

**2014 Business Meeting  
Western Association of Women Historians  
46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held on Saturday, May 3, 2014, 5:30-7:00 p.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, and Treasurer Pamela Stewart.

**Proceedings**

The meeting was called to order, Jessica Weiss presiding.

MOTION to approve Agenda. MOTION APPROVED.

Announcement: We will meet in Sacramento on May 14-16, 2015 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West. It is time to start thinking about the program and the local arrangements committee.

**Report of Executive Board Decisions by President Jessica Weiss:**

**1. Facebook**

We are now on Facebook. We are a closed group. You may be invited to join, as a WAWH member, or you may request to join.

We will remind people of prize deadlines on Facebook. It will also be possible to form panels there.

The Facebook listings will not be exclusive to Facebook. All information will also be posted on our WAWH website.

DISCUSSION:

Membership: Can graduate students invite other graduate students to join?

Susan Kullman, Web Re-designer: You have to be a Facebook friend of the person you invite.

Amy: We need to sort out the details. An official e-mail will follow.

Membership goes meeting to meeting. Is Facebook going to be a benefit of membership?

Jessica: Membership will not be a requirement, as being admitted to Facebook could prompt people to renew membership or to apply for membership.

The Executive Board needs to formulate and post Facebook guidelines.

Susan Kullman will train the yet-to-be named moderator.

Members are invited to contact Executive Board members if they have strong opinions about going on Facebook.

**2. Reconsideration of Conference Registration Policy**

Last year we changed the registration policy by requiring participants to register for the whole weekend rather than allowing the option to register for a single day.

Amy Essington reported that she was having a problem figuring out how much food to order for the reception and for people who don't buy meal tickets under this new policy.

The Executive Board agreed to wait for a report from Amy after this year's conference about whether we had a budget/waste/running out problem. If so, we will consider whether the problem was significant enough to change the new registration policy.

### **3. Election of Officers for 2013-2015**

At last year's business meeting, we announced officer candidates for 2013-2015, but we didn't elect them. Jessica appointed them until the 2014 Executive Board meeting.

A motion was made to accept the following slate:

Jessica Weiss, President

Rebecca Plant, President-Elect

Lindsay Wilson, Secretary

Pamela Stewart, Treasurer (for another two-year term)

MOTION to accept.

MOTION APPROVED by acclamation.

### **4. Nominating Committee**

We have in place a nominating committee consisting of Barbara Molony, Nupur Chaudhuri, Susan Wladaver-Morgan, to open up the nomination process and have candidates lined up in advance of the expiration of terms each May.

### **5. Upcoming Vacancy, Executive Director for 2014-2018:**

Cheryl Warsh declared herself a candidate in response to a posting in the fall Networker. She has conversed with Amy about the role of Executive Director and is enthusiastic about assuming it. The Executive Board was impressed by her organizational skills and attention to detail. Cheryl has a history with WAWH, having been involved in local arrangements for the Vancouver meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Membership: What is the term of service?

Jessica: The term is four years, renewable, staggered with the president's term.

Are there any other volunteers or nominations?

*(No others volunteered or were nominated.)*

Amy: I have had good conversations with Cheryl. I believe that she has new, fresh ideas and energy to see the organization grow and expand, including in Canada, where Cheryl resides. WAWH will remain registered in California for California taxes.

Jessica: Cheryl has US research interests.

Membership: She seems very accomplished.

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

MOTION approved unanimously.

### **5. Upcoming Vacancies, Executive Board for 2014-2015:**

Jessica urged members to think of whom they know and can recommend for the following positions *commencing now* and to contact her, Rebecca Plant, and members of the Nominating Committee. A nomination form is available on our website.

Network Editor

Graduate Student Representative

2015 Conference Program Co-chair

2015 Conference Program Co-chair  
2015 Local Arrangements Co-chair  
2015 Local Arrangements Co-chair  
Social Media Chair/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:**

Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize Chair  
Founders' Dissertation Fellowship Chair  
Judith Lee Ridge Prize Chair  
"Penny" Kanner Award Chair  
Gita Chaudhuri Prize Chair  
Frances Richardson Keller-Sierra Prize Chair

**6. Vote on Changes to Award Bylaws, President Jessica Weiss presiding**

*(Language from The Networker, Spring, 2014)*

There are five awards to which we would like to add, "Entries must be in English": the  
Barbara Penny Kanner Award, the Founders' Dissertation Fellowship, the Graduate  
Student Conference Paper Prize, the Judith Lee Ridge Prize, and the Keller-Sierra Prize.  
The sixth award, the Gita Chaudhuri Award, already includes this language.

