President’s Column
Jennifer Thigpen

Dear WAWH Members,

As I sit down to write my inaugural President’s column, I am compelled both to reflect back on the past year and to consider the one ahead. It has been a challenging year to say the least. In retrospect, I take some comfort that I have faced those challenges in the company of smart, talented, and (dare I say it?) persistent women.

Like many of you, I woke on November 8th, 2016 feeling stunned and almost utterly defeated. Worse than the feeling of political defeat, however, was the sense of isolation that accompanied it. Voters had been repeatedly exposed to some of the most overtly racist, xenophobic, and misogynistic rhetoric within the context of a political campaign that I can recall. Sipping my morning coffee on that day, I pondered this new reality and wondered how I would respond. My two children—both teenagers—and my students, I knew, would look to me for answers and for guidance. I felt inadequate to provide either.

Yet solutions came in precisely the places I might have predicted—places where women gather, organize, and inspire one another. In January, I travelled with my daughter and another young feminist to join the Women’s March in Washington D.C. We met marchers in every city we passed through. We shared hugs and high fives with strangers in airports. We met a woman carrying a duffel bag stuffed with hats knitted by a collective in Seattle. Together, the group crafted hundreds of hats for marchers, handing them out to anyone who asked. On the Metro, riders called out their home states while other passengers cheered. Within the march, protesters remained focused on dual tasks—resisting the new regime and registering their dissent. Yet an almost palpable feeling of solidarity permeated the event. Despite the historic and unprecedented number of marchers, I can only describe the atmosphere as peaceful and positive. I returned feeling energized and, for the first time in over two months, hopeful. This is a sentiment I have heard echoed by women and men who participated in marches across the country.
Scholarship & Activism at WAWH in San Diego

In April, as that energy and hopefulness began to wane, the WAWH gathered for its annual meeting in San Diego. Under Rebecca Plant’s careful leadership and Program Committee members Erica Ball, Sharon Block, and Terri Snyder’s direction, the conference provided just the boost that many of us needed. Indeed, many of the panels and workshops served to remind us of the important role we play as as scholars and as historians not just in interpreting the past, but in shaping our present and our future.

Women’s activism and political engagement emerged as twin themes woven throughout the conference. Allyson Hobbs’ keynote speech, “The Urgent Need for Historians in the Time of Trump,” reflected on the first 100 days of the new administration, offering both historical context and guidance for the future. The Presidential Roundtable, co-sponsored by the Association of Black Women Historians’ Pacific Branch entitled “Black Women’s Political Activism: Lessons from the Past” featured four powerhouse scholars: Antwanisha Alameen, Anastasia Curwood, Dayo Gore, and Ula Taylor. Two lunchtime workshops, the first entitled “First Hand Accounts from Second Class Citizens: Vietnamese Women’s Stories before, during and after the War” and the second, “Activist Engagement: Historians Strike Back” drew writers, scholars, archivists, filmmakers to describe the various forms their political engagement and activism has taken. These events and the many exciting panels on the program provided fodder for discussion that spilled over into the lunch hour, reception, business meeting, awards banquet, and beyond.

Looking Forward to WAWH 2018

It is my hope to carry this energy into the coming year and into the 2018 conference, which promises to be as exciting as the last, so please mark your calendars for April 26-28, 2018. The annual meeting will be held at the UC Davis Conference Center, a beautiful facility that is located adjacent to the Hyatt Place Hotel, where we are booking a block of rooms. I join the Program Committee in urging members to propose panels for the upcoming meeting. The Call for Papers can be found in this newsletter and at wawh.org. In addition to our traditional conference fare (which includes the book launch, poster session, and Awards Ceremony), the 2018 conference offers the opportunity to gather inspiration for WAWH’s 50th Anniversary celebration in 2019.

Sustained Leadership

Over our long history, WAWH has acted as a scholarly “home” for many of us. It is also the place where we find sustenance and connection. This has to do both with the conviviality and intellectual vitality of our members and with the phenomenal efforts of our leadership, whose work is often nearly invisible. I am enormously grateful to Rebecca Plant for her dedication to this organization and to her hard work over the past two years in her role as WAWH President. Rebecca has presided over two overwhelmingly successful conferences (in Denver and in San Diego) and has carefully steered the organization toward its anniversary celebration. It has been my honor to work with Rebecca. As I assumed the duties of WAWH President, it has similarly been my pleasure to identify future leadership for the organization. I am delighted to announce that Ula Taylor has accepted her nomination as the next President of WAWH. She will be confirmed at our next meeting.

