

Executive Council
Midwinter Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2005
Providence, Rhode Island

The meeting was convened at 8:40AM

Present: Kim Rogers, Rebecca Sharpless, Alphine Jefferson, Mehmed Ali, Mary Larson, Kathy Nasstrom and Madelyn Campbell

Council discussed the minutes of the last meeting. The discussion of restructuring from a committee based to project based was revisited and it was decided with the revitalization of several committees, that the current system would continue to work well. There was a sense of Council that it would be helpful for committees to establish immediate, intermediate and long-range goals.

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

Executive Secretary's Report (Campbell)

The Association finished the year with account balances that far exceeded earlier predictions. The 2004 calendar year saw an increase in income and a reduction in expenditures that resulted in a year-end balance of \$107,606. Disbursements from the University of California Press reached an all-time high of \$44,045 and sales remained at previous year levels of \$7400.

The Endowment Fund ended the year at \$123,811.

The University of California Press developed an updated membership brochure, which was delivered shortly after the annual meeting. A mailing, which included a letter from Kim Rogers, a brochure and a copy of the President's message from our December Newsletter, was sent to all non-members who attended the Bethesda and the Portland annual meetings. It is too early to tell whether this will have an impact on our membership, which decreased slightly in 2004.

The awards committees were posted to the web and an announcement was placed on H-Oralhist. A mailing was sent to a selection of recipients from our publicity database.

Dickinson College has agreed to continue the relationship with OHA for another three years. The contract is beneficial to both Dickinson College and OHA. Jefferson pointed out that OHA has continued its efforts to professionalize the Association.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the contract with Dickinson College with gratitude. (Ali/Jefferson)

The membership renewal process began in early January. Council discussed ways to increase membership and addressed the ways in which electronic access to the Oral History Review through other groups such as the History Cooperative might be affecting institutional membership. A phone survey has begun to gather data on members who did not renew for 2004. Council agreed that the survey process should be continued and that a report be given at the next meeting.

President's Report (Rogers)

Rogers reported on her extensive work in reconstituting the standing committees. She will be sending letters of appointment and encouragement to each committee member. She has appointed a Task Force on Oral History in the Academe, which will be chaired by Ron Grele.

Rogers proposed the development of an Action scholarship fund that would support oral historians doing research in currently developing crisis areas. Council discussed the criteria, expectations and feasibility of the scholarship.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to establish an Emerging Crises Oral History Research Fund of up to \$3000/year for three years, finances permitting.
(Larson/Nasstrom)

It was moved, seconded and carried to create an Ad Hoc Committee to implement and oversee the Emerging Crises Oral History Research Fund. (Jefferson/Sharpless)

It was moved, seconded and carried that the recipient of the Research Fund be required to present a paper at the next appropriate Annual Meeting. The *Oral History Review* reserves the first right of refusal to an article produced from this research. (Jefferson/Ali)

Council reviewed the 2005 proposed operating budget. Several items were discussed and added to the budget.

It was moved, seconded and carried to create a Council discretionary fund with an annual budget of \$500. (Larson/Jefferson)

Sharpless will explore the feasibility of reviving the OHA/NCPH joint reception at the OAH annual meeting.

Final approval was tabled so that additional requests for expenditures could be considered during the meeting.

Publications (Rogers)

Rogers addressed the need to proceed with the selection of a new editor for the *Oral History Review*.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Council authorize the OHA President, in consultation with the Publications Committee Chair, to appoint an OHR editor search committee that may possibly include the current and/or past *Review* editors and others as necessary. The Executive Committee may authorize the Executive Secretary to spend an additional \$500 for advertising for the position of Editor of the *Oral History Review*. (Sharpless/Larson)

It was moved, seconded and carried that the *Oral History Review* editor search committee be charged with reviewing and recommending levels of compensation for the OHR editors. (Nasstrom/Larson)

Committee Reports

Education (Nasstrom)

Amy Starecheski has embraced the responsibility of chairing the committee and submitted a report with several recommendations for Council for their consideration. Council discussion resulted in the following action:

It was moved, seconded and carried that Council adopt the following special resolution: Council affirms that oral history educators and their students are vital to the mission of the Oral History Association. (Ali/Jefferson)

Nasstrom will work with the committee to gain further information and rationale for their proposals and will help in developing future goals.

Diversity Committee (Larson)

Council reviewed a report from Alva Moore Stevenson, Chair. The committee is hard at work on several initiatives including more visibility and the development of more state and regional leadership. Council appreciates the work and energy of Stevenson and her committee and looks forward to working with them in reaching mutual goals.

