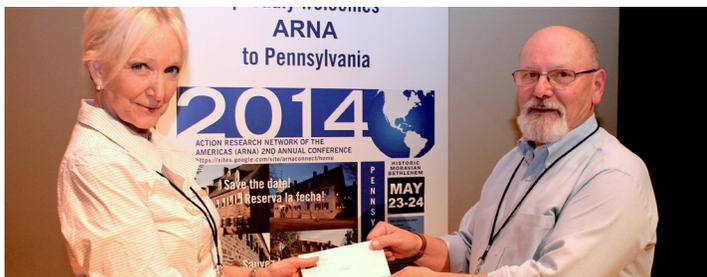


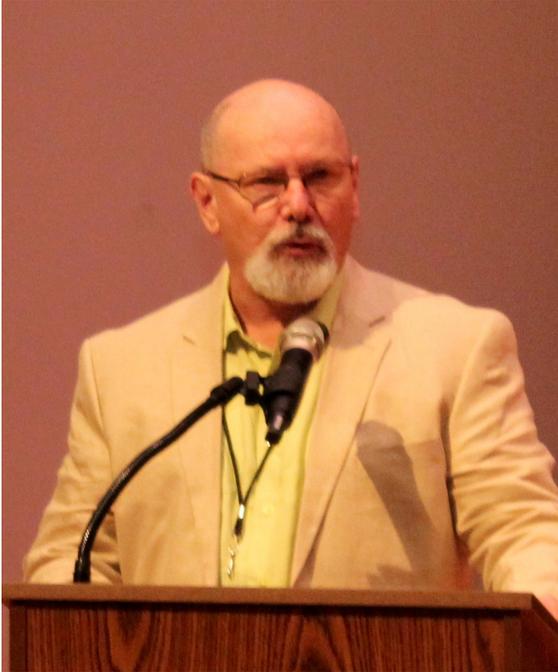
# 2014 Annual Report



**ARNA unites action researchers and participatory researchers throughout the Americas. 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 around the world both virtually and physically to share findings and further develop practitioner inquiry and participatory research

## Message from the Chair



This is the 2nd Annual Report produced by ARNA. The first report was prepared in conjunction with our 2nd Annual Conference held at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. As you will see in the pages that follow, much has been accomplished in the 11 months since that first report.

This progress is entirely in keeping with ARNA's emergence in a rather bold form on the global stage of action research and social science research in general. The determined band of founders and subsequent elected leaders stepped up in full voice for several reasons. First of all, it seemed to us that the time was right to establish a framework within which the whole family of action and participatory research in the Americas could come together to take stock of all that has been achieved since the initial development of action research in the Americas in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. We wanted to establish a community of critical thought in which we could learn from our victories and defeats. We

also wanted to take concrete steps towards a future in which all forms of action and participatory research are recognized as important ways of contributing new knowledge and helping to shape policy decisions regarding education, social service, health care and other social domains.

The Annual Report addresses our work in what ARNA designates as Operational Groups and Interest Area Groups. It summarizes ARNA's initiatives, gives an overview of the network's finances, and acknowledges all those who have contributed time and effort to the network. The Report also puts all of ARNA's work into a context of Strategic Priorities, adopted in the spring of 2014 and intended to be a guiding light as ARNA continues to grow and develop.

We look to the collective wisdom of our membership and our active members to guide us forward. ARNA leadership is here to serve the membership, and to do that effectively we need to know both what our member would like to see happen as we continue to grow and evolve and how the membership wishes to be involved in helping to carry the load.

Lonnie Rowell, Ph.D., Chair, ARNA Coordinating Group  
April 20, 2015

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## Successful ARNA Initiatives – 2014-2015

Building on accomplishments from ARNA's first two years of existence (2012-2013 and 2013-2014), the network has had a number of noteworthy organizational successes in 2014-2015.



Our successes yield fresh initiatives as well as strengthened operations. That is what we strive for each year: quality operations and network initiatives that generate member interest, excitement, and commitment to collaborative work. The 2014-2015 initiatives are highlighted below based on ARNA's established priorities of knowledge mobilization, multi-vocality, and community building.

### Knowledge Mobilization

ARNA is committed to engagement with a variety of strategies for knowledge engagement to bridge gaps between research, policy and practice in crucial social domains. Our work has included:

- Continued development of the ARNA family of websites, in particular completely reorganizing the website to making it easier to navigate and providing multiple paths for different audiences
- Produced the first e-Proceedings from an ARNA conference (the 2014 Conference)
- Organized the Third Annual Conference, our first in Canada
- Developed plan for production of 2015 Proceedings
- Established Action Research blog with author and action researcher Peter Richmond, with access to a global audience for worldwide sharing of action research perspectives
- Initiated Action Research Heritage Project and Action Research Oral History Project as strategic ways to document the evolution of action research within the Americas and to

capture the ARNA network inception, initiation, development, and self-organization as perceived and experienced by its members.

