

THE HUMANIST SOCIOLOGIST

Newsletter of the Association for Humanist Sociology

Winter/Spring, 2020

Editor: Anastacia Schulhoff



AHS 2019 Meeting - Mural Bike Ride, El Paso, TX
Photo, courtesy of Mary Barr, Kentucky State University.

A Note from the President

Dear Colleagues, social change agents,
comrades,

As the coronavirus continues to disrupt daily life around the globe and nation, I am writing to ensure you that our Board is closely monitoring this rapidly evolving situation. Given that epidemiological and virology timelines are indicating that physical distancing needs to continue to until at least mid- or late May, we are planning as if our annual meeting in November will proceed as scheduled.

I know that the isolation and loneliness of “physical distancing” affects all of us, and spending more of our lives online is not, I fear, an adequate substitute for the stimulus of face-to-face social interaction. Yet like the rest of you, I am carrying on—researching, teaching and writing the truth, analyzing our circumstances, working for justice, and

permanent structural change that is people-centered.

Because COVID-19 dangers are real—and made far worse by general incompetence of the Trump administration—so is the need for bold solutions. The aim of our 2020 meeting in Jackson, Mississippi is to develop bold solutions for human problems by asking how we as intellectuals, activists and artists can help transform our world into a beloved community. The meeting theme of “Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge,” encourages us to reflect upon people as historical and social actors. We must be resolute in the face of a changing world and generous enough to recognize such changes are an outcome of people’s actions. It is imperative for social scientists, activists, and artists to direct our attention to the great struggles and issues of our time. It is, as C. Wright Mills once said, “one thing to talk about general problems . . . , and quite another to tell an individual what to do. Most ‘experts’ dodge that question. I do not want to.”

It is my hope that our meeting in the most radical city in the United, States – Jackson – will provide us much needed guidance in building an empathic world that will enable humanity to flourish in the future through strong, caring, and loving institutions. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2020 Association for Humanist Sociology meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, November 4-7.

Johnny E. Williams
AHS President



AHS 2019 Meeting - Mural Bike Ride, El Paso, TX
Photos, courtesy of Mary Barr, Kentucky State University

Call for Participation

Dear AHS Member:

The Association for Humanist Sociology provides a venue for sociologists, educators, artists, scholars, and activists who share a commitment to using their skills and knowledge to promote peace, equality, and economic and political justice to come together to affirm, challenge and support one another in creating a people-centered world. To ensure our continuity as change agent organization please renew your membership now for 2020.

We invite all AHS members to participate in our annual meeting: Power, Politics, People, and Knowledge, November 4-7, 2020 in Jackson, Mississippi at the Jackson Downtown Convention Center Hotel.

Submission Deadline is July 17, 2020, 11:59PM EST. Do not wait until the last minute to submit. The deadline to submit your paper, paper session, workshop, documentary film proposals will be upon you before you realize it. Please forward submissions here to our program chair,

James M. Thomas (aka J.T.), University of Mississippi. Remember renewing your membership with AHS sustains our organization and fuels the radicalism we need to help create “the beloved community and keep us centered in knowing we “are not liberators. Liberators do not exist. It exists when people liberate themselves.”

A luta continua,
Johnny E. Williams
Trinity College,

AHS Annual Conference Paper and Presentation Formats

SUBMIT BY JULY 17, 2020

We encourage following types of submissions for sessions and presentations:

- Paper presentations (15-20-minute presentations, 3-4 speakers per session)
- Critical dialogues (5-8-minute presentations, 4-8 panelists per session)
- Panel and Author-Meets-Critics sessions (3-4 panelists per session)
- Workshops and Film Screenings
- Poster presentations

Please visit the Association for Humanist Sociology website to propose sessions and complete abstracts for papers or sessions related to the conference theme or to the AHS mission of equality and social justice: www.humanist-sociology.org

2020 BETTY AND ALFRED MCCLUNG LEE BOOK AWARD

The 2020 Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award is **open for submissions**.



The Association for Humanist Sociology is pleased to announce their 2020 Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award. Authors, publishers, and AHS members may nominate books for consideration. The winner will be recognized at our annual meeting November 4-7 in Jackson, Mississippi. Nominations should be for Sociology or interdisciplinary social science books that approach their subjects from a humanist perspective.

As our Mission states:

Humanist sociologists strive as professionals, as scholars and as activists to uncover and address social issues, working with others to lessen the pain of social problems. We 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. Difficult times give humanist sociologists opportunities to apply their special skills and perspectives for the purpose of creating a more humane world.

Eligible books should have been published in the calendar year 2019 or the first half of 2020. If a book was submitted for last year's consideration, it cannot be nominated again. Edited volumes and textbooks are not eligible for this award.

To nominate a book, authors/publishers/nominators should e-mail a letter of nomination with the subject line "AHS 2020 Book Award Nomination" to Emily Brissette at erbrissette@gmail.com. Authors/publishers should send one copy of the book to each of the award committee members listed below.

