

**Oral History Association  
Executive Council Meeting  
October 7, 2003**

Present: Art Hansen, Charles Hardy, Rose Diaz, Linda Wood, Mehmed Ali, Rina Benmayor, Kim Lacy Rogers, Madelyn Campbell

The meeting was called to order at 8:55 AM.

Art Hansen thanked Linda Wood and Rina Benmayor for their hard work on Council.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Midwinter minutes. (Ali/Diaz)

**Executive Secretary's Report (Campbell)**

Financial reports for both the annual meeting and the general operating budgets were distributed. Campbell indicated that OHA is in the best financial position it has had in recent years. The Endowment Fund continues to grow slowly and is currently \$117,000.

Although the workload has increased over the last year with additional responsibilities surrounding the annual meeting, the additional monies allocated for temporary assistance has helped. Council may want to look at increased hours for the Executive Secretary, however, currently the half-time status is still manageable.

The office launched a new website and is working to enhance the overall basic structure. There are several sections that still need to be developed and Campbell encouraged Council to move ahead in this area.

It was also recommended that since the Membership Directory will be published again in 2004, that Council begin update committee members and liaisons.

**President's Report (Hansen)**

Hansen indicated that this was a time of increased interest in oral history and suggested that not only the Bethesda meeting but the Portland meeting should be very successful. He congratulated Donald Ritchie and Linda Shopes on their work with the IRB committee. They have successfully worked out a statement from the Department of Health and Human Resources that excluded most oral history interviews from IRB review. It will be posted on the OHA website.

Cliff Kuhn has been working on the Committee for Digital Technology and New Media and is organizing a presentation at the International Oral History Association meeting. With the help of Eriko Yamamoto, the Japanese Oral History Association was launched on September 23, 2003. Hansen complimented Rina Benmayor on the International Oral History Newsletter.

OHA has now joined the History Cooperative with the help of Andy Dunar. It is the hope of OHA that this move will bring more exposure to the Oral History Review, which continues to be published in a professional and timely way.

In his role as Past-President, Hansen indicated that he will work with Rose Diaz to streamline the Awards Committee selection process and strengthen the standing committee structure, especially the Publications Committee, which will need a strong Chair. Charles Hardy will assume to role of council liaison.

### **Nominating Committee (Hansen)**

Election results were announced. First Vice President: Rebecca Sharpless; Council: Celia Alvarez and Mary Ann Larson; Nominating Committee: Lu Ann Jones, Todd Moye, Mary Ann Villarreal. Díaz suggested that the Nominating Committee should have a broad view and knowledge of the organization and an awareness of people's involvement.

It was moved, seconded and carried to ask the Nominating Committee to appoint at least two alternatives in the event that a candidate withdraws.

Council discussed the protocols regarding campaigning for positions by the candidates. In general, Council felt that the election process should be confined to the published election mailing in order to put all candidates on an equal footing. It was the sense of Council that candidates should be informed that the biographical and personal statements they submit would represent their candidacy to the membership. In order to insure equality, Council prefers that candidates do not conduct other forms of campaigning such as phone calls, emails or letters.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Education Committee (Wood)**

Wood reported that Troy Reeves has resigned as Chair in order to join the Program Committee for 2004. Council discussed possibly options for new members and a new Chair. Diaz and Hansen will make the new appointments.

#### **International Committee (Benmayor)**

IOHA meeting will be held in Rome, Italy. Anne Ritchie reported that there were over 500 proposals and requested the OHA consider support for participant scholarships to underfunded populations. It was suggested that OHA try to publish the recipients and a brief report outlining their paper and their experiences. Ritchie also commended the OHA Newsletter Editor for including articles about international issues.

Rina Benmayor will become the new International Committee Chair and will work to reconstitute this committee. The Committee will work to recruit and organize a panel for

the 2004 Annual Meeting in Portland. They will forward all information to the Program Committee by May 15.

It was moved, seconded and carried to award \$3000 for scholarships for participants to the 2004 International Oral History Association meeting.

### **Publications Committee (Hansen/King)**

#### **Newsletter**

Mary Kay Quinlan asked that a more formalized communication be established between the Newsletter Editor and the Program Committee. It was recommended that the Editor be added to the Program Committee.

### **Oral History Review (Hansen/Dunar)**

The OHA has officially joined the History Cooperative and the first issue to be published will be Fall 2003. Dunar suggested that the Council begin the process of selecting a new editor, since he plans to retire in September 2005. The Publications Committee will be charged with the task of evaluating the selection process for all the OHA publications.

