation calculators estimate that between 2002 and 2025 overall prices have increased by 78.7%. (<https://www.usinflationcalculator.com>).

I believe that CAS has been a good steward for the dues that it has received over the years, but we need to increase dues to offset the increasing cost of doing business. State CAS has seen increased business operating costs including:

- Insurance. State CAS now provides liability and accident insurance for CAS and all CAS Chapters.
- Online membership management (Member365).
- Credit card fees.
- Website design and management
- Current and future technology for use at chapter and state meetings.
- Promotional materials including business cards and brochures.
- Other miscellaneous costs.

The current dues rates for State CAS and the proposed dues rates are as follows:

| Member Type           | Current Annual CAS Dues | Proposed Annual CAS Dues |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Individual Membership | \$16                    | \$21                     |
| Family Membership     | \$20                    | \$30                     |
| Student (Individual)  | \$8                     | \$10.50                  |
| Student (Family)      | \$10                    | \$15                     |

The proposed dues increase would be effective beginning on January 1, 2026.

Thanks for your consideration.

*Mike St. Clair*

### *Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund Contributions in Memory of Sharon Murphy*

In addition to the Silent Auction, the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee will be collecting contributions to the Scholarship Fund at the Annual Conference on behalf of Sharon Murphy, who passed on June 17. Sharon was a long-time member of CAS and held just about every board position in the Denver Chapter at one time or another. In addition to her Denver contributions, she served State CAS as a past President and past Recording Secretary. At the time of her passing, she served as Chair of the State Governance Committee and was an active member of the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee.

When I joined the CAS Board in 2010, I quickly learned that when the Board needed advice on a variety of topics, we turned to Sharon. When Board meetings got a bit raucous, Sharon's calming voice and demeanor brought down the temperature in the room, speaking softly so everyone had to stop talking to listen to what she had to say. When we asked a question about what action we could take in certain situations, she'd say "Well, let's check the Bylaws." Her ready smile, sage advice, willingness to jump in and help in any situation, and her friendship will truly be missed.

We will be collecting contributions in her memory, so bring your check or cash and a card if you'd like to let the family know what Sharon meant to you. We will collect any cards or notes and forward them to Terry to share with the rest of her family.

— *Karen Kinnear, Executive Secretary*

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## Resources

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Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation webinars on History Colorado's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI68fpINJM8Bca8KUBZSyPwz7y3Oawo8e>

Other History Colorado Digital Experiences: <https://www.historycolorado.org/digital-experiences>

Crow Canyon: <https://www.crowcanyon.org/index.php/learn-about-archaeology/archaeology-webinars>

Archaeology Southwest: <https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/videos/>

ORCA (Online Resources for Colorado Archaeology and Historic Preservation):  
<https://archaeologycolorado.org/>

Utah Rock Art Research Association: <https://urara.wildapricot.org/>

CCPA (Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists): <http://coloradoarchaeologists.org/>

Four Corners Research-Archaeology in the Mesa Verde Region:  
<http://www.fourcornersresearch.com/>

Archaeological Conservancy: <https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/>

The Amerind Museum: <https://www.amerind.org/events/>

The Archaeology Channel: <https://www.archaeologychannel.org/>

Check out The Prehistory Guys (<https://theprehistoryguys.uk/>) if you're looking for archaeological news from around the world. Recommended by Bruce Bradley, a good place to start is this episode that includes an interview with Bruce - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbwpqSYckWc>

## CAS Officers, Committee Chairs, and Representatives



### CAS OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND REPRESENTATIVES

#### STATE OFFICERS

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President           | Geoff Peterson   |
| Vice President      | Lawrence Beidle  |
| Recording Secretary | Lori Vanagunas   |
| Treasurer           | Michele Giometti |
| Executive Secretary | Karen Kinnear    |

#### STATE CHAIRS AND REPRESENTATIVES

|                                              |                            |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Alice Hamilton Scholarship                   | Kris Holien (scholarships) |
|                                              | Terri Hoff (fundraising)   |
| Awards                                       | Jack Warner                |
| Governance                                   | OPEN                       |
| Long Range Planning                          | Beth Fisher                |
| Membership                                   | Karen Kinnear              |
| Newsletter                                   | OPEN                       |
| Public Education                             | Mandy Posgai               |
| Publications                                 | Jaimie Adams               |
| Rep to the HC Preservation Program Committee | Darwin Thompson            |
| Scientific Advisory                          | OPEN                       |
| Ways & Means                                 | Karen Kinnear              |
| SWL Editor                                   | Chris Zier                 |
| SWL Assistant Editor                         | Bruce Bradley              |
| Website                                      | Bill Haddock               |

For any questions or to contact us, please visit us at [www.coloradoarchaeology.org](http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org)