DISCUSSION:

Membership: Does the AHA require this language? Otherwise it could seem offensive.  
Yes.

Jessica: This language is necessary so that committees can read the submissions.

Membership: suggests rewording: Use the word published or a similar word, and add "in  
English."

Jessica: Should we revise the wording of our CFP (call for papers)? "To be considered,  
all abstracts and papers must be in English."

MOTION: Accept the concept; let Amy work out the language.

MOTION APPROVED unanimously.

**7. Vote on Changes to the Constitution-Bylaws, President Jessica Weiss presiding:**

The rationale for these changes is a desire to lessen the burden on the Executive Director  
and to expand participation of the membership.

*(Language from The Networker, Spring, 2014)*

**A. First Change in language from the original text:**

Article IV Officers and Executive Board

*Section 4. The management of the business of the Association shall be vested in an  
Executive Board composed of the officers, the Immediate Past President, the Networker  
Editor, Graduate Student Representatives, and award committee chairpersons, or other  
representatives as appointed by the President and approved of by the officers. Each  
person appointed shall be a member in good standing, as stipulated in the By-Laws.*

**to the new text:**

Article IV Officers and Executive Board

*Section 4. The management of the business of the Association shall be vested in an Executive Board composed of the officers, the Networker Editor, the Digital Communication Coordinator, Graduate Student Representatives, the chair of the Conference Committee, award committee chairpersons, the Immediate Past President, or other representatives as appointed by the President and approved by the officers. Each person appointed shall be a member in good standing, as stipulated in the By-Laws.*

The website updating will require a new board position with a two-year term/ renewable: Social Media Person/Digital Communication Coordinator.

**B. Second Change in language from the original text:**

Bylaws of the Western Association of Women Historians

Article II Duties of the Officers

Section 3. The Executive Director shall:

*6. Be responsible for selecting, in cooperation with the president, and securing conference sites, drafting and circulating the call for papers, coordinating with the local arrangements chair, and the program chair.*

*7. Supervise the printing and mailing of program material.*

*8. Be responsible for overseeing conference registration.*

*9. Oversee the design, maintenance, and updates of the organizational web page.*

**to the new text:**

Bylaws of the Western Association of Women Historians

Article II Duties of the Officers

Section 3. The Executive Director shall:

*6. Be responsible for the following related to the annual conference:*

*a. Coordinate with the president and the Future Site Coordinator in the selection and securing of future conference sites.*

*b. Coordinate with the Program Production Coordinator in drafting and circulating the call for papers.*

*c. Coordinate with the Program Production Coordinator in creating and distributing the conference program.*

*d. Be responsible for conference pre-registration.*

*e. Coordinate with the Onsite Registration Coordinator in managing onsite conference registration.*

*7. Coordinate with the Digital Communication Coordinator in overseeing the design, maintenance, and updates of the organizational web page.*

*Background Information:* We have piloted a conference support committee that we are now formalizing. It consists of three members, with the chair 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.

**This revision will create additional positions on the Executive Board:**

- 1) Future Site Coordinator - position vacant for upcoming year.
- 2) Program Production Coordinator – position vacant for upcoming year.
- 3) Onsite Registration Coordinator - member continuing.

**C. Jessica expressed the desire to formalize the Nominating Committee**, which has been ad hoc. However, the necessary language to change the constitution was not published in the spring, 2014 Networker.

MOTION to approve the changes:

Membership: One member who has conference experience expressed concern that program production requires more than one year to figure out and that site selection can't be done long-distance.

Amy: The site selection coordinator will need to contact people who are in the sites being considered.

Use conference centers at universities where everything is in one place.

We have experimented successfully with this arrangement for two years.

MOTION APPROVED, with one abstention.