



# Council of Allied Societies

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## March 2021 News and Notes:

### Message from the Chair, Steve Tomka

I began my last news and notes contribution after a blizzard just hit the Northeast. I now pick up seemingly where I left off as we survived our own version of the freezing conditions earlier in February. I hope this note finds all of you well and healthy. My wife and I, being no spring chickens and with our own qualifying health conditions, have received the first of two Covid 19 shots. I still have a few things to say about archaeology and want to enjoy the company of my family for a few more years, so the shot is a good thing. I hope that when you qualify, you can get it without delay.

Speaking of things to say, it is difficult to keep up an interest in archaeology when there are more serious issues staring us in the face each day, such as job and food security, the health and education of our kids. But it is exactly during such a difficult time that we can use our interest in the past to keep ourselves challenged and learning. To me personally, there are few things as exciting as learning something that I did not know. The role of the state and regional societies is to cultivate the interests of the membership. While the societies are on hiatus, we can fertilize our own minds by asking questions and seeking answers, whether from colleagues, members of the local society, or conducting our own research. Questions abound, answers are few, complicated and rarely black and white. So, ask yourself, or ask your friends, why was fire so important in the human history? Was it an innovation or an invention? Did it change our biology as it suddenly allowed us to cook foods rather than eat unprocessed nutrients? As people and cultures developed independently of each other across the globe, different ways of cooking developed and they came to be associated with distinct groups and cultures. These flavors, distinct dishes and ways of cooking are as much a part of certain cultures as our grandmother's recipe for pumpkin pie. Ask yourself, how does a tradition that developed in one's household and passed down over generations mushroom into traditions that become signatures of cultures and span entire countries? I do not know the answers to any of these questions, but it is fun to think about them.

Oh, and by the way, please make a note about the CoAS Annual Meeting and bring your own questions and suggestions on how we can better serve your needs!

## CoAS Exhibitor Booth Content for the SAA 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**We need your digital content for our CoAS Exhibitor booth!** Content can include your Society logo, digital copies of your brochures, newsletters and other Society-specific printed information, and links to your Society-produced YouTube videos. Be sure to include your website and Facebook pages. Please forward your links and jpg files to [jaye\\_smith@flash.net](mailto:jaye_smith@flash.net) or [carla\\_fernandez@saa.org](mailto:carla_fernandez@saa.org) so that your Society will be included.

## CoAS Annual Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE! APRIL 24, 2021 – 10:00AM EDT/7:00AM PDT**

The Annual Meeting of the Council of Allied Societies will be held April 24, 2021 at 10:00amEDT/7:00amPDT via Zoom. All CoAS Society representatives, alternates, chapter members and SAA members are encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to let your society and chapter members' voices be heard by SAA Leadership. Zoom links will be provided a week before the meeting. Please RSVP to: [carla\\_fernandez@saa.org](mailto:carla_fernandez@saa.org).

## CALL for Candidates for CoAS Officer Positions.

Are there members of your society and chapters who would like to be a part of the CoAS Leadership Team? As per CoAS Policies and Procedures, officers are to be elected annually by CoAS membership during the CoAS Annual Meeting. Candidates are required to be a member of an Allied Society or a member of SAA. The term of office is one year, but officers may serve for a maximum of three consecutive years. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact [jaye\\_smith@flash.net](mailto:jaye_smith@flash.net) for more information. Come and join us as we continue to move CoAS forward towards better collaboration and cooperation within the science.

## Still Seeking CoAS Newsletter Editor

We are searching for our next CoAs Newsletter Editor, who will work with both SAA and CoAS leadership to produce a bi-annual newsletter for distribution to current and prospective CoAS members as well as posted on the CoAS webpage. No previous newsletter experience required; templates and a dedicated email address provided. Please contact [leadership.coasnews@gmail.com](mailto:leadership.coasnews@gmail.com) for more information.

## CoAS Facebook Group is growing!

Invite all of your members and chapters to join our Facebook group. It is a great place to post your upcoming Society activities and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/saacoas>