ARNA unites action researchers and participatory researchers throughout the Americas and around the world. We support:

- Practitioner and participatory research efforts to improve professional practices and strengthen community capacity
- Knowledge mobilization across the Americas to extend the benefits of action research to wider constituencies
- Bringing together action researchers from diverse points of the Americas and across the globe both virtually and physically to share findings and further develop practitioner inquiry and participatory research
It is with great pride in the many accomplishments of ARNA members throughout the 2015-2016 year that I share with you this most impressive annual report. Following its inaugural San Francisco conference in 2013 and its first American east coast conference and CARN Study Day in Pennsylvania in 2014, ARNA held its first conference outside of the United States in 2015 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Chaired by Cathy Bruce and John Peters, the Toronto conference—from its inspiring keynote speakers (Budd Hall & Emily Ozer) to its impressive action research sessions, and jam-packed CARN Study Day at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study—exemplified the theme of joint action, or learning with and from one another. The ARNA Proceedings team, led most ably by Elena Polush, captured the energy and excitement of the 2015 conference in the second edition of the Proceedings, which is now accessible on-line under the Knowledge Mobilization tab of the ARNA homepage at www.arnanet.org.

As ARNA members headed home from Toronto, the Membership and Sponsorships Committee got to work on its first action items, ultimately increasing ARNA membership from 81 to more than 200 members, growing the roster of ARNA institutional and conference sponsors from 7 to 16, and introducing ARNA to more than 5,000 radio listeners of the National Writing Project. ARNA members were actively engaged at home and around the world, with important ARNA presentations at the COME Conference in Chihuahua, Mexico; the annual Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) Conference in Braga, Portugal; and the Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA) World Congress in Pretoria, South Africa. ARNA affiliate organization, the Canadian Association of Action Research in Education (CAARE), held its very first conference, while ARNA en Español continued its membership drive promotion by e-mail to Mexican and Latin American universities. Headed by Margaret Riel, the Web Development and Technology team completed a crucial round of projects to archive ARNA’s important cadre of electronic documents. Treasurer Shelley Yearley reports that ARNA ended the 2015 fiscal year with a $10,000 surplus. ARNA’s 2016 conference in Knoxville, Tennessee “Making A Difference: Action Research For a Change” was the first to gather more than 100 pre-registrations, and lead conference chair John Peters and the members of his impressive host committee, led by Chief of Staff Janine Al-Aseer, promise a highly interactive, dialogic event, including CARN Study Day at the historic Highlander Center and plenty of BBQ and bourbon to refresh conference goers after hours.

Looking ahead to 2017, conference co-chairs Doris Santos and Lonnie Rowe offer an impressive preview of ARNA’s 5th annual conference in Cartagena, Colombia, its first in South America, and the first Global Assembly of Knowledge Democracy, June 12-16, 2017. I also applaud the important scholarship conducted by ARNA members and colleagues, including ARNA initiators Lonnie Rowe, Cathy Bruce, and Margaret Riel, and 63 international presentations included in the International Handbook of Action Research (Palgrave, 2016). Lonnie Rowe, founding Chair of ARNA and Chair of Knowledge Mobilization (KMi6), provides an important statement in this report, calling upon ARNA members to reconsider the crucial relationship between ARNA and KM6 efforts.

Extra special thanks are in order for our 2016 conference and institutional sponsors, including publishers Palgrave Macmillan, Taylor & Francis, and Social Publishers Foundation; and institutions of higher learning, including the Autonomous University of Baja California, Lamar University, Moravian College, St. Mary’s College of California, Trent University, and the University of San Diego. Our hosts at the University of Tennessee Knoxville have provided a record level of support to ARNA from the UT Knoxville and Family Studies Department, the College of Education and Human Development, the Department of Educational Psychology & Counseling; the University of Tennessee Teaching & Learning Center; and Collaborative Communication Practices. ARNA is most grateful indeed.

At the ARNA 2015 Toronto Conference Business Meeting, I explained that in 2015-2016 the leadership of ARNA’s action research communities (ARCs) would help us lead the way in building ARNA through (1) Action #1: Grow memberships and sponsorships; (2) Research: Keep the focus here; and (3) Community: Build the infrastructure to support the community. I applaud the efforts of those leaders who share their reports in this document and those countless ARNA members throughout the Americas and around the world who made the work detailed in this annual report possible. Muchas gracias, mis queridos amigos y colegas! Juntos, atraves de nuestra pesquisa-acion, estamos mudando o mundo! Je vous remercie beaucoup pour tout ce que vous faites au nom de ceux que nous servons.