There have been other changes in WAWH leadership. Pamela Stewart has served as WAWH Treasurer since 2010. In that time, Pamela’s duties have expanded to encompass not just handling our finances, but Eventbrite and other registration issues. As she cycles out of her role as Treasurer, Pamela will stay on as Eventbrite Coordinator. Jennifer Robin Terry has graciously agreed to act as our Treasurer.

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through 2019 and, in fact, has already been active in this role. Molly McClain and Victoria De La Torre lent their considerable talents as Local Arrangements Co-Chairs for the 2017 conference; I am pleased to welcome Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor and Lorena Oropeza who will fill this role in the upcoming conference in Davis. Over the past two years, Graduate Student Representatives Laura Moore and Jennifer Macias provided excellent insights into the needs of our graduate student membership and helped the organization better connect with this next generation of scholars and colleagues. Laura Ping and Susan Schmidt will serve as incoming Grad Reps. I hope you will join me in reaching out to outgoing, ongoing, and incoming board members to thank them for their service.

I look forward to another inspiring WAWH conference in 2018 and to seeing all of you in Davis!

Jennifer Thigpen

From the Executive Director
Cheryl Krasnick Warsh

Happy Summer, WAWH members. I’m entering my last year as Executive Director, and have enjoyed working with three great Presidents, Jessica Weiss, Rebecca Plant and now Jennifer Thigpen. Sarah Gold McBride will be taking the reins as Executive Director in April. I’m already missing Pamela Stewart’s witty emails as she retires as Treasurer to be replaced by the very welcome Jennifer Robin Terry. Lindsay Blake Wilson is thankfully staying on as Secretary for another two years, so there is continuity as well as change.

2018 Conference

We all enjoyed the stimulating and inspiring conference at San Diego, and now are preparing for our northern California conference at Davis, where we will begin our 50th anniversary year. Stay tuned for some news about special commemorative events and activities, and how members can contribute to them.

The Call for Papers is included in this newsletter and is available on the WAWH website. All individual paper and panel proposals, including AV requests, have a deadline of October 15, 2017.

Submissions to the Mary Elizabeth “Betsy” Perry Graduate Student Poster Prize, which are sent to the Program Committee, have a November 15, 2017 deadline, to give graduate students more time to formulate their proposals.

Prize submissions must be in by January 8, 2018, except for the Carol Gold Graduate Student Paper Prize, which has a deadline of March 23, 2018.

More information about all of the awards, and applications, are available on the wawh.org website.

Hope to see you in Davis, and enjoy the summer!

UC Davis Conference Hotel Link Now Open for Reservations. Click below to book your room at Hyatt Place UC Davis:

Western Association of Women Historians 2018 Booking Link

Please make sure you enter the Arrival and Departure Dates that we have contracted for (April 26-28, 2018) and then hit check availability. That is where you will find the group block titled Western Association of Women Historians.
New York University Press has just published Wendy Rouse’s new book, *Her Own Hero: The Origins of the Women’s Self-Defense Movement*. The book examines how women in the early twentieth century began training in boxing and jiu-jitsu for very personal reasons that ranged from protecting themselves from attacks by strangers on the street to rejecting gendered notions about feminine weakness and empowering themselves as their own protectors. Women’s training in self defense was both a reflection of and a response to the broader cultural issues of the time, including the women’s rights movement and the campaign for the vote.

**Share your accomplishments!**

We would like to include your professional news in the next newsletter.

Send submissions to the editor at cstreee@ucsd.edu

**Welcome to New Members**

These members joined since January 17, 2017

**Annual Members**
- Kathleen Fry
- Jennifer Sundberg
- Joana Galarza Johnson
- Erika Yamamoto
- Mallory Neil
- Susan Mitchell
- Alyssa Reil
- Allyson Hobbs
- Mellissa Betts
- Marisa Fuentes
- Kiera Anderson
- Susie Woo
- Alisa Wankier
- Peg Strobel
- Leisa Meyer
- Ashley Falzetti
- Electa Anderson
- Stephanie Wilms
- Isadora Halfgott
- Laura Cataldi
- Laura Cannon
- Lucia Carminati
- Meghan Anderson
- Virginia James
- Gloria Kim
- Heather Huyck
- Ellen Herman
- Bahar Tahamtani
- Skye Cranney
- Eileen Ford
- Mariel Aquino
- Carolyn Lougee
- Ashley Achee
- Maggie Elmore
- Alexis Mille
- Kelsey Lamkin
- Nichole Grimes

