

The CAMWS of the Future:
Building a Supportive Space for Classics and Classicists to Thrive

This presentation will address CAMWS post-COVID, with an eye to the future of the organization and its deep commitment to supporting students and teachers of classical subjects at all levels.

COVID changed everything. The meetings we enjoy so much, where we get to meet new people and see old friends moved on-line, and then the first in-person meeting offered a semi-hybrid format. The 2022 meeting only offered minimal virtual participation for those who could not travel. Why was there a limit on hybrid presentations and attendance? – cost and human resources. That said, CAMWS has to explore the opportunities and challenges that the Zoom-world offers without losing the thing that makes CAMWS so wonderful – the human interaction. Yet, everything has also gotten more expensive. How do we manage meetings so that they are affordable for the members and for the organization?

CAMWS offers scholarships, travel grants, and financial support to students and teachers at a variety of levels, but some of these awards get very few, if any, applications. Do we need to reassess some of these and programs to see if they meet a need or if there are other areas to which CAMWS can contribute to help classics and classicists thrive? High school students and teachers are doing amazing things! Yet high schools are begging for teachers in order to keep their Latin programs. Every high school student who does not have the chance to study Latin and Greek is one less student who will take Latin or Greek in college. How do we encourage more undergraduate and graduate students to become k-12 teachers?

CAMWS does not exist in a vacuum. Although, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, CAMWS cannot make political statements or become involved in political contests, CAMWS is made up

of human beings and the activities of politicians – state governments, in particular, can impinge on the ability of CAMWS members and non-members to teach about the ancient world – all aspects of the ancient world. CAMWS has to be committed to being - even if temporarily – a space where all scholarship and all approaches are welcome. How do we make sure our diversity and inclusion effort is fully inclusive?

Finally, what else are we not thinking about? What are efforts or opportunities we have not even considered? CAMWS is its members – what do you want and need CAMWS to be?