Joseph M. Shosh, Chair, Executive Committee, Coordinating Group

ARNA 2015 Toronto Conference Report

– Submitted by Cathy Bruce, Trent University, ARNA 2015 Conference Co-Chair

ARNA took place in Toronto Canada, a sacred land and site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron Wendat, the Anishinaabeg of Nishnawbe Aski and others, the Mississaugas of the New Credit River, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon (DWOOS) Treaty of 1789, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we were grateful to have the opportunity to meet fellow action researchers in the international community, on this territory. As such, it was with great pleasure that we opened the ARNA 2015 with a hand-drumming honour song. Budd Hall presented a keynote focused on the mis-appropriation of lands and systematic (cultural) genocide of Indigenous populations in Canada and more broadly, as the foreground to understanding an inclusive ecology of knowledge, and the development of a discourse of knowledge democracy. The second keynote presentation by Emily Ozer on amplifying youth voice through youth participatory action research also offered some possible avenues for efforts at reconciliation and constructing a way forward.

The theme for 2015 was “Joint action: learning with and from one another” and that is essentially what we accomplished - a personal and professional learning conference which also included: a CARN sponsored study day on Lesson Study with a site visit to a local Toronto independent school; a provocative research panel, as well as poster sessions, working group meetings, and over 200 research presentations. Two receptions, a pub night, and a dinner for all conference attendees as well as common break times during the conference, encouraged more dialogue, networking and reflection in informal settings.

The ARNA 2015 Conference was closed with special thanks to our many sponsors and to committee members: Cathy Bruce (Co-Chair, Trent University), John Peters (Co-Chair, University of Tennessee), Shelley Yearley (ARNA Treasurer and Program Chair, Trillium Lakelands District School Board), Rachel Sherman (Conference Materials and Registration Advisor, Affiliate of Moravian College), Rich McPherson (Communications Officer, Trent University), Sarah Bennett (Site Manager and Bookings, OISE & Trent University), Blair Niblett (member at large), Mary McAteer (CARN study day facilitator), as well as Beverly Caswell and Larissa Lam (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education - OISE Contacts). This team worked diligently to prepare a stellar conference hosted by Trent University in partnership with OISE and the University of Toronto and the Robertson Foundation.

Thanks to our important institutional sponsors and the incredible good will of all volunteers, ARNA 2015 was a deeply engaging conference. One of the final accomplishments of this group beyond actually putting on the conference, was the development of an annual conference planning conference support document, to offer guidance for incoming conference chairs and their committees. This document was shared with the ARNA 2016 conference planning team for their use and improvement, and we look forward to continued growth, collaboration and celebration at the ARNA 2016 Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee.
Annual Award Recipients Announced

As indicated in the mission statement, ARNA's commitment to the development of worldwide efforts in support of teacher action research, Under the track-able leadership of New Mexico State University's Dr. Candace Kaye, ARNA has signed its first official MOU activities have been hampered by a lack of consistent communication with MNUE. Therefore, this partnership is currently on hold.

ARNA Social Justice Award

ARNA members are committed to taking action locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally to promote action research that is conducted with a commitment to honesty, integrity, inclusiveness, multi-vocality, engagement, and achievement within sustainable democratic societies. The realization of such a commitment requires individuals, such as the recipient of this award, determined to build relationships that are respectful of cultural and linguistic diversity.

2015 Recipient: Dr. Candace Kaye, USA

The recipient of this year's Social Justice Award epitrizes ARNA's commitment to the development of worldwide efforts in support of teacher action research. Under the track-able leadership of New Mexico State University's Dr. Candace Kaye, ARNA has signed its first official MOU activities have been hampered by a lack of consistent communication with MNUE. Therefore, this partnership is currently on hold.

ARNA Community Development Award

The organization and execution of the annual conference depends upon the ability of leaders to engage and motivate the community and to build strong connections with those who are knowledgeable. These efforts require significant investment of both time and energy and as a long lasting enthusiasm for ARNA and the recipient of this award is such an individual.

2015 Recipient: Dr. Cathy Bruce, Canada

The ARNA Award for Promising Young Researchers is intended to attract Cathy Bruce. In 2015 she was named one of Ontario's most outstanding university teachers by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. Cathy has more than 25 years of combined public school and university teaching experience and in addition to co-chairing this year's ARNA conference and CARN Study Day, she has also been the co-chair of last year's conference in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. We have been most fortunate indeed to see the reach of Cathy's profound influence on the action research of local practitioners throughout this year's Study Day and Conference. Link to Cathy's action research at http://www.people.trentu.ca/cathybruce/.

Promising Action Researcher Award

As indicated in the mission statement, ARNA recognizes and values the importance of active hyperlinks within the recipient text.

Eduardo Flores Leadership Award

As one of the founders of ARNA, Eduardo Flores not only worked diligently to improve education in Mexico but was instrumental in building the initial structure of ARNA. With the intention to build an inclusive ARNA in both Spanish and English, as well his incredible support for the initial conference in San Francisco, megaphone that he had a significant impact on the future of ARNA despite being involved for only short time. This award acknowledges an individual who embodies Eduardo’s leadership.

