**Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc.**

**Closing Board Meeting**

**Washington, D.C., October 12, 2013**

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

**Others Present:** David Embrick, Jeff Torlina, Rumu Das Gupta, Greta Pennell, Jim Pennell, Kasey Henricks, Rebecca West, Yale Magrass

Minutes taken by Rebecca Hensley.

**Items Discussed:**

**1. Number of conference registrants: 125, forty of whom registered online.**

**2. Nominations for Open Positions:**

**Vice-President for Publications**

Rumu Das Gupta

Susan Machum

**Vice-President for Membership**

Johnny Williams

**Nominations Committee**

Cody Stone

Bhoomi Thakore

Callie Watkins

Megan Madison

Kasey Henricks

Possible candidates for President-Elect for 2016 were discussed without agreement being reached.

At the Annual Conference in 2014, the Nominations Committee will be looking for nominations for President-Elect (2016), Vice President for Publications, Vice President for Membership, and 2 Nominations Committee Members.

**3. Constitutional Change to Add Graduate Student to the AHS Board**

It was felt that this would more successfully pull in and utilize graduate students who are competent and willing to commit to the organization and its principles.

It was also suggested that graduate students and other new members could be more strongly considered for service on the Book Awards Committee and other entry level positions of responsibility.

**4. Naming Regional Representatives**

The AHS Constitution allows for the naming of Regional Representatives charged with outreach to increase membership and provide more visibility as an organization nationally. While individuals do often assist with this, there are no such Representatives currently named. There is $1500 budgeted for outreach activity. It was agreed that the Board should follow up on this.

There are Mideast and East Coast Regional Meetings currently planned for spring of 2014 and Hensley reported that a Southern Regional Meeting is already being discussed at Southeastern Louisiana University for spring, 2015.

It was also suggested that a Western Regional Meeting (in spring, 2015) and an ASA Special Session (in summer, 2015) could positively impact registrations for the conference in 2015, which will be in Portland, Oregon.

**5. Treasurer Position**

Chuck Koeber agreed to accept another three year commitment as Treasurer of the organization. The Board expressed gratitude for the excellent job Koeber has been doing and a vote taken on the issue passed.

**6. Publications**

Corey Dolgon officially resigned the position of Vice President of Publications which he had stepped into on an interim basis until another member could be identified to fill it more permanently. Susan Machum has agreed to take over until the election is held in the spring of 2014. Accolades and appreciation were offered to Dolgon for his continued service to the organization and the Board passed a vote to accept Machum’s serving for the present time.

David Embrick announced that Kasey Henriks will now be serving as Managing Editor of Humanity & Society. Book Review Editor will be Kathleen Fitzgerald. Media Editor will be Paul Ketcham and film reviewers may receive copies of the films they review.

The possible reconfiguration of the Editorial Board was discussed at some length. Embrick suggested that two Boards could be formed: one Editorial Board with up to thirty or so individuals serving (possibly some from outside the organization) and one set of Associate Editors (possibly six). Issues raised concerned a past acceptance rate of 83% of submissions and other practices which have reduced the credibility of the journal. The Board passed a vote charging the Vice President of Publications to create bylaws to cover the issues discussed.

**7. Public Statements on Israel and Palestine**

The Board brainstormed on possible groups and organizations that should be included in a public release of the AHS Statements voted on in spring, 2013, related to Palestine and U.S. support of Israel’s current treatment of and policies toward the Palestinian people. It was agreed that the statements should appear on the Website, possibly on a page expressly for such resolutions.

It was further suggested that a panel on this resolution could appear as part of the program at the 2014 Annual Conference in Cleveland.

**8. Internet Presence**

It was agreed that the Media Editor should be assisted to expand the links page on the AHS website, using the SSSP website links page as an example.

The Board supported the idea of Jason Smith creating a vibrant Facebook page to increase awareness of and interaction with AHS online. It could be called Friends of AHS and all Board members could be listed as administrators on the page. The page could also provide representation of the newsletter and/or the journal .

A twitter account was also discussed, to which Board members could have the password.

Internet contact clusters could include (1) Board members (“Board”); (2) AHS Talk (“listserv”); (3) a formalized list of paid members (“membership”); (4) a mass list of all conference attendees with all members from the last three or four years (“announcement list”).

**9. Midwest Regional Meeting in 2014**

Jim Pennell announced that a Midwest Regional Meeting will be held Saturday, February 8th, 2014, in Indianapolis, Indiana. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

**10. Annual Conference in 2015**

Kathleen Fitzgerald reported that planning is well underway to hold the 2015 annual conference October 22-25 in University Place at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon.

**11. Midyear Board Meetings**

In line with the discussion at the Business meeting, it was agreed that rather than one face-to-face 2014 Midyear Meeting, the Board should meet regularly on Skype, the first such meeting being held before the end of 2013. It was agreed that the Board should avoid electronic voting, all members should be invited, and decisions should require thirty days notice.

**12. Election Spring, 2014**

Besides the positions to be filled by paper ballot in Spring, 2014, the membership will also be asked to vote on: (1) modification to the dues amounts as outlined at the Business Meeting and (2) whether or not to publically support the release of Albert Woodfox, who has been in solitary confinement for forty-two years because of his work with the Black Panther Party inside Angola State Penitentiary in Louisiana in the 1970’s.

Rebecca Hensley will draft a possible statement on Woodfox to appear on the ballot.