

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
2018 Annual Report**



**November 7, 2018**

## *Letter from the Board President...*

In closing the books on 2018, the San Juan County Museum Association has endured several years of changes in the local economy and faced significant challenges in supporting its ongoing operations. Through all of it, the organization has persevered.

As the Board President, I would like to highlight a couple of positive notes for 2018...

- Our 'Journey into the Past Tours' has exceeded expectations each year since its inception. It has been a good boost not only for the organization, but for the community as well, promoting tourism and educational opportunities, combined with a focus on preservation and cultural awareness.
- The Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards is our volunteer army of dedicated individuals who are committed to cultural preservation activities. They have shown time and time again how to reduce the occurrences of vandalism and destruction of our cultural and historic resources. They also raise awareness to the sites they protect, and work to educate the public.
- Various projects and grants have helped with the mission and goals of the organization. For example, the Salmon Pueblo Archaeological Research Collection (SPARC), which was launched in May 2018, has provided an incredibly in-depth online archive of Salmon Pueblo history and records.

These accomplishments would not be possible without dedicated staff, volunteers, members, and financial supporters. I want to especially express my deepest appreciation to every person who has given of their time and committed so much to the ongoing mission of the organization. But I also want to challenge those that read this letter to continue supporting the organization however you can – whether it be through your time, a donation, continuing membership, or even a casual mention about this amazing treasure to others.

I am leaving the Board of Directors effective the 2018 Annual Meeting, but I know that Salmon Ruins and the SJCMA are in good hands. I will miss the interactions with the Board and staff, not to mention the notorious 'mud and sticks' presentations of Larry Baker, our Executive Director. My hope is that the mission of this organization will continue and prosper, supporting the efforts of preserving our cultural resources, educating the public, and providing community outreach and education.

Thank you again for your support and dedication.

Amy L. Ziesmer  
President  
San Juan County Museum Association

## *From the Executive Director...*

Dear Board and Association Members:

The leadership role of the Executive Director has been exceedingly challenging. It is hard to believe that I have served for over twenty-five years in this position and I am probably in the waning years of my tenure at the Salmon Ruins Museum. It is highly likely that FY 2019 will be my last full year of commitment to Salmon Ruins and the Association.

I do not believe, however, that there will be any coasting into retirement, kicking back with my feet on the desk. It promises to be a busy year with attention to the needs of the future. These will include soliciting a candidate for my replacement as I prepare to exit. This could be a complex task in terms of the requirements of the position.

The museum is in the process of conducting a National Park Service Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Grant for specific consultation with Native tribes related to Salmon's human remains and associated funerary objects. This project will indeed require an attention to detail in working with the tribal representatives. Your Executive Director is and continues to be directly involved in this process.



Coordinating with our Co-directors for our Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards Program will also be a focal point next year as it has in the past. The importance of the continuation of this program cannot be overemphasized in terms of patrolling and monitoring our heritage sites in the remote canyons of northwestern New Mexico. I will need to remain focused on securing funding to support our dedicated site stewards in order to deter looting and vandalism of our significant cultural resources.

Of course, the Board of Directors and our diligent staff will keep the "Mission" moving forward as I prepare to take my leave. Maybe I will consider running for the Board of Directors...oh saints preserve us. I want to thank our membership and donors for your continued support and particularly the committed members of the Association's Board for all their hard work. Preservation and protection of Salmon Ruins and our national heritage remains "Job One".

Best Regards,  
Larry L. Baker  
Executive Director

## *Important News and Updates*

### **Nancy Sweet Espinosa – retires to a life of leisure**



Nancy Sweet Espinosa retired last April and moved on to a life of leisure. Nancy served at Salmon Ruins for 15 years as the Curator and Education Coordinator. Her artistic skills were applied in many areas of the museum and numerous exhibits benefited from, not only her understanding of archaeology, but her artistry as well. She assisted in the development of the original Journey Into the Past tour program. Nancy was also involved in the development of the Salmon Ruins Native American Graves Protection Act Inventory for human remains and associated funerary objects. She worked diligently on the Salmon Ruins Curation Grant with Paul Reed and laid the ground work for this important continuing work. We wish her the best in her new role as a happy camper and the return to her art work she loves.

