

AJHA General Member Meeting

Oct. 6, 2018 | Salt Lake City, Utah

President Dianne Bragg called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Janice Hume made an announcement that Wally Eberhard is gravely ill and asked members to keep him in their thoughts.

Nominations and Elections

Second vice-president candidates Tom Mascaro and Aimee Edmondson and board candidates Gerry Lanosga, Willie Tubbs, and Ken Ward gave their statements. No nominations were made from the floor.

Because there were three candidates for the three board seats, Debbie van Tuyl made a motion to elect the three board members by acclamation; Earnest Perry seconded. The membership approved. (Nominations and Elections Chair Nick Hirshon later reported that Aimee Edmondson was elected as second vice-president.)

2017 minutes

Candi Carter Olson made a motion to approve the 2017 meeting minutes; Pete Smith seconded. The membership approved.

Officer and Committee Chair Reports

President Dianne Bragg: AJHA is the beneficiary of a gift from Hazel Dicken-Garcia in the amount of \$25,000.

Treasurer Carolyn Edy: We are in great shape with \$165,000 in all accounts (includes journal funds and investments). We are doing more with Quickbooks, and more information is available on the website.

Finance Director Lisa Mullikin Parcell: We are in the black. Committees have requested to spend \$24,000, and we have \$7,400 to play with. Some expenses need to be paid still. We will figure out what all needs to be posted on the website.

Web Editor Erika Pribanic Smith: She is rotating out of the position after three years; Rich Shumate is taking over. They have been updating the site and built the convention site. A finance page is available and will be updated.

Registrar Ken Ward: Total registrations were 117; 112 attended. Attendance is on par with St. Petersburg and Oklahoma City.

American Journalism Editor Ford Risley: The journal had a successful year. Under the publishing arrangement with Taylor & Francis, we received \$14,000 in royalties in 2017, and they promote the journal at conventions. 13,472 articles were downloaded (a 9% increase). He is pleased with what they're doing to share our work. The website is frequently updated with author interviews and teaching with materials from the journal. The journal launched a Twitter account; he asked members to follow and promote the journal's work. Work continues on a special suffrage issue for spring 2019; a panel is scheduled for this afternoon with several of the authors. Thanks to Brooke Kroeger for her work

organizing. Two awards will be presented later in the meeting. Thanks to the editorial team of Vanessa Murphree, Reed Smith, Nick Hirshon, Ashley Walter, and the editorial board, and thanks to reviewers.

Awards Chair Mike Conway: He is in his ninth and final year as chair of the Awards Committee. Jean Palmegiano was this year's Kobre Award winner. