

AHS Mid-Year Board Meeting

July 12th, 2018 (Thursday) at 1pm Central/2pm EST.

In Attendance: Woody Doane, Dawn Tawwater, Marc Settembrino, David Embrick, Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl, Jeff Torlina, Rebecca, Hensley, Bilal Sekou, Daina Harvey

(Minutes taken by Dawn Tawwater, AHS Secretary)

President's Report (David Embrick):

Dave discusses his thoughts on conference locations (international) and income for the organization. Hephzibah suggested working on retention of membership. Rebecca added some of her attempts to have ongoing communication with new members in retention efforts. Discussion occurred for several minutes on these topics. No motions or decisions were made. Dave suggested more discussion in Detroit.

VP of Publications (Bhoomi Thakore):

** Report attached.

VP of Membership (Marc Settembrino):

Marc discussed his thoughts on retaining and tracking members and the importance of that occurring. He discussed possible options. He also shared thoughts on conference planning and potential future issues.

Treasurer's Report (Woody Doane):

** Report attached.

Membership was discussed. Numbers are down and questions remain about whether that is the "Cuba" effect or some other issue. Reduction in school contributions for conference travel (an incentive for membership) is not being more limited at colleges/universities.

Secretary (Dawn Tawwater):

** Report attached.

** Note: Dave confirms Melisa Lavin for interim secretary during the 2018 conference. A email vote was taken previously to gain the board's approval for the interim position. Dawn's term as secretary was scheduled to conclude at the end of the 2018 conference, but she has accepted the position of Program Chair to Incoming President, Jeff Torlina. Melissa will begin service at the beginning of the conference, to afford Dawn the ability to begin conference planning for 2019 during our Detroit meetings. Melissa will also be Dave's suggested appointment to the 2018-2021 position term as new secretary, and will be seeking board approval for that term in Detroit.

Humanity and Society – Editor (Daina Harvey): –

The Journal is not receiving enough viable submission to make up four issues. We don't have an impact factor rating, but it has been worked on for two years and he continues those efforts. Not having the factor rating greatly influences grad student interest. He also suggested members work more diligently to recruit and write with students for submission at the conference and at their home schools. Daina rates submissions at 50 submissions a year, but only about 20 are viable. David also notes it is a member's journal and the membership should be submitting their own work. Hephzibah noted she would add some more information on website and twitter to disseminate a call for submissions.

Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl- (Program Chair) -

She is using social media to publicize the upcoming conference. Things are looking good. She is getting lots of positive feedback.. She needs someone to lead a tour to the African American Museum in Detroit. Bilal agreed to lead the tour. Hephzibah created an invoice for donations to the conference. Black owned businesses will be highlighted in the program and were given discounted rates for ads. The hotel is union backed. She is struggling to get a panel with union representatives. Jeff Torlina agrees to organize a panel on union/labor.

Rebecca Hensley (Past President) -

Communications between Rebecca and those she worked with in Cuba has become difficult. She continues to try to arrange for travel with the Cuban scholar that has been chosen, but the communication issues are an obstacle. She also noted there can be delays in travel and other issues related to travel to America that could become "best laid plans" since the US government's increase in sanctions.

Incoming President (2019-2020) Report (Jeff Torlina):

The 2019 Conference location will be our first Bi-National conference as an organization; we've chosen El Paso, Texas/Juarez, Chihuahua, with the primary conference program occurring at University of Texas at El Paso. Jeff discussed the International Airport, public transportation, hotels, etc. the assets found in the area. Dawn interjected the use of the conference to attend Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations in the area the preferred weekend of the conference. Dave offered to help (he said he would do *ANYTHING* we asked) with his many connections in Texas.

New Business: Dave discussed the need for a organizational statement on Sexual Harassment. He will write something so that the statement can be presented to the membership at the conference. We discussed the statement and the possibility of a focused meeting at the conference on the issue/statement.

Motions: None

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 AM CST.

**2018 ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY TREASURER'S MID-YEAR NOTES
SUBMITTED BY WOODY DOANE, TREASURER, JULY 3, 2018**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Beginning balance (1/1/2018)	\$55, 874.62
Expenses YTD	\$ 933.18
Income YTD	\$5,645.54
Current Balance (6/29/2018)	\$60, 587.18

OBSERVATIONS:

While the overall bottom line is robust, historically most of our expenses (annual meeting) are incurred during the second half of the calendar year.

One major area for concern, is the decline in membership numbers. While it was certainly to be expected that many people joined last year to participate in the Havana Conference, 2018 membership is down about 40% from the same time in 2017 (82 as of July 1, 2018; 136 on July 1, 2017). We have yet to see how this will be reflected in conference participation in November. The good news is that 2017 has left us with a better financial cushion to withstand a down year; the challenge is that we need to do more to attract and retain members.

