

2017 FOSA Annual Membership Meeting

Farmington High School
10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT
March 25, 2017

Board Members Present: Pres. Mandy Ranslow, Vice Pres. Jeremy Pilver, Treas. Dreda Hendsey, Recording Sec. Mike Cahill, Scott Brady, Dick Hughes, Mike Raber, Cynthia Redman, Jim Trocchi, Kathy Walburn.

Board Members Absent: Lori Kessel, Glenda Rose, Zac Singer.

Ex officio Board Members Present: Brian Jones (OSA), Nick Bellantoni (ASC), Lee West (ASC).

Call to Order: President Mandy Ranslow called the meeting to order at 1:15PM, and welcomed the members and guests.

Secretary's Report: Recording Secretary Mike Cahill read the following report on FOSA's activities and achievements during 2016.

The year began with FOSA's 19th Annual Meeting, held January 24, 2016, here at Farmington High School. Lori Kessel was elected to the Board of Directors, and Paul Scannell received the achievement award. Mandy Ranslow was re-elected to a 2nd 2 year term as president, and Dreda Hensley was re-elected as treasurer. The guest speaker following the meeting was Doctor Richard Boisvert, New Hampshire's State Archaeologist. He gave an interesting, and well attended talk titled "Recent Discoveries in Paleoindian Research in Northern New Hampshire."

During the winter months, a number of FOSA volunteers work at the archaeology laboratory at UConn, inspecting, cleaning, sorting, cataloging, and storing artifacts that were recovered from previous excavations.

The library is continuously being updated, and reorganized. It is under the guidance of Cynthia Redman, with FOSA volunteers, and a student worker who is funded by FOSA.

The Outreach Committee sets up displays at different events throughout the year dealing with FOSA's mission, and archaeology pertaining to Connecticut. These included the Connecticut Gravestone Symposium, The Hammonasset Festival, and the Archaeology Fair. The Outreach Committee shows the people of Connecticut what FOSA accomplishes. Kathy Walburn coordinates the committee with the help of many volunteers.

A number of workshops were held throughout the year. These included one on Historical Artifact Identification, given in June by Sarah Sportman, and one on ground penetrating radar operations, given in October by Debbie Surabian.

FOSA members participated in a number of excavations this past year, under the direction of State Archaeologist Doctor Brian Jones. The field season started early with a series of test pits in Woodridge in March. In May and June, volunteers worked under the direction of Board member Zac Singer, at the Templeton Paleoindian site in Washington Depot. Zac also applied for, and was awarded a grant from FOSA, for protein analysis on a couple of artifacts recovered. Zac was also the recipient of the Russell Award, given by the Archaeological Society of Connecticut. A 5 day dig in June was in Ansonia at the General Humphrey House. FOSA volunteers assisted Dr. Jones in a week long field school for middle school teachers at the John Mason House site in Windsor. Members also assisted with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History's, week long Adult Field School at the Hollister site in South Glastonbury. It was followed by the field school for

FOSA members at the same site. Finally there was a 1 day dig at the site of St Platon's church in Danbury in October.

The Annual Archaeology Fair was held at UConn in October. FOSA co-sponsored the event, along with the Archaeology Society of Connecticut, and UConn. Many different archaeology organizations, school groups, and historical societies had displays, and it included a series of lectures in coordination with ASC's Fall Meeting.

There are two main sources of information on FOSA, the Newsletter and the website. The Newsletter committee, chaired by Jerry Tolchin, produces an issue in the spring and fall, full of articles and information of interest to members. The website, with Jim Hall as chairman, continuously posts FOSA activities, both past and upcoming, the Newsletter, any media reports on FOSA, and has many other items of interest to members and non-members.

FOSA members volunteered well over 1000 hours of lab work, library, field work, media, and Outreach during 2016.

In closing, FOSA's Board of Directors would like to express its appreciation to all the members who contributed their time, expertise, and energy this past year, to FOSA's mission of supporting the Office of State Archaeology here in Connecticut.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dreda Hendsey reported that FOSA ended the year with a balance of \$25,706.12 in the regular account, and \$1792.27 in the C-14 account.

OSA Report: Dr. Brian Jones went over the highlights of the past year. He started with the General Humphrey House in Ansonia. The lab has finished sorting and cataloging the artifacts. A favorite was the "frozen Charlotte". The "teacher's dig" was at the site of the John Mason House in Windsor. He hopes the next one will be at the Oliver Ellsworth House, also in Windsor. Brian spoke about the Hollister site in South Glastonbury, and the various organizations that assisted on different days. There was a test pit dig in Coventry, in early February, where a filled-in cellar was rediscovered. Brian was also involved in locating the site of the barracks at Fort Griswold. He thanked the FOSA members who put in so many hours of work to support him.

ASC Report: ASC President Dr. Nick Bellantoni reminded everyone of ASC's Spring Meeting, to be held May 20th, at the Pequot Library, Southport. There will be talks in the morning, and an afternoon tour of Pequot War sites. In November the Eastern States Archaeological Federation will have their 4 day, Annual Meeting in New London, CT. There will be more information on the ASC website.

Officer/Director Elections: Nomination Committee Chair, Scott Brady, announced that FOSA is seeking a Correspondence Secretary to replace Joan McCarthy who resigned after many years of service. The following were re-elected to another 2 year term on the Board: Dreda Hendsey, Dick Hughes, Cynthia Redman, Glenda Rose, Zac Singer, and Jim Trocchi. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Achievement Award: Cynthia Redman presented the Achievement Award to Amelia Mariotti, and Carol West, for their many hours of work in updating and organizing the OSA Library.

Adjournment: President Mandy Ranslow thanked the members and guests for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.

Note 1: Prior to the keynote speakers talk, Mandy announced that this was FOSA's 20 anniversary, and thanked those who were FOSA's original members.

Note 2: Dr. Nick Bellantoni paid tribute to the longtime service of 3 FOSA members who recently passed away. Hank Coppes, George Kinsella, and Fred Warner.
Respectfully Submitted: Mike Cahill, Recording Secretary.