**Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc.**

**Opening Meeting**

**2016 Annual Conference - Denver \* November 4, 2016**

**Meeting Begins @ 9 AM MST** *(Minutes were taken by Dawn Tawwater, AHS Secretary)*

**Board Members Present:** Dawn Tawwater, Greta Pennell, Chuck Koeber, Johnny Williams, Rebecca Hensley, David Embrick,

**Other Members Present:** Marc Settembrino, Jim Pennell, Bhoomi Thakore, Hephzibah, Corey Dolgan, Daina Harvey, Emma Bailey

**President’s Report (Chuck Koeber):**

Everyone is welcomed to Denver and the annual conference. Chuck notes his gratitude to his institution for their support, all printing was of materials were donated by his institution. He also notes the great work of Michelle DeHaven who assisted him in material production. Bhoomi’s hard work as Program Chair was recognized and appreciated. Model for AHS meeting model “tweaked” by being in a larger city with an airport that would result in lower fare, allow for Chuck to visit location regularly at little cost and the benefits of the light rail system. Receptions were also ended a little earlier to allow for more time for dinner/traveling in the evening. Food/Beverage was expensive, but other costs were saved, ie.. travel costs for speakers, printing, etc. AV costs and the use of portable screens for savings was discussed. The affordability of buying our own portable screens and other AV was discussed as a benefit to savings. Thanks to Greta and Jim for their help in packing and mailing projectors. Challenges were the two lunches (organizing, count and costs). Currently, the group is subsidizing lunches, Chuck suggests the group consider cost/benefits of the lunches. The election was completed, many new people coming on board. Daina successfully negotiated the Sage Contract – Chuck thanks him for his work. Albert Woodfox resolution and his being freed from prison was discussed, group members suggested the issue should be noted in the newsletter and on the website. The budget for the conference should be balanced. Open positions on Board discussed emphasis was given to the Treasurer’s position. VP of publications recently vacated and filling the position was briefly discussed and Bhoomi Thakore was discussed as an appointment to the position until next election (one year). Greta proposes a motion to accept Bhoomi as an appointment to VP of Publishing. The motion if it passes will have to membership for approval.

**Incoming President’s Report:**

Rebecca is feeling very optimistic about holding the conference in Cuba next year. She reminds the group that not only our concerns but also the concerns of the Cuban scholars. Rebeccas remind the board that the Cuban scholars have been instrumental in their work for the conference. She also notes the historical precedent of the conference but also the international networking possibilities and importance of what we can learn. She references the report she sent to board members via email (see attached), she also passes this report during the meeting for reference and reflection in addition to the board discussion. She also references the letter by Flasco Cuba and asks that each board member review that for work/initiative examples of the Cuban scholars. Differences in the conference structure and possible changes in the president address, more emphasis in off-site locations, meeting locations, the venue on Saturday when the primary location is closed, etc. Emma Bailey conveys her experience in Cuba and cautions to plan on using cash as American bank cards are not accepted in Cuba. Details were discussed the upcoming meeting and differences in conference location. Rebecca notes that if he is available she hopes to have Albert Woodfox attend as a speaker.

**Treasurer’s Report (Greta Pennell):**

See 2016 Report (attached and referenced) –first-page reference, she notes points of comparison on previous report and notes group is doing better at building budgets with the practice of using relative information from past conference budgets. Greta notes that some things in the report need to be changed. 2016 expenses – museum tour donation needs to be changed to $60 due to an increased participation in the event. Greta asks that the board authorize the money so that the museum receives the minimal amount discussed. Motion made to accept/passes. Constitutional discussion of the need to make budgets even in terms balancing income/expense. Report narrative discussed, correction made from 3 to 32 in terms of memberships compted. A line item with regard to Sage projections corrected/clarified. The report was considered and discussed.

**Nominations Committee (Daina Harvey):**

Two issues with committee – difficulty finding people who can serve and using too many new members when the group benefits from institutional memory. It was questioned whether five people were needed/required for this committee. Daina felt that three would be sufficient. Discussion about benefits and problems with these issues was discussed. There was a discussion about ongoing ambiguities about the formation and work of groups and offices within AHS as that relates to nominations and organization in general.

**VP of Publications (David Embrick):**

Thanks Casey for all his help with the journal and other publication areas. Embrick covers goals. Increase submissions, reduce acceptance rate, an award for best article, podcast and more. The acceptance rate did go down, and in general, the journal is being left in good shape. Performance metrics – submission goal 100 – had 77 this year. Online usage is up significantly. Issues include the need to pay attention to peer reviewers. Per Daina - Sage contract page increases were negotiated – 20 pages per issue, Sage has also agreed to use our journal in smaller indexes and in social media. Members are asked to increase the journal's profile by citing the work included in the journal in their own professional work.

**VP of Membership (Johnny Williams):**

117 is the number of current members. 126/124 in general membership. 32 currently renewed. A discussion of social media and which office should be in charge of social media for the group. Incoming VP of membership, Marc Settembrino says he has some ideas for social media.

**Secretary’s Report (Dawn Tawwater):**

No report.

**Newsletter Report (Jim Pennell):**

Presents written report (see attached). Discusses the need for new newsletter editor discussed.

**Motions:**

Motion: to approve minutes from August 4, 2016, board meeting. Motion passes.

Motion: to appoint Bhoomi Thakore to the position of VP Publications for a period of one year until next election cycle. Motion Passes.

Motion: to provide $60 to make the $200 minimum promised to the museum for the conference event. Motion passes.

Motion: The Frank Lindenfeld Outstanding Student Paper Award includes a cash award of $100 and one year AHS membership. Award winners are invited to present their paper at the AHS annual conference. For winners who attend the meeting to present their paper, an additional $150 reimbursement will be awarded to help defray travel costs along with complimentary conference registration. Motion Passes.

Motion: to approve the budget for 2017 for presentation to the membership at the business meeting. Motion passes.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM MST.**