

# THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology

Winter, 2010

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## An Introduction to This Issue

*Jim Wolfe, THS Editor*

In this issue, we begin with the combined highlights of three business meetings, two board meetings and one membership meeting, conducted at our 2009 annual meeting in New Orleans (full minutes for these meetings are available on our AHS website: [humanistsociology.org/site/humanist](http://humanistsociology.org/site/humanist)). Next come annual reports, kicked off with Greta Pennell's account of the annual meeting as Program Chair, which includes attendance figures for special events as well as the overall gathering. The President's Report from Jim Pennell mentions the high cost for audio-visual equipment and suggests that past presidents take on special tasks, such as editing the handbook. The President-Elect's Report from Emma Bailey focuses on the AHS 2010 Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, NM on November 3-7 (see the full-page call for papers) and presents a budget for that meeting. The President-Elect-Elect's Report from Dennis Kalob looks forward to the 2011 Annual Meeting in Chicago on October 12-16. The Report of the Co-Vice-Presidents for Membership, Chris Dale and Dennis Kalob, includes a breakdown of our astound-

ing 153 members by region and advises persistence as the key to maintaining high membership levels. The Secretary's Report from Joti Sekhon chronicles her role in tabulating election ballots and taking minutes. The Treasurer's Report from Mary Chayko indicates that our treasury is in fine shape (see the 2010 budget) and advises getting used to our restored tax-exempt status as 501(c)(6) before considering creating a 501(c)(3) foundation to permit tax-deductible gifts. The Humanity and Society Editor's Report from Kathleen Tiemann lauds the journal being caught up and cites the need for more reviewers and for a copy editor; it includes a 2010 budget. The Report from the Constitutional Review Committee gives history and a proposed schedule and suggests differentiating between a timeless constitution and current policies and operating procedures. The Archive Committee Report from Gina Petonito raises questions and asks for help in sorting trash from treasure and determining what is available to the public and what is restricted. The issue concludes with a list of committees and their members, an announcement for a new book series, an ad for a CD with Songs of Peace and Justice, and, in honor of Black History Month, my piece on Martin Luther King's branching out in terms of issues addressed and religious traditions involved.

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## Highlights of Business Meetings Nov. 2009

*By Jim Wolfe, THS Editor*

### Israel-Palestine

The most controversial action was passage of a motion for AHS to engage in an academic and cultural boycott of Israel (with 22 in favor; 8 opposed; 4 abstentions), contingent upon ratification by vote of the whole AHS membership in the fall of 2010. The boycott is being conducted by institutions and does not constrain individuals.

### Communications

Providing information about the boycott and other matters and handling the vote on the boycott will require additional instruments besides AHS-Talk, which needs to be reformed. In addition to suggestions for a members' listserv or a BCC list of members enabling one-way communication mainly of announcements, it was moved that Alan and Woody set up an on-line discussion board for AHS members. After some remarks on AHS-Talk which upset quite a few people, moderator approval is temporarily being exercised on AHS-Talk. As a more permanent solution, a motion was passed for the incoming President to create a mechanism (such as an ad hoc committee) charged with transforming the AHS listserv into a forum that fully exemplifies the values of AHS, a forum in which members can take pride, due to its exemplary balancing of such values; this would include 1) creation or refinement of a set of guidelines for those posting, 2) A mechanism by which posts are monitored, authors are warned, and inappropriate posts are blocked, 3) A mechanism by which individuals per-

sisting in attempts to make inappropriate posts are blocked or removed from the list.

### Audio-Visual Technology

Charges for use of AV equipment have amounted to almost one third of annual meeting costs, and costs in Boston went over budget from audio-visual expenses only. Presenters are asked to make sure that use of AV is essential and should try to make it as interactive and "humanistic" as possible. A motion was passed for the President to appoint an ad hoc committee to evaluate the cost effectiveness of AHS purchasing AV equipment and to include use of AV equipment in the guidelines for paper presentations.

### New Personnel

The new President is Emma Bailey. The program chair for 2010 annual meeting is Steve McGuire, and the local arrangement person is Alicia Edwards. The President-Elect is Dennis Kalob. The program chair for 2011 annual meeting is Chris Dale. Dennis Kalob continues solo as vice-president of membership. The new VP for publications is Alan Spector. The new secretary is Stephen Adair. Chuck Koeber will be treasurer after Mary. Heidi Hendrickson is the new chair of the Nominations Committee. Robert Hironimus-Wendt is the new book review editor and Hal Pepinsky the new associate editor of "Humanity and Society."

### Personnel Needed

Heidi Hendrickson has requested nominations for book award committee, constitution review committee, President for 2012, VP for Membership (two candidates) and two new members of

nomination committee (four candidates should run). It is best that candidates for president have prior meeting attendance and service. Gender balance is sought though women have tended to decline. In addition to an appeal for nominations in the fall newsletter, it was suggested that information on nominations be included with preregistration to avoid overburdening at the annual meeting. To relieve Kathy Tiemann as journal editor, a copy editor is being sought as well as having one reviewer as mentor for difficult pieces. Though the board may ask Kathy to stay on for a few extra months to get us back on the normal calendar for 3-year terms, a new editor will be needed. Woody will draw up an agreement for Kathy's successor. The treasurer is looking for new bookkeeper. Media relations and national liaison posts need to be implemented by having people step up to perform these roles.