**Three-Year Members**
- Diane M.T. North
- Terri Castaneda
- Claire Arcenas
- Claudia Chacon
- Leslie Batson
- Molly Rozum
- Elizabeth Kronbeck
- Citlali Sosa-Riddell
- Kathleen Feeley

**Lifetime Members**
- Tracy Sachtjen

**Donations**
- Marilyn J. Boxer
- Betsy Perry
- Nupur Chaudhuri

Thank you also for the generous donations during the WAWH Banquet.
The Networker
Western Association of Women Historians

AWAW Executive Board, 2017–2018

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Jennifer Thigpen
jthigpen@wsu.edu

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President-Elect
Ula Taylor
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Executive Director (2014-2018)
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Barbara "Penny" Kanner Award Chair
Kathleen Jones
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Gita Chaudhuri Prize Chair
Grey Osterud
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Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize Chair
Lisa Cody
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Volunteer for WAWH
We are recruiting members to help with publicity. Interested? Send an email to Jennifer Thigpen. Thanks!
The Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) invites proposals for panels, roundtables, posters, workshops, and individual presentations in all fields, regions, and periods of history.

Although we will consider all types of submissions, we particularly encourage non-traditional formats and topics. These could include panels and roundtables focused on pedagogy, on women in academia, on public history, digital humanities, academic publishing, career paths, activism, etc.

We strongly encourage participants to replace the customary 20-minute paper reading with shorter and more interactive presentation styles.

Priority will be given to proposals for complete or partially complete sessions but we will also consider individual papers. The WAWH expects panels to represent the diversity of our membership and profession.

For guidelines, FAQ on WAWH conferences, submissions, and opportunities to find co-panelists, please see information on our 2018 Conference page at http://www.wawh.org/conferences/2018. Submission links will be live by August 1.

WAWH welcomes historians and scholars at all career stages and in all career choices.

Membership and Registration Requirement: WAWH membership and 2018 conference preregistration will be required of all program participants. Membership runs conference to conference and is open to all. Annual membership fees are on a sliding scale, ranging from $10- $50 based on position and income level.

Founded in 1969, the Western Association of Women Historians is the largest regional women’s historical association in the United States.
The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 5:30-7 p.m., in the COLUMBINE Room of the Sheraton in Denver, Colorado. Officers Present: President Rebecca Plant, Executive Director Cheryl Warsh, President-Elect Jennifer Thigpen, Secretary Lindsay Wilson, and Treasurer Pamela Stewart.

**PROCEEDINGS:**
The meeting was called to order, Rebecca Plant presiding.
Motion made to call the meeting together.
Motion made to approve the Agenda. MOTION APPROVED.
Motion to approve the Minutes. MOTION APPROVED.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**The Anniversary Planning Committee**, consisting of Susan Wladamer Morgan, Susan Kullmann, Carol Gold, Maryanne Irwin, Nupur Chaudhuri, Amy Essington, and Barbara Molony, is continuing to plan for our 50th anniversary meeting in 2019.

**The Publicity Committee**: Sunu Kodumthara will serve. A committee is not needed at the time.

A **Formal Mentoring Committee** is not necessary at this time.

**VOTES:**

1) **Vote on Recusal Policy:**
*(with additional language needed)* **AYE**

   The nominating committee will make a recommendation of a replacement to the president. The president will appoint a replacement for the committee member for the one year of recusal. The appointment will serve a one-year replacement term. The committee member will return to serve any remaining years of the three-year term.

   If the recusing person is the committee chair, the person in their second year of service will be chair. Since the chair would be in the third year of the appointment, she would not return to the committee after the recusal year.

2) **Vote on the Bylaws to name the Grad Student Conference Poster Prize for Mary Elizabeth (Betsy) Perry**: **AYE**

3) **Vote on the Nominating Committee:**

   Keep it as an ad-hoc committee for now: **AYE**

   Open it up to new names in order to broaden the discussion and the possible pool of nominees. Post on Eventbrite: Ask registrants to check a box when registering: “Are
you interested in being more involved?” Cheryl will forward the necessary information to Rebecca.

4) Vote on allowing prize committees to designate a co-winner or award an honorable mention:
In the event that a committee finds two works equally extraordinary, ask the president and treasurer if they can find additional money to provide two prizes. Honorable mentions are allowed, with no funding.
Aye.

