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## Treasury Notes

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## Treasury Notes

*By Craig Wright, outgoing MAC treasurer*

The last four years have been an interesting ride as treasurer. Although frustrating at times, overall it has been a wonderful experience. I have been reflecting on some of the changes that have occurred during my tenure. MAC has gone through the transition of outsourcing some of the treasurer's duties and many of the secretary's tasks to DMN. With the help of Frank Boles, we have regained control of more than \$39,000 that was in an inaccessible account, and the money has been transferred to our operating budget. After suffering a sharp, negative impact from the recent economic downturn, our finances have rebounded, and our current total assets are the highest they have ever been. Most recently we began the transition to providing more services on-line through the membership software MemberClicks, which finally allows MAC to meet the desire of membership to accept payments by credit cards.

One of the first tasks I was assigned when I was elected as treasurer in 2006 was to investigate how much MAC would need to increase dues and give a recommendation to Council. After comparing dues of similar-size groups, it was obvious how low our dues are relative to others, and I also discovered it had been quite some time since our dues have been raised. On the other hand, MAC had (and continues to have) a large financial cushion, yet there seemed to be plenty of opportunities to tighten

our expenses, and the long-term financial implications of outsourcing to DMN were unclear. In that environment, I was not comfortable recommending a dues increase, and I am greatly pleased that we have not had to do so over the past four years.

Looking ahead as we move more into an on-line environment, I see the potential for additional cost savings, especially with regard to printing and postage. Approximately 20 percent of our annual expenses are spent in this area—more than \$16,600 in 2009. On-line voting, print-on-demand possibilities for the *MAC Newsletter* and *Archival Issues*, and a discussion about the efficacy and cost of sending out the full annual meeting program to all members (at a cost of more than \$3,800 for the Chicago meeting) when only about a third attend the meeting could all lead to significant savings. I recommend that Council consider looking into accounting services to outsource many of the routine financial tasks of the treasurer. This will likely be costly, but will make the treasurer position more attractive to future candidates and with a more manageable workload will allow them to focus more on the larger financial issues. This is essentially what DMN has done for the secretary position.

One last thought courtesy of a former governor: "It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it."

### SAA's 75th Anniversary Task Force

Seventy-five years of growth and achievement are good reasons to celebrate, and in 2011 SAA will do just that as the society toasts its 75th anniversary. David Gracy, University of Texas at Austin, and Leon Stout, Pennsylvania State University, are task force cochairs. Chief among the task force's priorities is to provide a variety of opportunities for member participation in both development of materials and celebration of this milestone. In addition, the task force intends to stimulate perspectives on SAA's present and future, both of which are shaped by the past that we celebrate. Among the activities being planned and/or explored for development are a special issue of the *American Archivist*; a session track and student poster session at the 2011 annual meeting; an on-line timeline documenting SAA's history; an oral history project involving video interviews of SAA leaders and members; a card deck highlighting the 75 most influential people, places, and things in the association's history; and a special reception at the 2011 annual meeting in Chicago.