### **Constitution Revision**

Kathie Gaianguest raised these questions: 1) what is the underlying philosophy of the organization? 2) Who succeeds the president if he dies in office? 3) Can a president serve more than one one-year term if there is a suitable gap between? 4) If a duo fills a post, which gets to vote? 5) Is a mid-year membership meeting needed (or only in a crisis)? 6) What is the best structure and management for the Nominating Committee? 7) What percentage of votes is needed to be elected? 8) How should we use media, email, and web-based alternatives for meetings, communication, and voting. 9) Why do amendments need 20 members' signatures now? Kathie hopes members will provide feedback to her by April directly by email: Kathryn\_Gaianguest@umit.maine.edu (or by discussion board).

### **Book Awards**

Jim Gallagher presented Book Awards for 2009. The Runner-up was Mary Chayko for "Portable Communities." The Winner was Javier Auyero and Debora Alejandra Swisture for "Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown," Oxford University Press. It was proposed to have the book review editor and the past president involved in the book award committee. The book sale raised \$240.

### **Publications**

A motion passed that people who request copies of the journal and authors who receive a copy should also receive a coupon for a discount for membership with the value of the coupon set by the Editor and the VP for membership together. An on-line version of the Journal is needed especially when institutions switch out from subscribing to hardcopy; it's a question of availability, not just cost. Jim Wolfe pointed out that archiving full minutes on the AHS website enabled him to present a readable condensation of minutes and reports in the newsletter. He solicited pictures and impressions of the annual meeting and opinion articles for the newsletter. Jim Pennell is planning an article for the summer issue about how to participate at the entry level and beyond showing consideration for people not teaching in universities or teaching as adjuncts with financial difficulties though they would like to take part.

### **Spring Board Meeting**

The spring board meeting will be in Columbus OH or Hartford with 5-10 year planning including addressing constitutional revision and a draft of the handbook. The question was raised of what to call this meeting and who should be invited. There was discussion of using of an outside facilitator to help us articulate our vision, help us to map the future and achieve ideal size. The facilitator would not get her feelings hurt when putting items off onto the "parking lot." There is agreement on ideals and philosophy but some communication problems. It was suggested that maybe these issues should be raised not in spring but in a preconference preceding the annual meeting.

### **Reciprocity and Recruitment**

There are plans for some kind of reciprocity with other organizations. Jeff has a session lined up at the Pacific Sociological Association, Corey at Eastern, Chris at American Sociological Association in Atlanta, Steve at North Central, which is combined with Midwest in Chicago over Easter.

### **New Business**

It was suggested that we have an annual meeting session devoted to Frank Lindenfield or other old sages and that we hand out a lifetime achievement award.

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## **Association for Humanist Sociology 2009 Program Chair Report By Greta Pennell**

As I sorted through on-site registration forms, spreadsheets, sticky notes, hotel invoices, and various e-mails to prepare this report, I found myself smiling. While such an admission just might have you wondering if some professional help might be in order, I think it is a fairly common response to reviewing and reflecting on our annual meetings. Every year since 1993 when I attended my first AHS meeting, I've left feeling energized, excited and absolutely sure that there would be no way that the next meeting could possibly compare. Yet, year after year, I'm wowed by the great work that you all are doing. It is truly your work and the support you offer one another that makes our meetings special. I cannot begin to thank you enough.

As Program Chair, one anticipates planning for various contingencies, but there's nothing like a little hurricane to put those plans to the test. Although Hurricane Ida made landfall on the northern Gulf coast two days before our meeting, the skies cleared in time for our first pre-conference service event – painting at a transitional housing facility sponsored by Hope House. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and especially to Dennis Kalob who worked behind the scenes to make so many of the special events and speakers at the meeting possible. A few adjustments to the program were made to accommodate folks who were delayed in various airports as Ida made her way up the East coast, but only four presenters had to actually cancel, and those were for reasons other than weather. All of the sessions scheduled "ran," although balancing attendance at sessions is a challenge.

In terms of numbers, we far exceeded our projections for the meeting with 183 registered participants (see the table below for detailed breakdown). Moreover, 152 of those folks were

pre-registered! Thanks to all of you who sent in your registration early, it makes the job of program chair so much easier. I also want to thank our UIndy students Wei (Vivian) Xie and Candi Witzigreuter for all of their help with the registration table. Revenue from registrations totaled \$11,205. In terms of registration, something to be considered is if we should develop a new registration category for significant others who want to attend just a few of the events or sessions.

**Table 1: Registered Participants for the 2009 AHS Meeting**

	<u>Pre-registered</u>	<u>On-Site Registration</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Student/Retired</b>	43	7	49
<b>Members</b>	82	4	86
<b>Non-Members</b>	27	2	29
<b>Activists/Guests</b>	6	12	18
<b>Total</b>	158	24	183

*NOTE: Original attendance projections = 120 paid participants. Actual registration figures represent a 37% increase over projection.*

One of the biggest expenses and challenges for this meeting came from the high number of audio-video requests. Special film screening sessions were very popular, but they are also quite expensive. So too are data projection systems. Total AV costs for the meeting came to nearly \$5,000, more than double than what we had budgeted. As the need for technology for presentations increases, satisfying that need while still keeping meeting registration costs low will be a real challenge. Many, many thanks to Tim Maher and UIndy Community Programs, Susan Webb, Tom Arcaro, and Stephen Adair for sharing their systems with other presenters during the meeting. Without their assistance it would have been impossible to fulfill all of the AV requests or for us to have a balanced budget for the meeting. Scheduling rooms and presenters around AV requests is a lot more complicated than it might seem. Last minute requests are extremely hard to deal with. So, I urge everyone to please, please, please be humanistic to our future program chairs (and the association) – think twice about whether you really need that power point and be sure to send your request earlier rather than later (getting AV requests at the time of your submission is the best).