The **deadline for nominations is May 15, 2020**. Additional information about AHS is available at www.humanist-sociology.org

AHS 2020 Book Award Committee

Emily Brissette
Maxwell Library 311
10 Shaw Rd
Bridgewater State University
Bridgewater MA 02325

Dr. Sandra E. Weissinger
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Campus Box 1455
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1223 E. 39th Street
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SUBMIT to AHS's Journal *Humanity and Society*

<http://has.sagepub.com/>

Humanity & Society, the official journal of the Association for Humanist Sociology, was first published in 1977 and has been published quarterly since 1978. Humanity & Society is a peer-reviewed Sage journal with abstracts of published articles appearing in Sociological Abstracts. It features "humanist sociology," which is broadly defined as a sociology that views people not only as products of social forces but also as agents in their lives and the world. We are committed to a sociology that contributes to a more humane, equal, and just society.



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Journal of Criminal Justice Education SPECIAL ISSUE

Teaching about Victimization in the #MeToo Era

Guest Editors: Lisa Growette Bostaph, Boise State University, Alison Cares, University of Central Florida, and Bonnie S. Fisher, University of Cincinnati

Purpose of special issue: In late 2017, the movement against sexual harassment and sexual assault entered a new phase with the explosion of #MeToo. Countless survivors have shared their stories. Advocates hope this has led to not just a reckoning of past behavior, but also a widespread accounting by individuals of their attitudes and behaviors with requisite changes going forward. Opponents believe the movement has gone too far in terms of due process rights, matching punishment to the crime, and potentially creating a backlash. In this context, what is the impact on teaching about victimization? How are we teaching content about victimization? What impact is this teaching having on students, faculty, and classroom discourse? What new topics or materials have been added to courses or what new courses have been developed in light of the #MeToo Movement?

The purpose of this special issue is to take stock of the current state of the knowledge about teaching victimization at the college and university level. We are seeking original works that focus on approaches to and/or impacts of teaching about victimization. This can include teaching at the undergraduate or graduate levels, and in person, online, or in a hybrid format. Submissions are welcome from teaching set in the U.S. or internationally.

Possible paper topics: Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluation of teaching pedagogies related to teaching about victimization
- Effects of teaching pedagogies about victimization on students' learning and attitudes
 - Students' reactions to #MeToo-related content
- Impact of #MeToo on classroom discourse and environment when teaching victimization
 - Impact on faculty-student engagement in victimization courses

Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research designs are welcome.

Call for abstracts: We invite those who are interested to submit a 250-word abstract that describes their proposed article. Included in this abstract are: 1) the objectives of the article, 2) a description of the methodology and 3) findings, if relevant. **Abstracts need to be emailed as a Microsoft Word document to SPECIALISSUEJCJE@GMAIL.COM no later than May 1, 2020.**

Timeline: In early June, the coeditors will invite the authors of 6-8 abstracts to submit a 5,000-7,000 word manuscript (approximately 20-25 pages). An invitation to submit a manuscript is not a guarantee of publication. Manuscripts must be submitted by December 15, 2020. Each manuscript will be double blind reviewed by two external reviewers from January to March 2021. Revised manuscripts will be due in May 2021. Final manuscripts will be due on July 31, 2021.

Contact information: If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Lisa Growette Bostaph at lisabostaph@boisestate.edu .

Documentary Corner

An Oldie but Goodie... especially relevant during the COVID-19 Pandemic



Synopsis: It's no secret that the subject of health care is a hot-button issue in the United States, but would it be possible to improve our health care system by looking to other countries for inspiration? This is the question asked by T.R. Reid, a veteran foreign correspondent for The Washington Post and a concerned American who has taken it upon himself to explore out the most effective health care systems from capitalist democracies across the world. In this documentary, Reid travels to the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, and Switzerland in order to contrast and compare their health care systems what that of the United States'. The result is an eye-opening look at the many ways in which a country can care for its citizens. In Germany, the country often credited with creating the concept of a universal health care system, the rich help to pay for the poor and the healthy contribute to cover the ill. But while this system may seem ideal to some, it does get a bit more complicated: Medical providers must negotiate standard coverage process with the government on an annual basis, and doctors in Germany only earn between half and two-thirds the incomes of their U.S. counterparts. Japan boasts the world's best health care statistics, but citizens are ordered by law to purchase health insurance and insurers aren't allowed to make a profit. As Reid makes his way around the world, he begins to wonder if the U.S. couldn't take a tip from Taiwan - a country that looked offshore for inspiration on creating a more effective national healthcare system.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 15* AHS Officer nominations
- May 15* Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award nominations due
- June 1-3* AHS Spring AHS Executive Board meeting
- July 17* Proposals for AHS annual meeting
- Nov. 4-7* AHS annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi



AHS Member News

Appointments, Promotions, and Awards

Rebecca Hensley from Southeastern Louisiana University is now the Executive Director of the Louisiana Network for Criminal Justice Transformation, a not-for-profit community organization that provides case management services to incarcerated citizens and their families. Our mission is "To transform the criminal justice system to reflect a commitment to human rights by making the unapologetic claim that all humans have the inalienable right to expect, and if necessary, to demand their dignity." LA-NCJT stands in solidarity with such national movements as Fight Toxic Prisons and the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee and can be contacted at LA-NCJT@protonmail.com. I will be stepping down from my full-time position at Southeastern Louisiana University July 31st to commit myself completely to this new commitment, but I anticipate being at the AHS Conference in Jackson in November. See you there.



Retirements

Chet Ballard is retiring from Valdosta State University in June, 2020.



Special Issues by Our AHS Members

Melissa F. Lavin, Ph.D., Associate Professor at State University of New York, Oneonta and our Secretary for AHS has a special issue that will be out at *Deviant Behavior* in April with her co-editor. She encourages people who work in the areas of stigma and stigma management, criminalization and medicalization, gender and sexuality, sociology of technology, cultural studies, or the sociology of drugs to take a look at it. <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/udbh20>

MEET YOUR AHS MEMBERS

AHS Graduate Student Profile

Matthew H. McLeskey is a Ph.D. candidate and lecturer in the Department of Sociology at University at Buffalo. He is also an Advanced Dissertation Fellow at Buffalo's Humanities Institute and, research assistant in the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy in the School of Law, and a teaching assistant in the Center for Excellence in Writing, where he oversees social science writing instruction. Broadly speaking, his dissertation entitled "Life in a Leaded Landscape: Understanding Housing, Stigma, and Struggle in the Rust Belt" focuses on how lead poisoning as an environmental risk contributes to housing inequality. He presented his research at the AHS meeting in Detroit, MI in 2018 and looks forward to attending the 2020 meeting in Jackson, MS. E-mail: mhmclesk@buffalo.edu; Twitter: @MHMc1985.



*****A NEW NEWSLETTER COLUMN – **Meet Your AHS Members.** If you are a member of AHS - graduate student, community organizer, or academic - and would like to be featured in the AHS newsletter, please email schulhoffam@appstate.edu along with a photo and reflexive statement about your work and why you became an AHS member.

Upcoming Annual Meeting Commentary

After several conversations at El Paso it became apparent that we need some discussion about our impact on Climate Change since most of us flew to the conference. Since flying is a significant contributor to climate change, I think AHS could support alternative means of travel to AHS conferences. Thus the following modest proposal:

Let's Tilt the Train to the Left!

Jackson,MS is on one of the most famous train lines in the country-- The City of New Orleans. It runs daily from Chicago to New Orleans passing through or near many places where AHS'ers live and work, like Chicago, Champaign, Carbondale, Memphis, Jackson, Hammond,LA, and New Orleans among several other stops. I would recommend that AHS'ers consider riding Amtrak to Jackson in 2020. Far less polluting than flying and much more fun. Let's tilt the train to the left!

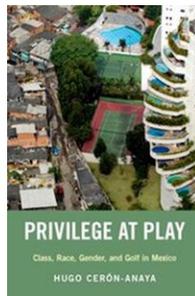
Thanks

Tim Maher

University of Indianapolis

AHS Members Scholarly Publications

Privilege at Play is a studying up book about ethnographic research conducted in upscale upper-middle and upper-class golfers, as well this book reverses the analysis of inequalities rich qualitative data, the book examines how through class, racial, and gender dynamics, everyday practices. The book combines an sensitive perspective, showing how spatial reproduction of power. (<http://bit.ly/3476UtN> *Privilege*)



privilege in today's Mexico. Based on golf clubs and in-depth interviews with as working-class employees, by focusing on the privileged. Using social hierarchies are relations produced which manifest in a multitude of intersectional approach with a space-dynamics deeply influence the

Hugo Ceron-Anaya. 2019. *Privilege at Play: Class, Race, Gender and Golf in Mexico*. OUP

El Paso, TX, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Melissa F. Lavin, Ph.D.

AHS Secretary

Hello sister and fellow officers, and Association for Humanist Sociology. Regrettably, I was unable to attend the meetings in El Paso, Texas in October/November 2019. I asked that the meetings be recorded on my behalf, and two of the three meetings were in fact recorded. The following minutes summarize the highlights of those meetings—the opening board meeting, and the business meeting.

Opening Board Meeting:

Jeff Torlina makes some friendly opening remarks.

Treasurer Woody Doane Report:

Will read the hard copy in front of the phone. Regarding the budget, we are going to end up at the end of the year, organizationally, a few thousand dollars south of where we began; that is because we have had a decline in membership running about 25 below the same period last year. We also had an approximately 40 decline in annual registration from where we were last year. If you multiply that by an average of 100, that's a hit. That said, we are "more than okay." Before I start writing checks for the meeting, we have a balance of a little over \$81,000, so the worst-case scenario is we began the year around \$67,000 and may end up at \$63,000. In report it says we started off \$69,999, but we had a check that hasn't been cashed from Detroit that was very large. In terms of real numbers, we're about \$67,000. Our online system is working 95% of the time. We have a few complaints. Sometimes it freezes, but for the most part, is working pretty well. Torlina says he was astounded how well it works. Treasurer recommends increasing membership and getting more folks at the meeting. We need to do more communicating as a group to stay on the radar of members. The president or program chair must say something, like "we have cool stuff in the works." A lot of long-term members and people we know and love forget about us. Treasurer would like to see more outreach to attract members through social media; it's too bad that membership V.P. must spend more time nagging current members to renew as opposed to finding new members. Membership needs to step up to the plate and renew. Anyone who renewed or joined after Labor Day, Treasurer extended to the following year, because they would have missed the journal and election. He keeps everybody from the current year on until the end of February, beginning of March. At that point, if they haven't renewed, he starts pulling names off because members must be in good standing to participate in the election according to the Constitution. Treasurer thinks that the big thing is to add more value to the AHS membership—right now we offer a great journal and a great meeting, but we need to provide something during the year, talking to Daina, e.g. ideas about adding more content to the website, adding references, or linking activist resources. We want to add value to what is already a good thing.

