

**SOUTHWEST ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Los Angeles, California**  
**March 29, 2009**

President Sarah Moorhead brought the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Program Committee members were introduced and thanked for the tremendous role each played in planning the conference.

**Approval of Minutes:** Copies of the minutes from the April 20, 2008 business meeting in Tempe were circulated. Everyone was asked to review them. Sarah asked how many attended the 2008 conference (7) in Tempe, Arizona. Claytee White moved that the minutes be approved and \_\_\_? Seconded the motion. All Approved.

**Membership Report:** Membership Chair Kathy Lehmer was sick and not in attendance. Sarah cited the membership numbers. Teachers in attendance were urged to tell their students about SOHA. Membership is a major source of revenue.

**Financial Report:** SOHA found a wonderful treasurer (Tom Walsh). There are details in the Annual Report on each board member's contributions. One goal for 2008-2009 was to bring expenses in line. The budget has been pretty stable. We do not have a lot of revenue but we are not going into the red. SOHA now has an online checking account which is really efficient. Three people (Vice President, Conference Chair, President and Treasurer) can view the status of SOHA finances online. **\$30,885** was the bottom line last year. We had to transfer the account out of Bank of America because the system in California differs from all other states. The account now resides at Wells Fargo with **\$6,642.90** the current amount. **\$25,358** is in the CapitalOne account at **1.67%** interest rate. The average national interest rate is **.5%**. Detailed information may be found in the Annual Report.

**Socially Responsible Investment:** Jean Maria Arrigo attended a meeting on socially responsible investing. She feels SOHA should move its account to a small community bank. Small banks have lower fees and are friendlier to poor people. Self-Help Federal Credit Union is an example of such a bank. They make responsible loans to people in lower socioeconomic brackets. Since SOHA is so community-oriented let us invest in a community bank. Dan Killoren asked if these banks are FDIC-insured? Yes they are. Claytee asked if they have online capabilities? It was suggested that SOHA divest from CapitalOne. Sarah indicated that at the time we transferred to CapitalOne it was the most stable institution and had the highest interest rate. Jean said that it is an ideological decision. She will identify an appropriate bank. Sarah asked about the differential in the interest rate between CapitalOne and a community bank and asked for a comparison to be done. Virginia Espino said that, while SOHA may not get monetary returns; there are other non-monetary rewards. Peter Rosenwald asked if our funds need to be liquid? Karen Harper moved that SOHA nominate Jean Maria to investigate socially responsible

investment options and empower the SOHA Board to make the final decision. Claytee seconded the motion. There will be communication between Jean Maria and the Board during the selection process. Karen made an amended motion to inform the SOHA membership by email before the final decision. Claytee seconded the motion and it was passed.

**Elections:** Sarah requested additional nominations from the floor. Dan Killoren said that Jennifer Albin sent an email proffering her resignation as Arizona Representative due to her uncertain employment situation. Do we want to remove her name from the slate? It was removed.

The **2009-10 Slate of Officers** was introduced:

<b>President:</b>	Dan Killoren
<b>Past President:</b>	Sarah Moorhead
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:</b>	Claytee White
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alva Moore Stevenson
<b>Arizona Rep:</b>	Vacant
<b>California Rep:</b>	Gisela Shimabukuro
<b>Nevada Rep:</b>	Vacant
<b>New Mexico Rep:</b>	Vacant
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tom Walsh
<b>Student Rep:</b>	vacant (Nevada student eligible)

SOHA is still seeking a New Mexico Representative. Attendees were asked to contact us with the names of prospective candidates. The term of state representatives is two years. The student representative is chosen from the state in which the conference is held, which enables them to be involved in the planning.

Jean Maria asked if persons from Texas and Northern California should be incorporated into the SOHA structure? Should we broaden the organization to include more states? It might be okay as long as the states do not belong to other regional groups. Sarah said SOHA has not heard from out-of-state persons who want to join. There is no reason why we cannot have out-of-region members. Would those states be incorporated into our conference rotation cycle? Miguel Juarez indicated that there is not a downside to out-of-region participation. We can do a lot online or in the virtual world. Sarah said there was more difference between urban and rural than from state-to-state. Our organization is the most diverse of the regional oral history associations. Miguel said that this issue gets into that of social networks, etc. Jean thought SOHA should not alter our meeting rotation but welcome participation from out-of-region participants. Dalena Hunter suggested that when we have a sizable number of out-of-region members; we then broaden the scope of the conference rotation cycle. Karen asked if SOHA should have an alliance with West Texas? Miguel said that El Paso is a gateway. There was a consensus that we not annex other states at this time.

Sarah asked for any nominations. All were in favor of the slate of officers and it was passed.

## **Constitution**

Sarah asked for any changes to the Constitution.. They were emailed and on the SOHA website. A Law Librarian (Ruth Levor) went through and produced a first draft. Items in italics/underline are the changes. Explanations are at the bottom of the page.

