

## PAIGH U.S. National Section Monthly Meeting – July Meeting Notes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Meeting attendees: Deirdre Bishop, Dana Caccamise, Joshua Coutts, Lidia Lopez, Alejandra Magallanes, Paul Riley, Sergio Rodriguez, Diana Sinton, Betty Smith, Charlotte Smith, Tim Trainor, Eric van Praag.

### Welcome

- Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for their continued involvement in the USNS.

### 1) PAIGH Update – Upcoming PAIGH Elections and Leadership Transitions

- PAIGH will hold elections during the upcoming October General Assembly in Honduras.
- The U.S. has traditionally held a leadership role in PAIGH. Recent representatives include Patricia Solis (current President), Jean Parcher, and Bruce Presgrave.
- After consultation with the State Department, it was decided on June 6 that the U.S. would submit a nominee. The nomination deadline was June 10.
- Deirdre has been nominated for Vice President of PAIGH. Her nomination has cleared the White House and the Department of State and is now being circulated to PAIGH Member States.
- If elected, Deirdre will no longer be eligible to serve as President of the U.S. National Section. A successor will need to be identified, preferably someone in the U.S. government due to the role's liaison responsibilities.
- Members interested in serving as U.S. National Section President are encouraged to reach out to Deirdre.
- Evan Ward, current Vice President of the U.S. National Section, has stepped down temporarily. His departure creates a vacancy that must be filled.
- There is no requirement for the Vice President to be a government employee—past Vice Presidents have come from academia and the private sector.
- Members interested in the Vice President role are also encouraged to reach out to Deirdre.

### 2) U.S. National Section (USNS) Digital Archive and History Research

- **Overview:**
  - The USNS has been centralizing documentation in a digital Google Drive archive, with complete records from 2014 onward.
  - Documents include meeting minutes, Technical Assistance Project records, annual reports, and General Assembly trip reports.
  - Materials from an earlier hard drive archive have also been integrated.
  - Records for 2012–2013 are partial; pre-2012 documentation is largely missing.
- **Recent Developments:**
  - During the 25th PAIGH General Assembly, Secretary General Campuzano offered archival research support.
  - A formal request was submitted to locate historical artifacts about USNS; parallel U.S. research efforts also began.
  - This work has gained urgency due to recent administrative changes and renewed questions about U.S. involvement in PAIGH.

- **Research Initiative:**
  - Erick Langer and Paul Riley are leading a project to document U.S. contributions to PAIGH and develop a U.S. submission for PAIGH's Centennial Celebration.
  - Initial findings include materials at the Smithsonian National Anthropological Archives (24 boxes of historical PAIGH records from the Library of Congress).
  - Artifacts date back to 1928, including founding documents, U.S. delegation records, and Commission materials.
- **Key Historical Insights:**
  - PAIGH founded October 7, 1928 (Havana); inaugurated September 1929 (Mexico City).
  - U.S. was a founding member and key contributor.
  - U.S. participation formalized via Joint Resolution 80 (August 2, 1935), signed by President Roosevelt.
  - The 6th General Assembly (1955) marked PAIGH's integration into the Organization of American States and formalized National Sections.
  - Notable U.S. contributors include Dr. Arch C. Gerlach and others across history, geography, cartography, and geophysics.
- **Next Steps & Research Sources:**
  - Continued research at institutions including:
    - ❖ Department of State's Office of the Historian
    - ❖ Library of Congress
    - ❖ HathiTrust
    - ❖ American Geographical Society
    - ❖ PAIGH Archives in Mexico City
- **Considerations:**
  - USNS may also consider recognizing its own centenary in conjunction with PAIGH's.
  - The group will need to determine how best to safeguard and pass along its institutional history and digital archive to future leadership.

### 3) Upcoming 32<sup>nd</sup> International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2025)

- Tim Trainor shared that the next [International Cartographic Conference \(ICC\)](#) will take place in **Vancouver, Canada**, from **August 17–22, 2025**, marking a significant event hosted in the Americas.
- The conference theme is **"Mapping the Future: Innovation, Inclusion, and Sustainability."**
- **Key Highlights:**
  - Pre-conference workshops on August 17, reflecting the work of the 28 commissions.
  - Daily keynote sessions, Monday through Friday.
  - Technical sessions, poster presentations, sponsored talks, and both an international map exhibition and a children's map exhibition.
- **Keynote Topics of Interest:**
  - Sustainability in the Arctic
  - Mapping and Indigenous Communities
  - Environmental Justice
  - Digital Earth and Digital Twin Technologies
  - Geo-visualization and Earth Observations
  - Volunteered Geographic Information (e.g., Humanitarian mapping initiatives)
  - Geological and Historical Mapping
  - Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Mapping Technologies
- **Notable Speakers:**
  - Eric Loubier, Director General, Center for Mapping, Natural Resources Canada

- Amy Rose, Humanitarian mapping expert
- Representatives from the David Rumsey Map Collection

#### 4) Commission Updates

- There were no significant Commission updates

#### 5) Walk on Topics

- **USNS Meetup at ESRI Conference**
  - Eric van Praag invited any USNS members attending the upcoming [ESRI Conference](#) to coordinate a get-together.
  - Interested attendees should email Eric directly (EvanPraag@esri.com) to participate.
- **Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS) Conference**
  - The [2025 MALAS Conference](#) will be held November 7–8 in Chicago.
  - Open to all topics related to Latin America, the Caribbean, and Mexico.
  - International and U.S.-based scholars typically participate.
  - Call for papers is open; first abstract deadline is July 15, with likely extension into August.
- **Preparation for the USNS Annual Report Contributions**
  - USNS members will soon be contacted by Commission Leads to provide content for the upcoming Annual Report.
  - These reports have become increasingly comprehensive, capturing both official activities and broader member engagement throughout the year.
  - Annual reports play an essential role in documenting USNS history and contributions to PAIGH.
  - Members are encouraged to share relevant work, research, and contributions related to the Americas—whether through formal channels or volunteer efforts.

#### 6) Next USNS Meeting

- August 12, 2025