### **Randy Nathan – gone but not forgotten**

Randy Nathan is a name that many of us know, because he was a memorable presence in so many of our different lives and locations. Randy was an archaeologist who seemed to know all the other archaeologists in the Southwest and was always looking for a fun way to bring them all together. His sense of humor often got him into trouble, as he couldn't take anything seriously. One never knew what kind of embarrassing Christmas gift he might give as the Secret Santa who really looked like Santa, or what hilariously inappropriate nickname he would invent for a project that might pop up in conversation with a client. Randy graduated from University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1980. He worked on thousands of projects, from Zuni Pueblo, Navajo Nation, ND, TX, OK, LA, AZ, IL, CO, NB, to Farmington, NM. He directed field school crews for more than 10 years at Fort Lewis College, sharing his knowledge and experience with countless students. He rescued feral cats and babysat other people's iguanas, geese, horses and dogs, always with a story to tell afterwards. Randy never met a stranger, and was kind and generous to all. If someone needed money, he bought things from them that he didn't want or need, just to help them out. Randy was 61 and was found at home in Farmington, NM on July 4, 2018. His family came in shortly afterwards from Nebraska and had him cremated, taking his ashes back to their home town of Pierce. The news came as a complete and devastating shock to all of us in the 4 Corners who considered Randy a true family member.







### **Victor Boulanger – Long-time Docent Retires**

Victor Boulanger has been a docent and receptionist volunteer for the entirety of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Through this period, he greeted visitors, worked the gift shop counter, and led tours of the Salmon Ruins. Victor also served on the Board of Directors and worked with the Executive Director in management of our organization. He has been an invaluable resource as a volunteer and was awarded a Life Membership for completing over 4000 volunteer hours. Victor recently decided to move on to share his skills with other non-profit groups. He will be sorely missed and we wish him well in all his new adventures.

### **Not all sad – We also had a wedding!**



Brandi Sargent, our business manager for quite a few years, is now Brandi Amarilla! She married Colby Amarilla on October 14 and is ready to tackle new adventures for the future. Brandi, we wish you Congratulations and all the best with your new family! All of us here at Salmon Ruins are so proud of your accomplishments and the changes you've made since we first met you! Thank you for everything you do to keep us in line, paid on time, and in a good mood!

# *Programs and Accomplishments of 2018*

## **Journey Into the Past Tours**

Tori Myers, Education Coordinator, has taken the lead in our tour programs. The programs are extremely successful and have remained a significant component of the Salmon Ruins Educational Outreach. As these tours to Chaco, Dinetah, and Bisti have continued to flourish (check us out on TripAdvisor), we have added a new tour specialist. Andy Blecklinger, previously with the National Park Service, has started leading programs to Chaco Canyon. Your Executive Director still remains involved in the Dinetah tours to the rock art and Navajo defensive sites in Largo and Gobernador canyons. Tori will provide additional details on tour and new programs in the Curation and Education Summary. Here is a photo taken by a professional photographer, John Cross, on a tour with Tori in May.



## **Cultural Resource Management: Division of Conservation Archaeology (DCA)**

Thanks to Lyn Wharton for postponing her retirement and staying on board to steer the DCA ship as the Projects Manager. Lyn has been involved with the Association's consulting firm for over 25 years. Her expertise in agency management and understanding of archaeological requirements respective of client needs in energy resource development have kept our firm operational during a downturn in overall work in the San Juan Basin. Lyn will be extremely difficult to replace in terms of her commitment and dedication to the organization.