### Multi-vocality

ARNA recognizes that 'voice' in action research is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Based on that recognition, ARNA has:

- Continued building capacity for inclusivity in relationship to using the languages of the Americas in ARNA conferences, special events, and publications
- Continued practicing solidarity in relationship to diverse forms of knowledge production and mobilization, including practitioner-research, participatory research, youth participatory action research, etc.
- Continued holding ARNA's annual conference in diverse regions of the Americas
- Taken first steps in developing partnerships on a global level
- Initiated dialogue with colleagues in Colombia for planning the 2017 ARNA Conference in Cartagena, Colombia

### The Community of ARNA

We understand that our network is stronger when members feel engaged and when our work is approached through collaboration and the sharing of common interests. In support of this principle, ARNA 2014-2015 initiatives in this area have included:

- Nurturing good working relations for all tasks and assignments
- Assisting all members who wish to be active with finding avenues for involvement
- Continuing to develop the network's capacity for community building among action researchers across the Americas, including recruiting new members to ARNA



- Reorganizing member data base management system
- Strengthening use of social media through the addition of Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Initiating ARNA-CARN dialogue regarding furthering cross-network collaboration and presentation on State of ARNA at 2014 CARN conference in Gateshead, UK
- Adding AERA Action Research Liaison position to ARNA Coordinating Group and reaching out to the AERA Action Research Interest Group to establish dialogue

## Reports

ARNA's structure includes a number of Operations Committees and Collaborative Interest Groups. This structure has evolved since ARNA was founded in 2012. At present, we have seven operations committees and four functioning interest groups. The Operations committees guide ARNA operationally. Interest area groups are established based on member interests. This section of the Annual Report includes reports from committees and interest groups. These groups keep the ARNA wheels turning, so to speak, and reading these reports provides a good picture of how things are rolling for ARNA. We are always looking for members who wish to get involved, as the stronger our active member base is the more the network is able to accomplish. It is a simple formula, and it has worked well for ARNA from the very beginning of the network.



## ARNA Coordinating Group

– Submitted by Lonnie Rowell

The Coordinating Group consists of 11 members representing the full range of ARNA operations and interest areas. The Group is elected, with members serving one or two-year terms depending on the particular position the member holds. A five-person Executive Committee



also operates within the Coordinating Group. These two groups alternate their monthly meetings, with the Executive Committee meeting in June, August, October, December, February, and April and the Coordinating Group meeting in the remaining months. Meetings are held via Google + video hangouts, with participants joining the meeting from four countries, including five states in the US. Meetings last from 1.5 to 2.5 hours.

This year's Coordinating Group has included:

- Lonnie Rowell, *Chair, USA* \*
- Joe Shosh, *Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator, USA* \*
- Shelley Yearley, *Canada (Treasurer)* \*
- Cathy Bruce, *Canada (Co-Chair, Conference Planning Committee)*
- Miguel Angel Lopez, *Mexico (ARNA en Espanol Facilitator)*
- Margaret Riel, *USA (Web & Tech Committee Facilitator)* \*
- Linnea Rademaker, *USA (Membership Committee Coordinator)* \*
- Rachel Sherman, *USA (At-large Representative, Operations Committees)*
- Candace Kaye, *USA, (At-large Representative, Collaborative Interest Groups)*
- Mary McAteer, *UK (CARN Liaison)*
- Elena Polush, *USA, (AERA Action Research SIG Liaison)*

\* Members of the Executive Committee

## ARNA 2015 Conference Planning Committee

– Submitted by Cathy Bruce, Associate Professor, Trent University, School of Education and Professional Learning

The small but mighty ARNA 2015 Conference Committee consisted of 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), Beverly Caswell and Larissa Lam (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education - OISE Contacts), and the wonderful on-site student volunteers from OISE. This team worked diligently to prepare a stellar conference hosted by Trent University in partnership with OISE of the University of Toronto and the Robertson Foundation. Thanks to several important institutional sponsorships and the incredible good will of all volunteers, ARNA 2015 promises to be a deeply engaging conference. As conference Co-Chair and host, I am deeply indebted to the unflagging efforts of each member of this team and to the generous sponsors of the ARNA 2015 conference. One of the strong accomplishments of this group beyond actually putting on the conference, is a new conference handbook to help with succession planning and offer guidance to incoming conference chairs. This document will be complete by the end of June to support planning for ARNA 2016 and beyond.



The theme for 2015 is “Joint action: learning with and from one another” and we do indeed plan to learn from one another in this personal and professional learning opportunity. An es-

sential part of action research activity is reflection. At the ARNA 2015 conference, we have explicitly built in opportunities for reflection. For example, after the keynote presentations, there will be a discussant that provokes us to ask more questions and engage in joint learning through discussion. Receptions, a dinner for all conference attendees and common break times will also encourage more dialogue in an informal setting.

## ARNA en Español

This group was established as a liaison for strengthening ARNA's membership base in Mexico, Central and South America. Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya is the Coordinator of this group.



