



Archaeological Institute of America
Western Massachusetts Society

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 2025

Thursday, May 1, 2025 | 4:30–6:00pm
Herter Hall 601, UMass Amherst | Zoom

Minutes

Called to order at 4:45pm.

Present: Rebecca Worsham (Vice President), Brian Shelburne (Treasurer), Becky Seifried (Secretary), Catherine Baker (At-Large), Timothy Hart (At-Large), Shannon Hogue (At-Large), Claire Mundell (At-Large), Becky Sinos (At-Large), Geoff Sumi, Joseph Wilson

1. Approval of previous minutes

Worsham moved to approve the minutes from the Annual Business Meeting on April 19, 2024. All were in favor; motion carried.

2. Officer reports

Vice President: Vice President Worsham stood in for President Oswald, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Ellen and Charles S. La Follette Lecture was given by Dr. Clemente Marconi on October 8, 2024, on the topic “Towards an Archaeology of Cult in a Greek Colony in the West: New Excavations in the Main Urban Sanctuary of Selinunte.” The lecture was hosted in person at Amherst College and had over 40 attendees. On October 26, the Society hosted another successful archaeology fair for International Archaeology Day during UMass’ Family Weekend – we’re starting to get the hang of it! The 31st Annual Phyllis Williams Lehmann Lecture was hosted in person at Smith College on March 8, 2025. Dr. Joanne Murphy spoke on “Power Plays at Pylos: The Past and Memory in the Tombs and at the Palace.” About 45 people attended the lecture, and a handful of members stayed for the post-lecture luncheon. For this year’s National Lecture, the Society was assigned the Martha Sharp Joukowsky Lecture, which was delivered by Dr. Akin Ogundiran in hybrid format on April 10 on the topic “Archaeology of the Oyo Empire: Domesticity of Governance & Politics of Dependency, 1600-1836.” This was our best-attended lecture since we began tracking, with over 80 people in attendance (slightly more in person than online). We are grateful for co-sponsorship of the lecture from the UMass Department of Anthropology and the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies.

Secretary: Seifried reported that membership has remained stable, with 47 active members (the same as last year) and 20 expired members (see the membership report, attached). The number of expired members has been growing each year since 2020, mainly in the “Supporting” and student membership categories. She also posted new content to the website (<https://aiawesternmass.org/>), including a list of past officers, links to past Annual Business Meeting minutes, and a page dedicated to the Lehmann Lecture.

Treasurer: Shelburne reported that the total income for the year was \$566 and expenses \$990.79, leaving a balance of \$1,711.52. The expenses this year were higher than normal because the 2024 La Follete Lecture was included in this fiscal year due to its late timing. It was noted that this year’s events were generously subsidized by the Amherst College Department of Classics (travel, accommodations, and dinner for the La Follette Lecture) and the UMass Amherst Department of Classics (space fee for International Archaeology Day and dinner following the National Lecture).

3. Election of Officers and Council Members

The 2025 Nominating Committee (Sinos and Mundell) presented the slate of nominees. Additional nominations were accepted from the floor: Tim Hart and Geoff Sumi both nominated themselves for At-Large Council Member positions.

Final slate of nominees (* indicates incumbent)

President:	Simon Oswald*
Vice President:	Rebecca Worsham*
Secretary:	Becky Seifried*
Treasurer:	Brian Shelburne*
At-Large Council Member:	Tim Hart*
	Shannon Hogue*
	Claire Mundell*
	Becky Sinos*
	Geoff Sumi
	Joseph Wilson

A voice vote was held on the final slate, and all were in favor. The above list is therefore the elected Council for 2025–26. The Nominating Committee and those cycling off the Council were thanked for their service this year.

4. Event program for 2025–26

International Archaeology Day: planned for Saturday, October 18, 2025, at UMass Amherst during Family Weekend. Mundell volunteered to lead the organizing team again this year – hoorah! We have a robust program that we can re-use, with exciting ideas about new topics to add, including fortune telling, VR headsets, 3D printed artifacts, a “museum in

a box" from the UMass Amherst Libraries' Digital Media Lab, and a test excavation trench. The UMass Department of Anthropology has several archaeologists who may be interested in participating.