Archaeological data recovery is still being conducted on Westmoreland's San Juan Mine. Surface facilities related to underground mining, such as gob vents for venting the methane, require very specific placement to facilitate mine ventilation. In some cases, archaeological sites cannot be avoided in terms of the placement of installations. During the past year, sites have been partially excavated to offset potential impacts. These sites include an Ancestral Pueblo camp, three Ancestral Pueblo habitations, one Archaic/Ancestral Pueblo artifact scatter, and one culturally undetermined artifact scatter. Work at the mine is currently continuing.

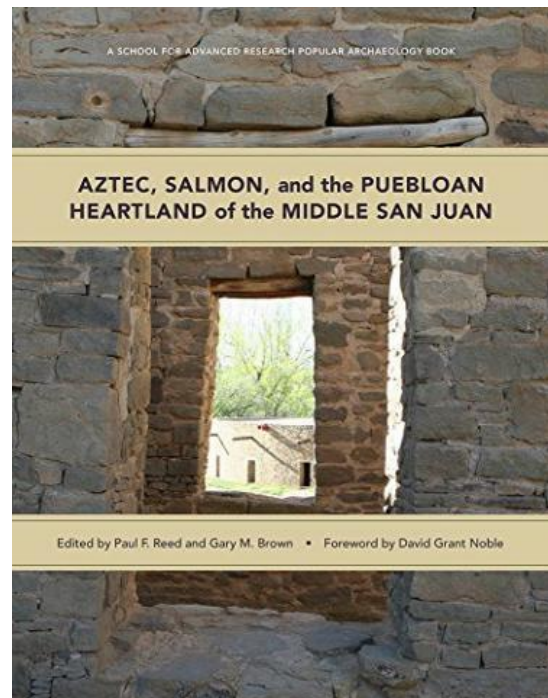


A data recovery testing program has been initiated with the City of Farmington Electric Utility Service (FEUS). FEUS is planning to construct solar panels in an area adjacent their power plant on the south side of Farmington near the San Juan River. An archaeological site had previously been identified on the planned location, however, recent work by DCA determined that the site was more extensive than earlier work had recorded. Testing was required by the State Historic Preservation Office to provide information on the extent and integrity of the cultural deposits. No specific structures or intact features have been discovered, however, this testing and monitoring for subsurface deposits remains ongoing. Jason Meininger, Supervisory Archaeologist, has been in charge of our data recovery field work.

## Research and Publications

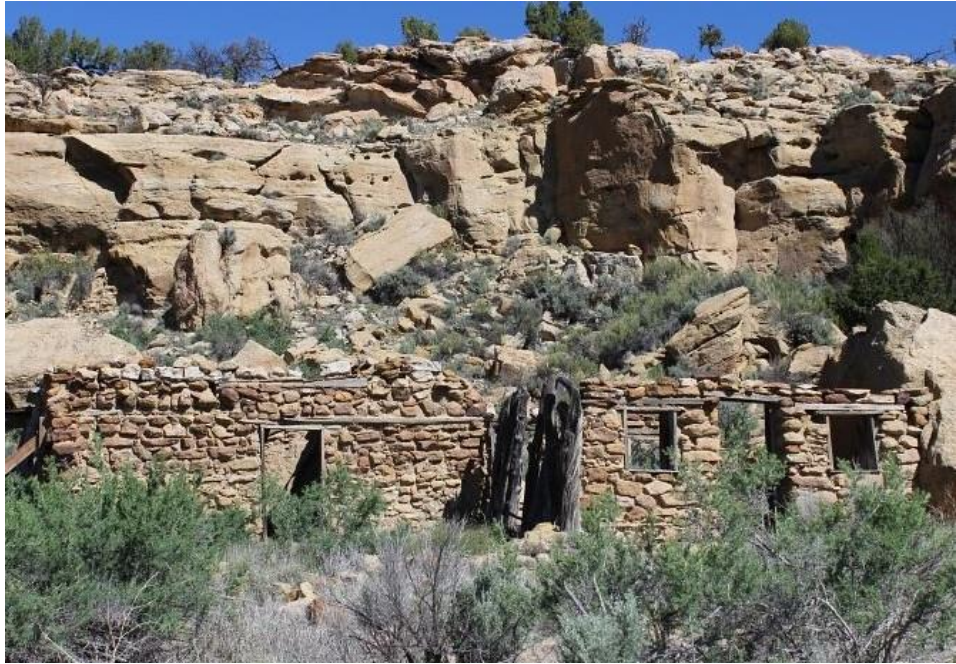
Your Executive Director had two papers published this year. One paper, entitled UR-N The Mud was published with his daughter Bryden Baker as co-author in the recent volume from the Archaeological Society of New Mexico, Two Gentleman of Chaco, Papers honoring Thomas Windes and Peter McKenna. The chapter was an expanded version of Bryden's Science Fair Project investigating the use of urine as an amendment for bringing mortar to a plastic state. In many instances, Navajo defensive sites were built in remote locations at distance from water sources. The sandstone masonry of these structures is set in mortar. Results of testing mortar samples from the structures indicate a higher pH (more acidic), more nitrates, and in some cases, more phosphates than samples of sediments used in stabilization of the structures and brought from off-site localities. Although the use of urine as a mortar amendment is not definitive, the results do suggest the potential addition of human or animal urine to construct wet laid masonry.

