Recently Kerry Ann Rockquemore wrote a column, shared on “Tomorrow’s Professor” (http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/enewsletter.php?msgno=1364), devoted to “The Art of Saying No.” The article focused on institutional service at one’s home campus, but contained much useful advice for women and scholars of color, in the why and how of saying no, when our go to answer for a variety of reasons is to say yes. Paradoxically, I would like to extend a huge thank you to WAWH members Samantha Francois for agreeing to produce and distribute the WAWH Networker, our newsletter, and to Niki Nibbe for copyediting assistance. The Networker is a source of member news, a way for members learning about new members, and of course, our means of communicating executive board and other association activities. This year we had no summer issue, because it was difficult to identify a member who was willing to serve in this important capacity. Our organization is only as strong as its members’ commitment to it.

For many of us, WAWH was the conference where we first delivered a paper, or perhaps more importantly, the first friendly conference at which we delivered a paper. Our organization provides prizes to graduate students, and when, back in the day, the members determined not enough women historians were showing up on the list of prizes given annually by other professional organizations, our membership decided to offer prizes. This is first and foremost an organization supportive of its membership, responsive to it, and devoted to women historians.

Several individuals have stepped up this year to take on important roles within the organization. Kate Flach is serving her first year as Graduate Representative, joining Andrea Milne, now in her second year in that role. Jennifer Robin Terry and Danielle Swiontek have brought much creativity and energy to their roles as Program Chairs. Abigail Feely is handling arrangements for our Sacramento Conference in May 2015; Jennifer Thigpen will manage onsite registration there; and Jodie Kreider and Jennifer Fish Kalay have devoted countless hours to determining the best hotel to host us in Denver in 2016. Sharon Walls has graciously agreed to produce our conference program. Sunu Kodumthara is incepting the new role as Digital Communications Chair with enthusiasm and aplomb. Cheryl Warsh

Continued on page 12
Executive Director's Column
Cheryl Krasnick Warsh

This column is about introductions. I first would like to introduce myself. For the last 20 years, I’ve been a History professor at Vancouver Island University, a small public university 90 minutes north of Victoria and within sight of Mount Baker in Washington. (Most Canadians keep the U.S. in their sights, in one way or another.) I came by my American affinity biologically; my mother was born in Toledo, Ohio and served as a WAC in World War Two. Like many of my generation, feminism was served with the TV dinners in the form of memories and regrets for roads not taken. Now I 'serve' feminism in courses on health, North American popular culture, the family, as well as Canadian and American women's history. I've published monographs, collections and articles on mental institutions, women's health, children's health, tobacco and alcohol consumption — all of which are viewed with a feminist lens. I've had the pleasure of publishing with one of the doyens of Canadian women's history, Veronica Strong-Boag, as well as with many of our younger scholars, including Donica Belisle, presently Chair of the WAWH Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize. In the few months since I've taken over from Amy Essington, or more accurately, since I had years’ worth of WAWH documents, procedures, tasks and deadlines plopped on my virtual desk, the initiation has been softened by the good humour, accessibility and infinite patience of Jessica Weiss, Pamela Stewart, Susan Kullman and Amy herself. Many other board and committee members have been generous with their expertise, reflecting what the WAWH represents. I look forward to meeting, and working, with you all.

Introducing Sunu Kodumthara,
Digital Communications Coordinator

Sunu Kodumthara earned her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 2011, and she is currently an assistant professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Her workload includes teaching everything from the survey of American History to the History of American Indians and the capstone courses for the major. Sunu is also working on completing her manuscript, which addresses the women’s suffrage movement in the American West and its impact on the national anti-suffrage movement. Sunu became a member of WAWH in 2007 and is now serving as the Digital Communications Coordinator. If you’d like to contact her for website updates or information about WAWH, send her an email: web@wawh.org or sunu.kodumthara@swosu.edu.
Farewell Column
Amy Essington

Although my term as Executive Director ended with the 2014 conference, I have been given the opportunity to offer some thank yous for the past year.


WAWH is an organization of volunteers. Thank you to all who volunteered their time and energy in the support of women historians. The 2014 conference was the end of service for a number of people on the board and on committees. Thank you to Brittany Ferry, Newsletter Editor; Jennifer Terry, Graduate Student Representative (2012-2014); Eileen Wallis, 2014 Program Committee Co-Chair; Päivi Hoikkala, 2014 Program Committee Co-Chair; Hend Gilli-Elewy, 2014 Local Arrangements Co-Chair; Georgia Mickey, 2014 Local Arrangements Co-Chair; Jennifer Thigpen, Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize Chair; Carla Bittel, Founders’ Dissertation Fellowship Chair; Rebecca Kluchin, Judith Lee Ridge Prize Chair; Lisa Sousa, Barbara “Penny” Kanner Award Chair; Kathryn Anderson, Gita Chaudhuri Prize Chair; and Tanis C. Thorne, Keller-Sierra Book Prize Chair.