TO BE VOTED ON AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE IN 2017
The Graduate Student Conference Poster Prize is an annual prize that recognizes the most outstanding poster presented by a graduate student at the annual WAWH conference.

I. All posters accepted for the poster session will be considered for the prize, provided that the presenter:
   A. is a graduate student and a current member of WAWH at the time of the conference.
   B. is available to interact with conference participants during all of the poster sessions.
   C. does not present a paper at the same conference.

II. Conference attendees will choose the winner by voting through a secret ballot. Posters should be judged on:
   A. Strength of content
   B. Originality of conception and analysis
   C. Clarity and effectiveness of presentation

III. The amount of the prize will be determined by the Executive Director, President, and Treasurer, subject to funding and the applicant pool.

IV. Jessica and Jennifer Thigpen will devise a voting system beginning with:
"Put a ballot in folders for attendees to receive at the beginning of the conference"

V. The winner will be announced at the Saturday night banquet (students need not be present at the banquet to win).
Officers’ Reports and Discussion

Rebecca Plant, PRESIDENT:
She filled board positions with Cheryl Warsh.
She searched with Jennifer Fish Kashay and Cheryl for a location for the 2017 conference: It will be held from April 27-29 in San Diego at the Town and Country Resort.
The Presidential Panel and Plenary Speakers are TBA.

Jennifer Thigpen, VICE PRESIDENT:
She followed Rebecca.
She will find a lunchtime speaker for the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA in Hawaii.

Cheryl Warsh, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Membership:
Memberships expire at the conference. One is no longer a member afterwards, according to Amy Essington.
From 72% to 75% of previous members had renewed by the beginning of this conference.
We are raising funds with new 3-year memberships and a few lifetime memberships.

Conference Planning:
Our graduate students have been great this year.
The web redesign is great.
There were some Eventbrite glitches, but we managed well with system and people back-ups.
Negotiating with hotels was tough. AV was the worst: Estimated costs went from $9k—4k---3,200. We should buy our own equipment. (But, objection from the floor: technology changes rapidly).
What about screens?
Jessica: There were problems finding the right size hotel.
Cheryl will send out a survey for our members to recommend hotels (Criteria: costs, as well as where they would like to be). We need to receive recommendations at least 2 years in advance of the conference date. (Objection from the floor: some hotels won’t set contracts so far in advance).
Maybe we should change the location cycle that is currently: N. California, S. California, somewhere else.
Should we negotiate for the Huntington for the anniversary conference in 2019?
Should we have a pledge drive, using Facebook to drive it with trivia and ads from various decades? Board members will be asked to send personal letters.

**Networker online:** We need more interesting content beyond reports such as news in the profession, book reviews, etc.

**Question from the floor:**
What happened to the committee notebook that is to be passed down from one committee to the next?
Cheryl will send templates, bylaws, a check-list, separate committee member letters and chairs’ reports to new board members.
Cheryl also aspires to supply a digital best practices manual for each committee. All relevant materials are being posted to Dropbox.
She will look into Google for non-profits.

**Pamela Stewart: TREASURER**
This year we brought in more than $7k in new memberships, but the hotel contract cost a lot more than the previous year’s contract.
We incurred a significant deficit of (12k) in annual spending this year, which follows a deficit the preceding year. Next year looks better.

**Suggestions from the floor:**
Raise registration fees on full-time faculty and do away with sodas and chips.
Ask faculty to buy gift memberships and provide meals for graduate students, including those who are not their own.
Response: Individual items like soda and chips are subsumed under the general hotel catering contract amount. That is, we have to spend up to that amount, and then 24% service charges and taxes are added.

**Sunu Kodumthara, Digital Communication Director:**
Talk to students and colleagues about posting and recommending our WAWH Facebook page.

**Abby Feeley, Conference Committee Director:**
Food prices are out of date: they don’t reflect our actual costs.
Have 2 prices for food---one for faculty, one for graduate students. Don’t go into the red for next year’s conference. Create a WAWH banner and signs (See Carrie Streeter).

**Lindsay Wilson, SECRETARY:**
My main role has been to provide extensive minutes for each year’s conference executive board and business meetings and follow up at the next year’s executive board meeting to determine if we have reached our goals or need to adjust them.

**From the Awards Banquet:**
The names of award recipients are announced after the business meeting. To learn more about who received awards this year, press the link to each award on the awards section of the WAWH website.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Wilson, Secretary
July 17, 2016