

from the president



by Kristine L. Hastreiter
Outgoing Past President

The 2002-2004 Board met in May at the AAM Annual Meeting in New Orleans to conduct NAME business and to hold a day-long planning session with Gail Anderson & Associates. The planning session focused on NAME's existing publications—*Exhibitionist*, *Newsflasher*, *Membership Directory & Resource Guide*—as well as explored ideas for future publications. A task force has been set-up to develop and implement a strategy to strengthen *Exhibitionist*. This includes re-defining job descriptions for the Editor and the Board with respect to *Exhibitionist*, re-defining editorial and graphic standards, and exploring alternative methods of delivery. NAME has been fortunate that it has had individuals like Diana Cohen, Jay Rounds, and Jane Bedno serve as Editors. Each respectively adding their talent and expertise to better *Exhibitionist*.

At the Annual Business Breakfast and Meeting, the membership voted on the proposed changes to NAME's Operating Guidelines. The proposed changes included a new mission statement and a re-structuring of the Board. The proposed changes were unanimously passed. The new Board structure consists of the following positions: President, Vice President-Operations, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past-President, Membership Chair, Program Chair, four Board Members-at-Large, and six Regional Representatives. The new Board structure took effect with the start of the new fiscal year (August 1st). However, we have not yet held our elections and therefore have not been able to implement the new Board structure. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work recruiting candidates for the Board. Unfortunately, several key positions (such as the President) are without a candidate, so the elections have been delayed. As a result, members of the 2002-2004 Board have been required to serve beyond their term limits. My personal thanks to each Board Member who has continued to serve during this transition period.

Progress on the Strategic Plan is continues. With the passing of the new Operational Guidelines, NAME addressed one of the key areas of the plan—restructuring the Board to maximize effectiveness. Other key areas include: enhancing relationships with other professional organizations; increasing participation in NAME; and diversifying and stabilizing NAME's financial base. Copies of the strategic plan are available to NAME members, and all members are encouraged to participate in the strategic plan.



by Lorelee A. Sankarlal
Advisor
International Exhibits

I am very excited about the opportunity to work as the International Advisor to the NAME Board of Directors. Having had the opportunity to work in both the United States and Canada, and with many international museum clients, I believe I can bring an effective cross-cultural perspective to the position.

First, a little about my experience. I worked for a year and a half with the wonderful exhibit developers and staff at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Prior to this, I gained extensive experience in the science center industry from my work in Toronto, Ontario—Canada, eh. During my 10 years with the Ontario Science Centre, my work included active involvement in areas such as exhibit development (concept, design, delivery); science communication (program design, development, delivery, evaluation and community collaboration); exhibit sales and consulting (local and international contract negotiations, partnerships and client relations). This knowledge base continues to be refreshed through the experiences I have gained with my on-going work in exhibit planning and project development with the dynamic staff at the Royal Ontario Museum. I also operate a travelling exhibit consulting firm, *Exhibits in Motion*, in Toronto.

The purpose of my position with NAME is to help the Board understand the concerns of exhibit and program planning practices (among other exhibit-related topics) in countries outside of the United States. If there is enough interest, we may want to devote one of the sessions sponsored by NAME at the annual American Association of Museums conference to discuss these topics. We really want our international members to be an active part of the association, and I would love to hear about your museum's perspective on exhibit topics of concern to you. Please feel free to contact me with your comments, as well as suggestions for articles with an international focus that would be of interest to the NAME community. My email address is: exhibitsinmotion@yahoo.ca

I look forward to hearing from and working with our international members, and to meeting some of you at AAM next year. Talk with you soon!