

Acting President's Report

CAML now has an Acting President, or, Vice-President acting as President. Kirsten Walsh has had to relinquish her duties as President due to increasing pressures on the home front, but she will continue on the board as Past President.

In early November, the Board met in Toronto and discussed the options outlined in the discussion paper on the future of CAML (see the last *Newsletter*, in case this one slipped by). Out of all the options there was agreement that one of the least radical options--a two-tiered membership structure allowing individuals to opt out of IAML, at a much lower rate--would be preferable. If implemented, such a move would hopefully enable us to increase our membership. I believe an expansion of our membership base, through whatever means, is the only solution to maintaining a vital organization. We simply need more people.

It's clear that CAML can no longer subsidize board travel in the way that it has in the past, at least with the size of our board in relation to the size of our membership. It's also clear that the size of our board and its committees in relation to the number of active members in the organization is somewhat out of whack. What to do? Decrease the number of board members and committees, or at least have some flexibility in determining the size of the board and number of committees (requiring constitutional changes) or increase the number of active members? It will be your choice, meaning that you need to become more active or vote for constitutional changes.

The 1997 conference planning is underway (June 11-14, Newfoundland). Peter Higham and Suzanne Meyers-Sawa will be handling the local arrangements and programme. Since we'll be meeting with the Learneds, there will be several opportunities to share sessions with other groups. However, there still will be a need for speakers from our ranks!

In conclusion, I'd like to thank Kirsten for continuing to act as President for as long as she did, despite the increasingly difficult circumstances she found herself in, and for that great conference we had in Vancouver this past summer.

Rob van der Blik
Acting President, CAML