Special thanks to Hephzibah Strmic-Pawl for her hard work in moving the website from Wix to Weebly and her good humor in tolerating the occasional gnashing of teeth on the part of the treasurer. After six months I am confident in saying that we have a better "customer experience" for those trying to join AHS, although some bugs still remain. Conference registration will be another test.

**2017 ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY TREASURER'S REPORT--FINAL
SUBMITTED BY WOODY DOANE, TREASURER, JUNE 28, 2018**

BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/2017	\$35,182.40
General Fund	\$34,202.40
Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund	\$980.00
INCOME [TOTAL]	\$57,083.37
Memberships, conference registrations, and tours	\$55,968.37
Donation from <i>Critical Sociology</i> (conference reception)	\$1,000.00
Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund donations	\$40.00
Advertisement in conference program	\$75.00
EXPENSES [TOTAL]	\$36,391.15
Administration (postage, shipping)	\$85.15
<i>Humanity & Society</i> (mailing costs billed by Sage)	\$751.25
Organizational (accounting, website)	\$1,203.40
Conference expenses	\$34,351.35
YEAR END BANK BALANCE 12/31/2017	\$55,874.62
General Fund	\$54,854.62
Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund	\$1,020.00
NET GAIN/LOSS 2017	\$20,692.22

NARRATIVE:

This “final report” for 2017 is an extension of the report that I submitted at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Havana. It also represents the conclusion of my first year as Treasurer. Once again, I would like to thank Greta Pennell for all her work during the transition process in late 2016 and early 2017.

As is evident from the above summary, 2017 was an **outstanding** year for AHS from a financial standpoint. The decision to hold the 2017 Annual Meeting in Havana produced dramatic increases in membership (178—172 paid [all memberships received after October 1 were counted as 2018 memberships]) and in annual meeting registration (298—not all attended). This in turn produced a significant increase in income for the Association—over \$57,000 in membership dues, conference registrations, other income, and conference tour fees. Even with the additional expenses for a larger annual meeting held in an international venue, AHS ended the year with a substantially higher balance than it had at the beginning (beginning balance on January 1, 2017 was \$35, 182.40; the balance on December 31, was \$55, 874.62). **The bottom line was that AHS experienced a net gain of \$20, 692.22 for 2017.**

While this is obviously good news, I should emphasize that viewed in a historical context, the financial gains of 2017 are best understood as a one-time windfall rather than an ongoing trend (e.g., the net gain for 2016 was just over \$2700). The challenge for the coming year will be to maintain the momentum that we have built this year in terms of increased membership and participation in the annual meeting. Obviously, Detroit (or any other U.S. city) does not have the drawing power of Havana

I would also like to see the Board discuss the pros and cons of requiring program participants to preregister and encouraging others to do so. While it does require additional work prior to the meeting, it also gives us advance information on meeting revenues and would in part address the problem of “no-shows” that has plagued AHS conferences in past years. The mandatory preregistration for AHS-Havana certainly helped stabilize our planning.

NOTE:

For purposes of accounting, I have decided to combine income and expense categories. I see no benefit in separating out income from memberships and conference registrations or in breaking down expenses into a larger number of categories. It is easily possible to generate membership and registration numbers from spreadsheets. I keep a separate expense spreadsheet with a listing of every expenditure throughout the calendar year that I am happy to make available upon request.

Secretary's Report

AHS – Board Meeting – July 12th , 2018

- I. Election concluded with 58 ballots sent to the membership current at the time. Very low numbers for the election in comparison to the previous two election in which I've presided. A reason seems to be the low membership renewals at the time of the election. I believe that membership's Jan-Dec annual membership is not understood by every member and a discussion of how to clarify the point or review the criteria is needed.

Election results were released, but are as follows: Johnny E. William 2020 President. Bilal Sekou and Carson Byrd – Nominations Committee.

- II. In the selection of a new secretary by the current President for the coming 2019-2020 year is defined in the organizational Constitution with the following:

"The Treasurer and the Secretary shall be appointed by action of the Board of Directors and approved by the membership on the next general election ballot following their appointment. The Treasurer and Secretary appointments shall be for a three-year term, and no more than six years in all consecutively. "

I will be happy to continue serving as secretary until such time as someone is found to replace me, or at the end of my term during the 2018 Detroit conference.

- III. I have agreed to be Program Chair to incoming President Jeff Torlina for the 2019 conference and look forward to serving the organization in this new capacity.