After the 2014 Conference, the first action was to proceed to the election for the new ARNA en español representative, which took some time due to the need to update the ARNA en español data base. Candidates for the position included Romelia Hinojosa and Miguel Ángel López, and the ballots showed that I was re-elected.

Meanwhile there were additional actions, including the initial coordination for translation of 2 Spanish-language articles. We also have been considering finding a way to take less time to meet the stringent deadline for publication set by the Proceedings Committee. We also worked to identify all ARNA members associated with the Autonomous University of Baja California. We are currently working to support ARNA en español members in the membership renewal process and registering for the Toronto Conference. Finally, we have had the opportunity to work on translation for the ARNA 2015 Conference texts.

## Conference Proceedings Editorial Working Group

– Submitted by Elena Polush

Publication of the inaugural ARNA Proceedings was among many significant ARNA moments in 2014. This important ARNA milestone could not have been possible without our entire community's passion for and commitment to promoting action research. A team of five editors who dedicated their talents and countless hours establishing the proceedings' processes and procedures led this effort through communicating with authors, reviewing manuscripts, designing the ARNA Proceedings WIKI pages, and preparing manuscripts for publications. The ARNA 2014 Proceedings Editorial team consisted of: Elena Polush, Lead Editor, USA  
Tara Flynn, Associate Editor, Canada  
Heather Leaman, Associate Editor, USA  
Jose Martinez, Assistant Editor, USA  
Jamie Hill, Webmaster, Assistant Editor, USA

The ARNA 2014 Proceedings was published on December 1, 2014 and included contributions from ARNA's second annual conference held in May of 2014 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA. The 2014 ARNA Proceedings can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/site/arnaproceedings/home>. The collection is organized by the ARNA 2014 Conference type of session formats. Specifically, it includes 12 papers, two symposium presentations, six workshop session summaries, two round table discussion summaries, one poster presentation, and three working group summaries written in English and Spanish languages. The authors are members of the action research global community. They live and work in Australia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Portugal, United Kingdom, and the USA.

Starting with this year (2015), ARNA Proceedings is part of ARNA's Knowledge Mobilization component. The ARNA 2014 Proceedings' baton was transferred to the ARNA 2015 Proceedings editorial team of six members - four members of the ARNA 2014 Proceedings team and two new members. Specifically, the ARNA 2015 Proceedings Editorial team includes:

- Elena Polush, *Lead Editor, USA*
- Tara Flynn, *Associate Editor, Canada*

- Heather Leaman, *Associate Editor, USA*
- Jamie Hill, *Webmaster, Assistant Editor, USA*
- Nathan Snyder, *Associate Editor, USA*
- Nathalis G. Wamba, *Associate Editor, USA*

The ARNA 2015 Conference Proceedings editorial team members have begun the process of reflecting on the last year's experiences and planning this year's activities. The Editorial team's charge is to advance the Proceedings as a peer-reviewed publication and a premier collection of ARNA members' work, and a significant contributor to action research knowledge. The ARNA 2015 Conference Proceedings' estimated publication date is December 1, 2015. The Editorial Team is looking forward to working closely with the contributors to the ARNA 2015 Conference in Toronto, Canada and, subsequently, publishing their work in the ARNA 2015 Conference Proceedings.

## Knowledge Mobilization Committee

– Submitted by Joseph Shosh



The Action Research Network of the Americas is, by definition, a knowledge mobilization organization. Hence, the Knowledge Mobilization Committee has worked throughout the year to continue to build the infrastructure necessary to extend the reach of ARNA's knowledge creation and dissemination efforts. Visit the expanding Knowledge Mobilization tab of the ARNA home page at <http://www.arnacconnect.org/> to review completed and ongoing projects.

Foremost among Knowledge Mobilization accomplishments in 2014-2015 was the publication of the first ARNA Conference Proceedings, under the most accomplished leadership of

Ball State University's Elena Polush. See "Conference Proceedings Editorial Working Group" report above. Also available on the Proceedings website is the ARNA Oral History Project, with interviews of the ARNA initiators forthcoming, and reflections on the inaugural San Francisco conference by St. Mary's College's Suzy Thomas and reflections on the 2014 Bethlehem conference by Moravian College's Joseph Shosh and Trent University's Cathy Bruce.

Trent University's Rich McPherson, ARNA's lead videographer, has created a YouTube channel to



serve as a public repository for the digital videos developed in conjunction with each ARNA Conference. Included here are edited video greetings from action researchers around the world, responding to the conference themes of knowledge creation (2013) and enacting our beliefs—the so-what of action research (2014). Moving forward, ARNA must continue to explore how best to encourage, support, and share the digital storytelling efforts of its members.

To spur conversation about action research among ARNA members and the wider public, Moravian College Master of Arts in Teaching Fellow and *New York Times* best-selling author Peter Richmond debuted his blog *Action Research in Action*. ARNA members have joined Peter in provocative conversations about listening carefully to research participants, thinking about the kinds of future our actions will create, determining when curriculum should be revised, asking the questions that support student learning, and on examining how professional journalists might learn from action researchers. Please take the time to talk back to Peter in the *Action Research in Action* Discussion Forum.