Finance Committee (Sharpless)

Sharpless submitted several recommendations from the Committee and after some discussion Council took the following actions:

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the word “developing” in the 10-10-2000 standing resolution be changed to “reviewing”. (Larson/Jefferson)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to transfer \$27,000 from the operating budget to the Endowment Fund. (Ali/Jefferson)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to establish a \$200 award for the Martha Ross Teaching Award on a permanent basis. (Jefferson/Ali)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to empower the Finance Committee in concert with the Executive Secretary to look into various possibilities for investing the Endowment Fund. (Nasstrom/Sharpless)

Publications (Rogers)

Ali reported on the Publications Committee discussion at the annual meeting in Portland. Rogers will send a letter of appreciation to all the publications editors for their hard work and dependability. Rogers will work with the Committee as they move forward on web development, pamphlet production, and the selection of a new *Oral History Review* editor.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that Council develop a charge for the Publications Committee to be presented at the November, 2005 Executive Council meeting. (Sharpless/Jefferson)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to establish 2-year contracts for the Newsletter Editor and the Website editor beginning with the 2005 fiscal year. (Jefferson/Nasstrom)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to establish 3-year contracts for the OHR editors. (Larson/Ali)

A report from the *Oral History Review* Editor was distributed. The last issue of OHR is now available on the History Cooperative.

Nominating Committee (Jefferson)

Council reviewed the names of candidates presented by the committee and approved the following slate:

Mehmed Ali – 1st Vice President

One position on Council

Roger Horowitz

Beth Millwood

Nominating Committee

Position One	Al Broussard
	Alva Moore Stevenson
Position Two	Elaine Eff
	Elly Shodell
Position Three	Andrew Russell
	Jess Rigelhaupt

Council will ask the current Nominating Committee to formalize guidelines and procedures for recruiting and selection candidates for office.

International Committee (Ali)

Council reviewed the report submitted by Anne Ritchie, Chair, and considered the request for \$5000 in support of scholarships for the next IOHA meeting in Australia. Council will request a more detailed documentation of the applicants and their needs, which will be considered at the November, 2005 Council meeting.

Scholarship Committee (Ali)

Ali reported on the past scholarship process and plans for the coming year.

It was moved, seconded and carried to redefine the Scholarship Committee to include the following members:

Liaison from Council, Chair of the Diversity Committee, Chair of the International Committee, Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Program Committee or a designated representative and charges the Committee with the selection of all scholarship recipients for the annual meeting. (Ali/Sharpless)

It was moved, seconded and carried to establish a scholarship in the amount of \$1500 for presenters at the annual meeting. (Ali/Sharpless)

2005 Annual Meeting (Sharpless)

Sharpless presented a preliminary annual meeting budget and reported on speakers, general program details, workshops and tours. Dean and Stricklin are reviewing proposals and there should be an exciting array of presentations.

2006 Annual Meeting (Jefferson)

Council discussed the theme, possible speakers and special events for the meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas.

2007 Annual Meeting (Campbell)

Campbell explained the difficulty in finding appropriate hotels in downtown Phoenix and indicated that a meeting there might not be feasible. Oakland and Tucson were suggested and will be explored.

University of California Press (Campbell)

Campbell distributed a report from UCPress regarding electronic access to the *Oral History Review*. They now have a fully searchable program, Caliber, that is already being offered to institutional membership. Council reviewed the report and agreed that the OHA website should develop the members only section and offer electronic access of *OHR* to individual members.

Council felt that no increase in dues for individual members should result from this added members benefit.

Council will explore ways that the *OHR* could be even more accessible to a wider digitized audience.

Old Business

The issue of reimbursements for Council and speakers at the annual meetings was raised in light of increased costs over the last several years.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the mileage reimbursement reflect the current federal standard effective October 1, 2005. (Sharpless/Nasstrom)

It was moved, seconded and carried that the per diem reimbursement for Council will be \$35/day up to three days effective October 1, 2005. (Ali/Sharpless)

Rogers announced that Celia Alvarez has resigned her position on Council. Rogers will send a letter of thanks to Celia for her fine service to the OHA as a member of Council.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Horacio Roque Ramirez be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Celia Alvarez consistent with the procedures outlined in the Association's Constitution. (Ali/Nasstrom)

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2005 Operating Budget as amended. (Sharpless/Larson)

New Business

Rogers announced that she has convened a Task Force on Oral History in the Academe. The Task Force will be chaired by Ron Grele and will include Laurie Mercier, Art Hansen and Al Broussard. They will develop a statement regarding how oral history fits into tenure and promotion criteria. The report will be presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM, Sunday, February 27, 2005.