

SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-9

Financial

The goal of the President and the board this year was to bring expenses in line with our revenue. This began with creating a viable budget at our first meeting and has largely been adhered to. In addition, SOHA non-profit status was made current through the filing of IRS and California tax documents and California Secretary of State statements.

In the Spring of 2008, the board withdrew SOHA funds from the Bank of America. The Bank of America has different operating systems on the Pacific Coast from other states, such as Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico, creating problems for our organization. Wells Fargo was chosen for the checking account, primarily done on-line. The on-line account allows the President, Vice President and Treasurer to all see any withdrawals and checks written on the account, but each has his/her own password, so there is full accountability. The board investigated different institutions for stability and higher interest rates for those funds not needed for immediate use. Capital One had the best combination of a solid corporate rating and high interest rates. \$25,000 was put into Capital One.

At the annual business meeting in Tempe, Arizona, April, 2008, the membership authorized the SOHA board of directors to purchase liability insurance. This was done in the fall of 2008. The insurance protects the board in the course of performing their duties, except for criminal activity, and protects volunteers during events, such as at a conference. The cost is about \$1500 a year.

Constitution and By-Laws

The entire Constitution and By-Laws were discussed by the board at two meetings during 2008. Recommendations were made by the board for revision and those were sent out to members and put on the website. They were voted on by the general membership at the annual business meeting and approved.

Procedures

The procedures manual, started two years ago by President Jean Maria Arrigo, was kept current, as procedures developed in various areas, such as financial record keeping.

Conference

The site and program teams in the Los Angeles area worked together to produce the 2009 conference. Alva Stevenson was responsible for putting SOHA in touch with key people at the Doheny Memorial Library, University of Southern California, and the California African American Museum. Karen Harper and Gisela Shimabukuro selected the meeting rooms and made the arrangements. Miguel Juarez agreed to be program chair and continued even after he moved to El Paso in September. Dalena Hunter organized the tour and video on Leimert Park for the conference. Others on the program committee: Dale Sato, Anna Gee, Claude Zachary, Virginia Espino, Cathy Irwin, Dionne Espinoza, Karen Harper and Gisela Shimabukuro, found presenters, sent out PR, took charge of logistics and generally made it all work.

Electronic Delivery

Following the goal of Past President Joyce Marshall Moore, SOHA initiated delivery of the newsletter and other communications by e-mail to members who provided their e-mail addresses, about three-fourths of the members. This saved hundreds of dollars in print and postage costs. It also brought the important benefit of allowing us to reach members more quickly.

Board Members and Committee Chairs

Tom Walsh joined the board in late fall. He is a PhD student in History at Arizona State University. His previous job was to audit security dealers at Chase National Bank. We feel very fortunate to have Tom as treasurer.

Alva Stevenson writes excellent detailed minutes of our meetings for our records. She is also a conduit to the UCLA Center for Oral History, a valuable resource.

We are sad to lose Kathy Lehmer, our Membership VP. She is retiring soon and moving to Montana. Kathy transferred our membership records to an Excel database and updated the records. She also sent out membership renewal letters and published a directory, as well as kept the board informed on membership numbers.

Our state representatives, Claytee White in Nevada, Gisela Shimabukuro in California, and Jennifer Albin in Arizona, kept us up to date on oral history projects in their states. Maria Trillo was unable to continue being our new Mexican representative, due to her busy schedule, the distance, and lack of airport facilities near her home. However, Maria kept her ties with SOHA by including SOHA as a co-sponsor in her production of a mini-symposium on oral history in the Silver City, NM area in September, 2008. About eight speakers from various backgrounds told their research methods and results in a

cultural setting. Laraine Correll and Sarah Moorhead traveled to Southwest New Mexico to attend the symposium.

Past President Joyce Marshall Moore and Vice President Dan Killoren were available for policy discussions and decisions on SOHA business. Joyce was also chair of the archives committee, Mink Award and nominations committees. Dan was conference chair, which he managed long distance. Past President Karen Harper was also available for her knowledge of SOHA traditions and judgment.

Angelica Riveria was our student representative this year, a rotating position. The student is from the state in which the conference is located, so that the local college and university students can be encouraged to become involved in the conference.

Christine Marin chaired the Scholarship and Mini-Grants awards committee and Laraine Correll chaired the service awards committee. Anna Coor continued her work of the previous year, in which she led a team to develop the teacher award.

Jane Collings is the longstanding editor of the newsletter, compiling the articles on SOHA happenings. Chris Ervin has professionalized the formatting of the newsletter.

Amalia Reyes, one of the Eva Tulene Watt First Peoples' Scholarship award winners in 2008, invited SOHA President Sarah Moorhead and Past President Karen Harper to the opening of the Pascua Yaqui Library and Cultural Center in February, 2009. Karen and Sarah were pleased to attend the ceremony led by local VIPs and see the beautiful, well organized center.

The SOHA Board thanks the membership for the opportunity to serve SOHA this year.

Prepared by Sarah Moorhead

President 2008-2009