I would like to offer special thanks to Jessica Weiss who organized a tribute for me at the banquet and those who sent it or spoke kind words and even penned new lyrics for “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” I would also like to thank Eileen Wallis for going above and beyond in helping at the registration desk during the weekend.

My participation in the organization became part of the foundation of my career as a historian. A WAWH conference was the first time I attended a conference as a doctoral student and the first conference at which I presented. The friends I have made through WAWH are the ones I spend time with at others conferences. I look forward to continuing my relationship with WAWH, but in a new way. With that, I offer a welcome to Cheryl Krasnick Warsh, the new WAWH Executive Director.
Business Meeting Minutes of the May 2014 Conference, Submitted by Lindsay Blake Wilson

2014 Business Meeting, Abbreviated Version (the full version can be accessed on the WAWH website), Western Association of Women Historians 46th Annual Conference

The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held on Saturday, May 3, 2014, 5:30-7:00p.m., in the Kellogg West Conference Center at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California.

Officers Present: President Jessica Weiss, Executive Director Amy Essington, President-elect Rebecca Plant, Secretary Lindsay Wilson, Treasurer Pamela Stewart.

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order, Jessica Weiss presiding.

MOTION to approve Agenda.

MOTION APPROVED. We will meet in Sacramento on May 14-16, 2015 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West.

Report of Executive Board Decisions by President Jessica Weiss

1. Facebook
We are now on Facebook. All information will also be posted on our website. The Executive Board will formulate and post Facebook guidelines.

2. Monitoring of Conference Registration Policy
Last year we changed the registration policy by requiring participants to register for the whole weekend. Amy Essington was concerned we might have a budget/waster/running-out-of-food problem.

(It appears we did not, but the situation deserves monitoring next year.)

3. Election of Officers
At last year’s business meeting, we announced candidates for 2013-2015, but we didn’t elect them, so Jessica appointed them.

   Jessica Weiss, President
   Rebecca Plant, President-Elect
   Lindsay Wilson, Secretary
   Pamela Stewart, Treasurer (for another two-year term)

MOTION to approve the slate.

MOTION APPROVED by acclamation.

4. Nominating Committee
We have set up a committee of Barbara Molony, Nupur Chaudhuri, Susan Wladaver-Morgan to open up the nomination process and line up candidates before the expiration of terms each May.
5. Executive Director for 2014-2015
Cheryl Warsh, who teaches Canadian and American Women’s History at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, British Columbia, declared herself a candidate.

MOTION to elect Cheryl Warsh as the Executive Director for 2014-2018.
MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

Recommendation of candidates for the following positions *commencing now* should be addressed to Jessica Weiss, Rebecca Plant, or the Nominating Committee:

- Networker Editor
- Graduate Student Representative
- 2015 Conference Program Co-chairs
- 2015 Local Arrangement Co-chairs
- Digital Communications Coordinator
- Prize Committees
  - New Chairs (generally, the member who is in her third and final year on the committee) AND One New Committee Member per committee (generally chosen from the ranks of past winners, except for the Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize) *commencing now*.

7. Vote on Changes to Awards Bylaws, President Jessica Weiss presiding
(Complete language appears in the *The Networker*, Spring 2014)
There are five awards to which we would like to add, “Entries must be in English.”

MOTION: Accept the concept; let Amy Essington formulate the language.
MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

8. Vote on Changes to the WAWH Constitution By-laws, President Jessica Weiss
(The original language and the proposed changes to Article IV, Section 4 and Article II, Section 3 can be found in *The Networker*, Spring 2014)
The rationale for these changes is a desire to lessen the burden on the Executive Director and the expand membership participation. We piloted a conference support committee that we are now formalizing. It consists of three members, with the chair

Continued on page 6
Business Meeting Minutes (Continued)

serving on the Executive Board. Members serve on the committee for three years, doing a different task each year:

Year 1 - Future Site Coordinator: Select the site, under supervision of the president.

Year 2 - Program Production Coordinator: Put the conference program together, under supervision of the Executive Director.

Year 3 - On Site Registration Coordinator: Staff the registration desk at site selected two years previously under supervision of the Executive Director.

MOTION to approve changes.

MOTION APPROVED, one abstention.