Knowledge mobilization efforts will continue in Toronto, with all members asked to contribute to the Action Research Heritage Project and Action Research Oral History Projects, coordinated by Lonnie Rowell, Elena Polush, and Joseph Shosh. Undergraduate action researchers Christopher Ossont and Brianne Schoolcraft will lead efforts in Toronto to examine how best to encourage other undergraduate action researchers to connect with ARNA. Efforts are also underway to support the network's outreach to our Latin American partners through the additional financial resources that will be made possible by the very first Eduardo Flores Benefit Concert in conjunction with the Toronto conference. Following the Toronto conference, the Knowledge Mobilization tab on the ARNA home page will be expanded to provide easy access to the action research biographies and bibliographies of past and current recipients of the Promising Action Researcher, Community Development, Social Justice, and Eduardo Flores Leadership Awards.

Report submitted by Joseph Shosh, Chair, Moravian College, on behalf of:

- Jackie Allen, *University of LaVerne, California, USA*
- Rich McPherson, *Trent University, Ontario, Canada*
- Christopher Ossont, *Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Elena Polush, *Ball State University, Indiana, USA*
- Peter Richmond, *Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Brianne Schoolcraft, *Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Rachel Sherman, *Bethlehem Area School District, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Suzy Thomas, *St. Mary's College, California, USA*
- Britt Wilczewski, *Bridgeport School District, Connecticut, USA*
- Randy Ziegenfuss, *Salisbury Township School District, Pennsylvania, USA*

## **Membership, Sponsorships, and Affiliations Committee**

– Submitted by Linnea Rademaker, Chair

I began my duties as Chair of the Membership,

Sponsorships, and Affiliations Committee in the summer of 2014, and took some first steps to reorganize record-keeping and the Prophet© database. I found the database difficult to use, and difficult to interface with my email programs. However, I worked with a representative from the company and we spent several hours trying various ways to make it work. Meanwhile, I created spreadsheets of official members and of all contacts.

By September, I had completed the following:

1. Cross-checked two spreadsheets from the previous Chair with the Prophet© database—all people who have “paid” are now on the Prophet database, as well as on the ARNA website.
2. Introduced AERA Action Research SIG liaison, Elena Polush, on the ARSIG website, and also sent out an email doing the same to the ARSIG listserv, inviting everyone to visit the ARNA website. I think this is a good way to begin the membership drive, by getting the word out about this organization to a broader constituency.
3. I updated the “Members” page on the ARNA website.
4. I welcomed Rachel Sherman as a group member.
5. Rachel and I investigated social networking (Facebook and Twitter) as a tool for ARNA
6. We presented a membership drive proposal to ARNA’s Executive Committee and Coordinating Group, which was approved by both groups. A membership drive was launched in November, and targeted founding members and new members using the excel spreadsheets I created from the Prophet© database. Since I could not email through the database, I had to use my G-mail account, which was problematic, due to

restrictions from G-mail. Our committee began researching alternatives after the membership drive was underway. Fees for 2014-2015 were set at:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Founding Members</b>   | \$125.00   |
| <b>Professional Members</b>   | \$150.00   |
| <b>Student Members</b>  | \$ 75.00   |
| <b>Proportionate Membership</b>   | \$100.00   |
| <i>(for members from countries with drastically different exchange rates)</i> |            |
| <b>Institutional Sponsor</b>  | \$750.00   |
| <b>Conference Sponsor</b>   | \$750      |
| <b>Both (Inst. &amp; Conf)</b>  | \$1,200.00 |

The web page was updated to reflect the new pricing strategies and benefits for all types of memberships, with the expert help of the Web Development and Technology committee. The Moravian College-hosted payment site was updated. The google pay-pal site was updated. Jennifer Robbins started an ARNA Facebook© Page, which Jaimie Hill now manages. Jennifer also started a broader “Practitioner Research” page to connect other practitioner researchers from other groups, including the Action Research SIG of AERA, and several others. A Dropbox© folder was created and shared with the entire Executive Committee. The folder contains all pertinent information about membership for 2015. All membership committee members were added to this folder (given editing and reading permissions) in March.

I drafted a membership letter, which was edited by the Executive Committee. I sent the letter as an e-mail, which included live links to various pages on the ARNA website, including the 2015 conference site and “Become a Member Site.” I sent the letter to both past members (founding and professional), as well as contacts. Sending e-mails to membership was not problematic. However, sending to contacts (over 2,000 when I began), was problematic. G-mail limited me to 400-500 per day, and if too many e-mail addresses “bounced” back, I was cut off from my G-mail access for 24-48 hours. This happened twice. In February, 2015 I reported these problems to the Coordinating Group and indicated that I was investigating other options (databases? E-mail management?).