2015 Recipient: Cathy Griffin, Canada

The ARNA Award for Promising Young Researchers is intended to attract Cathy Griffin. Cathy is the Director of the Peterborough District School Board in Ontario and has been working closely with her colleagues to improve teaching and learning in the board. The ARNA website for active hyperlinks within the recipient text.

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2015 Recipient: Cathy Bruce, Canada

No one has been more actively engaged in the leadership of ARNA. Cathy is the most able leader the community has and her vision for a more actively engaged ARNA. Cathy has written papers and made presentations with Jack Whitehead, Liz Campbell, and Jackie De Long, among others. She is creator of the Bluewater Action Research Network, ten of whose members presented their action research at the 2015 ARNA conference. Cathy’s work to the Teacher Learning and Leading Program provides more details about her work.

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confidential: the core of the ARNA Proceedings is the space
for our members, fellows of action research, to share and to
teach. To borrow from Lúce-Kapler (2004) “through a process of
dialogue and opportunities we open ourselves to partnerships which
untangle the threads from our own and through such engagement, new
interpretations and meanings (pp. x-vi).” The Proceedings editorial
team and the ARNA Coordinating Group encourage all members to
be involved in the ARNA Proceedings’ life by serving as a member of the
editorial team and/or an external reviewer. The Proceedings ed-
torial team is looking forward to welcoming the presenters at the
ARNA 2016 Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee and, subsequently, featur-
ing their work on the pages of the ARNA 2016 Conference Proceedings.

July 2015 to April 2016: A Review Through the Months of Memberships & Sponsorships
– By Holly Marich, Northern Nevada Region-
al Professional Development Program, ARNA Membership and Sponsorships Chair

I would like to begin the Membership & Spon-
sorships Report by thanking Linnea Radekner
for her excellent work as my predecessor to de-
volve new membership documents, and to work
proactively to stay current with accurate payment
information, new membership updates, and oth-
er time consuming yet critical duties. Linnea’s
contribution to this report has ensured that the
ARNA brochure work has been invaluable. The following report
chronicles the work carried out by the team through October, 2015 followed by a
description of the work that followed as I assumed responsibility for the team’s work.

July 2015: The membership committee submit-
ted a fee proposal to the Coordinating Group suggesting a combined membership drive and conference registration fee. The membership and conference registration fee. Additionally, all conference registrants would be automatic members and there would be a $75 member fee for students. For those living in countries with adverse exchange rates with the US. The proposal also included a spinal cord injury awareness and teaching research, indicating that with the faculty mem-
ber’s paid membership, students in the class could opt-in to have a one-year free student
membership trial.

August 2015: The Coordinating Council and
Executive Committee provided preliminary ap-
proval for the creation of an ARNA membership
committee to a total membership of 200 in conjunction with the Tennessee Conference. Fi-

nal approval for the ARNA membership fee
pledge alone membership fees at $75; 2016 conference registration fee at $400 (including annual mem-
ership and student registration fee at $300 including annual membership). At this meeting the Executive Committee also suggested the creation of a professionally de-
signed ARNA membership/membership brochure available in English, Spanish, and perhaps Por-
tuguese editions for use beginning early in the 2015-2016 academic year. ARNA membership records indicated 84 current and 99 past mem-
bers.

September 2015: The investment in a small
stipend for an ARNA secretary modeled after the
work of CARIN secretary, Charmian Wilby was
proposed to the Coordinating Group and Exec-
utive Committee. The new administrative assis-
tant would help manage communication with its membership base, and Jennifer Pagliaro of Moore College was hired to take on this role.

Additionally, during this month the ARNA bro-
chure went through revisions and translations for
final approval. The Executive Committee, with printed copies made available to support ARNA’s upcoming international presentations in Mexico, Portugal, and South Africa.

October 2015: In keeping with our #1 Action
Item of a membership base of 200 by 2016, a
new membership team was configured, includ-
ing an existing member and two new members.
First the task for the team was to generate a list
of prospective ARNA members, which focused on
contact with new members. ARNA took an appro-
ach of membership outreach, including contrib-
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al Research Action Journal. An invitational letter
was sent out to approximately 200 established ARNA members. In addition, the letter
was sent to all identified prospective members.

Brochures were also sent to those ARNA mem-
ers who currently have the ARNA chair in their
endorse new participation by their students.