A second paper was published in a School of Advanced Research volume edited by Paul Reed and Gary Brown. The book Aztec, Salmon, and the Puebloan Heartland of the Middle San Juan, is the latest volume in the Popular Archaeology Series and focuses on the Middle San Juan Region, often over-shadowed by Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde. Eleven chapters provide insights into an important area in the Four Corners Region. Yours truly prepared a chapter, Chacoan Astronomy of the Middle San Juan Region, which explores the achievements of astronomy by the Chaco culture beyond the Chaco core. The chapter features discussions on Salmon Ruins, Aztec Ruins, and Chimney Rock Pueblo. In order to track seasonal and ceremonial cycles the Pueblo people developed precise chronological devices whereby they could observe the play of light and shadow created by the sun and moon on significant dates throughout the year. In the Middle San Juan, architecture was closely tied to astronomy as well as ritual. Examples of the relationship between architecture, astronomy, and cosmology are detailed in the chapter. Signed copies are now available in our gift shop!



## **Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards**

The Northwest New Mexico Site Steward's Program (NWNMSSP) remains the front line of defense against the looting and vandalism of our heritage sites in the remote reaches of Northwestern New Mexico. Our devoted Co-Directors, Kim Stradling, Ken Russell, and Linda Wheelbarger train and assign our cadre of site stewards to monitor and patrol significant cultural resources in the broad area extending from the La Plata River Valley, to Gobernador and Largo canyons, to the Great North Road extending from Chaco Canyon to Salmon Ruins. Currently, 43 stewards are monitoring a total of 177 sites. Our



organization operates independently, collaborating with the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Land Office, and private individuals. It is the largest site stewards program in the state and interacts with the New Mexico Site Watch Program. The NWNMSSP remains highly successful and during this past year, no instances of looting and only one instance of vandalism have been identified.

## **NAGPRA**

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) governs the consultation, repatriation, and reburial of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects held by museums and curatorial facilities in the United States. Last year, the Salmon Ruins Inventory related to NAGPRA was completed and disseminated to 25 tribes in the greater Southwest. The inventory identifies at least 138 individuals represented in burials from the pueblo and the respective funerary objects.

The process related to NAGPRA is complex involving consultation with Native tribes in relation to repatriation and ultimate reburial. This can include tribal representatives traveling to Salmon Ruins to consult on the inventory. A NAGPRA Grant was prepared by the Executive Director and Paul Reed and submitted to the National Park Service to defray the costs of consultation. The grant was awarded and totaled \$69,932. Tribes have been contacted and this work will continue through the next fiscal year.



