Secretary

The Secretary serves a three-year term. The Secretary is responsible for recording and verifying the official records of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Annual Business Meeting.

Warren G. Frisina
David L. Weddle

Warren G. Frisina is dean of Hofstra University's Honors College (HUHC) and associate professor of religion. Frisina came ... as acting executive director. Frisina earned his PhD from the University of Chicago (1987), where he did work in theology, philosophy, and comparative philosophy and religion. Frisina is especially interested in the implications of recent work in cognitive psychology for our understanding of knowledge, the mind, and religion. His book *The Unity of Knowledge and Action*, published in 2002 by the State University of New York Press. He coedited *Teaching the Daodejing* (with Gary DeAngelis, Oxford University Press/AAR Series, 2008) and *The Pragmatic Century: Conversations with Richard J. Bernstein* (with Sheila Davaney, State University of New York Press, 2007).

Before his appointment as dean, Frisina served as chair of the Hofstra University department of philosophy and religion. Frisina has also taught at Rice University, University of Houston, and Emory University.

Statement on the AAR

As of September 12, 2011, the AAR’s membership was 9,182. A lot of those members (myself included) would not have the kind of institutional infrastructure necessary to survive the vagaries associated with the boom and bust cycles of academic life in the United States?

Many things contributed to our field’s success. Mostly, of course, it was the
work of thousands of AAR members whose scholarship transformed the humanities, social sciences, and theological studies. But before that research could be done there had to be a place where it could be presented. There had to be publications ready to accept it enough to contain it and to encourage all of the cross-pollination that has given our field its rigor and its potency.

The AAR has done all of that for us. As it matured the field grew and it became easier to make the case that the academic study of religion, in all of its forms, should have a permanent place at the table.

My research in Confucianism and American pragmatism has taught me, however, that human institutions are far more fragile... attuned to the risks we are facing and actively discussing courses of action that are designed to meet those challenges.

The job of Secretary is critical in the AAR’s governance structure. S/he must ensure that all of the voices engaged in... all of the concerns of a membership that does not always speak with one voice when it comes to setting our priorities.

At various times I have received a great deal from the American Academy of Religion. I am quite sure I would not have the... back to this institution and the community of scholars that has sustained me in such fundamental ways for so many years.

David L. Weddle is professor of religion at Colorado College, where he teaches courses in comparative theology, philosophy of religion, ethics, American religions, and theory and method of religious studies.

Weddle was educated at Hope College (BA) and Harvard University (MA, PhD). In addition to articles in scholarly journals, he is the author of Law as Gospel: Revival and Reform in the Theology of Charles G. Finney (Scarecrow Press, 1985) and Miracles: Wonder and Meaning in World Religions (New York University Press, 2010).

Prior to coming to Colorado College in 2001 as chair of the department of religion, Weddle taught at Cornell College,... on ethics of public policy and served as secretary for the board of Chapel View Manor, a low-cost housing program.

Weddle chaired the Minority Concerns Committee of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest and was pra...
Statement on the AAR

I have been a member of the American Academy of Religion since 1973, attending Annual Meetings and contributing to the life of the Academy in various ways. The AAR has been a rich resource for my professional life. From the time I began teaching at a university in the days when JAAR had illustrated covers! — the AAR has provided indispensable peer support, rich scholarly resources, and pedagogical inspiration. As a member of the AAR, I have been a part of a vibrant community that has contributed to the academic study of religion. The AAR has provided a valuable support and oppportunities for professional development of graduate students in the academic study of religion.