November 2015: This month could be extolled
as the month for global networking! During his Summer 2015 ARNA conference representation, ARNA Chair Joseph Shosh made several efforts to promote ARNA membership. Since joining the National Writing Project (NWP) as the National Writing Project
and Founding Chair, Lonnie Rowell worked with our colleagues in Braga, Portugal to strengthen ties between NWP and ARNA. Among other efforts to promote ARNA membership and 2016 conference attendance, Candace Keys repre-
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CARN Report to ARNA

—Submitted by Mary McAteer, Edge Hill University, ARNA-CARN Liaison

The Collaborative Action Research Network, CARN, seeks to generate visibility, support and networking opportunities for action researchers, through providing communicative spaces for critical dialogue and action in a spirit of equality, mutuality and reciprocity.

It holds an annual conference, which is hosted in the UK and established by a group of CARN members alternately. The very successful 2015 conference was held in Braga, Portugal, and was reported by many participants as being the best CARN conference to date. In 2016, we will be in Lincoln, UK, and for the first time, will host an adjunct CARN/ARNA event, which we anticipate will become a feature of all future conferences. This will consolidate the reciprocity between CARN and ARNA, in mirroring the CARN Study Day, which precedes the annual ARNA conference.

There have been significant developments in CARN in the past year, mainly designed to enable greater connectivity and build relationships in a digital age. Our new Jiscmail discussion group contributes significantly to this. We will launch our new website in July, and celebrate that event with an e-study day, hosted by Karen McArdle.

Relationships across the globe are central to the work of CARN, but the relationship with ARNA is one which is of particular significance for us. The mutuality that we have developed since the inception of ARNA has been an important way in which we live out the values of action research. As we move into a period of supporting ARNA in preparation for the Cartagena 2017 World Gathering, we know the relationship will continue to strengthen, and enrich us all though the affirmation of our shared values and vision in a neoliberal world.

ARNA Shares Information at Annual COMIE Conference in Chihuahua, Mexico

—Submitted by Candace Kaye, New Mexico State University, ARNA Global Outreach

I represented ARNA at the COMIE Conference in Chihuahua, Mexico. Since I was the only member of the round table that was announced and published in the program, I was able to use the entire time of the one and a half hour session to discuss ARNA. In this conference session, I presented a power point introducing ARNA provided by Joe Shosh that was simultaneously translated by a member of the action research community in Chihuahua. I also distributed brochures in English and Spanish thanks to the efforts of Joe.

I am grateful to Margaret Riel for sending information about the 2016 conference and the available online tutorials that I also distributed and discussed.

I led a group discussion with those who were interested. All this was accomplished within a bilingue setting.

The session participants most interested in ARNA and its work were from Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez (UACJ) and represented the Centro de Innovacion Educativa (Center for Educational Innovation). The Center for Educational Innovation (CEI) website is available at http://www.uacj.mx/SAL/Eng/Paginas/

I have also contacted Dr. Roldulo Chavez-Chavez, a colleague of mine at NMSU, who continues to have doctoral students from UACJ. I am assured he will be able to give me the best contact(s) for moving forward with liaison work with that university for ARNA.

Richard Teare, President of the Global University for Lifelong Learning, gave a Friday keynote address on designing development pathways with marginalized young adults. Danny Burns, Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University, in his address, discussed the need to nurture participatory change at scale.

While in attendance at ALARA, Santos and Shosh met with ALARA president Colin Bradley to discuss ARNA’s formal role in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first Participatory Action Research World Congress in Cartagena as part of the 2017 ARNA Conference.

Assembled ALARA delegates also had the opportunity to connect via Skype with the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) Conference taking place simultaneously in Braga, Portugal. At that session, CARN Lead Coordinator Ruth Balogh reflected on the CARN keynote address, and ARNA Knowledge Mobilization chair Lonnie Rowell noted the importance of new international action research network collaboration. Joseph Shosh thanked Lesley Wood, ARNA host site chair, for efforts to bring action research networks together in exciting new dialogic opportunities. Doris Santos commented on the momentum building for new joint action in Cartagena 2017.

This year’s conference marked a special 25th milestone anniversary for ARNA, and the conference featured a keynote session chaired by ARNA co-founder Ortrun Zur-ber-Skerritt, who said “I believe we have much to learn from our experiences these past 25 years of international congresses and from our annual Australasian congresses—gathering people and ideas from around the world, addressing global issues and concerns, creating new ways of learning and research, and creating knowledge for all to share.”

ALARA leaders reflected on their learning, with Pip Bruce Ferguson (Dublin City University) commenting on ALARA’s facilitation of cross-cultural understanding; Eileen Flot-Irvine (Royal Roads University) noting how the 1997 World Congress in Cartagena challenged collaboration; Ina Louw (University of Pretoria) commenting on the rich learning that occurs through conference participation; Pieter du Toit (University of Pretoria) reflecting on what it was like to convene the first ALARA conference in Africa in 2003; Shankar Sankaran (University of Technology, South Africa) discussing why action research needs to innovate to be of value to organizations; and Margaret Fletcher reflecting on professional learning as a member of the ALARA community.