National Lecture: President Oswald submitted the Society Questionnaire based on the results of a poll administered to the membership earlier this spring. We expect to find out around June who and when our assigned lecturer will be. The location was left undecided.

La Follette Lecture: Discussion ensued about potential speakers and locations. We decided to hold off on planning the La Follette Lecture until the National Lecture is scheduled. The La Follette Lecture could be held in the opposite semester so as to better distribute the Society's events throughout the year.

Lehmann Lecture: Yannis Hamilakis has already agreed to deliver the lecture in spring 2026. It was strongly recommended that we host a Romanist in 2027, as we have broken from the traditionally alternating Greek-Roman pattern in recent years. Worsham agreed to reach out to Maggie Popkin for 2027. Other suggestions included Bonna Wescoat (who delivered the 10th Annual Lehmann Lecture in 2000), Michael Cosmopoulos, and Ada Cohen.

5. WMSAIA Google Drive

In 2023 the Society established a shared Google Drive at Amherst College for the keeping of digital records, and Andreas Zanker has been the 'owner' since that date. We are seeking a new volunteer at Amherst College to take over this role. Worsham agreed to reach out to faculty there.

6. Other new business (if applicable)

Shelburne announced with glee that he had used the final check in the very same checkbook that had been dutifully safeguarded, first by Bradbury and then by Shelburne, since 2014. There are four more checkbooks at his disposal.

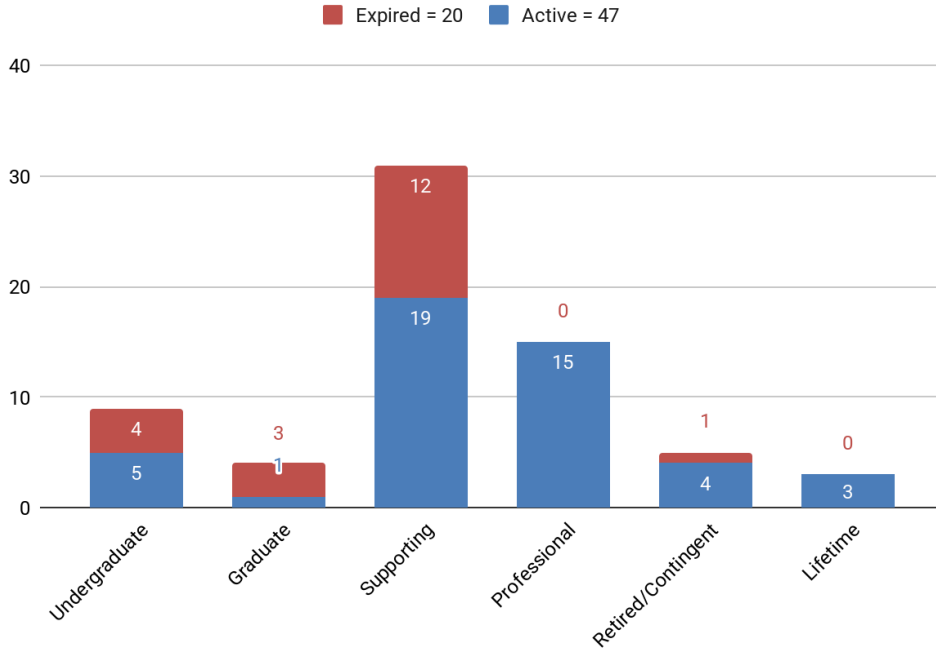
Seifried reminded the group that the National Office offers several grants and awards each year, including a contest for best website and another for best flyer. It was suggested that student interns or freelancers might be available to assist with event publicity.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm, and a wine reception followed. A toast was raised to President Oswald's health.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Seifried
WMSAIA Secretary

WMSAIA Membership Report – May 1, 2025

WMSAIA Membership Types



WMSAIA Membership Expiration Since 2021