## Curation and Education

So many changes have whirled through the organization this year, it seems hard to believe that the end of the year is already upon us! Nancy Sweet Espinosa managed our collections and education, making her mark here with temporary museum displays that focused on local art and artists, or the unique Casas Grandes culture of Northern Mexico to mention a few. Nancy's retirement in the spring of 2018 has allowed her to return to the joys that inspire her. We wish her happiness and success on this next stage of her journey, wherever it leads.

I have continued where Nancy left off with the massive undertaking of organizing and cataloging the Salmon Ruins collection. I couldn't persist without our two official volunteers, Erin Brooks and Stephen Slusher. At least one day a week they have been working in concert, with Stephen repackaging and Erin keeping up with data entry, resulting in her recognition as our Volunteer of the Year. We are hoping that a few local individuals will follow up on their expressed interest in becoming new volunteers so that we can add to our list of helpers. Stephen has been here for 9 years and Erin for 2, but there is always room for more helpers!



Several years ago, a continuation of the original NAGPRA inventory was launched to prepare information for the descendant tribes of the inhabitants of Salmon Ruins, so that ultimately human remains and associated funerary objects could be reburied here on the grounds. The report, completed by Michelle Green and Nancy Espinosa, was distributed this year and is a huge accomplishment! It resulted in the award of a NPS grant that will allow us to facilitate and host tribal consultations responding to the information. The first of these meetings was scheduled just as the fiscal year closed, and these activities promise to dominate our plans for 2019. This means that massive cleanup of the laboratories and organization of the objects in question is in order! I have already ensured that all items from the list are not on display in the museum gallery, and started to locate the others.

Many important donations have come in from members of the community and also from previous researchers associated with Salmon Ruins. An enormous collection of slides with documentation has come in from the Peter B. George estate, most of them showing the excavation of Salmon Ruins and several other related projects. There was also a G. Alton James

collection donated at the beginning of this fiscal year, and a Morris Young collection of mostly Navajo and Pueblo II-III ceramics. These collections have been added to our array of private donations and I hope to use many of them in the future as temporary displays to keep our museum rotating with new things for visitors to see.

Education and outreach has been a major focus since this spring. I have endeavored to rejuvenate a program that has lapsed in recent years that would draw in local school groups, and was successful in organizing 6 of these, most of the dates falling unfortunately during our busiest tour season. The teachers were very receptive and promised to spread the word amongst their colleagues, so I hope for better numbers in 2019. Other outreach, specifically our private archaeological tours, has gone incredibly well. I scheduled 152 tours for the 2018 fiscal year, nearly all of them to Chaco Canyon. There were 21 cancellations, many of them due to illness or issues related to the extremely bad fire season experienced in the west this year. This is the most tours we have ever taken since Journey Into the Past began. Scheduling became aggressive starting in April this year and remained at 4 or 5 days per week, every week through most of October. Larry assisted as much as his health allowed, and I was finally able to find a reliable and knowledgeable assistant, Andy Bleckinger, in September to take some of the days.



Although we are now in a slow time of year for tours, I am hoping to bring him back in the spring for 2 or possibly 3 days per week to allow me to have as much time as possible to work with curation and tribal consultation, as well as with students. The tours have helped enormously with museum income and budget concerns, so I

do not want to discourage travelers by restricting the available days, but in order to do so, a second tour guide has become essential.

If you have not yet had a chance to view the changes, I encourage you to visit and look around. Whipping this place into shape is a constant, exhausting process but the visible results make such a difference!

## *Research Partnerships with Paul Reed*

The Archaeology Southwest and Salmon Ruins Museum partnership in 2018 focused primarily on two projects: 1) the SPARC (Salmon Pueblo Archaeological Research Collection) online digital archive project; and 2) Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape initiative.