Executive Board Reports

Executive Director, Amy Essington:

1) Membership: 72% of membership has not renewed. I recommend that we refocus our roots in the West.

2) Conference: Registration was lower this year: 105 vs. 159 in Portland in 2013 and 216 in Berkeley in 2012.

DISCUSSION: Take cognizance of the Berkshire dates when scheduling.

3) There were glitches to EventBrite; we’re making it smoother.

President-Elect, Rebecca Plant:

I’m collecting names of contacts.

Lindsay Wilson, Secretary:

1) Diminishing Numbers: We seem to be seeing a pattern from 2013-2015 of fewer paper proposals submitted, fewer submission for awards, fewer members. How might we respond?

DISCUSSION: Many members offered suggestions that we will try to implement.

A new Membership Directory was not issued. The Executive Director will figure out how best to provide this information to our members.

2) I’m concerned about preserving our institutional memory, especially now that Amy Essington is stepping down. I recommend that prize committee chairs circulate their reports to their committees as well as to the Executive Director and that an archive be established for the previous years’ committee reports and for the minutes of the Executive Board meetings and of the annual business meetings if these aren’t in The Networker.
Business Meeting Minutes (Continued)

_Pamela Stewart, Treasurer:_
Donations were lower this year. Next year we’ll focus on donations in December and in March (encouraging Women’s History Month donations honoring mentors or colleagues with donations in their names).

_Gayle Gullet, Past President:_
This is the best job ever!

_Jennifer Terry: Graduate Student Representative:_
The panel of interest to graduate students that we organized on public history and digital humanities went well.

_Eileen Wallis, 2014 Conference Program Co-Chair:_
Everything has been said.

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**Executive Board Openings**

WAWH has several upcoming positions available on the Executive Board beginning at the conference in May 2015. Contact Jessica Weiss, president@wawh.org.

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**Thank you to Our Donors!**

Many thanks to those who contributed between February 16, 2014 and Nov 25, 2014 and the anonymous donors at the WAWH conference banquet.

Lois W. Banner
Nupur Chaudhuri
Lisa Sousa

Andrea Germer
Carol Gold
Susan Wladaver-Morgan
Graduate Rep Report
Andrea Milne

Getting the Most Out of WAWH 2015

Even the savviest grad student will struggle to navigate the alien terrain that is the professional conference. If you’re attending WWH 2015, then you’re in luck. In my oh-so-humble-opinion, WAWH conferences offer the most supportive environment for graduate students, period. It’s one of the few places where you’ll find yourself regarded not only as an equal, but also as a friend. Your worth to the academy is assumed, and that is a rarity indeed. WAWH conferences are always worth the time and capital investment they require, but with just a little prep work, you can guarantee still more bang for your buck. Here’s how:

Look at the conference schedule in advance. Most people formulate a plan of attack with regard to what panels they plan to attend, but that’s only part of the job. Take an evening and read up on the people listed on the program—including the graduate students—with an eye for possible mentors/interlocutors/partners in crime. Each name in that program is an opportunity for professional development, so be thorough. Woe unto the grad student that assumes the title of a conference presentation is representative of an entire academic career!

Schedule one-on-one meetings. We all have to eat, so make that time productive! Use breakfast to meet up with your co-panelists, and lunch to talk to a professor you’ve been in email contact with. Grab coffee with a speaker who piqued your interest. As you get to know more people over the years, your calendar will fill itself, but only if you put yourself out there now.

DON’T attend every panel...DO attend every social event. Conferences are draining. Enlightening as all the panels are—they won’t do you much good if you’re falling asleep. Don’t be afraid to skip a panel if you’re losing steam. You’ll be glad to have the extra energy when you’re charming the pants off a distinguished professor at the WAWH banquet!

So there you have it comrades, a Networker article on networking! I hope it serves you in good stead, and that WAWH is your most productive conference yet!

“WAWH conferences offer the most supportive environment for graduate students, period.”
Member News


Welcome New Members

These members joined between 9/18/2014 and 10/14/2014:

- Hilary Coulson
- Alicia Gutierrez
- Elle Harvell
- Tori Horton
- Kristine Hunt
- Patricia Manley
- Gianna May
- Kathy Olmsted
- Jessica Ordaz
- Carlotta Falzone Robinson
- Susan Rugh
- Sara Smith
- Alison Turtledove

Please Donate!

