

2015 Business Meeting
Western Association of Women Historians
47th Annual Conference

The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held on Saturday, May 16, 2014, 5:30- p.m., in the Brandywine Room of the Hilton Hotel-Arden West in Sacramento, California.

Officers Present: President Jessica Weiss, Executive Director Cheryl Warsh, President-Elect Rebecca Plant, Secretary Lindsay Wilson, and Treasurer Pamela Stewart.

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order, Jessica Weiss presiding.

MOTION made to call the meeting together.

Motion made to approve the Agenda. MOTION APPROVED.

Announcements:

Conference:

Beginning in 2017, we will go back to April as the preferred conference time.

The site will be in southern California. Costs are important in choosing a site.

Conference coordination is complicated and requires institutional memory.

We envision a progression of members of the Conference Committee from position 1 (Future Site Coordinator) to 2 (Program Production Coordinator) to 3 (Onsite Registration Coordinator). No one this year had prior experience, which we've realized is required.

Conference coordinators recommend terms of 2 years for each position, which would end up being a 6-year commitment for each member. Current members will be asked to stay on for another year. The Onsite Registration Coordinator chairs this committee.

We need to charge more for future conferences because of increases in AV costs.

Change in conference fee policy: There were lots of last minute cancellations from this conference, including from panel participants. We need to be explicit that, after a certain date, we will consider the conference fees paid by those who cancel to be donations.

The Program Committee contacted faculty in the fields of panels, asking them to join a panel and become WAWH members. They did a lot of publicity: CFP H-Net, 72 history departments, as well as calls for chairs and commentators. We need to continue this model.

Eventbrite is efficient and saving us money in stationary and postage.

Personnel:

There are 2 Networker editors: Samantha Francois, content; Niki Nibbe, proofreader and MS publication.

Laura Munoz will chair the Chaudhuri Prize again next year. Please recommend books to her.

Penny Renner has joined the Nominating Committee.

Need to appoint: Eventbrite manager (No volunteers yet)

New ad hoc committees: Let's establish the following ad hoc committees this year and make them more permanent next year by announcing proposed changes in the winter edition of The Networker before discussion and voting at the Business Meeting in 2016:

1) 50th Anniversary Committee Conference in 2019:

Let's ask people who have a long history with WAWH to share their stories.

Let's survey historians who have retired in the last 5-10 years or are about to retire: Are their lines being replaced?

2) Publicity Committee---Sunu Kodumthara

Prize committee and program committee chairs are urged to seek out applicants for prizes and participants for panels. Every member can help.

3) Public/Digital History --- possibly Andrea Milne and Karen Huebner.

4) Should we have a formal committee dedicated to mentorship/professionalization?
(no conclusion)

Other matters to vote on at the 2016 Business Meeting that need to be announced in advance in The Networker.

Vote to formalize the \$100 graduate poster award.

Vote to formalize the Nominating Committee.

Membership:

It is important to grow membership; maintain institutional memory.

431 members renewed their memberships before the conference.

We have over 700 members on the books. How can we bring them back?

-----Offer a 3-year membership. Notify members of this option before June 15.

-----Solicit more money from life members.

-----Send information to Cheryl or Sunu to upload to Facebook page.

What are we giving members beyond the conference, the Networker, and awards?

Let's also:

-----offer an honorable mention for each prize.

-----offer continuing education online.

-----encourage faculty to sponsor graduate student memberships and prizes.

Communications:

We will set up a Membership Directory on Eventbrite that includes name, email, and field of members. We'll put a pdf online; go digital; let people opt out; make sure it's available only to our membership.

Delivery of The Networker is by e-mail by default; we will send hard copies to those who request them.

We have Twitter, Facebook, and Linked-In pages.

Executive Board: Committee chairs have requested that copies of their committee's previous reports and of the conference minutes be placed online as a guide to new chairs. For example, this year's program committee initiated program changes that should be continued, including a 9 a.m. keynote and poster presentations with a prize. As a result, the number of attendees increased, which is very good for our organization.

Voting for the Executive Board officers took place and the election of the following officers was affirmed by unanimous consent.

Rebecca Plant: President
Jennifer Thigpen, President-Elect
Pamela Stewart: Treasurer
Lindsay Wilson: Secretary

Vote:

By unanimous consent, the membership voted to put Carol Gold's name on the graduate student prize that was initiated during her presidency.

Respectfully submitted
Lindsay Wilson, Secretary
June 7, 2015