Treasurer Woody Doane does a monthly accounting (and gives nuts and bolts about financials). 81,600 when I looked at the bank account before I came down here. Most income comes in during the year. He has a budget for 2020. In making the budget projections, he assumed we will get back to 125 on membership, so based the revenue projections on 125 X our average intake per member. Annual meeting: Treasurer assumed we will get back to 120, so based the revenue projection on that. He put some money into sponsorships because Dr. Williams will be hustling (unintelligible). I have a template of budget categories, I have the overall figure, which is 16, what we tried to use as a target, and the zeroed out the individual categories. Dr. Williams will speak to some of that. Then paying our accountant.

Our big expense is always the meeting—75% or more. Below that is our organizational expenses. We didn't give out our Ricardo dello Buono Scholarship but keep it on the books as support for the managing editor to attend the annual meeting. She hasn't. The others are things that we added to the organization over the years, like stipend for web administrator, money for newsletter editor, (one more thing), and that is pretty much it. Treasurer thinks we should end the year with a surplus even if a lot is spent in Jackson, Mississippi.

Jeff Torlina self-deprecates and attempts to own shortcomings as president, but Woody corrects him. Woody the Treasurer: It's not on you. Communication is a collective issue, as I said in my report, the membership and stepping up to the plate is our collective responsibility. It is tough times because funding is tight at the universities. It's always a bad weekend for somebody no matter what weekend we pick. People get sick, etc.

Marc Settembrino: If a handful of people cannot make it on a specific date, it is not a big problem. The trend is that when we get new members, they join for maybe 1-2 years and then they're gone. We are not doing a good job of retaining members. We need to entice people to be long term members of AHS with more value. Some specific issues: Folks are aging out, retiring, people who have been core members for a long time, there are other things they want to do in their lives. We cannot depend on them to sustain us in the way that they have. (Someone in the background, maybe Daina, mentions the Listserve). Hard to hear him.

Bhoomi: A lot of that leads to discussions of publications. One of our major challenges is maintaining consistent networking and contact. We had challenges with the newsletter. The handbook has a suggested schedule of newsletters—something like Winter, Spring, and Fall, which makes sense. One comes out a couple months after meetings, we have one in Spring that calls for papers, and then the Fall issue is right before the meeting. The Winter issue could be the one that reminds members to renew. It will always be a challenge to find people who will be devoted to newsletters. Our former newsletter editor, Michelle DeHaven, served for three years and did well, but I'm sure things came up on her end, so newsletters were not as consistent. I made the executive decision to let her know that her term was over. So we are currently looking for a newsletter editor. I think I found somebody who is interested and who is reliable. That was one way we can help.

Woody: It takes a village to support the newsletter!

Bhoomi: It is true. ASA and SSSP newsletters have grad students writing things, or a Teaching Corner. This is a place where we can share articles, etc. I think it would be nice to have a place on our website for newsletters; that is something we don't have. I want to make sure that is on the agenda. As an executive board, we need to support that. I hate getting email with 150+ people. When people reply, they reply-all. I think we need to think about someone, like a V.P. of Publications, who can maintain the listserv. If Treasurer wants to send out an email for pre-registration, for example, that he can do that quickly.

Settembrino: It depends on what we want. Do we want to have a space where people can communicate back and forth, or something more like a platform for being in contact with the membership? There are things like Mail Chimp or Constant Contact, these web-based platforms where you can send an email and people reply to whomever sent the email, but there is not going to be communication between recipients.

(Multiple speakers at once and laughter)

Woody: We just don't want to see our announcements get lost.

Bhoomi: The listserv would be a good way for us to distribute the newsletter. It is one way to make this consistent so that the burden doesn't fall on those with the numbers to keep updating them.

Speaker Bilal?: ABS listserv? (Too low to hear) In the event you don't continue (as treasurer?) is there a transition strategy?

Woody the Treasurer: If I leave my suggestion for transition is to have treasurer take over in middle of annual meetings, to do it at the end of that year.

Speaker Bilal: Has anyone thought about outreach to non-sociologists? There are probably many good scientists and others that would be interested in this meeting. Perhaps a small travel grant from AHS could pay for an airline flight and then share the load with somebody.

(Many speakers talking about conferences and living accommodations for 23-27 minutes).

Woody: The organization could book a couple of rooms. We have the resources. We could do 3 rooms, 4 people.

Bilal: Maybe we can have travel assistance for grad students or grad student members on nominations committee.

Woody: We made that as a recommendation on the report. Our bottom line doubled to 70,000, we doubled our holdings. We could use a bit carefully to reflect our values.

Daina: Encourages this support of grad students.

Torlina: I wanted to get a bunch of rooms to put people up. That fell apart like many other things.

Bilal: Maybe something to think about for next year. That listserv is important, we need it.

