**Association for Humanist Sociology, Inc.**

**Business Meeting**

**2017 Annual Conference – Havana, Cuba \* November 1, 2017**

**Meeting Begins @ 4 PM** *(Minutes were taken by Dawn Tawwater, AHS Secretary)*

**Board Members Present:** Dawn Tawwater, Woody Doane, Rebecca Hensley, David Embrick

**Other Members Present:** Michael Roscino, Jim Pennell, Joti Sekon, Stephen Adair, Hal Pepinsky, Jill Bystaczienske, Hephzibah Strymic-Paul, Ryan Alan Sporer, Wick Griswold, Cory Dolgan, Stuart Parker, Johnny E. Williams, Walda Katz Fishman, John O’Connor, Conor Mollary, Brian Becker, Tim Black, Megan Underhill, Greta Pennell

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

A long and detailed president’s report is on the website, but the decision was made to place it on the website for the benefit of others. The president calls for any questions about that report. President asks each member present to sign the roll sheet for the meeting minutes. The President notes that Joti Sekon has also passed a sheet in the meeting for nominations committee; she encourages everyone interested in the organization to consider either nominating someone or becoming a nominee. The President then passes the meeting to incoming president D. Embrick for his report.

**Incoming President’s Report: (**Dave Embrick**):**

No official report was prepared yet about upcoming meeting in Detroit, MI for 2018 AHS conference (location announced). David feels that a lot can be done in Detroit as an association and as scholar/activist. He announces he wants to hold the conference at Wayne State University, instead of a hotel. The discussed the student center, ballroom and breakout rooms, that are inexpensive, the food will have to go through Wayne State, at a savings in cost and was of a relatively good quality. A rail line is available and affordable. The only issue is that the student center (in accordance with Wayne State policy) cannot be reserved more than six months in advance, as they give preference to student organizations and school activities. Even with the short line, the college felt pretty certain that the rooms/center would likely be available, but could not be confirmed until then. David discussed the risks of waiting and the benefits. He discussed “plan B” but really felt strongly that the Wayne State location will be secured, but he had researched other locations and believed availability would not be a problem even at that late date. The meeting target date is mid-October to mid-November. Program chair for the conference will be Hephzibah Stymric-Pawl. Hepzibah discusses potential presenters, activities and events she is working on for the conference.

**Treasurer’s Report: (**Woody Doane**):**

Discusses his appointment at treasurer and thanks Greta Pennell for all her help in getting acclimated and trained into the position. The treasurer notes that 2017 has really be a great year for AHS. There has been an increase in membership from as of 10/30/2018, 183 members and registrants to the conference total 299, double or more of our usually conference registrants. This of course has resulted in a more income for the organization 56,000.00 in registrations, memberships and tour fees and even with the additional cost for Cuba – we will have substantially higher balance starting 2018 than we did in 2017. In 2017 the year’s starting balance was 35,000.00 – as of Oct. 30th, the organization will have 66,000.00 as a balance. He notes this is a historic high in income and membership, we are encouraged as organizational members to promote new members attending the upcoming conference in Detroit and retaining their active status and membership in the group. The online registration and membership site has several limitations and he would like to discuss the platform. Issues with square, jot form, and their various limitations were discussed and several examples were provided. Costs were also discussed. The treasurer notes that he has monthly financial reports if anyone is interested in more detailed accounting, he will be happy to discuss. The projected budget for Detroit in 2018 has not been fully developed, but he has spoken with the President-elect, but they project an income of 26,000.00 and costs of 20,000.00. It was noted that these are only early estimates and both could and would likely change as the conference evolves. There was a discussion about hiring an administrative person part-time to aid in the membership and other administrative needs of the organization.

**Nominations Committee: (**Joti Sekon**):**

A copy of the report was referenced. Discussion about ways to find potential nominee’s occurred. Walda Katz-Fishman suggested various events and meetings should emphasize the need for nominees and that face to face interactions are the best ways to locate potential. Hephzibah suggests that she has heard some confused as to why the secretary contacts nominees as part of the process rather than committee members. She noted that she believed the nominations committee should follow through on contact with nominees and potential nominees until the election occurs to reduce confusion. It is also noted that the AHS Handbook and Constitution do not reflect each other in some areas of functioning. Rebecca Hensley notes that as already established in previous meeting and will as part of her role work with Dawn Tawwater, current secretary, who previously worked on the variations addressed, to address them with her. Jim Pennell notes that the handbook can be changed by the Board; only the constitution requires membership approval.

**VP of Publications: (**Bhoomi Thakore**):**

No report made.

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

No report made by membership chair. But there was an ongoing discussion of previous report made by the VP at previous meeting, specifically the need for a new site host that would make administering and the functioning of the web site. The discussion resulted in a motion to set aside funds to make a change to a new organizational site.

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

No report made.

**New Business:**

The President presents her desire to work toward the implementation of a scholarship to benefit a scholar from FLASCO to attend and that David Embrick is including a $1200.00 item line for in his budget, and that budget has already been approved. This would be a one-time invitation for now, but Rebecca Hensley will chair a committee to look into the possibility of institutionalizing the scholarship permanently. The scholarship would benefit one Cuban scholar. The Scholarship would be named for Ricardo Ricardo Dello Buono, who was so central to putting the conference in Cuba together. The membership discusses the proper process for the scholarship. Hensley is made aware that a vote is not required and she can proceed with the committee or research and bring it to the membership when/if she is ready to seek approval for funding.

President-elect Embrick announces due to various departure times and other travel issues the closing board meeting will be moved to a conference call at the end of December, rather than the conference closing date (Sunday).

**Motions:**

Motion: to accept the minutes from October 4, 2017, board meeting. 2nd Motion passes.

Motion: to accept the treasurer’s report. 2nd Motion passes.

Motion: to allocate $1500.00 dollars to secure a new host for the website. 2nd Motion passes.

Motion: to name the scholarship after Ricardo Dello Buono. 2nd Motion passes.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 PM –Havana, Cuba.**