The very successful 2015 conference was held at the Instituto de Desarrollo Empresarial y Social at University Nacional de Colombia Bogotá and represented the Centro de Innovacion Educativa (CEI) website is available at http://www.uacj.mx/SAL/Eng/Paginas/

ARNA Leaders Attend ALARA Conference in South Africa

—Submitted by Joseph Shosh, Moravian College, ARNA Chair


New Canadian Action Research Association Established

— By Kurt Clausen, Nipissing University, ARNA-CAARE Liaison 2015-2016

This was truly the inaugural year for this position, as well as for CAARE. To describe the evolution of the CAARE Association:

The Canadian Association of Action Research in Education (CAARE)/Association canadienne de la recherche-action en education (ACRAE) was established in 2010. Initially, it was brought about when the Canadian Journal of Action Research collaborated with the Canadian Association for Teacher Education (CATE) to host a pre-conference on the theme of Action Research at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education annual conference in St. Catharines’ Brock University. At keynotes addresses by Jack Whitehead (Cumbria University), Steve Jordan (McGill), Ruth Dawson (ETFO) and Zoe Donohue (Institute of Child Studies), the group of sixty came to the decision that a new association had to be created to promote the use of action research across the country.

As of June 1, 2015, CAARE became a fully functioning Special Interest Group of CATE. This included its ratified constitution, its first annual conference, and the election of the first slate of executive members. This included:

• President – Dr. Manu Sharma (University of Toronto)
  • Vice-President – Dr. Glenda Black (Nipissing University)
  • Treasurer-Secretary – Dr. Sunny Lau (Bishop’s University)
  • CJAR Representative – Dr. Kurt Clausen (Nipissing University)
  • Member-at-Large – Tara Flynn (Trent University)
  • Student Representative – Kelly Kilgour (University of Ottawa)

The first official conference was led by a keynote panel consisting of Dr. Pamela Adams (University of Lethbridge), Dr. Catherine De Vries (University of Toronto) and Katrina Pollock (University of Western Ontario).

Starting in the Fall 2015, I acted in the unofficial capacity as ARNA-CAARE liaison, attending the ARNA meetings and reporting back to the CAARE executive.

May 28 – June 1, 2016 will be the second annual conference of CAARE. Expanding from the 2015 conference, there will now be a keynote panel, AGM, several panel sessions and a book celebration (including the Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research, presented by Dr. Cathy Bruce).
The main activities for ARNA en Español in 2015 continue to be the membership drive promotion by e-mail to the Mexican and Latin American universities; translating key ARNA documents and announcements from English to Spanish and vice versa; and collaborating as the key contact for the support of new Latin American members and proposed candidates. This past year, we initiated an Action Research Academic Team in our Faculty at the Autonomous University of Baja California. Our team supported Spanish proposal revisions provided members to review proposals and recommend recipients for the Flores-Katanis Scholarship. The ARNA en Español members also participated in the Spanish documents Proceedings revision process and has supported conference planning for ARNA 2017 in Cartagena, Colombia.

Website and Tech Development Committee Shares Accomplishments
– Submitted by Margaret Riel, Pepperdine University, Web & Technology Chair

The Website and Tech Development Committee provides technical support for the activities of ARNA. We continue to explore a variety of tools and make suggestions about both the current and future use of technology by ARNA. The ARNA connect wiki-website (www.arnaconnect.org) remains at the center of our hub of organizational and communication tools. From this site our members find links to our Facebook and Twitter Groups, the 2016 conference site, the 2015 Proceedings and our YouTube channel. And soon the 2017 conference planning team will add their website for our 2017 conference. Our goal is to make it easy to move from these different platforms, so members find the connections that create a strong sense of community for them. Over the past year we have had close to five thousand visitors from 118 countries to the ARNA connect website. About 70% of our visitors are located in the Americas and 30% come from the rest of the world. However this count does not include the many members who go directly to the 2016 conference site, or access the Proceedings directly, or join us on social media (Facebook, Twitter or YouTube).

The current Website and Tech Development Committee is made up of:
- Margaret Riel, Chair
- Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya
- Support of Mexico and South American membership
- Linnea Rademaker, Membership and site sharing
- Elena Polush, Conference Proceedings
- Jamie Hill, Facebook
- Rich McPherson, Conference website conceptions
- Jenny Robbins, Action Research Communities
- Holly Marich, Membership and Twitter

Our accomplishments in 2015-2016 include:
• Development of Templates for the conferences keeping the history of each of the conferences
• Ongoing description of ARNA history and strategies for storing important documents as well as developing an oral history section.
• Development of a YouTube Channel for storing and sharing videos.
• Shared photo storage on Google photos
• Development of Google Drive repository for all of the assets used in the websites
• Continued evolution of ARNA Facebook and Twitter accounts to increase the exposure and opportunity for people to connect with ARNA members.

