**Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc.**

**Opening Board Meeting, 2014 Annual Meeting**

**Cleveland, Ohio October 9, 2014**

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

**Other Members Present:** Jill Bystydaienski, Daina Harvey, Matthew Hughey, Greta Pennell, Jim Pennell, Hal Pepinsky, David Tabachnick.

Minutes taken by Rebecca Hensley.

**Presentation of Reports**: President’s (Adair), President-Elect’s (Fitzgerald), VP for Membership (Williams), VP for Publications (presented by Henricks), Secretary (Hensley), Treasurer (Koeber), Nominations Committee (Tabachnick), *Humanity and Society* (Henricks).

**Motions:**

* The Treasurer’s proposed budget was recommended to go forward to the members meeting. Williams moved, Fitzgerald seconded. Passed.
* Bhoomi Thakore suggested asking the membership to name the Book Award after a member of AHS to recognize long-standing service to the organization. The Board chose Al and Betty Lee. Koeber so moved and Fitzgerald seconded. Passed.

**Announcements and Discussions:**

* Long-standing active and highly respected AHS member Don Goodman died in July. Steven asked for input on how AHS could commemorate Goodman’s many considerable contributions to AHS and it was ultimately decided that he would announce Goodman’s passing at the opening of the conference and ask for colleagues and friends to collect stories and memories related to Goodman for a webpage committed to archiving such things on an on-going basis.
* Now that Central Connecticut State has moved from using a cloud-based server to Dreamweaver, the AHS website needs to be moved. Jason Smith was to be paid $500 annually to maintain the site, but he has not been able to access it since the shift so the monies remain unpaid. Kasey suggested that Wordpress is highly accessible and only runs about $18/year for a URL. This is what Mid-South has done quite successfully, so Kathleen committed to speak with Jason about this.
* Forms are still on cloud software, so Stephen will continue to handle those.
* The online system for submitting paper abstracts and panel ideas worked out well.
* It was agreed to post the final program with cancellations deleted so that last minute no-shows won’t be able to use it to request university reimbursement for travel funds they didn’t use.
* The total 2014 estimated income is $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. Foregoing the Mid-Year Board Meetings for Conference Calls instead has helped to accomplish this. The Board agreed that Treasurer Chuck Koeber and President Stephen Adair are to be congratulated for this much needed demonstration of dedicated fiscal management.
* The Credit Square system that has allowed AHS to accept payments for membership dues and Conference registration is working out well, although there are some awkward interface issues (such as payments being listed as being for “products” which is confusing when used for reimbursement requests).
* VP for Membership Johnny Williams reported that memberships are up from past numbers. He suggested that implementing a strong social media presence (e.g., a Facebook page and a Twitter account) would be likely to help attract additional members. This would give us a forum to post about regional conferences and other activities members are involved in so that new – and especially younger colleagues – might become more interested in the organization. He also suggested making the annual dues year begin September 1st to encourage members to renew their membership when they register for the Conference. And he expressed concerns about outdated membership contact information, which might be confounding follow-up for maintaining active membership through contact, receipt of journals/newletters, requests for dues when they are due, etc.
* The Midwest regional meeting raised $900 and only spent $300.
* If we want to continue the Lindenfield Memorial Award, we need donations to the fund and more submissions, as we had none this year.
* The 2015 Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 21-25, 2015, at the University Place Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The projected budget estimates income at $2,659 more than expenses, which would raise the bank account to $30,434.
* 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).
* The Book Award Committee solicited possible book submissions from the 52 Section Chairs of the ASA and the 22 Division Chairs of the SSSP, as well as 33 academic presses, producing a total submission of 56 books for consideration. The Committee, chaired by Bhoomi Thakore and consisting of Damien Contessa, Marc Settembrino, and Christine Wood, created a rubric for judging the submissions to reduce subjectivity and assist in more easily identifying clear winners. The Board agreed that this rubric should be handed down to subsequent Book Award Committees.
* Kasey Henricks, Managing Editor of *Humanity and Society*, reported that the journal is now up to 70 submissions this year, but his goal is 100. He said that when he cleared the roll of those who continue to receive the journal, but without having their dues paid up to date, the list went from 250 subscribers to 100.
* Since neither of the Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee are present at the Conference, Bhoomi Thakore, David Tabachnick, and Kasey Henricks will receive the charge at the Committee’s Friday morning breakfast meeting and seek to fulfill its responsibilities.
* Jim Pennell suggested that AHS needs a not-for-profit foundation for the purpose of receiving tax deductible funds for the work of the organization. He agreed to chair a committee of 3 members to explore the formation of a 501(c)3.

The meeting was adjourned.