Even a small donation is appreciated and helps sustain WAWH’s work. This year we are proud to announce the inauguration of a new Poster Session Prize of $100 at our annual meeting in Sacramento, May 14-16, 2015, designed to encourage attendees in unique ways while highlighting outstanding new scholarship. We hope that everyone at the conference might take time to pause and see the excellent work sure to be represented. As such, we are also increasing the Graduate Student Paper Prize award amount from $100 to $150. WAWH is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your donations are tax deductible. Donations can be directed to a specific fund or award.

Thank you for your continuing support!
**Upcoming CFPs**

*Teaching History: Fostering Historical Thinking Across the K-16 Continuum*
May 1-2, 2015, University of California, Berkeley  
**CFP: Deadline January 5, 2015**

Scholars and practitioners interested in history pedagogy at the K-12 and university levels are invited to submit proposals for posters, papers, seminars, and workshops that address researching, teaching, and learning historical thinking across the K-16 continuum. We strongly encourage submissions from classroom teachers, graduate students, and instructors of history and social studies pedagogy in addition to research scholars. Learn more: [http://ucbhssp.berkeley.edu/teaching_history](http://ucbhssp.berkeley.edu/teaching_history)

*Pacific Northwest Labor History Association’s 47th Annual Conference*
Seattle, Washington | May 1-3, 2015  
**Proposals due January 16, 2015**

Learning from the past and preparing for the future, this conference seeks to find the best historical models for organizing, strategic alliances and coalitions, and to connect these models with contemporary actions to consider how the labor movement can strengthen for the future.

We invite proposals for academic research, panels, individual presentations, interactive workshops, drama, music, art, memorabilia displays and other forms of presentation. Interactive sessions are preferred and the reading of papers is discouraged.

Please send a short summary of the workshop/panel and a brief biography of all presenters and any audio-visual needs to Tom Lux, WA PNLHA Vice-President by email to pnlhawa@gmail.com or by mail to 17502 47th Ave. NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155. 206-551-1371.

*Organization of American Historians*
Providence, Rhode Island | April 7 - 10, 2016  
**Proposals due January 23, 2015.**

Theme: “On Leadership”: In this presidential election year the Program Committee invites proposals addressing the theme "On Leadership" and exploring any aspect of leadership in American history. The character, origin, and practice of leadership; its successes, achievements, disappointments, and failures in any and every area of American life from the earliest years of human settlement to the early twenty-first century will be the principal topics of the 2016 OAH Annual Meeting. For full description of the conference theme, please see [http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/meetings-events/call-for-proposals/](http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/meetings-events/call-for-proposals/)
The East Asia Library at Stanford University is now accepting applications for its 2014-15 library travel grants. The purpose of these grants is to assist scholars from outside the greater San Francisco Bay Area in accessing the Stanford East Asia Library collections for research. Funded by the Department of Education Title VI program, the Stanford Center for East Asian Studies will award up to six grants on a competitive basis to help defray the cost of travel and lodging for scholars of East Asia at other institutions who wish to utilize the collections at the Stanford East Asia Library. The grants will be paid as reimbursements of expenses in compliance with University travel guidelines. The Stanford East Asia Library collection includes roughly 770,000 volumes in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and western languages. Further information about the library collections is available at https://library.stanford.edu/eal. Deadline: 1/9/15


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2015 Conferences

**WAWH Annual Conference**

The 2015 WAWH conference will be held at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West in Sacramento, California, May 14-16, 2015. Questions should be directed to the program coordinators wawhconference2015@wawh.org

**OAH Annual Meeting**

St. Louis, Missouri | April 16 - 19, 2015
America's Center and Renaissance Grand Hotel

"Taboos"

Join us as we explore what historians miss when we avoid topics that have come to be regarded as taboo. How are familiar histories complicated, enriched, or transformed when we address issues that have been silenced or avoided in the past?

For a full description of the conference theme, please visit http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/2015/
survived (and thrived through) stepping into the Executive Directorship immediately following the conference. And of course, Pamela Stewart and Lindsay Wilson continue to serve in the crucial positions of Treasurer and Secretary that keep our organization together. Rebecca Plant has participated in many decisions as President Elect, and a new nominating committee has helped identify potential candidates for positions. Other colleagues will soon commence work on all of our wonderful prize committees. Yet, by May we need to fill these positions: treasurer, future site coordinator for a Southern California Conference in 2017, local arrangements chairs, an onsite registration coordinator, and program chairs for 2016 in Denver, and a new member for each of our prize committees.