The establishment of an ARNA Oral History Project, led but Elena Polush, was one of the additions this year as well. The purpose of the project is to capture the ARNA network inception, initiation, development, and self-organization as perceived and experienced by its members. The goal is to document ARNA evolution as its future unfolds by interviewing ARNA members during its annual conferences.

The web-tech Committee is holding a session at the 2016 conference for evaluating and envisioning the future of the use of web tools to support ARNA. The goal of the session is create a survey to be sent to all members that will help us reflect on the next stages of development of our technical and social infrastructures. Areas that we are targeting for growth over the next year are the development of more vibrant Action Research Communities (ARCs) and the further development of some of the knowledge mobilization ideas.

ARNA Financial Report

Assets $ Balance Forward - Moravian College 419.84
Balance Forward - PayPal 4,004.00

Income Memberships 9,575.00
Conference Registration/Sponsorship 33,311.24
Eduardo Flores Fund 1,350.00

Net Income 44,236.24

Expenses
Website Maintenance Fees 157.37
Design and Layout of Annual Report 300.00
Honourarium rec: concert 250.00
Office Support 1,250.00
Colour Printing Costs 1,894.00
2015 Conference Expenses 33,740.68
Credit Card Fees (Nov 2014-June 2015) 894.38
Miscellaneous Expenses 102.67

Net Expenses 36,589.10

Net Income/Loss 5,647.14

Net Assets 10,070.98

2016 Conference Planning Team Welcomes ARNA to Knoxville
– Submitted by John Peters, Co-Chair, 2016 Conference

Our conference theme, MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ACTION RESEARCH FOR A CHANGE, will draw inspiration from the history of Highlander Research and Education Center and the legacy of change that it has spawned. One of the core principles of Highlander’s work is its focus on joint action and interaction among varied constituencies engaged in change efforts. As with Action Research, this will not be your typical conference. It will be a platform for Inter-Action. Dialogue will be our primary form of interaction with skilled facilitators encouraging participants to think together collaboratively. Presentations are limited to short time frames so conference attendees can be actively involved in facilitated dialogue in each session. Other presentations will be displayed during a boxed lunch session so participants will have time to mingle and network with presenters. Also new this year, we will have PechaKucha presentations. These presenters will show 20 slides, for 20 seconds each, and a talk for approximately 6 minutes, followed by 45 minutes of dialogue among attendees and presenters. With four conference tracks, there will be something for everyone: Action Research for Social Change, Action Research for Pedagogical Change, Action Research for Change in helping Professions, and Action Research for Change... in Action! This year the CARN Study Day will be held at the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, TN. Highlander serves as a catalyst for grassroots organizing and movement building in Appalachia and the South as well as nationally and internationally. Highlander works with people fighting for justice and equality, while supporting their efforts to take collective action to share their own destiny. Highlander holds a strong commitment to participatory research, aligned with ARNA goals. This event will take place on Thursday, June 16th from 10:00 am to 4:00pm and will include a review of Highlander’s history, facilitated dialogue, a walking tour of Highlander, group presentation of historical roots, and lunch on site. The conference will include exciting and formal and informal activities including Barbeque and Bourbon tasting, live music, a party on the first night of the main conference, and an International Reception on the second night. Participants will have plenty of opportunities to learn, play, think, and act together. Credit for making all of this possible goes to a wonderful Conference Planning Committee. These talented and enthusiastic educators have spent an enormous amount of time in conversations, completing uncountable tasks, and working together to imagine, design, and implement a complex array of conference activities. Here are their names:

- Janine Al-Aseer, University of Tennessee, Conference Coordinator and Chief of Staff
- Donna Azodi, Lamar University
- Cathy Bruce, Trent University, Past Co-Chair and Conference Planning Advisor
Knowledge Mobilization: A Reflection and a Call to Action

– Submitted by Lonnie Rowell, Chair, Knowledge Mobilization Working Group

An Overview. Knowledge mobilization has been a part of ARNA’s mission and operations since the founding of the network in 2012. At the least, one might say, it has been on the minds of ARNA leaders. Knowledge mobilization is often defined as the meaningful use of evidence and expertise to inform policy, practice, and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. In that sense, all action researchers have a stake in knowledge mobilization, as those engaged in action research know intrinsically that their work is focused on strength