### **Pamphlet Series**

Council agreed that the Publications Committee should pursue new publications, perhaps in the areas of genealogy, narrative of disaster and trauma, family history, immigrants. Council hopes that the Oral History in Community History Projects will be revised.

### **H-Oralhist**

Council reviewed the report from Jeff Charnley. H-Oralhist is functioning very successfully in all areas.

### **2003 Annual Meeting (Díaz)**

All indications are that the meeting will be successful. Díaz indicated that it was difficult to plan a meeting from so far away, but felt it was very important for the Vice-President to meet with the Program Committee and suggested that Local Arrangements committee members could be recruited at regional meetings. Campbell suggested conference calls as a way to improve communications.

### **Alexander Street Press (Rogers)**

A task force to assess the viability of working with the Press has been formed. At this time there is no consensus about the feasibility of this venture. Council questioned whether OHA can support a for-profit organization. Alexander Street Press will have a breakfast meeting for interested parties to demo their on-line service.

### **2004 Annual Meeting (Rogers)**

Rogers traveled to Portland to meet with the Program and Local Arrangements committees. The committees are well organized and are currently exploring ideas for speakers, plenary sessions, tours, etc. and are looking to local participants to provide workshops and sessions. Rose suggested adding a workshop about doing oral history with Native American communities.

### **Future Annual Meetings (Campbell)**

The 2005 meeting will be held in Providence, Rhode Island at the Providence Marriott, November 2 – 6. Rebecca Sharpless will be in charge of this meeting. The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Campbell and Hansen will work together to select a conference hotel.

### **National Park Service (Ali)**

Ali will convene a meeting with persons in the NPS who are interested in oral history and explore ways in which the two organizations can work together to perhaps offer a panel our annual meetings.

### **Scholarship Committee (Ali)**

The Committee made its decisions based on numerous applications. Since there were no applications from international participants, additional money was awarded to the non-participant category. Council is committed to providing scholarship funds to underrepresented groups and to non-academic community groups.

It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint an ad-hoc committee to assess the wording of the scholarship application and report at the midwinter meeting.

### **State and Regional (Hardy)**

There was no official report. The Forum will continue meeting at the Annual Meeting and wishes to continue operating under the same format.

### **American Folklore Society (Díaz)**

Alicia Rouverol has resigned as the liaison to the American Folklore Society and Elaine Eff has agreed to replace her and will convene the affinity group meeting.

### **Digital Technology and New Media (Benmayor)**

Benmayor reported the Chair, Cliff Kuhn has put together a proposal for the IOHA meeting in Rome. The committee has not met since the San Diego meeting and they are still developing their responsibilities and their relationship to OHA.

## **Institutional Review Board (Hansen)**

Donald Ritchie has worked out a statement which excludes oral historians from IRB review. The policy statement states the oral history does not meet the requirements for “research” of human subjects. The policy will be widely distributed and will be posted on the OHA website.

## **Diversity Committee (Benmayor for Olivero)**

The Committee helped to distribute scholarship funds to the participants of the panel they sponsored. Benmayor met with Nilsa Olivero, Alva Moore Stevenson and Horacio Roque Ramírez and discussed ways to revitalize the committee. Council agreed the Diversity Committee would fall under the same guidelines as other committees regarding the rotation of the Chair.

Council decided on the following liaisons to the standing committees.

Education – Celia Alvarez

Publications – Charles Hardy

Digital Technology – Charles Hardy

Diversity – Mary Ann Larson

Scholarship – Mehmed Ali

National Park Service – Mehmed Ali

Awards Committees – Mehmed Ali

Nomination Committee – Rebecca Sharpless

## **Awards**

Awards for 2003 were announced and will be posted on the OHA website. There was discussion about the guidelines for the Book Award regarding whether the oral histories that the book is based on should be available in a public archive. No clear consensus was reached. Council did agree to the following:

- Each Book Award submission should be accompanied by two letters from the author, press or institution indicating how the book meets the criteria.
- A new way for individual to nominate their own books should be created.

## **Old Business**

The OHA website has been launched over the summer. There are still several areas that need to be developed. Hardy will look into creating counter so that OHA can monitor the use of the website.

In lieu of a stipend for her work on the pamphlet *Oral History Projects in Your Classroom*, Linda Wood suggested establishing a scholarship for secondary teachers and students.

It was moved, seconded and carried to establish a scholarship of \$500 each year for K-12 teachers and/or students to attend the annual meeting. (Benmayor/Ali)

It was moved, seconded and carried that a stipend of between \$1500 - \$2500 will be offered to authors and editors of each future pamphlet published by the OHA. (Hardy/Benmayor)

Hansen again thanked the work of the Council and to the departing members, Linda Wood and Rina Benmayor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.