

**NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION /  
ASSOCIATION NORD-AMÉRICAINNE DE VEXILLOLOGIE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
PRESIDENT**

for the years  
2014-2015

To the Secretary of the Association:

Pursuant to Section 6.05(b) of the Association Bylaws, it is my duty and pleasure to deliver this annual report covering my activities since the adjournment of NAVA 48 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the intervening state of the Association.

The primary purpose of this report is to provide the Members and Executive Board Members with both a review of the state of the Association and view of the Association's future. Thus, I will note the progress, difficulties, and accomplishments of the past Board year and identify and discuss the work and challenges facing the Association in 2014-2015.

Despite extreme difficulties resulting from the complete breakdown of the Association's website ([nava.org](http://nava.org)), I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve during this past year. I am grateful for the support of the Executive Board Members, Committee Chairs, Committee Members and the members of the association.

Website related issues had a pronounced negative impact on virtually all Association operations and required a professional rebuilding of the site incorporating current security safeguards. The Board has met regularly by conference call since NAVA 48 and has, with the excellent assistance of Kin Spain, worked diligently to solve the unexpected problems caused by the website. The negative situation reached its nadir at the end of 2014, and although there remains much to be done things have been progressing steadily since.

Following an impressive and successful Annual Meeting in New Orleans, First Vice President Annie Platoff and the Annual Meeting Committee coordinated with Local Meeting Organizer, Ken Reynolds, to plan and implement an outstanding Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Due diligence was done by all concerned to insure an event including all the components that attendees have come to expect. In response, support of NAVA 49 has generated a large attendance. NAVA's Annual Meetings are one of the great benefits of Association membership, and they benefit not only those in attendances but the Association as a whole. Annie also spent many hours making the NAVA Digital Library functional on the rebuilt website. She and Michael Platoff, her husband, contributed countless hours assisting in the transfer of data from the dysfunctional website to the rebuilt one.

Ken Reynolds, the Second Vice President, worked tirelessly arranging for NAVA 48 in Ottawa in addition to work as *Raven* editor. In the past few months he took on the additional role as Publications Committee Chair when former Chair Kin Spain stepped down to focus his attention on his duties as FIAV's Secretary General. While serving as Publications Chair, Kin Spain, volunteered uncounted hours in coordinating the rebuilding and implementation of the Association's website in addition to his overseeing the publication of *Raven*, several issues of *Flag Research Quarterly* and *NAVA News*. Although publications are not all up to date, the publications have retained the outstanding quality that characterizes NAVA's publications. Plans are underway to bring all of the Association's publications up to date in the coming year.

The Executive Board elected Steve Knowlton as Secretary upon the resignation of Edward Mooney, who reluctantly left the Board because of unexpected personal issues. With the website not functioning during many of the past twelve months, membership renewals and new member application were drastically impacted. Steve worked tirelessly along with the membership committee to assist NAVA members in renewing their memberships when the rebuilt website became functional. While NAVA normally loses members each year, the decline in membership was larger this past year than normal. However, it is also noteworthy that NAVA attracted a larger number of new members once the new website became operational. This is especially significant since the new members could only apply during the few months that have passed since the website became operational in early 2015.

NAVA's able Treasurer, Chris Bedwell, kept the Board informed on Association finances as the Board dealt with budgetary challenges. Chris volunteered innumerable hours figuring and checking to insure that NAVA's finances remain strong.

NAVA 49 marks the third Preble Lecture, which has enriched each Annual Meeting since it was instituted at NAVA 47 in Salt Lake City. The selection of Claire Boudreau, the Chief Herald of Canada, as the Preble Lecturer has not only continued this new NAVA tradition in excellent form but has raised the bar as we plan for future meetings in San Jose and Boston.

Throughout my report I have noted repeatedly the huge time commitment given by the NAVA members who serve unselfishly in leadership roles. Other members have contributed many hours serving on committees, publications boards and fulfilling assignments. Our publications rely on scholars who work diligently to produce excellent papers and articles. I am amazed at all that our Association achieves with a relatively small membership base. I thank all those whose contributions make everything possible.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Hartvigsen  
President / Président