Membership renewal was slow; all Executive Committee members took on sending reminders to members/acquaintances who had not renewed. As members renewed (or new members joined), all members were added to the Wiki-website (if not already on), were sent a membership certificate, and were sent a welcome email by the membership chair, with links to pertinent areas of the ARNA website, including information about how to add themselves to the membership directory (a member benefit). By March 2015, all former and current members were sent information about the conference, and about the CARN study day. I also sent a poll (drafted by 2016 Conference Planners) to members about future conference dates in order to help plan for 2016. Holly Marich was added as a member of the Membership Committee. Holly started an ARNA twitter feed.

Payment reports continue to come in from the Moravian College site, and I have added an excel spreadsheet to document membership. Continuing issues are making sure that Conference Sponsorship connections receive and are credited for their one free conference registration (benefit of Conference Sponsorship).

After investigating several membership databases and email management systems, the field was narrowed to two programs—Non-profit Easy© and Constant Contact©. Constant Contact© was chosen because of the ease of use. Non-profit Easy© might be a great source for future use as we grow, because it allows the emailing features of Constant Contact©, plus event management, which will simplify both membership and conference registration. For now Constant Contact© is a simpler choice. I can now email members through Constant Contact© without jeopardy to my G-mail account. I can add the spreadsheet of conference registrants after the conference, and we will also have that group that can be emailed (double postings to membership and conference registration are handled through the cloud-based Constant Contact© program, so that no one will receive two emails).

Holly Marich drafted materials for the Conference folders, including a conference attender information sheet, and a sheet about the web-

site and joining ARNA (benefits).

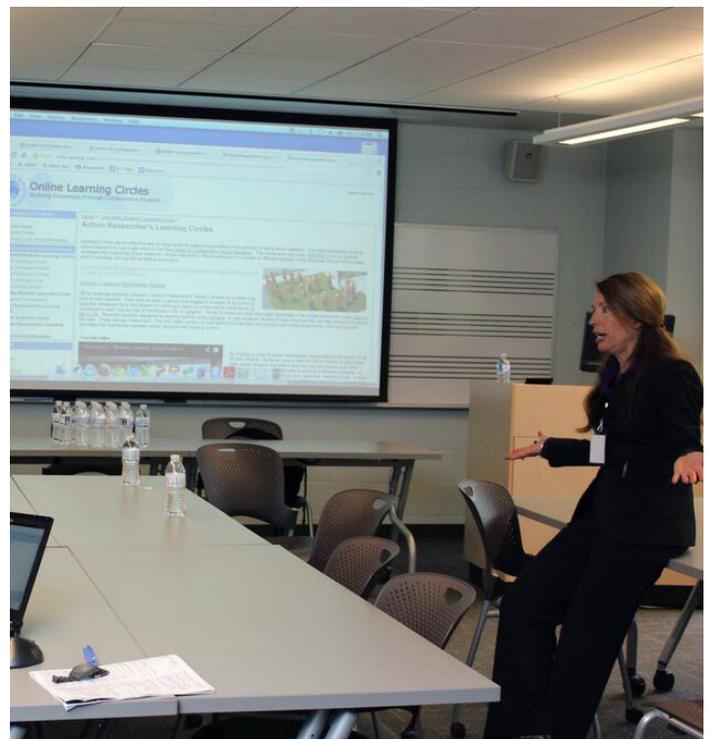
## Website and Tech Development Committee

– Submitted by Margaret Riel

Following discussions at the ARNA 2014 conference, the ARNA website developed a new look and complete reorganization during 2014-15 year. This was done both to both make the site more vibrant and to better organize all of the materials that we have been developing. The website serves both as a meeting place and a shared space to store our resources. We have had over 11,000 visitors to the site since April 2013. We hope to see that number grow exponentially over the coming years.

We have also decentralized and have many more people taking on new roles:

- Margaret Riel, Facilitator, *Site Structure and Design*
- Miguel Angel Lopez Montoya--*Translations*
- Linnea Rademaker--*Membership, and site sharing*
- Elena Polush--*Conference Proceedings*
- Jamie Hill--*Conference Proceedings*
- Rich McPherson--*Conference Web, Knowledge Building*
- Jenny Robins -- *Collaboration Groups, Facebook*
- Holly Marich -- *ARNA Twitter*



Our accomplishments in 2014-2015 include:

1. Multilingual development so instead of maintaining two parallel sites (English and Spanish), we now rely on Google translate to make our single site available in more than 30 languages.
2. Multiple ways into the site with to make the website work equally well for both new visitors and returning members.
3. Blog Discussion – A blog by author and action researcher Peter Richmond has been added to the site. This adds an element of interactivity to the site as members and visitors are free to add their ideas.
4. Improvements in adding members through the site.
5. Development of a YouTube Channel for ARNA to store the videos that we have been collecting.
6. ARNA Facebook and twitter accounts added to increase the exposure and opportunity for people to connect with ARNA and ARNA members.
7. Creation of the ARNA Conference Proceedings. This major accomplishment came about through the work of a new Proceedings Editorial Team, led by Dr. Elena Polush. The 2014 Proceedings were published as an electronic manuscript in December 2014.
8. Further development of the Knowledge Mobilization section of the website, and in conjunction with the e-publication Conference Proceedings, establishment of an ARNA Oral History Project. 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. Project productions are currently included in the Conference Proceedings.