Looking back at the meeting several other highlights that deserve mention include:

- Participants came from 30 different states in the U.S. and 4 different countries (i.e., Canada, China, England, the Netherlands)
- Pre-conference events were very well attended (over 50 people participated in the Thursday morning tours of New Orleans). A huge thanks to Tim Maher and Al Alcazar for their work arranging transportation and guiding these sociological tours of the city.
- Sixty sessions representing the work of 193 scholars, activists, and artists.
- Donations of \$300 each were made to the Twomey Center and C3/Hands Off Iberville to support their work in the community.
- The Plenary session featuring Delfeayo Marsalis and the talented actors from the Uptown Music Theatre of New Orleans gave us a whole new appreciation for the ways in which music can empower children and build

community. Delfeayo’s solo performance to end the session was an added treat. Thanks to Cathy Kalob for her vision and efforts in making this session a reality.

– Plenary luncheons were well attended with 80 people at the Activist Café on Friday and 78 people at the Saturday luncheon featuring Ellis Jones. In both cases we heard inspiring stories and ideas for action.

– The book Exhibit Room and sale at the closing reception was very successful, raising \$300 and perhaps more importantly putting great progressive works in the hands and minds of many of the students at the meeting. Thanks to the authors and publishers who donated books and DVDs, and special thanks to Mary Erdmans for coming up with the idea of staggering the “sale” to give students first chance at the titles.

Last, but certainly not least, we were reminded by Jim Pennell that AHSers have been walking the talk of “public sociology” long before it was a buzz word. Jim was my inspiration, my sounding board, my support and collaborator on the Many Paths to Peace, Equality, and Justice we traveled together en route to the 2009 meeting. I couldn’t ask for a better friend, colleague, and soul mate. I pick you, I pick you again, I pick you everytime.

## **President’s Report**

### **2009 Association for Humanist Sociology**

#### **Annual Meeting**

*By Jim Pennell*

Most of my duties this year have involved organizing and promoting the 2009 annual meeting. Greta and I spent a few days in New Orleans in April, while attending another conference. We stayed at the hotel to check on its amenities and service, met with hotel staff, and explored restaurants and watering holes in the immediate vicinity. I wrote a few newsletter articles to promote the meeting and share some information, and I also asked Tim Maher to write a short piece based on his knowledge of the city and the research he had done preparing for the walk he was leading. I arranged for one of our plenary sessions, and worked with Greta and others on other parts of the program. As is often the case, we had some turnover with the caterer we were working with, which caused some frustrations, but nothing too out of the ordinary. I also contacted publishers to solicit book award candidates (more on this below) and to seek funding and/or book donations.

In addition to the annual meeting, I was responsible for preparing and hosting a spring board meeting. The minutes for this meeting have been posted on the website and published in the newsletter, so I won’t revisit them in detail here. We spent quite a bit of time discussing the AHS Constitution and considering possible changes. Thanks to Kathie Gaianguet for leading that effort, and all the committee members who contributed (see her report).

I want to address some issues I think we should consider for the future.

One of the big issues we are facing with the meetings is the cost of AV equipment. In the past we could get by with an overhead or two, a projector, and a TV and VCR/DVD player. We tended to sit in a circle and talk about our work, with perhaps a

handout to illustrate what we were talking about. That is no longer the case. Our AV costs are almost one-third of our meeting costs. We need to come up with some way to reduce these costs substantially.

There are a couple other issues which I think we need to keep in mind with future presidents. I had taken on more assignments this year than I could do. I think in the future we should avoid giving the current president additional responsibilities beyond organizing and promoting the annual meeting and dealing with issues or problems that commonly arise.

Also, I don't think appointing the previous book award winner as chair of the Book Award committee is fair to that person unless she or he has been a member of the association previously. Many thanks to Reuben May, who was a good sport and took on the responsibility of chairing the committee. And thanks to Jim Gallagher and Judy Gordon for spending their time reviewing about twenty submissions. But Reuben was not familiar with the Association or its philosophy. He also had other obligations that required me to solicit books from publishers. In the future, I think we should have a member who can dedicate the time to assuming all the responsibilities necessary for chairing the committee and selecting a winner by the end of June so that the winner and finalists can be invited to the meeting to be presented awards and offered "meet the author" opportunities. It would be good if the chair was a person who has previously served as a member on the committee.

Last, perhaps we can identify ways to utilize the office of past president for taking on some tasks. Gina Petonito worked on the constitution. I plan to work on the handbook, since I didn't get a draft finished for this meeting. But maybe there are regular tasks we could identify. For example, I could have used some help recruiting publishers to participate in the meeting. This is a task that probably needs to be done almost a year out. This could also be one of the tasks a part-time staff person could do. But until we decide whether to create such a position, we might find some ways to utilize the past president's office.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve such a great group of people. It has been an honor to represent you this year.

