

To: ASC Board
From: Chris Eskridge
Date: October 30, 2017
Re: Executive Director's Report

This has again been a very busy six months since we last met. We continue to be financially sound, and remain a vibrant, active professional society. The Philadelphia meetings appear as if they are going to attract some 4,200. In sum, over the last six months, things have moved along, and we have engaged in the normal flow of business, as normal as anything is with this very dynamic and active organization of ours. A few detailed thoughts:

1. Membership Figures

As of today, we have 4,231 members. This number warrants a little explanation. We have 3,682 individuals with 2017 memberships, and 549 individuals to date who are not members in 2017, but have joined for 2018. We ended last year with 3,698 members, so our membership figures for 2017 are going to be virtually the same as last year.

2. Divisions

As usual, I try to stay in touch with the divisions, especially at this time of the year as they make their annual meeting plans. As noted in the financial report, all of the divisions are doing well, with solid membership and positive account balances.

3. Committees

Our more than 30 committees and liaison representatives have been active and have fulfilled their assignments in a timely fashion. I have stayed in touch with the committee chairs and liaison reps when needed.

4. Policy and Procedures Manual

We made all of the updates to the Policy and Procedures manual subsequent to the Spring Board Meeting, and posted it on the web.

5. Columbus Office Activities

The Columbus staff continues to perform above and beyond, handling the elections, getting the annual meeting program together and handling the myriad of meeting logistics, dealing with the newsletter, keeping the membership list and databases up to date, interacting with divisions and committee members, managing the webpage, and managing our funds in an orderly fashion. Our membership and meeting registration forms are particularly complicated (our members can join any of 13 divisions and can select from 10 different journals and choose to receive each of those journals in different ways), and that has required a significant effort on their part. They work together to help ASC run smoothly and to particularly make our growing annual meeting a seamless event.. As I have reported previously, the staff continues to evaluate old vs new ways of handling their tasks, with a constant eye toward cost effectiveness. In this vein (and as you are all aware) we have now embarked on the data management update project, and this will now be an ongoing effort. We will henceforth continually evaluate our data management and overall operating schemes, with an eye toward

enhanced efficiency. In sum, we have an extremely professional, dedicated, and committed staff who are focused on the health and well-being of ASC, who regularly go the extra mile, and who are always looking for ways to be more effective. We are very fortunate.

6. ASC “*Just Runs By Itself*”

I recently received a phone call from a long-time member. After we had concluded the business at hand, this individual, in a very kind and complimentary fashion, indicated that ASC just seems to run by itself. They laughed of course, because as a former program head, they know that is not the case, but they said ASC just had that feel. I do hope that ASC appears to be a duck peacefully gliding across the lake, but we know that under the surface, that duck is kicking hard. This most kind and complimentary observation from one of our long-time, highly vested members bears witness, per item #4 above, to our Columbus staff, to Susan and Nicole and Kelly and Abby and the extraordinary work that they do. It's also a complement to our seasonal Columbus staff, Deb and Amy and Andi, who help out with annual meeting operational logistics. It's a compliment to Wayne Osgood and now David McDowall, Bill Bales and Daniel Nagan who serve as editors of our primary journals with commitment and devotion, and to the many ASC members who so willingly serve as referees and on the editorial boards of those journals. It's a tribute to our Criminology and CPP copy editor and to Wiley publications who is so efficient in its production and distribution efforts of our journals. It's a tribute to Susan Sharp who edits *The Criminologist* in cooperation with our Vice Presidents, and to our external printing company in Columbus who produces and distributes our newsletter around the country/around the world. It's a compliment to the nearly 200 ASC members who enthusiastically serve on ASC committees each year with such professionalism (and particularly those who serve on the Hindelang, Carte and Outstanding Paper award committees I might add), and to our 13 devoted division heads and the dozens and dozens of individuals who eagerly serve in various capacities within those divisions. It's a tribute to the editors and editorial board members of our 8 division journals, and to those involved in the division webpages and newsletters. It's a complement to the individuals who serve as officers and members of the executive board, and who take on their duties with such a significant sense of dedication, soberness and professional responsibility. It's a complement to our annual program chairs and their program committee members who orchestrate a remarkable meeting every year, with hundreds of wonderful sessions and events. It's a tribute to our external annual meeting vendors (our drayage firm, printing companies, hotel management staff), it's a tribute to our Experient rep Doug Weese and our annual meeting AV provider and general all-around annual meeting trouble-shooter Robert Lunsik and his crew. It's a tribute to Ken Adams and his crew who have so professionally handled the employment exchange logistics at the meetings and on the web for years. It's a tribute to our members, who come to the meetings and participate with enthusiasm and vigor, who willingly chair sessions and serve as discussants, who present their papers in a professional and orderly fashion, who are cheerful and kind as they register for and subsequently participate in the meetings and mentor their graduate students (1/3 of our meeting attendees by the way) to behave likewise. Yes, she was right. ASC does run by itself, the collective ASC, with its thousands of vested webbed feet vibrantly moving largely together, does run by itself, to the tribute of all.

7. *Annual Meeting Preparations*

- A. Philadelphia (2017) - We did our site visit last Spring in conjunction with the Mid-year Board Meeting and lined things up. We have worked with the hotel staff since of course. The hotel is full, the overflow hotel is full, things are organized, the program book is printed, the Fire Marshal has approved things, bags and badges have been delivered, money has been collected, room sets and AV have been arranged, food has been ordered....we are ready to go!
- B. Atlanta (2018) – Susan Case and I traveled to Atlanta last Spring and got a good look at the Marriott. We have been to the Atlanta Marriott several times before, so we are aware of the general layout and just need to get a handle on any new construction and fine-tune our meeting space needs

8. *APP for Criminology and CPP*

As a point of information, we have been working with Wiley to develop an app for both Criminology and CPP (no cost to us of course). David McDowall and Bill Bales have now signed off, and in the next month or so, things will go live. We will certainly “advertise” this thru appropriate channels once it is available (ie., on the web, in *The Criminologist*, on the Wiley webpage).

9. *Proposed Structure for the Long Range Planning Committee.*

I would propose a slight adjustment to the structure of the long-range planning committee:

- A. The Chair serve a 3-year term.
- B. The non-ASC Board Member serve a 3-year term

The revised narrative in the policy manual would then read:

The Long Range Planning Committee shall consist of a chair appointed for a 3 (three) year term, the Immediate Past-President, the Treasurer, one member of the Board (other than the Treasurer and the Past-President) who will serve a 2 (two) year term and is also a member of the Finance Committee, a non-ASC Board Member who will serve a 3 (three) year term, and the Deputy Director.

10. *Child Care*

This is a hot button issue. As you may recall, we hired a firm to provide on-site child care service last year in New Orleans, and set aside a breakout room for this purpose. We only had 4 families utilize the service, at a significant cost to ASC. We decided to give this one more year. As of this writing, 4 families have signed up for Philadelphia, and a 5th is currently inquiring about the possibility of obtaining child care assistance in their hotel room one afternoon to watch their child during nap time. I propose that we return to the model that we have used for years, namely, we will work with the hotel and local contacts to identify a handful of local child care providers. We will place that list on the ASC webpage and also include this information in the packet that is sent out to those who register for the annual meetings. Individuals may contact these child care services independently and make their own arrangements. Child care service would be

provided by the child care services in the hotel rooms of the children's parents/guardians.

11. *Ice Cream Social*

The best is always last! Please note Thursday, 1:30 to 2:45 on your calendar for the Ice Cream Social. I have aprons for all Board members as usual. The Ice Cream Social will be in the Exhibit Hall, Salons G and H.