

January 2007

## SPECIAL ISSUE

## SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

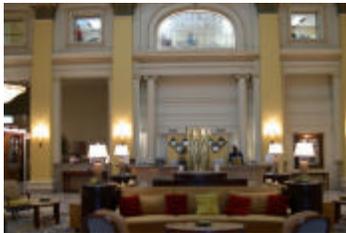
## 2006 ACRA CONFERENCE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The 11th Annual ACRA Conference in Columbus, Ohio, took place September 7, 2006, through September 10, 2006, at the historic Westin Great Southern Hotel. Fantastic weather greeted the conference all three days, which meant that attendees were able to walk to restaurants and enjoy tours in bright sunshine.

Highlights include:

- | The Business of CRM Workshop
- | A tour of the Newark Earthworks
- | ACRA Annual Awards presentation
- | Annual legislative update by Nellie Longworth, ACRA's government affairs consultant.
- | A presentation on working with so-called "difficult people"
- | Business sessions included:
  - hiring techniques
  - terminating employees
  - audits
  - employee handbooks

### Snapshots from ACRA's 2006 Annual Meeting.



Lobby of the Great Southern Hotel



Conference gala evening



Newark's Octagon Mound



ACRA members' best CRM reports

### WHAT IS ACRA AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- | ACRA is the national trade organization for the CRM industry. The membership consists of companies that cover the range of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) work, i.e., archaeology, history, architectural history, urban planning, ethnography, tribal consultation and other fields.
- | ACRA represents the interests of CRM firms in Washington DC, keeping members informed and involved about legislative and regulatory issues important to CRM.
- | Through the listserv *Members Only*, ACRA members discuss issues of importance and often learn from the experiences that other members have had in CRM work.
- | The ACRA website provides a place for clients to find consultants, with each member listed by region and specialties. The website also provides useful information, links to appropriate laws regarding CRM, member resources, and information for the general public.
- | The annual meeting, held each fall, provides ACRA firms an opportunity to get useful information for conducting business in CRM through sessions and workshops, and to meet and dialog with other member firms.
- | ACRA provides the environment to contact people in other firms, both electronically and personally; and the opportunity to team with or subcontract on projects with other firms across the country.
- | The newsletter, *ACRA Edition*, provides useful information and updates both about what ACRA is doing and on topics of interest to all members.



**ACRA honor outstanding work in the industry with annual awards.** Left to Right: Quality Product Award: Margery Green, Archaeological Consulting Services and John Czapllicki, Bureau of Reclamation. Industry Award: Brent Arnold of Kern River Gas Transmission Company and Kimberly Redman of Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

*Submitted By Lucy B. Wayne, Vice President, Government Affairs*

In the past year, this committee has provided letters of support for two state-level issues:

1. There was a threat to the Alabama Historical Commission. At the request of Alabama members we sent a letter of support for maintaining the Commission.
2. In Utah, a bill was passed that changed the existing state Antiquities law in several ways, including reducing the qualifications required for archaeologists working on state-owned lands. The bill also introduces another layer of review into the compliance process by establishing an office which will oversee all compliance decisions of the SHPO.
3. We have been following a legal fight over repatriation of materials from a Walmart site in Honolulu, but on the advice of Hawaii's ACRA members, we have stayed out of this issue.

At the Federal level, a number of things have been accomplished:

1. Past President Ian Burrow attended a Corps of Engineers (COE) focus group on Section 404 and Appendix C. ACRA previously submitted comments to the COE supporting proposed changes in which the COE will substitute 36CFR800 for Appendix C for compliance projects.
2. Government Relations Committee member Joe Trnka provided a careful analysis and extensive comments on the Pombo-proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act.
3. The National Park Service recently issued a proposed Programmatic Agreement which may allow them to exempt more NPS projects from environmental/cultural resource studies.
5. Nellie, Ian Burrow and Kevin Pape (Gray & Pape) attended Preservation Day and met with Rep. Turner (R-Ohio), who heads the House Preservation Caucus. Rep. Turner is a close friend of Rep. Pearce, and strongly supports the "clean" bill for NHPA.
6. In the cell tower world, the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement is still being fine-tuned by the FCC. The CTIA, a trade association for the wireless industry, has filed suit against the FCC claiming NHPA does not apply to cell tower construction (and by extension to the antennas).

## Legislative Updates

ACRA and SHA's Government Affairs Consultant, Nellie Longsworth, has had a busy year. Beyond coordinating visits for ACRA members with key politicians on Capitol Hill, Nellie has provided the ACRA membership with insightful articles over the last year. Topics include:

- | Facts and details on the Interior Department's budget requests.
  - | 150 grassroots preservationists lobbying their state delegations for historic preservation funding;
  - | lobby day luncheon speaker National Parks Subcommittee Chair Steve Pearce (R-NM);
  - | an ACRA Section 106 meeting with co-chair of the Historic Preservation Caucus Mike Turner (R-OH);
  - | an appropriation of \$3 million for SHPOS in gulf states.
  - | FY06 Supplemental Appropriations Bill In Shadow Of Presidential Veto
  - | FY07 Interior Appropriations Marked Up By House Appropriations Committee
  - | First Lady Laura Bush held a preservation summit in New Orleans in October, 2006
  - | Preserve America Presidential awards highlight rose garden ceremony
- The democratic majorities in the next Congress may bode well for historic preservation



Nellie Longsworth, ACRA's Government Affairs Consultant, during an annual report to ACRA membership.