There are two opportunities to explore the pros and cons of AHS joining the academic and cultural boycott of Israel. You can email a short article for the next issue of this newsletter to Jim Wolfe at [jwolfe@uindy.edu](mailto:jwolfe@uindy.edu) or you can take part in an AHS-members-only blog (using your own name), signing up by contacting Woody Doane (AHS webmaster) at [doane@hartford.edu](mailto:doane@hartford.edu)

## 2009 AHS Annual Report

### *Emma G. Bailey, President-Elect*

As I see it, the main role of President-Elect is to begin to prepare for the annual meeting and to learn as much as possible about the job of president prior to stepping into the position. I have been busy on both counts.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology 2010 will be held at The Lodge at Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 3-7. We will meet at the crossroads (historically, literally, and figuratively) and so the theme reflects this: Meeting at the Crossroads: How Then Shall We Proceed? Steve McGuire has graciously agreed to be program chair. Alicia Edwards will work with me on local arrangements. I have already confirmed the two main speakers: Sunny Dooley, A Native Dine' (Navajo) Storyteller and Mark Winne, author of *Closing the Food Gap*. Please see the call for submissions for details.

I have also planned a budget for the meeting.

#### AHS 2010 ANNUAL MEETING PROJECTED BUDGET

##### INCOME

Full registration	90	80	7200
Student registration	30	25	750
Lunch Friday	40	20	1000
Lunch Saturday	40	20	1000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>9950</b>

##### EXPENSES

	<u>No. people</u>	<u>cost per</u>	
Lunch Friday	40	20	1000 including tax and service charge
Lunch Saturday	40	20	1000 including tax and service charge
Thurs reception	80		1000 including tax and service charge
Reception Fri	100		1200 including tax and service charge
Reception Sat	100		1200 including tax and service charge
coffee break Fri	70	5+	350 including tax and service charge
coffee break Sat	70	5+	350 including tax and service charge
Board mtg food Thurs	15	15	225 including tax and service charge
Board mtg food Sun	15	15	225
Hospitality food & drink			400 beer, wine, and snacks
Plenary speaker Fri			600 Honorarium, room, and transport
Lunch speaker Thurs			750 Honorarium, room, and transport
Activist café speakers	10	50	500 Donations to orgs?
Entertain Thurs receptn			500
Copying, postage, etc.			500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>9800</b>

# THE ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 3 – 7

THE LODGE AT SANTA FE  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



## MEETING AT THE CROSSROADS HOW THEN SHALL WE PROCEED?

We live in a distinct time—war in the midst of the call for peace, economic recession during unprecedented growth of corporate wealth, continued environmental devastation as oil dependency heightens, food insecurity amidst gluttony, and the entrenchment of institutionalized inequality when we seek justice. At this historical juncture, how then shall we proceed? Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the U.S., provides a unique meeting place to vision the future. Literally, Santa Fe is the crossroads of the Pueblo, the Navajo, the Mexican, the Spaniard and the Anglo people.

Santa Fe is also the hub of art in the southwest: all forms and styles of sculpture, painting, photography and music coalesce here. Please join us to examine this distinct time, to explore these crossroads, and to forge a way forward.

**Direct submissions to:**

Steve McGuire, 2010 AHS Program Chair  
Sociology, Muskingum University  
163 Stormont St.  
New Concord, OH 43725  
740.826.8288 / [smcguire@muskingum.edu](mailto:smcguire@muskingum.edu)  
Submission deadline: June 15, 2010

**Direct other inquiries to:**

Emma Bailey, 2010 AHS President  
Western New Mexico University  
P.O. Box 680  
Silver City, NM 88062  
575.538.6824 / [baileye@wnmu.edu](mailto:baileye@wnmu.edu)

The Lodge at Santa Fe  
750 North St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
888.LODGESF / 505.992.5800  
<http://www.hhandr.com/santafe.php>  
Room Rate: single & double \$105  
**Please make reservations by October 13, 2010**

## Report of the 2009 President-Elect-Elect *Dennis Kalob*

This past year, as soon as it became clear that I was going to be President of the Association in 2011, I immediately set about doing two things: selecting a Program Chair and considering locations for the annual meeting.

I asked my dear friend (and 2005 President) Chris Dale if he would be willing to serve as my Program Chair. He inexplicably accepted. We are already having a good time and look forward to the next two years working up to the 2011 meeting.

I considered several cities for our meeting, but Chicago quickly made it to the top of the list. There were several reasons for this, not the least of which is the fact that by 2011 it will be 5 years since we were last in the Midwest. Also, Chicago is my original hometown. And it was, of course, the home of Jane Addams (“the first humanist sociologist”) and Hull House. Hey, and it is CHICAGO! So, it quickly became a matter of finding the right hotel.

By late May, I had more than two dozen rather detailed proposals from Chicago area hotels. After attending the spring board meeting in Indianapolis in June, Chris and I went to Chicago to visit the hotels on our short list. Corey Dolgon and Alan Spector also met me in the city and helped me out in various ways. I thank them for their valuable assistance in this process.

Upon careful consideration of our choices, Chris and I decided on the Hotel Orrington in the immediate northern suburb of Evanston. The Orrington is a historic property and a unionized hotel in the very nice downtown area of Evanston. It is basically next door to Northwestern University and within easy walking distance to the Lakefront and dozens of restaurants and bars. The commuter train is also within walking distance and can get you into downtown Chicago in less than 30 minutes. The meeting facilities themselves are exceptional. The Orrington is simply a great hotel in a wonderful location.