in the research and practice gap. The import

of mobilizing knowledge associated with action

research. The combination of the three has resulted in a

volume might “contribute significantly to the

discussion and developments now taking place

globally regarding the role of networks in action

research, and the potential of networks to impact

the formulation of regional and global strategies

for challenging the current hegemonic view of

educational research.” (p. 1)
When “evidence and expertise” are put forward as being crucial to aligning research, policy and practice, in other words, the reference is most likely not to the forms of evidence and expertise associated with action research. However, this assessment has to take into consideration differences across the Americas, with such consideration being a central value in ARNA. In this context we certainly will want to increase our understanding of the Canadian experience with KMb. In Canada the social science and humanities fields use the term “knowledge mobilization” fairly extensively. The term gained wider use after publication of an evaluation report of the Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) in 2004. Based on this report, SSHRC created a division of Knowledge Products and Mobilization to enhance and accelerate the movement of research findings into policy and program development. This history is noteworthy given the more widespread acceptance of practitioner research in Canada than is evident in the US. Yet, although the battle over the legitimacy of knowledge claims emerging in the context of participatory approaches to social sciences has been taken up many times over the past four decades and continues today, developing global discourses on knowledge democracy point towards significant new considerations that all groups involved with knowledge production and dissemination, including ARNA, should discuss and debate. Overall, it is possible we are closer to constructing a global knowledge democracy than any of us would have imagined even five years ago. Given recent global developments suggesting the possibility of new convergences in thought and action regarding knowledge production (e.g., considerations of a network-of-networks within the global action research community), the emergence of the Urban Commons and Peer2Peer initiatives, and the continued development of the World Social Forum (https://fsrn2016.org/en/), ARNA has decided to convene the first Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy in conjunction with our 2017 Conference in Cartagena, Colombia.

Leading up to this historic event, ARNA’s Knowledge Mobilization Working Group will be working to prepare a White Paper examining the relationship of KMb, Knowledge Democracy, and action research. The Paper will also include recommendations both for ARNA strategic planning considerations and for the consideration of delegates to the Global Assembly. We hope that all ARNA members will participate in the discussions that will emerge beginning this coming fall as conference and global assembly planning move forward. We will base our considerations of the ARNA perspective on KMb on the three commonly recognized components of knowledge mobilization:
1. Raising awareness and prompting change
2. Bringing people together
3. Putting knowledge into action

A Final Word. I would like to thank the members of the 2015-2016 Working Group for their contributions to ARNA’s knowledge mobilization efforts. Those participating included:
• Donna Azodi, Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas
• Kurt Clausen, Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario, Canada
• Scott Merkel, School Counselor, Battlefield High School, Haymarket, Virginia
• Sarah C. Negrete, Director, Northeastern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (NNRPDP)
• Bonny Policoff, Lead Editor, ARNA Proceedings
• Joseph Shosh, Chair, ARNA Coordinating Group and Executive Committee
• Brittany (Britt) Wilczewski, English teacher, Warren Harding High School, Bridgeport, Connecticut

One of ARNA’s deepest commitments is to promote active involvement by members in all policy and program initiatives and operational work. I am looking forward to working with all members interested in knowledge mobilization and to helping find ways to ensure that the participation is meaningful and doable. ARNA members lead busy lives and none of us can devote ourselves full time to the work described in this report. We are, after all, primarily a volunteer organization. Our approach has been that the more we achieve active involvement by the
ARNA Announces Plans for 2017 Cartagena Conference & Global Assembly – Submitted by Lonnie Rowell, University of San Diego, ARNA 2017 Conference Co-Chair

The Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) is finalizing plans for its 2017 annual conference, its first in South America, and for the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy. The events will take place June 12-16 in Cartagena, Colombia through a partnership between ARNA and the National University of Colombia. The National Pedagogic University of Colombia and many other Colombian, Latin American, Caribbean, and global universities, networks and institutions are also serving as affiliates and sponsors.

Planning for the ARNA 2017 Conference has been underway since the fall of 2015. The conference, ARNA’s 5th, has adopted the theme “Participation and Democratization of Knowledge: New Convergences for Reconciliation.” The conference will bring together scholars, other professionals, scholar-activists and citizens in the Global South and the Global North regarding the need for democratization of knowledge, convergences among those creating knowledge through diverse approaches grounded in participatory frameworks of thought and action, and the place of such approaches in reconciliations associated with the end of social conflicts. A special feature of the five-day gathering is the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the First World Symposium of Action Research, held in Cartagena and convened by Colombian sociologist Orlando Fals Borda (1925-2008). The life and work of Fals Borda will be highlighted throughout the conference and the days leading up to it, including a video presentation of his address at the 1977 First World Symposium, an exhibition of his scholarly work and letters, and special pre-conference recognition ceremonies in the Capitol, Bogotá, held in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the National University of Colombia.