Web Design work anticipated for the coming year:

1. Support and development of our Collaborative Interest groups is slated for the coming year. The site for this development is integrated with the main website but walled off. This makes it possible for new members to experiment with the development of their group spaces without the fear of creating a problem on the whole website. We want to encourage our members to use

the website as their meeting place, and we hope that minimizing risk and giving control is one of the ways to do this.

2. We are continuing to develop the knowledge mobilization section of the website. This involves posting more short video stories about action research and developing other materials and resources that can be shared.
3. The proceedings from the 2015 conference will be published and shared.

### **ARNA Collaborative Interest Groups Report** – Submitted by Candace Kaye, Ph.D.

New collaborative interest groups are established as the needs and interests of ARNA members evolve. New interest groups will be announced at the 2015 ARNA Conference. At present ARNA has six groups listed on the website of ARNA <https://sites.google.com/site/groupsarna/home/collaborative-interest-groups>

The groups include:

#### **Early Childhood Education**

This site does have the distinction of being one of the first participatory websites in North America (perhaps the world) devoted to action research in early childhood education. As a beginning, the projects section of the site currently contains representative action research projects completed by San Francisco State University (SFSU) and New Mexico State University (NMSU) early childhood education graduate students and Mongolia State University of Education (MSUE) undergraduate early childhood education students since 2011.



## School Counseling

This site:

- Acts as a collaborative forum across the Americas to share AR anecdotes and experiences
- Offers support to practitioners and provide an ongoing conversation to share best practices in counseling throughout the world
- Offers a central “place” for school counselors to ask questions about research projects, share results of completed studies, and gather ideas for new studies in their sites.

## School Leadership

Questions posed on the site for School Leaders are:

- How do you find time to engage in inquiry?
- How does your authority manifest itself in Action Research at your school?
- What are some AR resources you use to help guide your inquiry?
- What role does student achievement have in your action research? How is this different than other areas of AR?
- Action Research that contributes to practice or Action Research that contributes to student achievement?
- Do your students have a voice in the Action Research projects at your school?

Action Research topics for principals presented on the site include:

- How is the new “what” (Common Core) affecting teaching culture? Inquiring into the Common Core by Nancy Fichtman Dana as possible resource
- Will providing an hour of innovation/creativity time for teachers help create a problem-solving culture?

## Pennsylvania State Working Group

The PA Working Group is seeking colleagues from Pennsylvania to join ARNA as members and to help facilitate action research throughout the Commonwealth. The PA Working Group seeks to unite action researchers and supporters of action research throughout the Keystone State and to contribute, collectively, to the ARNA mission.

## Indigenous People’s Knowledge

No information available at this time. This group

was inaugurated through discussions at the 2014 ARNA Conference.

## Environmental Education

- Submitted by Sara Garcia

The Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA) work team on environmental action research strives to promote inclusive, authentic dialog that includes multiple languages and cultures to generate opportunities for collaboration toward praxis. A global environmental concern requires education professionals that are prepared holistically by transformative orientations as a basis for social responsibility.

Action research provides, as a community of learners a commitment to collaborate and build interdisciplinary groups may overcome the effects of traditional methodological paradigms in teaching and learning through constant engagement with community-based models. The action researcher and ecological educator must have a conceptual understanding of nature as a system of systems, which include humans. The future of the planet by necessity will not only require an education with a focus on “good practices” but will also take into account the interconnectedness of all environment systems. In addition an essential action plan also includes a vision



to harmonize a balance among all natural elements and requires an interdisciplinary approach toward transformation in thinking and attitude. Moreover, action researchers must possess an understanding of natural processes that are part of an essential commitment toward social responsibility as a more inclusive education goal for all sectors of society.

ARNA encourages the engagement of environmental researcher in collaborative teams to generate these essential components in pedagogy of higher education, community education, and social service education. ARNA as an organization promotes social change through the lens of action research, which proposes a paradigm of transformative ecological education. Action research through eco-pedagogy is the construction of efficient ecological management with a cooperative community based on a mindset, which includes environmental forces as holistic systems. Collaborative action research groups engaged in the organization of ARNA have, as an ultimate goal, environmental sustainability, social and material justice, and global peace.

\* \* \*

Based on anecdotal evidence from current participants, the average time per month for involvement in an ARNA Collaborative Interest Group is between 4 and 16 hours. During the past year, involvement by people in higher education predominates, but there is active and continued interest in enlarging the number of groups and membership in current groups to include those in schools, service organizations, and other community affiliations interested in action research study and practice.

To join one of the groups, ARNA members can contact the facilitator or to create a new group Coordinating Group member Rachel Sherman can be contacted.



