**Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc.**

**Business Meeting, 2014 Annual Meeting**

**Cleveland, OH October 10, 2014**

**Board Members Present:** Stephen Adair, David Embrick, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Kasey Henricks, Rebecca Hensley, Chuck Koeber, Susan Machum, Alan Spector, Johnny Williams.

**Other Members Present:**  The body of those attending the Conference and choosing to attend this meeting.

Minutes taken by Rebecca Hensley.

**Motions:**

* The membership moved, seconded, and accepted all reports from the respective Board Officers.
* Since Chuck Koeber was elected President-Elect (2016) in May, it was necessary to vote on a replacement to serve the 2 years remaining on his second 3-year term. The Board proposed Greta Pennell to fill the position and the membership voted to approve the Board’s choice, effective at the end of the2014 Annual Meeting.
* Hal Pepinsky moved to name the AHS Book Award the Betty and Al Lee Book Award in recognition for their long-standing commitment to AHS. The membership seconded and passed the motion unanimously.
* Corey Dolgon moved, and the membership seconded and passed the motion to form a Committee under Jim Pennell to explore the development of a 501(c)3 to serve as a foundation to receive tax deductible funds for the work of the AHS. The membership agreed that Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl will serve on this Committee, as well.

**Announcements, Reports, and Discussions:**

* The membership agreed that the website should be transferred from the Central Connecticut State system to either Weebly or Wordpress. A Web Manager will be appointed under Susan Machum (VP for Publications) and this Manager will be compensated $500 annually for his/her work. Daina Harvey and Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl both volunteered to work on this project.
* Teleconferences (instead of mid-year meetings of the Board) are deemed by the membership adequate to allow and support democratic process and voting as long as an announcement and agenda are sent out to all active members at least 30 days in advance. Active members are those whose dues are paid up to date.
* Treasurer Chuck Koeber reported that the total 2014 estimated income has been $21,450. The total 2014 estimated expenses are $20,342. So not only did AHS spend $1,108 less than it received this year, but it left the estimated balance of $27,775 untouched. He noted that the membership voted to raise both the membership dues and the Conference registration fee this year, but he suggested raising the membership fee every other year, which is common practice for other similar organizations.
* President-Elect Kathleen Fitzgerald announced that she has chosen Tony Ladd as the Program Chair for the 2015 Annual Meeting of AHS, which will be held October 21-25, 2015, at the University Place Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Rooms will cost $109 per night.
* Discussion related to the functioning of the Nominations Committee brought out that the nominating process (as outlined in the AHS Constitution and Handbook) is as follows: (a) the Committee receives the charge (listing the positions to be filled via the next election) from the Secretary at a breakfast meeting on Friday morning at the Conference; the Committee solicits membership input in identifying possible candidates for the positions, asks those individuals whether or not they are willing to serve and, if so, for a brief bio for the ballot; upon completion of the ballot, the Committee Chair sends the proposed ballot to the Board Secretary who forwards it to the rest of the Board; the Board ensures that all proposed candidates have paid their most recent AHS dues and the process proceeds to election. The only additional conditions placed on candidates for President-Elect are that the individual has never served AHS as President before and that the individual has not missed the 2 prior Annual Meetings in a row. The membership agreed that any language in the Constitution or the Handbook that appears to be inconsistent related to this process should be addressed.
* VP for Membership Johnny Williams reported that AHS currently has 133 paid-up members and that he is working diligently to increase and maintain this number. He also reported that the Twitter account is not currently functioning, but could operate under the hashtag AHSsoci2014.
* Secretary Rebecca Hensley reported that the new online electoral process worked well during this year’s election. Emails went out to 111 paid members with a link to the ballot and randomly selected numbers to authenticate their ballot without identifying the member. Forty-two completed ballots were returned. This was 39% of the possible total and a marked improvement over past elections through the mail. The results were as follows: Chuck Koeber was elected as AHS President-Elect (2016); Susan Machum was elected VP of Publications; Johnny Williams was elected to continue serving as VP of Membership; Bhoomi Thakore and Kasey Henricks were elected to the Nominations Committee. Four resolutions were approved. They included: (1) a new dues structure (to increase AHS financial base); (2) the creation of a new Distinguished Service Award (to recognize long-standing commitment to AHS); (3) the creation of a new *Humanity and Society* Distinguished Paper Award (to encourage submissions and recognize notable work); (4) AHS support of a call for the release of Albert Woodfox (held in solitary confinement for 42 years because of his work organizing the first Black Panther Party prison chapter in the early 1970s).
* David Embrick reported that issues of *Humanity and Society* held four articles each this year and will hold five articles each in 2015. More than 100 submissions are expected in the coming year.
* The Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology is interested in discussing ways in which that organization can collaborate with AHS. Greta suggested putting an article about this in the Newsletter.
* Chuck Koeber announced that he has chosen Bhoomi Thakore as Program Chair for the 2016 Annual Meeting, which is tentatively set to be in Denver, Colorado.
* Brian Sherman asked if the membership would consider supporting a resolution to boycott the Coca Cola Company for their involvement in international imperialist practices. Due to the late hour, there was little discussion of the matter, but he was asked to draft something so that the Board and membership could discuss it.

The meeting was adjourned, tabling any other issue for the Closing Meeting.