Woody: I have membership and conference attendance lists. I can have a list of fellow travelers because some orgs. (Southern), I join when I go and don't join when I don't go. But they keep me in their communications. I could do that for the next membership v.p. Would not be hard to have a master list that goes back a few years.

Jeff Torlina: Things to share that would be useful, Daina?

Humanity and Society Editor's report (cannot hear speaker Daina Harvey as well). Harvey says something about Sage. We are in the same shape as last year. We don't get enough submissions, people are doing special issues.

Daina, Chief Editor, says that we have what Sage gives us but isn't that useful. We are pretty much in the same position that we were in last year. 40-42 (not sure which) submissions, desk rejected 20 submissions. We get a lot of papers from people in the Middle East. The way that Sage calculates our acceptance/rejection rate skews it high. Makes it look like it is 80% when it is more like 20% or 40% (could not hear which). Our contract is up with them soon. We are small potatoes for them. (Not sure if Daina recommends here that we go with Sage or not when the contract is up.)There have been some controversial issues with regards to a special issue. A special issue contributor issue and the issue was frozen. Book review editor is continually harassed by our editors to review their friends' books like once or twice a month. I would like that to stop. This book review editor does them thematically.

I took a lot of white males off the editorial board. It reflects where we were 10-15 years ago with membership. I replaced them with non-white males. (I would like to do) a special issue on Palestine. After the special issue, I think my term is coming to an end.

Bhoomi: I would love for you to stay on. If you want to think of an exit strategy, think of the first year of a final 3-year term, and we could think of who would be your replacement.

(Maybe Daina, unintelligible conversation, distant from microphone). Something about book review policies and book review editor.

Woody: Book review policy could be put on the web page. I can speak as someone who was a book review editor, I would receive unsolicited things from publishers, sometimes a member or someone connected to the member. I did thematic issues. I had a policy of having the chair of the book award committee writing the review of the book that won the book award. But that was my decision, not being bullied by other people.

Daina: If you're on the outside looking in, we do review some of the books, so it looks like preferential treatment.

Bhoomi: I don't know if this will solve the issue, but again, this is where our newsletter could be useful. If it would not be thematic to the journal, kick it to the newsletter, at least it's a way for our members to get publicity on their work sooner than later. I could stick it in the newsletter and feel like I am sharing it.

Woody: Good idea.

Jeff Torlina: What do we have left?

Woody: We need to approve the budget for next year. The organizational part of the budget is straight forward. We also need to elect or select a new treasurer.

Settembrino: Do we need a motion to **accept the proposed budget for 2020? Unanimous vote.**

VP Membership Report, Marc Settembrino: I know I emailed out my report, but I printed copies as well. I want to emphasize that, as we move forward, the organization needs to prioritize accessibility and inclusion in the broadest sense. That is how we are going to grow our organization. We need to be thinking about this when we plan conferences--are the events we are planning accessible in terms of physical disability? We need to make sure that our programs are accessible for

people who are visually impaired. We had a problem with this last year. I think we rested on the idea that we are a small organization, so these are problems that bigger organizations must worry about, but because we are a small organization, we need to be inviting as many people as possible to join our organization. We need to be inclusive. Queer people should feel accepted. We need to be aware of the surveillance state we live in and how that affects how people will participate in our conferences. How do we sustain the future of this organization? The numbers are not looking good if we keep on this trend.

Daina asks a question (unintelligible):

Settembrino: In this period of 2012-2018 there were 237 people who were only members for one year. Half of them were only members for one year.

(Daina asks a question)

“That is an interesting question” Settembrino responds.

Bhoomi: I have a thought on that. It seems that whenever we have a conference in a particular city, we recruit from that city. That is one of our challenges this year. The Southwestern Sociological Association is also this weekend, and they are in San Diego. So we lost out on those folks. That is 10-20 people we are missing out in this year. Our work in part is to keep those members, the recruits of a particular year.

(Bilal speaks, hard to hear for Secretary): There must be emphasis on keeping younger scholars engaged. (gives an example of a social policy and sociology student who got a lot out of the meetings) We must keep those folks coming back. It needs to be an intentional strategy (I think regarding members from the meetings in Cuba, as well as in general). It won't happen if it is not intentional.

Woody: Cameron will step in for Marc Settembrino and is connected with the Southern, and we'll be in Jackson next year. We can do some outreach at the Southern. And next year, we will get a big bump in registration because Johnny and president JT's program chair will probably get 20-30 people from campus...(joking, laughing).

Bilal: I need help trying to identify someone who can be V.P. for Publications and I need two for nominations. I've got three people already who are Ph.D.s in the making. 2 couldn't make it. The problem is I need people who have a good chance of being here next year.

Marc Settembrino: I will self-nominate. Also, Bilal should try to get other folks in the mix.

Bilal: I need co-chairs and am less certain to ask both Ph.D. candidates to co-chair if the next year we have no one. (Someone, maybe Bilal?, suggests) Mike King, ask him. It's not a hard job, ask him.

Bhoomi: (hard to hear)

Bilal: I watched last year, I don't know who these people are.

Bhoomi: Let's adding previous programs on website.

Woody: I could generate the membership and registration lists. We need to update the presidents and past presidents.