The deal we worked out with the hotel was a good one, we believe. Some highlights include:

Cost to AHS of renting all meeting space (access to up to 6 breakout rooms): \$500

A free morning break on Saturday

One free drink ticket for each attendee at the Saturday evening reception

Complimentary hospitality suite for the duration  
\$139/night room rate

The dates are **Wednesday, October 12 to Sunday, October 16, 2011**. We would like to begin our annual meeting with a Wednesday evening board meeting. This breaks tradition, as we usually start on Thursday morning. However, it is our intention to really “hit the ground running” on Thursday and believe that it would be best if the board can meet the evening before (as early as 5:00 p.m. perhaps).

I am eager to hear comments and suggestions for 2011. Thank you all.

## Report of the 2009 Co-VPs for Membership *Chris Dale and Dennis Kalob*

We closed out our books on the 2009 membership year in early July (subsequent memberships that came to us were credited for 2010). Membership was up big this year. We officially have 153 members for 2009! In 2008, we had 87 and in 2007 we only had 70 paid-up members. The 153 we have this year is the highest membership total since 2001 when we had 163.

Our renewal rate from '08 to '09 was healthy at 85-90%, but roughly half of this year's members are either brand new to AHS or are past members who returned to us. As wonderful as this is, it does suggest a very big job ahead of us in terms of renewals for next year. Newbies can be difficult to retain for a second year, but if we are successful with our retention efforts this coming year, we will lay a strong foundation for continued growth in our numbers. This is going to be a critically important year for our organization.

The key to getting folks to renew is persistence. A few weeks following our meeting last year, we sent out letters through regular mail to our members who did not yet renew for 2009. Then we sent an email reminder and later a second email reminder. In the spring we sent out another reminder through regular mail. Finally, board members were asked during the spring board meeting to personally contact individuals. It is impossible to have strong retention without these multiple appeals.

Some interesting facts about this year's membership: Our Northeast region (New England + NY) with 55 members accounts for about 36% of our membership. This has always been a strong region for us, but it was particularly strong this year, due to the fact that we had our annual meeting in Boston a year ago. Historically, our other strong region is the North Central (IL, IN, OH, MI, MO, WI). This year, we have 26 members from this region, accounting for 17% of our membership. This is a little less than we have noticed for many past years, so plans for meeting in Chicago in 2011 may be considered timely in this regard.

Our Rocky Mountain (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, WY) and West Coast (AK, HI, CA, OR, WA) regions continue to provide a relatively small portion of our membership. Collectively there are 14 members this year from those states. That is less than 10% of our membership, but quite in line with most years. Of course, we all hope that our meeting next year in NM yields added membership from that part of the country.

Our Deep South region (AL, LA, MS, OK, TX) has always been a small region for us, as well. This year, we only have 6 members from these states, which is about 4% of our membership. That is about the same proportion as what we had 5 years ago. It is, of course, everyone's hope that our meeting this year will add a bit of a boost to these regional numbers.

We do wish to point out that the above regional analysis is incomplete since we were only able to work from data that we have for 1999-2004 and, of course, 2009. We thank Jim Pennell for providing us all with the data for '99-'04. In his last report as VP for Membership, Jim presented us with the regional breakdown for each of those six years. His report with these details can be found in the January, 2005 issue of *The Humanist Sociologist*. Our complete regional breakdown for 2009 can be found at the end of this report.

Finally, we do want to remind everyone that our Membership Directory was mailed to our membership this past August. We have a small number of extras in case anybody is in need of one.

Thank you all for your help and support this past year. We appreciate it very much.

Although Dennis will be officially stepping down as Co-VP in order to serve as President-Elect, he will be able to assist Chris when needed in the coming year. Chris will be in his final year of his term as VP.

**AHS Membership by Region (2009)**

Region	N	% of Total
Northeast (CT,ME,MA,NH,NY,RI,VT)	55	35.9
Mid-Atlantic (DE,NJ,PA,MD,DC)	16	10.5
Southeast (GA,FL,NC,SC,VA)	17	11.1
Mid-South (AR,KY,TN,WV)	4	2.6
Deep South (AL,LA,MS,OK,TX)	6	3.9
North Central (IL,IN,OH,MI,MO,WI)	26	17.0
Great Plains (IA,KS,MN,NE,ND,SD)	11	7.2
Rocky Mountain (AZ,CO,ID,MT,NV,NM,UT,WY)	5	3.3
West Coast (AK,HI,CA,OR,WA)	9	5.9
Canada	4	2.6
Other International	0	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Report of the Secretary: 2008-09**

*Joti Sekhon*

This past year was my last year of my second term as secretary of AHS. I have enjoyed being the secretary and being on the Board. However, I regret I could not be as fully engaged this past year due to demands of a new administrative role at a different institution.

My primary responsibility as secretary has been to conduct the annual elections to various offices. This year, however, there was a delay in finalizing the slate, and I was to be away from the country much of the summer. Nominations Committee Chair Greta Pennell graciously prepared and mailed the ballots on my behalf.

Elections were held for the position of President-elect, Vice President for Publications, and three positions on the Nominations Committee.

A total of 56 valid ballots were mailed in to me. After counting the ballots, they were mailed to President Jim Pennell to have the count verified and the election ratified by him and another AHS member.

