



AIDS & ANTHROPOLOGY

B U L L E T I N

The Newsletter of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

Vol. 5 No. 2 October 1993

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**REORGANIZATION OF AARG AND THE
AAA TASK FORCE ON AIDS**
by Janet McGrath, Chair-Elect

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In the last issue of the AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin it was reported that, as a result of the dissolution of the AAA Task Force on AIDS, AARG is considering some options for reorganization. In this issue I would like to clarify and update the information for you.

The AAA Task Force on AIDS (TFA), as was reported, has been terminated by the AAA. This group will be replaced within the AAA with an AIDS Commission, to be established in 1994. The AARG is completely autonomous and structurally unrelated to the TFA. Therefore, the dissolution of the TFA does not, in and of itself, impact on the AARG in any way. There has been some interest expressed, however, that the activities of TFA be able to continue in some form by absorbing the TFA into the AARG in some way. One way to do this is to have the TFA become the Steering Committee

of the AARG. I made an alternative proposal to maintain the TFA as a task force or working group within the AARG. To understand these two alternatives some background is necessary.

At the present time, the Steering Committee of AARG is elected by the entire membership of AARG. The Steering Committee is presently responsible for setting meeting agendas, arranging events, keeping the mailinglist, distributing the AAB, and other administrative duties. There are four elected officers and up to 11 Steering Committee members. The TFA, on the other hand, currently has 24 members, although some are also members of the AARG Steering Committee. If the TFA were to become the AARG Steering Committee, the Steering Committee would double in size. Presumably its functions would be altered as well, although the administrative duties would still need to be undertaken.
(continued on page 3).

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REORGANIZATION AARG AND AAA TASK FORCE ON AIDS

(continued from page 1)

Summarizing, the following two proposals are being considered:

- (1) Convert the AAA Task Force on AIDS into the Steering Committee of the AARG;
 - (2) Convert the AAA Task Force on AIDS into a working group of the AARG.
- We would like to hear your opinion on this for the next newsletter.

AIDS AND TOURISM

The Society for Applied Anthropology has proposed that AARG have a session in "Tourism and AIDS" at the next SfAA meeting in Cancun, Mexico in March 1994. Douglas A. Feldman has agreed to chair the session, and would like to hear from anthropologists and other social scientists who would like to participate in this session. Please contact:

Douglas A. Feldman, Ph.D., Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Miami School of Medicine. R-669, P.O. Box 016069, Miami, FL 33101, USA; phone: (305) 547-6559; FAX: (305) 547-3384.

AIDS SYLLABI AVAILABLE

The AAA Task Force on AIDS has published The Anthropology of AIDS: Syllabi and Other Teaching Resources. Edited by Ralph Bolton and Erika Kempler, this publication is free to those who request it. Write to: AAA, 4350 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 640, Arlington, VA 22202, USA. This publication is a must if you are considering a course on AIDS.

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**REORGANIZATION (cont. from
page 1)**

If the TFA were re-convened as a working group of AARG the Steering Committee would continue to serve its current function as its current size, with elections remaining in their current form. This alternative was proposed for the following reasons: The Steering Committee serves as the administrative arm of AARG.

As such, a larger group becomes more cumbersome and insufficient for having different functions. While the first is administrative, the second is intended to address specific projects, as defined and discussed by the AARG membership, including the development of position papers and policy statements as desired. If the Steering Committee and Working Group are one body this could pose an overwhelming administrative burden. We need to ensure that motivated persons with expertise to contribute can continue to do so, even if they are interested in handling AARG administration. Obviously the details on how to select Working Group members will need to be established so as to ensure that the AARG membership is well-represented in the Working Group.

I must emphasize that no decision has been made regarding any AARG reorganization. Our goal must be to maintain the important functions that AARG serves of providing solidarity and support for anthropologists involved in fighting AIDS at all levels. Our members and their activities are our greatest strength and we must, therefore, work hard to maintain a structure that maximizes the networking and support that AARG provides.

In the last Bulletin your opinions were sought regarding the issue of reorganization. If you have some thoughts on these alternatives, or would like to offer an additional alternative, please feel free to contact with the AARG Chair, Norris Lang or the Chair-elect, Janet McGrath.

**THE UPCOMING AAA MEETING IN
WASHINGTON D.C.**

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The following activities and
sessions might be of interest
to you:

Wednesday Afternoon, November
17: AIDS at home and abroad,
Chair: Douglas A. Feldman.

Wednesday Evening, November
17: AIDS AND ANTHROPOLOGY
RESEARCH GROUP: HIV Support
Groups for Anthropologists.
Chairs: Norris Lang and
Michelle Shedlin.

Thursday Morning, November 18:
AIDS and Ethics: Prevention,
Policy, and Practice.
Organizers: Betty Levin and
Michael Clatts; Chair: Betty
W. Levin.

Thursday, November 18: 12:00-
1:30: AIDS and Anthropology
Research Group. Roundtable on
AIDS. Chair: Norris G. Lang.

Thursday Afternoon, November
18: AIDS and Anthropology
Research Group: Steering
Committee Meeting.

Thursday, November 18: AIDS
and Anthropology Research
Group: Business Meeting. A
cash bar follows the business
meeting. Chair: Norris G.
Lang.

Friday Evening, November 19:
AIDS and Anthropology Research
Group: AARG AIDS Memorial.
Chair: Norris G. Lang.

AARG

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AARG is a Special
Committee of the Society for
Medical Anthropology, a unit
of the American
Anthropological Association.
AAB is published quarterly and
is the official newsletter of
AARG. To contact the Chair of
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Houston, 4800 Calhoun Rd.,
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Phone: (713) 743-3781.

To become a member of
AARG and receive AAB, send a
check or money order for US
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Please include your name,
title, address, phone number,
and topical and geographical
key words for publications in
our membership list.
Membership is free for
anthropologists residing in
developing countries, or
graduate students actively
involved in AIDS research or
activities. AAB is sent
without charge to selected
policy makers and journalists.

All information for the
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