2017 ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY VP Publications Report--FINAL
SUBMITTED BY Bhoomi K. Thakore, July 10, 2018

Newsletter –

Since 2016, have Michelle DeHaven serving as newsletter editor. Newsletters are going out consistently, online only format. Need to work more on coordinating between newsletter editor and President/Program Committee so information can be sent out as needed. Maybe poll the membership on what they want in their newsletter.

Journal-

From Daina Harvey, Editor, *Humanity & Society*:

The journal is in dire straits. We receive approximately 50 submissions a year. Approximately 15-20 of those are desk rejected because of: a) issues with written English, b) subject matter is humanist philosophy and/or not based in the social sciences, and c) the paper lacks critical components (i.e. literature review, data, etc.). Another 15 or so (I will provide detailed analytics in Detroit) are not at the level of peer review, but I tend to send most of these out to give the author(s) some constructive feedback. Most of these papers are preliminary or in rough draft form (i.e. a survey of college students with N = 10 or interviews with a N = 4). I would guess 90% of these are rejected. That leaves us with about 20 or fewer “normal” papers. We have the ability to publish 5 papers per issue for a total of 20 papers. Of the 20 “normal” papers we need to take 10—that is a really high acceptance rate (50% vs. what might appear to someone as 20%). To make up the deficiency we have been relying on special issues. While I don’t mind doing 2 special issues a year, there are a number of issues with having a journal that can only survive on special issues. In short, we need high quality submissions and we need a couple dozen of them a year. The catch is that without an impact factor rating it is really difficult for us to be an attractive option to graduate students or junior faculty. I increasingly receive emails expressing interest in our journal but subsequently regretting being unable to submit because of the need for some kind of metric for tenure/promotion. I am meeting with our SAGE representative at ASA, but I’ve been asking for them to help us with an impact factor rating for almost a year and a half and have been unsuccessful. To echo, our previous editor, the DGE, we need members, especially those on the editorial board, to help with *Humanity & Society*.

Program Chair Report

7.9.2018

hephzibah

- Plenary Speaker David Fasenfest
- Presidential Address David Embrick
- We have 66 individual paper submissions (a few with multiple authors)
 - Organized into 15 sessions of 3-4 papers each
- Immigration mini conference has 5 sessions and a happy hour to raise money for Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center
- Environmental mini conference has 3-4 sessions

Other Sessions:

- Thematic Panel, League of Revolutionary Black Workers and the General Baker Institute with “Race, Class and Struggle in Detroit: Lessons from the League of Revolutionary Black Workers for Today’s Movement” organized by Dr. Walda Katz Fishman and Jerome Scott
- Thematic Panel, “#metoo in Academia: Addressing Sexual Harassment, Assault, and Violence in the Halls of the Ivory Tower” organized by Dr. Shirley Leyro and Dr. Nicole Carr
- Kate Levy, documentarian and Rashaun Rucker, Deputy Director of Photo and Video at Detroit Free Press with “Art and Social Justice in Detroit”
- “Navigating the Job Market and the Publication Process in the 21st Century” organized by Dr. James Thomas and Dr. Megan Underhill
- Film Screening, *Here’s to Flint* and Q&A with documentarian, Kate Levy
- 2 sessions organized by Johnny Williams
- Yoga workshop by Marc

- Workshop on grants by Anthony Peguero
- An AMC for Carson Byrd's book
- An AMC for JT's book
- Workshop sponsored by SI with Cameron Lippard and Bhoomi Thakore
- AMC on Safe Water in East Africa
- Workshop sponsored by SRE with David Brunsmma
- Full session on Palestine organized by Melissa Weiner
- Workshop and/or panel on sexual violence organized by Rebecca Hensley
- Workshop on macro and micro in Detroit by Steve McGuire
- Full session on Rod Bush organized by Melanie Bush
- Session on AHS Tradition
- Session on AHS, where do we go from here
- Session on Revisiting 1958 organized by Alan Spector
- Workshop on starting a social justice initiative on campus by Debbie Perkins
- Book discussion/fireside chat organized by Carmen Veloria
- AMC for book award winner

Total Sessions (as of now): 46 (*not* including tours, activist cafes, plenary and presidential speakers)

For context: 2017 Cuba had 54 sessions, 2016 Denver had 41, 2015 Portland had 45

Attendees (not including those who may attend but not present): 100-115 depending (about 7-10 of those may not pay as they are Detroit activists)

Tours:

Institute for Detroit Studies Bus Tour

Tour to Motown Museum

Tour to African American Museum (need organizer/tour leader)

Maybe tour to Art Museum (would need organizer/tour leader)

Activist Cafes:

East Michigan Environmental Council

Oakland Avenue Artist Coalition

We still received a couple requests for paper submissions and we are aiming for some more pay attendees so the **new deadline for submissions is July 31st**.