

**Executive Council Minutes
November 1, 2005
Providence, Rhode Island**

Present: Kim Lacy Rogers, Rebecca Sharpless, Alphine Jefferson, Mehmed Ali, Kathy Nasstrom, Mary Larson, Horacio Roque Ramírez, Madelyn Campbell

The meeting was called to order at 8:45AM.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2005 midwinter minutes. (Jefferson/Larson)

Executive Secretary's Report (Campbell)

Campbell reported on the various activities and responsibilities of the OHA administrative office, which have grown over the last few years. The contract with Dickinson College was successfully renegotiated for another three years and will expire June 30, 2008.

The newly established relationship with Helms-Briscoe resulted in the successful contract negotiation with the Marriott Oakland City Center for the 2007 Annual Meeting, Oakland, California.

Booksurge, a print-on-demand publisher, will now be supplying OHA with future copies of *Oral History and the Law*. The first order will probably be placed at the beginning of 2006. This will provide a more cost-effective way for OHA to maintain pamphlet supplies.

In conjunction with the Finance Committee, much of the Endowment Fund and operating funds have been moved to higher interest CDs and money market accounts. With a transfer of \$27,000 from the operating budget, the Endowment Fund has risen to \$153,060. The operating reserves are currently at \$95,000.

Campbell revisited the issue of the printed Membership Directory and Annual Report. Efforts to create a member's only secure section of the website are still being investigated and several options were discussed.

It was moved, seconded and carried to discontinue the printing of the Membership Directory and move to an online Directory published to the OHA website. (Nasstrom/Ali).

It was the sense of Council that the financial reports should be posted to the website along with the minutes and committee members.

President's Report (Rogers)

Rogers reported that the revived committees have had an active year and are well positioned to contribute to the association.

The Emerging Crisis Oral History Research Fund Task Force will work this year to advertise and solicit requests for funding.

AHA has distributed an IRB pamphlet for OHA review. The final draft is still pending. It was the sense of Council that we should give full support to this project. OHA will revisit the exclusion issue, which continues to be discussed.

The Task Force on the Academe chair, Ron Grele, was not successful in soliciting any comments. Council felt that this issue would be a more useful dialogue in conjunction with the American Folklore Society.

The possibility of creating a Lifetime Achievement Award was discussed. It was felt that an award of this type was important. A sub-committee will look at the logistics and will develop a recognition ceremony for the 40th anniversary in Little Rock, AR. Sharpless will explore ways to develop an OHA history to be featured at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Council discussed the problem of generating nominees for the teaching awards. It was the sense of Council that the Education Committee and the Teaching Awards Committee be charged with actively soliciting nominees for the Martha Ross and the Post-secondary Teaching awards. Sharpless will formalize the charges to the awards committees.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee (Jefferson)

The new slate of elected candidates was announced.

Mehmed Ali – First Vice President

Roger Horowitz – Council

Nominating Committee

Al Broussard

Elaine Eff

Andrew Russell

Council discussed procedures for soliciting candidates and notifying the slate of the election results in a timely manner.

Publications Committee (Rogers for Irene Reti)

Rogers reported that the committee has been reorganized under the leadership of Irene Reti. A new pamphlet, *Using Oral History in Family History*, is scheduled to be published in 2006 and *Oral History and Community History Projects* is being revised.

The main task of the committee was the selection of a new editor for the *Oral History Review*. Kimberly Porter, University of North Dakota, will assume this post effective December 15, 2005.

Council discussed the content of OHR and will seek ways to increase quality and visibility of the journal.

The committee will look for ways to develop OHA website content.

Education Committee (Nasstrom)

Nasstrom reported on the progress of the committee. Discussion is continuing on several of the proposals, which will be discussed in greater detail at midwinter.

Scholarship Committee (Ali)

Ali reported on the results of the scholarship awards. A total of \$6010 was awarded to 17 recipients. Both presenters and non-presenters, including several international recipients, were supported. Ali reported that the new committee structure worked well.

International Committee (Sharpless)

Anne Ritchie reported that several international presenters were included at this year's annual meeting. There are plans to appoint a new committee chair and the committee will be seeking some international oral historians.

Ritchie proposed that Council consider reestablishing a liaison to the International Oral History Association. This had worked well in the past and was a mechanism for sharing information and developing and sponsoring sessions. Council will discuss this proposal at midwinter.

Horacio Roque Ramírez will act as the council liaison to the committee.

Diversity Committee

Alva Moore Stevenson will serve as chair for another year and will serve on the scholarship committee for 2006 as well. Council discussed the importance of developing a brochure to be used to publicize the committee's involvement in OHA and increase its visibility. A proposal will be developed by the committee to present to Council at midwinter.

There was discussion about developing a new pamphlet: *Doing Oral History in African American Communities*. The Diversity Committee will work jointly with the Publications Committee.

The committee will work with the 2006 Program Chairs to develop appropriate sessions.

Finance Committee

The committee is in the process of developing its mission and goals. Jim Fogerty, Chair, worked with the Executive Secretary to move most of the OHA reserves and Endowment

Fund into higher interest bearing accounts. Council discussed the feasibility of launching an Endowment campaign in conjunction with OHA's 40th anniversary.

Council discussed ways in which the Endowment monies should be spent and clarified that only the annual interest income from the Endowment could be spent in the subsequent year.

Mellon Foundation Proposal

Tim Lloyd, Executive Director of the American Folklore Society, has sent a proposal to the Mellon Foundation to study the position of oral history in the academe. This will be a joint project involving AFS, OHA and the Society for Ethnomusicology. If approved, the group will be charged with examining promotion, IRB issues, and digitization of oral history materials.

Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma Special Session

Council discussed whether OHA should develop a position on the development of oral history projects related to recent catastrophes. The possibility of posting Columbia University Oral History Research Office's guide on the OHA website was discussed. Council will attempt to draft a short statement regarding oral history and disaster.

2005 Annual Meeting

The preliminary budget for the meeting was presented. The meeting should be financially successful with about 420 in attendance.

2006 Annual Meeting

The meeting is well underway. Program Chairs, Tracy K'Myer and Al Stein are developing plenaries, inviting guest speakers and soliciting proposals. The Program will highlight the 40th anniversary and will include some sessions related to Hurricane Katrina.

University of California Press

Rebecca Simon attended the meeting and reviewed the relationship with OHA since 1998. Revenues have increased, membership has been regularized, and they are now offering libraries the option of digital format through Caliber. UCPress is now working with JSTOR to provide electronic access to the entire collection. Simon submitted a new contract proposal to be considered by OHA. The current contract will expire December 31, 2007.

2007 Annual Meeting

Mehmed Ali reported on preliminary planning for the meeting in Oakland, CA.

Membership Contracts

Sharpless discussed the proposals for membership and publication of the *Oral History Review*. Several presses are interested. In-depth discussion will occur at the midwinter retreat.

New Business

Council discussed ways to increase membership, which led to a discussion of ways to improve the quality of the journal. The journal stands as the primary recruitment tool. Nasstrom will begin looking at the function of the OHR editorial board and its composition.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Council will provide direction to the OHR and will seek to enhance the intellectual profile and expand the visibility of the journal. Toward that goal, a member of Council will serve on the Editorial Board.
(Nasstrom/Larson)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.