## **SPARC Project**

In May 2018, we launched the SPARC Project online website (URL is [salmonpueblo.org](http://salmonpueblo.org)) with a public event held at Salmon Ruins Museum. Briefly, the Salmon Pueblo Archaeological Research Collection (SPARC) Project ran from May 2015 to May 2018. The project entailed collaboration between four institutions: the Salmon Ruins Museum, Archaeology Southwest, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia. Three phases of work created SPARC: (1) digital acquisition (that is, scanning of the huge collection of data, drawings, photographs, slides, and original field forms); (2) data integration and management; and (3) online preservation of and access to materials.

Final SPARC project tasks completed in 2018 included:

- Digitization of all relevant archival documents (29,395 page scans in all)
- Scan and creation of metadata for all photographic images (slides, prints, polaroids, etc.) with a total of just over 11,000 images
- Ingestion into the master database of 23 data tables that can be queried via the website
- Creation of an interactive map for the website
- Successful implementation of a IIIF (International Image Interoperability Framework) viewer for document images.

Carrie Heitman and Worthy Martin presented the website and demonstrated its ease of use for researchers in May at our celebratory event. Thus far, the SPARC website has been very successful. From May to October 2018, here are the relevant statistics:

Total number of page views: 17,465;

Number of unique visitors: 1,384;

Global reach: 34 countries;

Google page rank (search term:

Salmon Pueblo): #2



## **Protecting the Greater Chaco Landscape**

Archaeology Southwest has continued to work throughout 2018 to protect Greater Chaco. We have been involved in numerous meetings with Federal, Tribal, and State officials to discuss plans. The Farmington BLM and Navajo Area BIA have yet to release their draft management plan amendments and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). Alternatives were released for comment to public in Feb. 2018 and we provided detailed comments. The Farmington and State BLM offices have continued to offer various parcels for lease. The proposed March 2018 lease sale package had a number of areas around and close to Chaco Culture National Historic Park



and the Great North Road. In addition, BLM had promised a Section 106 report on known archaeological and cultural sites in the proposed lease areas. This report was not finished prior to the March 2018 lease announcement deadline. In addition, numerous Tribal, environmental, and preservation groups, as well as members of the public, proposed the March 2018 leases. Secretary of the Interior Zinke ultimately postponed the lease sale because of the public outcry and the lack of the Section 106 report. We believe this lease package will come up again. In addition, BLM has proposed thousands of acres in new leases, scheduled for sale in December 2018 and a new lease package for March 2019. We will stay on top of these and report new information as it becomes available.

### **Acoma Project**

Archaeology Southwest is working with the Pueblo of Acoma to document and protect places of ancestral importance across the Greater Chaco Landscape. With the counsel of Acoma team members, we can better prioritize our shared protection efforts.

Goals of the Acoma Project include:

- having the Acoma team visit the landscapes of Greater Chaco that are threatened by development;
- collecting appropriate data to help inform BLM and BIA as they manage oil-gas development across the GCL and complete management plans in early 2019;
- compiling data and producing an Acoma-approved report for BLM and BIA;
- producing a confidential report for the Pueblo of Acoma.



In October 2018, I went to the field with a team from the Pueblo of Acoma's Historic Preservation Office (HPO) and anthropologist Kurt Anschuetz. The fieldwork focused on the Greater Chaco Landscape (GCL). The group visited a number of locales spread across the Greater Chaco Landscape including the Great North Road, Twin Angel Pueblo, Halfway House, the Pierre's complex, the base of Fajada Butte, Pueblo Bonito, the Bis san'ni Community, Pueblo Pintado, and Kin Ya'a.

The fieldwork was very productive and the team made important connections to the landscapes Greater Chaco. Follow-up work involves a meeting in January 2019 to discuss findings and completion of a draft report in February.