I recorded the proceedings of the 2008 opening Board meeting and the Business meeting held in Henderson, Nevada. I then typed up the minutes and sent them to all Board members. The minutes were approved at the mid-year Board Meeting in Boston on June 11, 2008. They were sent to newsletter editor James Wolfe to include in *The Humanist Sociologist*. As I had to leave early on Sunday, Greta Pennell once again graciously agreed to take down the minutes for the closing Board meeting.

After attending twenty consecutive AHS meetings, I am sad at missing the New Orleans meeting. However, I am already making plans to attend the meetings in Santa Fe next year, and renewing my

AHS fellowship and friendships. I will be thinking of you while engaging in discussions on international educational exchanges and enjoying Turkish food in Istanbul!

**2009 Treasurer's Report**

*Mary Chayko*

The AHS Treasury is in fine shape. I anticipate that we will have over \$37,000 in the treasury at the end of the year. We caught up on back issues of H&S this year, so that necessitated additional expense, but we had anticipated and planned for that expense. We also increased our membership this year, so it appears that extra effort toward recruitment at our annual meetings and at regional conferences is paying off. Our spring board meetings have been excellent venues for short- and long-term planning. Recruitment and board meetings have come in under budget in each of the last two years.

Our tax-exempt status was restored this year; our classification is now 501(c)(6). I will not reiterate here the process or reasons for the classification; a detailed report was printed in *The Humanist Sociologist* this year. At our most recent spring board meeting, the board discussed possibly creating a 501(c)(3) foundation within our organization to permit tax-deductible donations and grant-writing. This is something the organization may want to consider. We have, however, been advised to wait a while before doing so to establish ourselves solidly as a (c)(6) first and to see how that impacts our organization. I am also in the market for a new accountant and book-keeper specializing in non-profits.

From this point forward, we must make sure that our full name The Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc. appears on all documents, the website, literature, etc.

It appears that if our membership stabilizes or increases during 2010, we may be in a situation where we no longer have negative cash flow during a calendar year.

**AHS 2010 (Calendar Year) Annual Budget for 2009 meeting – Nov. '09 draft**

<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>37,460</b>
<b><u>2010 Revenues, Projected</u></b>	
<b>Subscriptions</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>2010 Annual Meeting (projected)</b>	<b>9,950</b>
<b>Donations (Frank L. fund is now \$780)</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>32,150</b>
<b><u>2010 Expenses, Projected</u></b>	
<b>Journal</b>	<b>12,800</b>
<b>Annual Meeting 2012 (deposit)</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Annual Meeting 2010 (projected)</b>	<b>9,800</b>
<b>Postage and supplies</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Newsletter printed</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Membership directory printed</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Recruitment</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Accountancy</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Summer board meeting</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Post Office Box</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>32,770</b>
<b>Projected negative cash flow 2010</b>	<b>-620</b>
<b>Projected starting balance 2011</b>	<b>36,840</b>

## Humanity & Society-Editor's 2009 Report

### By Kathleen Tiemann, Executive Editor

The journal is now caught up. You should receive Volume 33(4) when you get home. Corey Dolgon is working on a special issue that will likely come out as 34(2) next year.

I have had two challenges that have slowed down getting the journal to you. One is finding reviewers. It would be helpful if you would suggest an appropriate reviewer to me when you cannot complete a review yourself. The second challenge is with copy editing. I spend a tremendous amount of time copy editing. Too much in fact. I need a copy editor who can take this task on.

There have been some changes to the editorial board. Daniel Egan resigned as book review editor due to other commitments. He has been replaced by Robert Hironimus-Wendt. I am pleased to welcome Hal Pepinsky as a new associate editor.

### Humanity & Society - Proposed Budget 2010

#### Costs to Produce Four Issues:

Journal two color glossy cover (320 copies each)	\$9,220*
Blue Lines (4@\$25 each)	100
Mailing	880**
Subtotal	\$10,200

#### Personnel Costs:

Production Editor: \$400 per issue (4 issues)	1,600
Copy Editor: \$400 per issue (4 issues)	1,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,200</b>

\* Unsure of number of copies needed due to number of claims received

\*\* Estimate based on previous mailing costs--postage will increase next year

## 2009 Constitution Review Committee Report

### By Kathie Gaianguest, Chair

Members: Chet Ballard, Steve McGuire, Greta Pennell, Gina Petonito

The Constitution Review Committee has prepared a draft of proposed revisions to the AHS Constitution to be reviewed by the AHS Board of Directors and AHS membership at the annual meeting of the association to be held in November in New Orleans, Louisiana.

#### Suggestions for your review:

The Constitution changes are divided into three general categories by the Committee:

1. Small changes—generally in wording or deletions, which reflect an update of how we are functioning.
2. Changes around which there has been much review that are now being proposed to the membership.
3. Changes which require more discussion to guide the Committee's final recommendations.

#### Proposed Schedule for Constitution Revisions:

1. Board and AHS members review and share responses/suggestions for changes at the New Orleans annual meetings—11/12/09-11/15-09.
2. This same draft will be sent out to the general membership after the meetings, for review and feedback by a certain deadline.

3. The Committee will synthesize feedback and prepare a new Constitution Revision document to be presented to the Board of Directors and membership at the 2010 Business meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
4. The changes in the Constitution will be sent out to the membership for final vote in 2011.

#### History

Gina Petonito, last year's Chair of the Constitution Review Committee, did a yeoman's job in organizing the framework for Constitution revision considerations, inserting updates, and bringing together all the issues which have needed Board and membership discussion.