Revisions to Constitution:

- The organization does not engage in political activities
- The organization is not for private gain
- Change from *calendar* to *fiscal year* (we need to have conference budget reconciled before new slate of officers begins on July1)
- Membership wording changed to *calendar year*
- Name of *Executive Committee* changed to *Board*
- Addition of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (allows for more leadership development)
- Wording change from *Regional Representative* to *State Representative*
- Change to 2-year term
- Wording added for removal of Board members  
This process was put in place in case this becomes necessary. It is designed to be fair to the person. Mary Larson will be the mediator. Jean said it is really important to pass this because of past difficulties involving a Board member who had an allegiance to another organization.
- A majority of those qualified to vote constitutes a quorum

It says a lot that the current President facilitates the goal of the previous President and demonstrates a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Karen moved that the Constitution be passed with changes. Claytee seconded the motion. All approved..

## **By-Laws**

Revisions to By-Laws:

- A.1. changed to a different section
- Duties of the Officers
- Parliamentary Authority
- Nominations and Elections
- The process whereby an Amendment is facilitated
- Disposition of Assets should Organization fail
- 8. Anti-discrimination

Sarah asked for any discussion from the floor? Jean Maria referred to a previous discussion regarding SOHA Officers/ ineligibility for grants. Sarah asked if this should be part of the By-Laws? It should be part of Procedures. Karen moved that the By-Laws be approved, with changes. Claytee seconded the motion and all approved.

### **Awards**

Dan presented information on the 2009 awardees. The Eva Tulene Watt First Peoples award recipient is **Kelly Battese** who attended the entire conference. She is a Master's of Library Science student at University of Arizona. Her project focuses on interviews related to the Mammoth Mines. It is the biggest copper mine in the world and is outside of Tucson. Kelly is an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. We need to have more Native American students and scholars involved in SOHA. It should be a higher priority.

Sarah said that the Eva Tulane Watt donors had been anonymous but chose to become public a few months ago. They are Keith Basso and Mary Palevsky. We don't know if they will continue as donors. Sarah asked for any suggestions to continue the funding and said it was a pleasure to have Kelly at the conference.

### **Mini-Grants**

One recipient was the **Phoenix Museum of History**. The funding was used for a digital recorder to reinvigorate their oral history program. At **Aldo Leopold High School** in Silver City, New Mexico, the other award was used for integrating oral history into students' class work. The teacher came to the 2008 conference with Leon Brown, Jr, who was the recipient of last year's presidential discretionary award to attend the conference.

SOHA presented Sarah with a gift for her extraordinary presidential service.

The recipient of the **Teacher Award** is John Corona for a veterans oral history project at Martin Luther King High School in Riverside. He is a new SOHA member. The school is only ten years old and John teaches U.S. history. His students are studying WWII and the Korean War – the Cold War Era. Interviewees are recruited from the VFW and other sources. The project has now broadened to include other teachers and the Vietnam and Gulf wars. Also included are veterans from other countries such as Somalia and Grenada. For some veterans it is the first time they have told their wartime stories. Among the group has been two school board members. It puts a face on history for the students. They are trying to save these stories for posterity and are thankful to the veterans. They are also keeping the tone of the project apolitical. For now the stories of Iraq War veterans are being kept at arm's-length. Some Vietnam veterans are reticent to participate. Local funding support has come from the community i.e., Rotary Club.

## **2010 Conference**

Claytee reported that the 2010 conference will be held in Boulder City, Nevada which is twenty miles outside Las Vegas. The hotel was established when the Boulder Dam was built. UNLV will arrange transportation between the airport and the hotel. A theme has not been decided upon yet. Attendees will be pleased with the venue.

## **James V. Mink Award**

Jean Maria Arrigo is the recipient for her stellar work on oral histories with military intelligence officers.

## **New Business**

Susan Kitchens said she wrote a check for membership prior to the 2007 conference in Fullerton. She received acknowledgement of receipt but thus far none of the benefits. She took the liberty of registering for this conference as a member but abstained from voting at this business meeting. Susan wanted to know the path for membership renewal. Sarah responded that she knew someone else who dropped from the membership roll and apologized to Susan. She said that our changing of officers in July to follow the fiscal year, in stead of at the conference, should help prevent this.

Susan says she has worked with a national organization that wants to include regional organizations. How can this national website support SOHA? That group also exists to benefit regional organizations.

Jean Maria said that SOHA has a Procedures Manual and suggested the Program Committee augment and revise the conference section under "Governance" on the website. Miguel will poll Program Committee members and make suggestions for revisions. Jean Maria asked him to send them to Sarah.

A committee will be formed to incorporate Web 2.0 into the website. A call went out for volunteers. Susan will lead this committee. Karen will be on it, as well.

Sarah asked all new members to stand up. Miguel recruited many of them.

Auction items which were not bid on are available for a one dollar donation.

It was moved that the Business Meeting be adjourned and Claytee seconded that motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Alva Moore Stevenson  
Secretary  
March 29, 2009**

(Minutes are approved at the following year's annual meeting. The 2010 annual meeting will be on April 11 in Boulder City, Nevada.)