Torlina: 9 AM Saturday morning, we have a meeting. (discussion about people's schedules)

Settembrino: I noticed that (as we nudge Woody to be Treasurer again) people tend to sit on a position for many terms until they are burnt out or over it, so when I was approached for a second term, I said no. I will let someone else step in. I am willing to serve in other capacities, but I felt like someone else needed to come in and start refreshing the pool of leadership.

Woody: We have term limits on some things. This is going to be my last term. Treasurer and Secretary appointed by the Board.

Laughter and some referencing Constitution.

Treasurer and Secretary no more than 2 terms, 6 years.

Meeting is adjourned.

Business Meeting

Torlina: Keynote address will be this evening.

Speaker (identity unclear): We will have a conference from November 4-7 in Jackson, Mississippi. We will be at the Jackson Marriott. The Jackson Marriot room rate is \$96.00. Activist campaigns, and a wide variety of sessions. J. Thomas is a possible speaker (University of Mississippi) and is the program chair. Look for announcement, it should be a great conference. Get a flyer from registration desk for your office to spread the word.

Torlina: We are running a bit of deficit, no exact numbers, but it is between 1,000 and 4,000, and includes membership, conference costs. (That is not bad.) Membership is down by 25 people right now. Someone,whispers “We do have \$67,000 in the bank.” Then (someone, maybe Settembrino) proceeds to ask directly: “How much money do we have in the bank? That is the important thing.”

Jeff Torlina: \$81,629.29 as of October 28. Large cushion. “We should have a really good conference.” Apologizes for not having “swag”. It was the easy thing to cut. (Jeff’s) recommendation for the coming year to increase revenues by reversing the trend of declining membership and annual meeting attendance. 1) More constant contact with membership; at least once or twice a month so that the organization remains on the radar. I would like to see AHS provide value beyond the average. 2) We need more outreach to attract members. We need to all make it our responsibility. We need more help developing website. 3) Members need to take responsibility for being members, my observation in the last couple of years is that the membership vice president has spent too much time reminding current members to renew rather than do outreach to gain new members. Membership can be renewed between now and February. Talks about his own lack of membership and apologizes.

Woody is toward the end of his term. Woody is spectacular. (unsure/unintelligible)

Settembrino: “I think it’s a ballot issue.”

Bhoomi: The report?

Speaker: Move to vote?

Speaker: Any seconds on that vote?

Speaker: Unknown person says “second”

Maybe Dawn?: I would just say, in reference to website, last year we approved 2 paid positions, Dana Greene on the web and McDonald for social media. The positions were not well utilized, if they were responsible for getting emails out twice a month, then that would make that \$500 payment worth it to the organization. We must define that and discuss it with them and not just expect them to know it.

Vice President of Publications (Bhoomi): Those positions fall under me. It should not be the responsibility of the program chair to reach out, but there should be more direct communication between V.P. of publication and ___? I encourage people at this meeting to look out for calls and read the newsletter, join Facebook and Twitter groups if haven’t already. (majority far too fast to comprehend)

Bhoomi: Official/unofficial schedule for the newsletter schedule. Sometime after the holidays, to say “Hey, now is a good time to register. See all the great things we’re doing, etc. “

Dawn?: “Just this week, SSS sent me three emails about (this or that). So I agree with Woody, that 1-2 emails a month are good, we can always find a reason to email reminders.

Bhoomi: Publication arm exists for a reason. If you have something for the newsletter, email me and let me know. I will make sure it gets out there. Let me know directly if have something to contribute

to the newsletter. This stuff is not coming to me. I will be responsive. This is the first time I'm hearing that they are not doing their jobs.

Next in line, **editor of *Humanity and Society*** (same report as last meeting)

Daina: I don't have much to say. I gave a report already. Submissions are the same, 42, low numbers. 1 submission from a member. I desk rejected 18-20. We get many papers from out of the U.S., people who don't know what sociology is. A lot of papers from other countries. My working theory is that they get credit for the paper being under review whether I reject it or not. To their chair, it appears that they're doing work. (laughter) I think out of the 3-4 years now, I rejected 80 papers and (very few) wrote back asking why or how to improve. I assume something is going on. Another thing, Sage and the way they calculate our acceptance rate: they take the articles we accept and the articles we reject and divide that by the accepts. They ignore all the desk rejects. It looks like our acceptance rate is like 80%, which is outrageous; they will never give us an impact factor if it looks like that. It is much closer to 20%, which is what we want and more like other journals. The other thing that complicates it is that special issues make up for the fact that we are not getting enough submissions. Those all come in as "accepts." Regarding a particular special issue, this special issue has been on hold. I have come back and forth with this about multiple members, it has been very divisive. So I am going to publish the special issue. Also, I took a lot white men off board, replaced them with non-white, non-men to reflect modern organizational makeup. If you have good grad student papers, please send them along.

- Vote to accept report – unanimous
- Open up for discussion

Someone: Different associations say, "The paper that you presented, consider submitting the paper to (journal). This might generate one or two, which is better than none. It might generate a lot of submissions.