The Report of the Constitution Review Committee (Submitted October 31, 2008) was presented to the Board and membership at the 2008 meetings in Boston. Although there was some discussion at the meetings, some key areas for change were left unresolved, in part because they required more discussion time than was available.

In June 2009, Kathie attended the mid-year Board meeting, where the Board dedicated a working session to further discussing the unresolved areas (outlined in Oct. 31, 2008, report from the Constitution Review Committee). Summarizing from this session, related discussions during the rest of this mid-year Board meeting, and a comprehensive Committee review process, there are three areas for consideration in addressing changes in the Constitution:

1. Changes the 2008 Constitution Review Committee had agreed upon in 2008 and were reviewed at the 2008 annual meeting.
2. Changes for which we can make concrete recommendations—given extensive discussion so far—to be reviewed by the Board, and presented to the membership during the business meeting at the 2009 annual meetings in New Orleans;
3. Issues which require further discussion and action at the 2009 annual meetings and during 2010.

#### A guiding framework for this revision:

Most non-profit organizations have both a Constitution—also referred to as Bylaws—and a document that outlines policies and procedures—sometimes referred to as “operating rules.” The need for these distinctively different documents was discussed at the June mid-year meeting.

Briefly, a *constitution* should be “timeless”, defining the elements of the organizational legal infrastructure, e.g., authority and composition of the Board of Directors and Board committees, election and terms of Board members, designation of annual and special meetings of the membership, voting eligibility, etc. The constitution should be as simple and flexible as possible and should change infrequently; it requires the vote of the Board and entire membership to be changed.

*Policies and operating procedures* define a process for ongoing functioning, which should be more flexible and open to change more frequently based upon current needs of the organization.

Upon the Board of Directors' request to the Constitution Review Committee, we have reviewed the Constitution revisions with attention to this distinction, and recommend that AHS needs a policies/procedures handbook. Further, we have identified issues raised during our Constitution revision discussions which are more appropriately included in a new policies/procedures document.



## 2009 Archive Committee Report

By *Gina Petonito and Michael Weinstein*

We have good news to report from the archive committee. Apparently Gina's efforts to get more donations to the library have borne fruit.

According to Archivist Bob Schmidt, these are the new items:

- 2 large envelopes from Frank Lindenfeld containing a few documents and (mainly) AHS publications;
- A 1989-90 AHS correspondence folder from Martin Schwartz;
- 2 copies each of AHS brochures —Preliminary Program 9th Annual meeting, October 11-14, 1984; "Humanity and Society: Journal of the Association" sent by the Fenwick Library of George Mason University.

Woody has already updated the website.

As exciting as it is to receive these documents, there is still more to be done. There are several people who have documents but for the following reasons have not sent them:

- 1) the boxes of documents are big and heavy and cannot be shipped without considerable expense
- 2) there are items in files that would require time and effort to retrieve
- 3) I am not sure what kinds of things you want. Help me sort trash from treasure.
- 4) there are some items of a sensitive nature, and I am unsure if I should deposit them in a public archive
- 5) I contributed what I had to the archive project people were conducting years ago

Some suggestions to address members' concerns:

- 1) AHS allocate money for shipping, or alternatively AHS members should help people physically move the boxes
- 2 and 3) The Board helps the archive committee prioritize what items they would like the most. Gina believes these should be H&S prior to volume 11 (the Miami library has volume 11 and on) and all issues of THS. Next priority would be conference programs and photographs of meetings. Gina's preference is to archive all the materials people have.
- 4) The Board and the archive committee should come up with ethical guidelines regarding what materials (other than the public documents listed above) should be archived or discarded.
- 5) The archive committee will re-ask Michael Hill, the former chair of the AHS archive committee, to send the materials he retrieved from Miami after Ann Davis's death.

### On the Archivist Board Member Proposal

At present, there is no reason to add another member to the AHS Board. There is history and precedent of the Archive project being handled by a committee. Ann Davis was collecting materials, and were it not for her sudden death, there would have been an archive by now.

Michael will not be at the meeting this year, and Gina will be looking for interested members to work with her on this project. She welcomes any suggestions for members from the board.

## Beyond Civil Rights

By *Jim Wolfe, THS Editor*

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a preacher and the son of a preacher. He was a Baptist, but he was not a narrow-minded Baptist. He was firmly rooted in the black church, but he branched out in many directions, and he reached for the stars. While with John Kennedy there was a disjunction ("my body goes to Mass, but my mind went to Harvard") with King there was an integration as he added on to his basic faith. His style of speech was marked by the sonorous cadences of black preaching, but he often waxed philosophical. He was schooled in the black church, but he was educated at Morehouse and Boston University where he engaged some of the great minds of the age, especially Mohandas K. Gandhi and Reinhold Niebuhr.

From Gandhi, a Hindu, King learned the strength of non-violence. Gandhi matched the negative restraint of force ("a-himsa") with the positive power of "satyagraha," or soulforce, and there is an organization today by that name which seeks to apply the approach of Gandhi and King in countering the spiritual violence of churches that discriminate against gay people. From Niebuhr, a Christian theologian, King learned the importance of countervailing power since the powers of this world are not swayed by moral argument until it is backed up with equal power.