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

*By Scott Stull, Executive Secretary*



The biggest news of the year came at the beginning of December, with the passage of the "clean reauthorization" of aspects of the National Historic Preservation Act. While some people thought it was too much of the status quo, it did not gut Section 106 or make other changes to benefit developers at the

sake of the national heritage that our industry serves. The work that ACRA undertook on this spread across 20 months, with several trips to Washington and employees of ACRA members being directly involved with consultations on the language and potential impact of the various proposed bills. ACRA can take pride in the work that was done to help prevent disastrous changes to the National Historic Preservation Act.

The annual meeting was in Columbus, Ohio, and among other things had the premiere of the "Business of CRM" workshop. This workshop proved so compelling that a second session was opened up to meet the demand. There were useful ideas for brand new firms and old hands, including the people who designed and taught the earlier course on the same topic. If you get a chance, attend the workshop. It's worth it.

### THE BUSINESS OF CRM: CONTRACTING

#### AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**A SRI Foundation and Mead & Hunt Workshop,  
Sponsored by the American Cultural Resource Association**

Having difficulties developing proposals and negotiating contracts that are to your firm's best advantage? Struggling to keep your projects within budget? Looking for ways to improve the quality of your work? Then this workshop is for you! We will provide you with tools and strategies that can improve the way you do business in terms of contracting and project management. Nothing theoretical here! These are tools and strategies proven to work well in the often challenging world of CRM.

This one-day workshop is taught by Terry Klein, Executive Director of the SRI Foundation, and Amy Squitieri, Vice President of Mead & Hunt, Inc. With a combined 40 years of experience, Terry and Amy have successfully managed projects large and small for local, state, federal, and private clients across the country.

What's next? ACRA will again attend the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) and Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meetings. The SHA meeting will have a new approach, with a booth in the bookroom rather than a one-hour meeting space. This will get ACRA more exposure, and hopefully attract more good employees to ACRA firms and more firms to join the association. The SAA meeting will have the CRM fair, which is always a good boost to ACRA and its members.

The spring board meeting will be in San Luis Obispo, California, at the end of March. Agenda items are already being collected, so if any member firm wants to have the board consider a topic, please contact any board member or officer. Members may also attend the board meeting, so if you want to do that you are welcome. The fall annual meeting will be in late September in St. Petersburg, Florida, with many interesting projects in the works. Watch for more news as the year progresses.

State-level issues have always been a hard issue for ACRA. The national association has always been interested in working on state issues, but state politicians don't give any weight to statements of support from outside the state, and such statements can sometimes even be detrimental. Several ideas are actively being floated around on how to make things work, including facilitating ACRA member firms within a state or local region to meet to work out responses to issues of interest within the state. The national organization will happily support those efforts, and if anyone has comments or brilliant ideas on ways to develop state-level activity, please contact the board or an officer. More on this will be coming in the next few months, with hopefully something solid by the fall meeting.

When January rolls around, a new group of politicians will be walking the halls of Congress. Many new faces will need education about historic preservation and CRM, but luckily for us our national heritage is a nonpartisan topic. Some old friends will be back, and some new friends will be found. Maybe with this Congress we can get sensible and necessary changes and updates to legislation rather than defending the core principles we stand by. ACRA has made its presence known, and has become one of the groups that members of Congress and our national government turns to when they need advice on issues related to our industry, and we are all happy to serve in that capacity.

Here's looking forward to a new year full of promise and success!

# ACRA

EDITION

## ACRA's Members-Only Listserv

ACRA has an online discussion group just for members. "MembersOnly" is a listserv that operates much the same way as ACRA-L, with the exception that it is only available to ACRA members. Its purpose is to offer the board, members, and the executive director a venue to share the latest news from ACRA; promote dialogue between members on current issues; and enable members to post announcements or inquiries.

## MEMBERSHIP

New Members form and dues schedule are located on ACRA website [www.acra-crm.org](http://www.acra-crm.org)



2006 ACRA Board - Front row: Mike Polk, Laura Black, Nancy Ferrell, Karen Van Citters, Cinder Miller, Denis DeJoseph, and Brian Thomas. Second Row: Sarah Herr, Lucy Wayne, Steve Dasovich, Terry Majewski, Jeanne Ward, Ellen Turco, and Chad Moffett.. Third Row: James Karbula, Joan Deming, Scott Stull, Bill Self, Ian Burrow, and Mike Roberts.

## ACRA OFFICERS

### President

Karen Hartgen, *Hartgen Archaeological Associates, Inc.*

### President Elect

Michael R. Polk, *Sagebrush Consultants L.L.C.*

### Vice President for Government Relations

Ian Burrow, *Hunter Research Associates*

### Executive Secretary

Scott Stull, *Hartgen Archaeological Associates, Inc.*

### Membership Secretary

Lucy Wayne, *SouthArc, Inc.*

### Treasurer

Karen Van Citters, *Van Citters Historic Preservation LLC*

### Secretary

Chad Moffett, *Mead & Hunt Inc*

## ACRA's Mission

Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical, and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association by:

- promoting and supporting the business needs of cultural resources practitioners;
- promoting professionalism in the cultural resources industry;
- promoting and providing educational and training opportunities for the cultural resources industry; and
- promoting public awareness of cultural resources and its diverse fields.

A basic tenet of ACRA's philosophy is the cost efficiency of private-sector firms in meeting the need for expertise in cultural resource management. ACRA is strongly opposed to unfair competition from tax-supported contracting programs. We believe that a greater benefit to society, and to the resources, derives from the existence of a healthy community of tax-paying, job-generating, private-sector CRM businesses.