## ***2018 Donors***

### **\$1000 and over**

Jo Hudson

### **\$100 to \$999**

Donation Box

Bill & Nancy Cella

Meredith Matthews

Diane Hayden

Elizabeth Rogers

Dorothy Washburn

Ronald Werner

Michael Proper

Alan Brew

Roland & Martha Mace

Bill Doelle

Ed Deal

Denny & Mary Foust

Mickey Ginn

E. Pierre Morenon

Charles Linzner

Peter McCallion

Bill Coupe

Lyn Wharton

Fred Nials

David Ingle

Marston Keeler

Ken Russel

### **\$25 to \$99**

Jon Uncapher

Robert Maynard

Don Weinig

Suzan Bradford

Jill Smith

Mary Hayes

John & Molly Renner

Gigi Bayliss

Randy Everett

Nancy Thibedeau

Jim & Joan Mansfield

Steve & Pam Long

Martha Bradley

Tim Kearns & Siste  
O'Malia

Robert Young

Laurie Webster

Rita Kantarowski

Penny Whitten

## ***2018 Volunteer of the Year***

Erin Brooks

**2018 Statement of Activities****Cash only, October 31, 2018****Revenue and Related Income**

Services	\$494,800
Gift Shop Sales	\$25,130
Fund Raising and Association	\$3,603
Admissions	\$13,558
Salmon Reunion	\$6,770
Donations	\$7,361
Grants	\$2,500
County Support	\$0
Site Stewards	\$0
Sale of Assets	\$0
Interest	\$0
Membership	\$2,742
Consultant	\$1,850
Miscellaneous	\$330
TOTAL:	\$558,644

**Expenses**

Museum	\$275,104
Division of Conservation Archaeology	\$326,618
TOTAL:	\$601,722

**2018 Financial Statement****Unaudited Statement of Financial Position, October 31, 2018****Assets**

In-bank Cash	\$53,997
Savings and Short-term Investments	\$352,429
Long-term Investments (Endowment)	\$855,846
Accounts Receivable (DCA)	\$87,704
Gift Shop Inventory	\$42,423
Prepaid Insurance	\$12,712
Petty Cash	\$250
Subtotal:	\$1,405,361
Property and Equipment	\$217,751
TOTAL:	\$1,623,112

**Liabilities and Net Assets/Capital**

Accounts Payable	\$79.82
Taxes	\$6,060.00
Vacation Benefits	\$15,055.71
Deferred Revenue	\$0
TOTAL:	\$21,195.53

**Capital**

Investments in Fixed Assets	\$345,896.74
Unappropriated Fund	\$413,735.94
Current Fund	\$742,743.84
Net Income	(\$37,217.01)
TOTAL:	\$1,486,355.04

**Total Liabilities and Capital:                      \$1,507,550.57**



## ***Board of Directors, 2018***

### **President**

Amy Ziesmer

### **Vice President**

Kim Stradling

### **Treasurer**

Clay Johnston

### **Secretary**

Donna Thatcher

### **Members**

Michael Aljets

Suzan Bradford

GB Cornucopia

Richard Friedman

Ingrid Gilbert

Mickey Ginn

Karen Marchand

Dean Peek

Ken Russell

Michael Proper

### **San Juan County Representative**

Jack Fortner

### **San Juan County Alternate**

Doug Echols

## ***Association Staff***

### ***Salmon Ruins Museum***

**505-632-2013**

[sreducation@sisna.com](mailto:sreducation@sisna.com)

Larry L. Baker, Executive Director

Tori Myers, Education/Curation Coordinator

Brandi Amarilla, Business Manager

Bruce Jim, Operations Support

Mike Jim, Operations Support

Suzanne and Wayne Martinez, Custodians

### ***Division of Conservation Archaeology***

**505-632-2779**

[dca3@sisna.com](mailto:dca3@sisna.com)

Lyn Wharton, Projects Manager

Jason Meininger, Supervisory Archaeologist

Lee Cahenzli, Assistant Archaeologist

Leonard Yazzie, Assistant Archaeologist

Patrick Alfred, Assistant Archaeologist

### ***Archaeology Southwest***

[preed@archaeologysouthwest.org](mailto:preed@archaeologysouthwest.org)

Paul F. Reed, Preservation Archaeologist

Archaeology Southwest