King made his mark in the civil rights movement, but he did not stop there despite criticisms that he was overreaching. The chronicles of King's involvement in the civil rights movement are well-known: the Montgomery bus boycott, the fire-hosings and bombings in Birmingham, the march in Selma, the Freedom Rides, the dream that someday his four little children would be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character, passage of the Public Accommodations Act and the Voting Rights Act. These are central to King's legacy, but they are not the whole of it. Unlike some of our local black preachers, who take offense when other freedom movements base themselves on civil rights, King was quite ready to extend the quest for human rights. He branched into a concern for poverty and labor, into protest against the war in Vietnam, and into alliance with a variety of secular and religious figures.

When King was assassinated, he was engaged in supporting a strike by sanitation workers in Memphis. He recognized the obscene disparities of wealth and income in America, and he knew that we would still face division by class even if division by race were solved, which it has not been since African-Americans today are still disproportionately poor: with a quarter under the poverty line compared to 8% for whites. King launched a Poor People's Campaign centered in Resurrection City in muddy Washington.

He realized that ending segregation and insuring formal access to political power would not mean much without economic progress. It is here that I became involved in King's efforts. King sent his nephew, Randall Osborne, to found Operation Breadbasket in Cleveland, where I, though a white Presbyterian, was working for a black Baptist inner city church, Fidelity Baptist

(continued on page 10)

# Announcing a New Book Series

## Solving Social Problems

Series Editor: **Bonnie Berry**, Director of the Social Problems Research Group, USA



[www.ashgate.com/sociology](http://www.ashgate.com/sociology)

*Solving Social Problems* provides a forum for the description and measurement of social problems, with a keen focus on the concrete remedies proposed for their solution. The series takes an international perspective, exploring social problems in various parts of the world, with the central concern being always their possible remedy. Work is welcomed on subjects as diverse as environmental damage, terrorism, economic disparities and economic devastation, poverty, inequalities, domestic assaults and sexual abuse, health care, natural disasters, labour inequality, animal abuse, crime, and mental illness and its treatment. In addition to recommending solutions to social problems, the books in this series are theoretically sophisticated, exploring previous discussions of the issues in question, examining other attempts to resolve them, and adopting and discussing methodologies that are commonly used to measure social problems. Proposed solutions may be framed as changes in policy or practice, or more broadly as social change and social movement. Solutions may be reflective of ideology, but are always pragmatic and detailed, explaining the means by which the suggested solutions might be achieved.

If you would like to submit a proposal for this series, please email:

the Series Editor, **Bonnie Berry**: [solving@socialproblems.org](mailto:solving@socialproblems.org)

or the Commissioning Editor, **Neil Jordan**: [njordan@ashgatepublishing.com](mailto:njordan@ashgatepublishing.com)

Church of the Inner City Protestant Parish. We approached the Fisher-Fazio grocery chain with the moral argument that they should hire and promote more Negro workers. This fell on deaf ears. So we decided to show force. We organized a boycott and picketed the stores. Produce rotted on the shelves. Now we caught the attention of the chain, which agreed to our demands. Dr. King came up from Montgomery and helped us celebrate the victory. I shook his hand and had supper with him along with the other clergy who had supported the drive.

King opposed the War in Vietnam because he believed in non-violence, because it shunted resources from the war on poverty, because the colonial regime the US supported was not as good nor the revolutionary regime we opposed as bad as presented, because America was alienating those it purported to liberate and destroying their land and people. In a phrase we have used on our own signs, he said, 'War is not the answer.'

King was deeply disappointed by the silence of the white churches in the face of injustice plaguing Negroes. Though a firm proponent of separation of church and state, he had no use for insular religion. He welcomed support from all quarters. James

Reeb was a Unitarian. Viola Liuzzo was Catholic. Bayard Rustin, who organized the march on Washington, was gay. King learned from atheists Nietzsche and Sartre as well as Gandhi and Niebuhr. He listened to Buddhists in Vietnam. He was open to truth wherever he found it and endorsed the "Hindu-Moslem-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist" belief that love unlocks the door to ultimate reality, a view that I share. My motto is: Why have one religion when you can have several? From my Jewish faith, I derive a commitment to justice and to "tikkun olam" (repairing the world). From my Christian faith, I add in love and forgiveness. From my Buddhist faith, I generate compassion and paying attention. From my Taoist faith, I practice inner peace and flexible strength. From my Muslim faith, I draw kindness and concern for the poor. From my Wiccan faith, I recover closeness to nature and protection for Mother Earth. From my Humanist faith, I venture into freedom of thought and building a human community. I celebrate all this religious diversity within myself and among ourselves. I believe that King's vision of a beloved community was equally all-encompassing.

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David Embrick  
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## Who Are We The Association for Humanist Sociology

**Our Past:** The Association arose out of growing disenchantment with conventional sociology and a need for a more clearly value committed emphasis in sociological work. We came together in 1976, not out of shared politics or similar "schools" of sociology, which were, and still are, richly varied, but out of a common concern for "real life" problems of peace, equality, and social justice.

**Our Philosophy:** Humanists view people not merely as products of social forces but also as shapers of social life, capable of creating social orders in which everyone's potential can unfold.

**Our Purpose:** Accordingly, humanist sociologists study life with a value commitment to advance that possibility through scholarship and practice. We intend to be an active support network for sociologists committed to humanist values, as they practice sociology in institutions often hostile to such an approach. To this end, we produce a quarterly journal, *Humanity & Society*, as well as a newsletter, *The Humanist Sociologist*; we organize national meetings and have sessions at regional sociology conferences.