

OHA Business Meeting

October 27, 2002

San Diego, CA

The annual business meeting of the Oral History Association was called to order at 7:40a.m. The minutes of the 2001 business meeting in St. Louis were approved.

President's Report – Mary Marshall Clark

Mary Marshall Clark commented on another successful year for the OHA and thanked the executive committee and conference planners for their diligence. Clark announced the formation of a Task Force on Digital Technology and New Media. The committee is charged with identifying model projects and posting links on the OHA Web site and identifying issues of digitization, preservation, dissemination and ethical and legal concerns.

Clark congratulated the Diversity Committee on sponsoring more than 10 sessions and noted how this effort enhanced the broad spectrum of issues presented at the meeting. She said the committee has been named an official standing committee whose aim is to reach out to organizations and communities not normally involved in OHA.

Looking forward to the Bethesda meeting, Clark indicated that it should be well attended by the local population. The program committee will work to use resources in the local area.

Publication Committee – Tom King

King announced that the committee had been reformed to include representatives from all publication areas. The committee hopes to establish an online archive of past Newsletters and will attempt to conduct business throughout the year.

Education Committee – Laura Wendling

The committee has determined the need for an updated curriculum guide, which would include more concrete ideas for using oral history in an educational environment. The committee also will attempt to develop a section for the OHA Website.

International Committee – Rina Benmayor

Benmayor reported that Council had appropriated scholarship money to contribute to international attendance at OHA meetings. She encouraged OHA to promote more international participation.

Diversity Committee – Rina Benmayor

It was noted that the highly successful Diversity Workshop should become a permanent part of the OHA annual meeting program. Ron Grele congratulated the Diversity Committee for its efforts and noted that the committee brought in many new people who ordinarily haven't participated in OHA meetings.

State and Regional Forum

Rose Diaz was in contact with 40 veterans organizations inviting them to the annual meeting, which for 2002 offered free registration to all veterans. Several local veterans attended the meeting. It was recommended that OHA continue to seek out and invite local groups to participate. The forum will continue to do outreach in the local areas where the annual meeting is held each year.

H-Oralhist – Jeff Charnley

Charnley reported the list had 1,393 subscribers. He introduced the editors and stated that they handled 60 – 100 messages each month. The H-Oralhist Web site is a great source of oral history links and received about 1000 hits/month.

Executive Secretary Report – Madelyn Campbell

Campbell indicated that OHA had a very successful year. The office has increased its administrative duties with regard to the annual meeting and hopes that the continuity will provide the foundation for even more successful meetings in the future. She noted that the workshops this year were all oversubscribed and proved quite popular.

OHA published a revised edition of Oral History and the Law and it is selling very well.

The OHA Endowment is down slightly from the previous year due to the downturn in the market. The endowment currently stands at \$107,000. Council approved spending \$2500 for the International Oral History Association to support participants at its South African conference.

The general operating budget is very healthy and OHA remains on a solid financial footing, with \$35,000 in reserves. Campbell said the successful San Diego meeting should give the OHA a financial "shot in the arm."

The Secretary encouraged anyone with membership problems or concerns to contact her office. The relationship with University of California Press is working well and Council has renewed the contract for another 5 years. In addition, Dickinson College and the OHA signed a new three-year contract this spring to continue to host the executive secretariat.

Campbell closed her statements with praise for the organization and the people she has worked with the past year, especially the program and local arrangements committees.

2003 Annual Meeting – Rose Diaz

Diaz encouraged everyone to submit their proposals for the upcoming meeting. Tim Black recommended that the Education and the Diversity Committees tap into high school teachers and students and attempt to get the local community involved.

Nominating Committee – Clark/Kathy Nasstrom

Clark announced the election results.

Kim Lacy Rogers 1st Vice President

Mehmed Ali, Council

Jeff Friedman, Jeff Charnley and Jessica Wiederhorn, Nominating Committee

The elections were very close and OHA will be sure that those not elected will be tapped for service in the organization. Nasstrom announced that the committee would like to create a process for members to nominate themselves so that nominations are not limited to only those known by the committee.

Ron Grele urged Council members to have a “private conversation with a young man who conducted a campaign for office.” Grele said the practice sets a bad precedent and noted that elections could become dependent on whoever has enough money to make the phone calls and personal mailings to solicit votes. Grele said people are usually nominated for office who’ve been active in the organization.

Clark thanked Tom King for his participation on Council.

Art Hansen accepted the gavel from Clark and thanked her for all her efforts in leading the organization through a difficult year.

He then announced future sites for the OHA meetings:

Bethesda, MD 2003

Portland, OR 2004

Providence, RI 2005

Little Rock, AK as a possibility for 2006.

He noted that the Canadian Oral History Association is expected to be actively involved in the Portland and Providence meetings. He also said he’d been approached by people interested in starting an oral history association in Japan.

Hansen said Linda Shopes and Don Ritchie would continue to work on issues related to oral history and human subjects research.

New Business

Sherna Berger Gluck urged that special attention be paid to labor issues in considering OHA conference sites. Cities shouldn't be considered unless there's at least one hotel with a union contract, she said.

Rhoda Lewin suggested a larger and more diverse group of people might attend conferences if they were located near lower-priced hotels.

Rita Benmayor urged Hansen to send meeting participants who aren't members an invitation to join. Madelyn Campbell said she did that last year and will do so again.

Hansen announced his intent to have an Old Timer's Breakfast next year as a way to raise money for the OHA Endowment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.