## **ARNA Financial Overview: 2014-2015**

*- Submitted by Shelley Yearley, Ontario Ministry of Education, Treasurer*

*All figures here are reported in \$US*

ARNA ended its inaugural year with a cash on hand balance of \$4,717.38. In its second year, ARNA took in receipts totaling \$27,691.39 from membership dues, conference registrations, donations, and paid sponsorships from the Autonomous University of Baja California, the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN), Moravian College, Trent University, and West Chester University of Pennsylvania. This represented a nearly 30% increase over ARNA's gross receipts of \$21,474.35 in 2013. Expenditures associated with the second annual conference, including the pre-conference CARN Study Day at Moravian College totaled \$27,789.76, resulting in a 2014 calendar year end balance of \$4,619.01. The Eduardo Flores Scholarship Fund has a balance of \$510 and is expected to grow as a result of the inaugural Flores Benefit Concert at the Toronto 2015 conference. The Organizing Committee will be asked to approve a plan to disseminate Flores Scholarship Funds in support of ARNA attendees from Latin America, with the first disbursements to be made to support attendance at the 2016 conference in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Under the financial umbrella of Moravian College, ARNA qualifies as a US 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and, in accordance with the Strategic Plan, will seek independent non-profit tax status in the year ahead. Moravian College has expanded its online payment portal to ARNA specifications to facilitate ease of international credit card payment and automated receipt and record-keeping functions. Throughout the year ahead, ARNA seeks to maintain its solid financial foundation, while expanding its membership base and seeking new and continued support through additional conference and institutional sponsors.

ARNA continued to enjoy a strong financial position at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 year. Once the final conference expenses were paid, there was \$4,619.01 cash on hand in our combined Moravian and PayPal accounts. This allowed us to consider several expenditures to develop our infrastructure, including website upgrades and a new database system for generating email messages to ARNA members and friends.

The 2015 Toronto conference expenditures are estimated at \$29,340 and are expected to be covered entirely by conference/membership fees and sponsorships.

Thanks,  
Shelley

## ARNA Sponsors

ARNA continues to be fortunate to have the support a variety of institutions and organizations throughout the Americas. Opportunities are available for Institutional Sponsorships and Conference Sponsorships. We wish to thank our 2014-2015 Sponsors:

### Institutional Sponsors



### 2015 Conference Sponsors



Support from our sponsors helps to keep down the cost of membership and conferences. We would be happy to add your institution or organization to the ARNA sponsors.

### ARNA Member Involvement

The Coordinating Group wishes to express its gratitude to all who have served as ARNA volunteers over the past year. ARNA volunteers keep the network functioning through committees and working groups. This infrastructure provides unique opportunities for in-the-trenches participation in creating the first action research network covering the entire continent, 8700 miles (14,00 km) from south to north.

### 2015 Conference

Conference Planning Committee:

- 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*)
- Beverly Caswell (*Ontario Institute for Studies in Education*)
- Larissa Lam (*Ontario Institute for Studies in Education*)

### Conference Volunteers – Thanks to all our OISE volunteers!

ARNA Members Active in Operations Committees and Collaborative Interest Groups (*Alphabetical order*)

- Jackie Allen, *University of LaVerne, California, USA*
- Sarah Bennett, *OISE & Trent University, Ontario, Canada*
- Liz Campbell, *Bluewater, Ontario, Canada*
- Jackie DeLong, *Brock University, Canada*
- Connie DiLucchio, *West Chester University of Pennsylvania, USA*

- Pip Bruce Ferguson, *Dublin City University, Ireland*
- Tara Flynn, *Trent University, Ontario, Canada*
- Sara Garcia, *Santa Clara University, California, USA*
- Jamie Hill, *San Francisco, California, USA*
- Mina Kim, *San Francisco State University, California, USA*
- Heather Leaman, *West Chester University of Pennsylvania, USA*
- Romelia Hinojosa Lujan, *Chihuahua, Mexico*
- Camilo Manchola, *Brazilia, Brazil*
- Holly Marich, *Reno, Nevada, USA*
- Mary McAteer, *Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, Lancashire, UK*
- Rich McPherson, *Ontario, Canada*
- Mica Nereu, *Westmoor High School, California, USA*
- Blair Nibblett, *Trent University, Ontario, Canada*
- Christopher Ossont, *Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA*
- John Peters, *Knoxville, Tennessee, USA*
- Elena Polush, *Ph. D. Ball State University, Indiana, USA*
- Peter Richmond, *Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Jennifer Robins, *University of Central Missouri, USA*
- Brianne Schoolcraft, *Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Rachel Sherman, *Bethlehem Area School District, Pennsylvania, USA*
- Nathan Snyder, *NYC iSchool, New York, New York, USA*
- Suzy Thomas, *Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, California, USA*
- Morgan Urbany, *University of San Diego, California, USA*
- Nathalis Wamba, *CUNY Queens College, Flushing, New York, USA*
- Jack Whitehead, *University of Cumbria, UK*
- Britt Wilczewski, *Bridgeport School District, Connecticut, USA*
- Randy Ziegenfuss, *Salisbury Township School District, Pennsylvania, USA*

