**Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc.**

**Board Meeting**

**Conference Call April 29, 2017 – 9AM – 11AM CST**

**Board Members Present:**

Dave Embrick, Daina Harvey, Rebecca Hensley, Marc Settembrino, Dawn Tawwater,

Bhoomi Thakore

**Other Members Present:** Johanna Bishop, Greta Pennell, Cody Stone, Walda Katz-Fishman,

Joti Sekhon

*(Minutes taken by Dawn Tawwater, AHS Secretary)*

**President’s Report (Rebecca Hensley):**

Reminder that corrections to minutes should be considered carefully as recordings of meetings is often taken for that record prior to typing. Minute corrections should be provided in the period of time allocated by secretary and not during any other time frame so that meeting recordings can be efficiently developed and archived. Johnny unable to attend meeting due to other obligations but as program chair, he noted that we have far more contributions from non-AHS members than AHS members. This is concerning – the current number of AHS presentations is 90. David Embrick notes that he is concerned and he does expect those numbers to rise to a level around 120, but he is afraid any loss of active AHS members who don’t go to Cuba could present a loss for the next U.S. conference in Detroit. Rebecca noted that in a discussion with Ricardo, some people were “edgy” about the travel accommodations; she noted that they are working with a prof. of accounting in Havana who can assist with making arrangements. Rebecca discusses the various ways she could assist as a contractor who would be paid on the back end by the service people she directs members to. Joti suggests more guidance in actual costs for contracting any services. Walda suggest an informational call for people who have questions about travel and arrangements. Rebecca agrees to create the call. There is a brief discussion of logistics for the informational call. Walda also noted she was having problems with registering. During the meeting they reviewed the website and found that the link for conference registration was not active. Rebecca noted that Stephen Adair suggested that the group wait to load the registration because the information about the off-sites visits was needed for the registration form. Rebecca notes that the sites haven’t still have not been defined, and the registration should go live regardless of those details. Joti directs the discussion back to travel arrangements and asks that any contractor the group used speak fluent English. Rebecca notes that the issue was already taken into consideration as well as, local knowledge, and other areas specific to the job. Bhoomi notes that an off-site tour for the Denver conference worked well even if the information isn’t complete, she notes once their details were finalized after registration concluded and subsequent attendance did occur. Bhoomi does note that some definition of an off-site event is good with registrations, even if the descriptions/details aren’t complete. Discussion is initiated by R.H. about why so few in the membership have signed up for sessions. Joti suggests college funding doesn’t occur until the Fall semester and the earlier proposals could be the issue. D.E. suggests an email to the membership addressing the issue and asking for feedback from members so that the organizations can assist in any obstacles. Johanna suggests that she was not aware the registration link included a “drop down” menu for types of presentations and she was not aware that option for “sessions” was available until she found the menu after registration. Rebecca reports that she and others will be holding a session on the Cuba meeting at SSSP in Montreal in August, publicizing the event in the preliminary as well as regular program may attract interest in Cuba conference. Johnny could not attend the conference call but RH again notes that to date there are 93 submissions for presentations. There was a significant discussion by some members on the issue of presentation options and conference changes happening among other organizations and as a possible option for future AHS conferences- Marc asks that the meeting be brought back to the agenda items. Woody is at a conference but did send a brief report to RH. She notes that the report still reflects the previous month’s numbers; the amount is given (see report). Rebecca asks if we should release a statement of resistance on behalf of the membership. Greta suggests that the process includes talking to the membership at the general board meeting, put in the newsletter and then voted on – so the soonest a vote could occur is 2018. Rebecca suggests that process would likely make the point mute – Greta also suggest that these kinds of statements can be divisive and have been in the past, and suggest that be considered but that is also why the process is significant. Rebecca asks if anyone is interested in meeting in NE over the summer – discussion ensues but ultimately no decision is made. Rebecca says she will send an email to the board to continue the discussion. Bhoomi asks if the dates can be clarified in the email.

**Nominations Committee Report ():** No report made.

**Incoming President (2017-2018) Report (Dave Embrick):**

Dave noted that he is looking for guidance on how/when to release budget details and the Detroit site for 2018. Rebecca tells him that budget and info must be presented at the opening board meeting in Cuba. David and Rebecca discuss the difficulty of the timeline for conference organizers. David must leave conference call but notes the points above. Rebecca also asks for his vote on several issues that will be addressed later in the conference call, David provides affirmative votes for all issues except the prospect of meeting in the NE in June. He suggests several issues with a meeting at that time and in-person.

**VP of Publications (Bhoomi Thakore):** No report made**.**

**VP of Membership (Marc Settembrino):**

To date the organization has 99 people who have renewed, he can only confirm that 87 are paid in full. He will be trying to get a new directory out in the next few weeks. He also notes that as a contribution to the conference, he would like to organize a book drive for FLASCO library. He suggests that he will be sending an email to the membership when he solidifies the specifics of the idea. Rebecca suggests a particular focus on AHS related books – written by members or contributed to by members if possible.

**Treasurer’s Report (Woody Doane):** No report made.

**Book Award Committee Chair:** No report made**.**

**Secretary (Dawn Tawwater):**

 The secretary asks for motion to approve the ballot for the upcoming election. DT asks how many nominations committee members should be chosen, after some discussion Joti says she believes it three, but will double-check and let the secretary know. DT asks if she can get roll for the call emailed – RH agrees.

**Motions:**

Motion passed to accept minutes from our last meeting.

Motion passed to accept nominations committee ballot as presented. (Bhoomi (1) Marc (2))

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM CST.**