Another person: We need to use the journal as a space to ask, "Where do we go from here?" We need to be using the tools that we have to talk about why we exist and what we are trying to do with our scholarship and process. I think we try to reflect and think about how the journal can (unintelligible). This crisis of the academy affects 9/10ths of the membership. Use the journal to talk about where we go from here. How can we give a voice to that.

Another: Any other discussions?

This segment was muffled and too fast for transcription (26 minutes)

Someone: We need a Listserve to get to membership quickly to communicate organizational business and stuff.

Speaker: We had a mailing list for a long time. Now it is pretty easy to set something up. I propose we do set up a Listserve for announcements and discussion. If it gets out of hand, then we can deal with it as it happens.

We had the old one, and anyone in the universe could be part of it, as AHS or not. It won't be a problem. If we restrict the list to going back to 2 years of members, it would be "members only." If many people post, then something useful is going on, and it builds a sense of community. People overall are in a different climate for Listserves than 10-15 years ago when it was a new thing. This has gone over to yahoo lists, Twitter, Facebook. I think we should set something up.

Bhoomi: There are good technologies out there. (Listserve) good for job announcement ads, conference calls, business, room share. There is a need.

(30 minutes, muffled and overlapping conversation. Unintelligible)

Speaker: An issue that panels are not being added?

Someone responds: That is because people are not submitting a certain way. When you are submitting stuff, make sure you're clear. It was people I knew so it was easy, but members should use whatever form is set up to submit conference proposals. We were chasing proposals. One person would make the proposal for the whole group, and their information was cleared, but the group's was not.

Dawn: The other thing I would suggest, if we aren't getting them, there is no steady or consistent list, when proposals come in. They need to go through the portal.

Vote to accept conversation- Unanimous vote

Settembrino: (Such clear monologue, Marx. I appreciate.) Current V.P. of membership until Sunday when Cameron takes over. Be prepared for that transition. Thank you to everyone who supported me for the past few years. It has been an honor serving the organization in this capacity. I look forward to serving in future capacities. I want to congratulate Jeff and Dawn on a really great program. I see you and I see the work you put into making this event special. (applause)

Settembrino report: Membership is down again; we are in a trend of membership going down. We are not at a record low yet but flirting with it. Non-members, please consider joining us, now is a great time to renew membership. New online registration. Can be done on Smartphones now—I know in the past, we had paper forms at the conferences. We transitioned to a sustainable, green approach to membership. We have had many “one-and-done” members who come to one conference and are a member for only 1-2 years. We have been sustained by folks who made substantial contributions-but folks who have been around for generations will not continue to be. It is important to recruit the next generation. We need the conferences to be accessible. The program is not accessible to people who are (as examples) visually impaired and physically disabled. We need to be aware of disability and inclusion, as a small organization especially. We are a diverse group at the moment. We have not always been. It is important to see the most vulnerable are receiving value, and that membership is receiving value. Conference monies are vaporizing, especially for grads, contingents, etc. As Woody said, we must give value to membership. People are making decisions about which organizations to belong to—grads, contingents—do not have hundreds of dollars to maintain AHS, SSSP, and ASA memberships every year. I cannot afford ASA so do not maintain membership. (many are in this boat). That is my report.

Discussion:

Settembrino's response to the question, how many people do we need to justify our existence?: Woody's projected membership for 2020 is 125, that's a good number, and we are not far from that. Membership prices are a sliding scale, restructured in 2013 or 2014.

Another: Buy gift membership to grad student. If it is \$40 or \$60, there is no reason why we cannot give memberships to people. They might just stay members over a period. Paying for someone to present and hopefully sustain their own membership later.

Another, I think Dawn: Grads and contingents, it is a nice thing to do. Paying for someone but cannot afford it is a nice thing.

Speaker: If we had an email list, this is the stuff could be slipped into an occasional email. No magic bullets, but do a few things and things increase and flow.

Settembrino: We discussed whether we should divert funds, instead of reserving them for the managing editor for them to travel to conference; to instead restructure to have scholarship fund for grad students to attend the conference. These funds can revert to a general fund. Traditionally, we thought grads were poor ones. But increasingly, contingent faculty are important for us and need funds too. Southern (for example) have a category that captures anyone contingent.

Daina: I echo what Marc is saying about scholarships. Southern has been able to bring in grad student membership this way. It doesn't sound like a lot, but giving a few hundred dollars, or a membership rate, even understanding this might increase, entices them for the first year. Also, we could cut rates low get people here

Dawn: Do we split evenly for those who apply for scholarship?

Daina: We could make it competitive. \$250 bottom amount that we would give them to get them to. Especially if you want to see students grow up in an organization with an activist focus.

Speaker: Maybe use distance traveled to determine how much money?

Speaker: Lowering the costs of registration? It doesn't cost us anything. Hopefully, that person will like not having to register.

Speaker (maybe Daina?): You can put it on colleague as well, if you bring in a buddy, we'll bring you a break.

Dawn: Pay as you go session maybe? Small amounts but those can add up for guests who don't want to commit to whole.

Settembrino: Not about money, it's about will they come back.

Speaker: Do we want to vote on whether we can have gift membership? Do we want pay by session fee, or subsidy for low income folks (contingents and grads). We should vote on funds for grad students, pay as you go session for low income folk. We could see who wants to be on such a subcommittee. How do we remain sustainable as a small org in the midst of a global crisis?