Keynote speakers for the conference include Lola Cendales (to be confirmed), a leading figure in popular education and critical pedagogy in South America; Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Portuguese sociologist and a leading global advocate for knowledge democracy; Joanne Rappaport, Georgetown University (USA), a Fals Borda scholar and President of the Latin American Studies Association; Stephen Kemmis, Charles Sturt University (Australia), a leading figure in global action research and author of numerous landmark books on practitioner research and social science; Michelle Fine, a Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Urban Education, and Women’s Studies at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (USA) and a leading voice in Feminist psychology; Eileen Piggott-Irving, Royal Roads University (Canada), editor and author, founder and former Director of the New Zealand Action Research and Review Centre, and a leading global researcher on compassionate confrontation; and Michel Thiollett, Universidade Unigranrio (Brazil), a Franco-Brazilian scholar and author of numerous action research books, and a leading global authority on modalities of participatory approaches to investigating social and organizational problems. In addition to this extraordinary group of Keynote Speakers, the conference will feature several Distinguished Speakers as well as a large number of breakout sessions organized in conjunction with several conference strands.

The Conference Co-Chairs are Lonnie Rowell (USA) and Doris Santos (Colombia). Prof. Santos is on the Faculty of Humanities at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá and is Director of the university’s Education Research Institute. She is a leading member of the international PEP – Pedagogy, Education, and Praxis network. Prof. Rowell, a faculty member in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences at the University of San Diego, is an ARNA founder. He served as the first Chair of ARNA, from 2013-2015, and now Chairs the Knowledge Mobilization Working Group. He is the lead editor for the Palgrave International Handbook of Action Research. The Planning Committee includes, in addition to Professors Rowell and Santos, Kurt Claussen (Canada), Elena Polush (USA), César Osoiro-Sánchez (Colombia), and Thomas Stern (Austria).

An International Advisory Committee for the Conference and Global Assembly is Co-Chaired by Budd Hall (Canada) and Rajesh Tandon (India), who share the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education. Prof. Hall attended the 1977 World Symposium in Cartagena, and Thomas Stern and Rajesh Tandon attended the 20th anniversary gathering in 1997. Members of the International Advisory Committee include Mary Brydon-Miller (USA), Colin Bradley (Australia), Lesley Wood (South Africa), Tomas Rodriguez Villasante (Spain), Ileana Molto (Venezuela), Jack Whitehead (UK), Liza Grandia (USA), Jose Ramos (Australia), Romina Schuhaer (Canada), and Tina Cook (UK), among others.

ARNA is now seeking a full range of conference affiliates and sponsors. The leading action research networks around the world already have become affiliates for the Cartagena gathering, including the Action Learning, Action Research Association (ALARA), the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN), the Pedagogy, Education, Praxis network (PEP), and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). Others will be added soon. ARNA also is excited to be collaborating with CIMAS, a network of professionals committed to social transformation and participatory democracies, which has participants in several European countries and throughout Latin America. CIMAS brings together social scientists united in support of social transformation through participatory methodologies in a context of sustainability and putting people and communities at the center of life.

Also collaborating in organizing of the 2017 gathering is the Council for Adult Education in...
Latin America (CEAAL), which was established in 1982 and now involves 195 civil organizations (NGO’s) in 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first president of CEAAL was Paulo Freire, with Orlando Fals Borda serving as the second president. With a powerful heritage, CEAAL today has a very significant presence in Latin America and the Caribbean and supports numerous initiatives related to strengthening the skills and comprehensive training of educators and supporting social transformations in civil society. Representatives from CEAAL included in the conference planning include: Alfonso Torres, a professor of the Universidad Pedagogica Nacional in Bogotá, Colombia; Alfredo Ghiso, professor of the Universidad Luis Amigó in Medellín, Colombia; and Ileana Malito, an educator and researcher in CESAP, a popular education and participatory action organization based in Caracas, Venezuela.

To date, several leading universities in Colombia have agreed to be conference sponsors, including the National University of Colombia (Universidad Nacional de Colombia), the National Pedagogic University (Universidad Pedagógica Nacional), Universidad de los Andes, and Universidad Distrital Francisco José De Caldas. Moravian College is our initial North American higher education sponsor, with many more to follow. We invite institutions and organizations interested in sponsorships to contact either of the co-chairs now.

In addition to the three-day conference and one-day pre-conference, ARNA is convening the 1st Global Assembly for Knowledge Democracy in conjunction with a wide variety of networks, organizations, and institutions involved with action research and participatory approaches to creating knowledge. This gathering, which will take place in Cartagena on June 16, will examine global convergences emerging in relation to knowledge production, social progress, respect for epistemological diversity, and alternative globalization. A key question for those working in the social spaces created by the global action research community, Urban Commons movement, the World Social Forum, the Peer2Peer network, the Indigenous Sovereignty and other anti/decolonizing movements, and the flourish-
Join Us! ARNA memberships can be established conveniently on line at:

www.arnaconnect.org

You also can join during the conference by filling out your membership and making payment by cash or check at the Registration Table.