## Strategic Priorities – 2015-2017

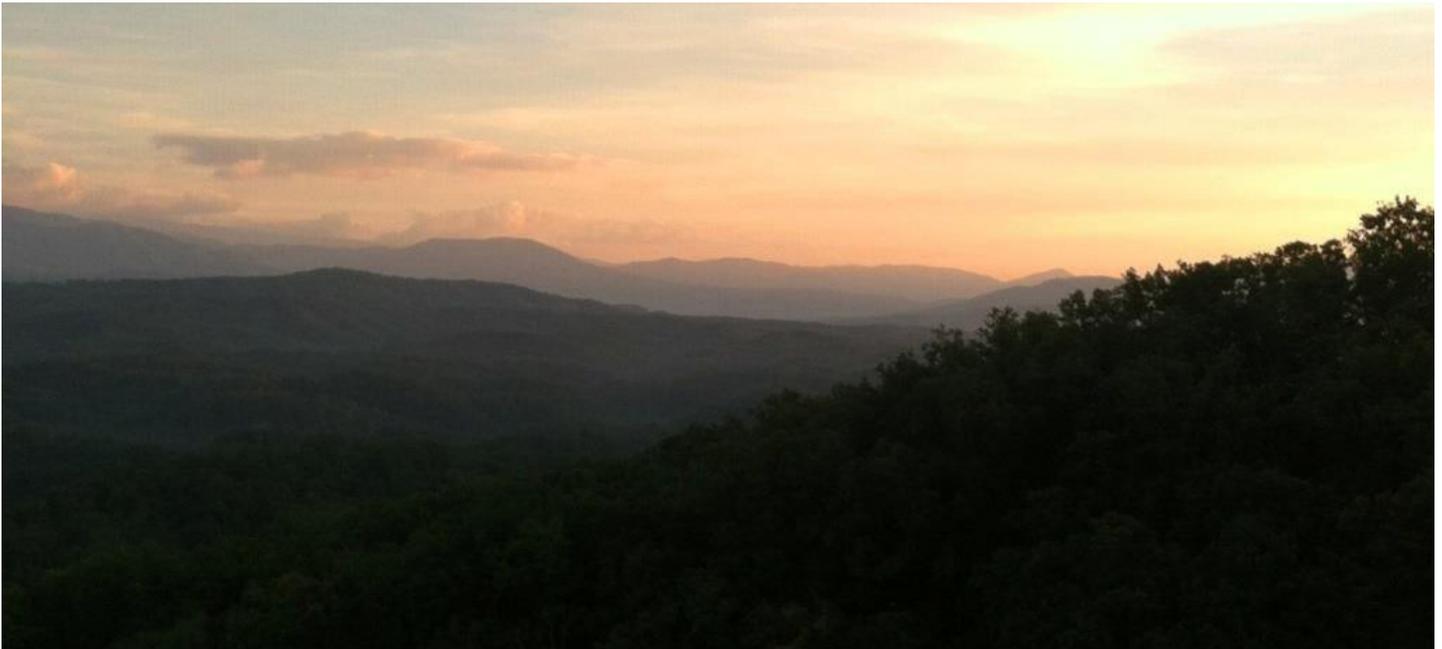
Early in its' development, ARNA leadership adopted a set of Operational and Strategic Priorities. These priorities have guided the network in establishing initiatives and holding the leadership accountable. In 2014 we established ARNA's first Three Year Strategic Plan. Member input on ARNA priorities was first sought through a spring 2014 member survey, and the priorities were then organized, refined and adopted through Coordinating Group discussion and action. ARNA's Strategic Priorities are:

- Development of the premiere action research conference in the Americas in alignment with mission & vision of ARNA
- Use of 21st century multimodal technologies internally and externally to promote action research, including expansion of multimodal technology use in conjunction with ARNA conferences, seminars, and symposiums
- Procurement of 501c(3) non-profit status for ARNA
- Continued recruitment of new membership, especially practitioners in non-university settings
- Development of an electronic action research journal of the Americas
- Continued development of ARNA website, with expanded features and functions that help attract visitors and new members
- Continued development of the ARNA operational and interest groups structure, including balanced attention to the need for operational committees and working groups and the importance of member engagement in establishing collaborative interest-area groups
- Development of hemisphere-wide and global institutional sponsorships and partnerships as an integral part of the ARNA structure
- Continued strengthening and deepening of the multi-cultural contexts of networking among action researchers in the Americas and the Western Hemisphere

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

# ARNA 2016 Conference: Knoxville, Tennessee

We are pleased to announce that in 2016, the Action Research Network of the Americas annual conference will be hosted by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in collaboration with the Highlander Research and Education Center. The conference takes place in Knoxville, gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains. The dates are set for June 16-18, and we hope that many ARNA members, colleagues and friends will join us! We think you are going to like what you experience. The Conference Site Chair for 2016 is Dr. John Peters.



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**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE  
**BIG ORANGE. BIG IDEAS.**

**Join Us! ARNA memberships can be established conveniently on line at:**

**[www.arnacconnect.org](http://www.arnacconnect.org)**

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