It takes many, many hands to craft a newsletter, determine historical contributions worthy of recognition, produce a conference annually, and keep our organization solvent and thriving. As you may have guessed, the goal of this column is to encourage your active participation in this organization. For me, it’s a prickly column to write, just as inviting members to serve placed me in the position of asking folks I already know are overextended to extend themselves some more. In my role as a faculty developer I frequently find myself counseling faculty at all stages of their careers about service in all the forms it takes. While there is no one-size-fits-all advice to offer in terms of particular assignments and roles, I do confidently begin conversations like this with the advice to find service that aligns with your interests, commitments, and passions. If it’s work that feeds you, it will be worthwhile. I prefer this to “just say no.” With intense time commitments to teaching and intense pressure to publish, and campus cultures that don’t recognize the service contributions of its faculty, and to be frank, in particular, of its female faculty members; with the struggle of independent scholars and part-time historians to stay historians while they drum up teaching positions and financial support for research and writing, it is difficult for all of us to commit to service roles to one’s department, college, campus, and to the profession. Once committed, it is difficult to balance the competing demands. Service has the potential, however, to be enriching and satisfying work that has meaning and connects to one’s values and interests. In my own case, the contributions I value most have been in the roles that affect student instruction—co-directing a student learning center, revising campus policies for academic dishonesty or online instruction, and working to provide learning opportunities for faculty members, all of which have led to important professional opportunities for me.
My service to WAWH began with gratitude; I was invited to serve on what is now the Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize Committee, a prize of which I had been a proud recipient. I worked closely, if via email, with several other members, learned how the work of selection happened, participated in stirring conversations about great books, and began to connect with leadership in the organization. Serving as President has allowed me to think about the ways to contribute to the vitality of our organization, sometimes by listening to and helping to implement ideas from the Executive Board members and, I hope, through invitations to speakers and panelists.

As this column doesn’t so much hint as broadcast, filling positions has been one of the more challenging aspects of the presidency (and presidency elect). It’s time to confront the fact that our membership levels have dipped quite a bit, with renewals as conference down in particular this past year. We have hopes that a Northern California conference and the upcoming conference in Denver will help especially reach out to graduate students, junior scholars, and independent scholars and historians outside of academia in both California and the intermountain west, who, we hope, will have that “first friendly conference” experience and sign on as members. WAWH provides opportunities to support one another as women historians, to create a welcoming conference experience where we honor one another’s work in multiple ways, through careful, constructive review and comment, generous questions that allow panelists to amplify their conclusions and share more findings, recognition of stellar work, support for new scholarship, and panels that provide professional, and sometimes personal, guidance. Conference registration commences in February. Please consider inviting colleagues who have never attended a conference to join you. If you’ve missed the conference for a few years or aren’t presenting, join us anyway! Share the program widely once it becomes available. Gift a membership to a graduate student whether or nor they will be presenting a paper in Sacramento and even if their degree is not just around the corner. Consider the ways in which our professional organization has impacted your professional life and contact the nominating committee, myself or Cheryl Warsh, the Executive Director, for ways you might “give back.” Current office holders will be happy to answer questions about their positions.
Looking Forward to Sacramento
Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs,
Abigail Feely and Lee Simpson

We are pleased to invite you to the 47th Annual WAH Conference in Sacramento, California May 14-15, 2015.

This year, we are excited to welcome dual keynote speakers, distinguished pioneering historians in Women’s History (and wife and husband) Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin. They will share their personal and professional perspectives on their 40+ years in the field. You won’t want to miss it!

Nearly two hundred panelists will present new research on topics such as war, activism, reproductive rights, film, music, literature, identity, childhood, community, masculinity, capitalism, violence, religion, the West, and more. There will also be panels on pedagogy, public history and technology in the classroom. Additionally, in honor of the memory of Stephanie Camp, our presidential panel will focus on recent scholarship in African/African American Women’s History. Finally, this year’s conference will feature our inaugural graduate student poster session along with a Thursday evening celebration and showcase of monographs published in 2014 by WAWH members.

While in Sacramento, we invite you to enjoy the beauty and history of the “City of Trees.” Located at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers, this beautiful city offers abundant opportunities for outdoor and indoor recreation. May is the perfect time to see the city at its best. The shade trees will have leafed out; the flowers will be blooming; and the temperature should be ideal for a stroll along the American River parkway, through Old Sacramento, or our beautiful Capital Park.

You may want to extend your stay so you can check out the many museums and historic sites throughout the city. In addition to well known Sutter’s Fort and Old Sacramento State Historic Park the city is home to the Crocker Art Museum, the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts, the California Indian Museum, and the California State Railroad Museum. For those willing to take a short drive, nearby Folsom, Fair Oaks, Elk Grove, and Roseville house a variety of museums and historic sites. A listing of selected historic sites and museums, including walking tours, will be included in your conference program.

Looking forward to seeing you in Sacramento
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