Settembrino: When we went to Cuba, in order to have the flux of faculty participate, in the budget, we allotted x number of registrations and that was passed on. When you paid a registration fee for Cuba, you were paying a share into having Cuban scholars participate. We don't need a board motion, just folks who plan conferences to say, hey, we are going to build this into our budget. We won't buy conference bags, we will help low income people to register and attend.

Last 7 mins is a lot of overlapping chatter

End Minutes.

**Vice President for Membership Report
2019 Final
Marc Settembrino**

- Membership is down, again (see Table 1)
 - Since 2012, we've had 410 dues paying members
 - We must find a way to convert one-time conference attendees into regular members
- Keeping a current "member list" is still a challenge but I think we did better this year
 - Separate excel files in multiple locations can cause miscommunication and confusion
 - Presents errors in the member directory
- Accessibility and inclusion must be priorities for the future of our organization and annual meetings
 - How can we make our organization accessible to all who wish to participate?
 - Ability and Health, Family Obligations, Travel Costs, etc.
 - How do we center voices that aren't in the room?

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
127	94	125	125	120	180	114	105

No. of Years	#	%
1	237	57.80
2	67	16.34
3	31	7.56
4	18	4.39
5	19	4.63
6	12	2.93
7	26	6.34
Total	410	99.99
Mean	2.15	
SD	1.81	



**TREASURER'S REPORT
2019 FINAL
WOODY DOANE**

From a financial standpoint, 2019 was a stable year for AHS. While 2017 (the Havana meeting) and 2018 provided an infusion of revenue (a net gain of over \$31,000), the financial status of AHS levelled off during 2019.

Current balance as of December 31, 2019 is **\$76,280.29**—an increase of **\$6,342.98** from our January 1, 2019 balance of **\$69,937.31**. Income for the year was **\$20,967.89** (a decrease of nearly \$9000 from 2018), while expenses were **\$14,624.91**. I should note that the year-end figure is significantly inflated due to checks for annual meeting expenses (especially a check for \$9823.25 to UTEP) that were not cashed until after January 1, 2020. If we adjust for uncashed checks at both the beginning and the end of the year, we actually had a net loss of between \$700-\$800—which, in the context of the overall budget, I would view as essentially breaking even. While 2019 was a challenging year financially, we continue to have significant cash reserves at this point.

The major explanation for this change is the dramatic decline in revenue as compared to the past two years, an outcome that is due to several causes:

1. Membership declined from 131 (129 paid) to 117 (115 paid) in 2019.
2. Annual meeting registration declined from 148 (141 paid) to 98 (95 paid) in 2019.

3. External income (sponsorships, program ads) declined from \$3976 to \$0 in 2019.

I believe that the decline in external income is due to unique circumstances and will not be an issue in 2020. Of greater concern is the decline in membership and annual meeting attendance. My recommendations for 2020 all pertain to increasing revenues by reversing these trends

- We need to be in more constant contact with membership (at least once or twice a month), so that the organization remains on the radar of its members. I would like to see AHS provide value beyond the meeting and the journal.
- We need to do more outreach to attract members and conference attendees. Each of us should make it our responsibility to “spread the word” about AHS to those in our professional network. We also need to work on developing our website and enhancing our presence on social media.
- And members need to take responsibility for being members. My observation over the past two years is that the Membership Vice-President has had to spend too much time in “reminding” current members to renew rather than doing outreach to attract new ones. Members should be renewing before the end of February at the latest.

These are tasks for the entire AHS community.

It has been my privilege to serve AHS as Treasurer from 2017-2019. I was honored to be reappointed by the Board of Directors for a second term from 2020 to 2022.

Methodological note: In reporting income, I have elected to combine memberships and conference registrations into a single category. I also report “net income” rather than gross income (for example, a \$135 member conference registration results in net income of \$130.78 (the remainder is absorbed by our on-line vendor as a processing fee). I see no analytical gain in separating memberships and registrations or in reporting gross and net income.

**2019 ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANIST SOCIOLOGY TREASURER’S REPORT--FINAL
SUBMITTED BY WOODY DOANE, TREASURER, FEBRUARY 2020**

BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/2019	\$69,937.31
General Fund	\$68,917.31
Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund	\$1,020.00
 INCOME [TOTAL]	 \$20,967.89
Memberships, conference registrations, and conference events (net)	\$20,467.89
Sponsorships for annual meeting	\$0.00
Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund donations	\$0.00
Advertisements in conference program	\$0.00
Conference book auction proceeds	\$0.00
Refund La Mujer Obrera/Café Mayapan (Cancelled event)	\$500.00
 EXPENSES [TOTAL]	 \$14,624.91
Administration (postage, shipping, refunds)	\$237.29
<i>Humanity & Society</i> (mailing costs billed by Sage)	\$455.00
Organizational (accounting, website, stipends)	\$3,424.45

Conference expenses	\$10,508.17
YEAR END BANK BALANCE 12/31/2019	\$76,280.29
General Fund	\$75,260.29
Frank Lindenfeld Memorial Fund	\$1,020.00
NET GAIN/LOSS 2019	\$6,342.98

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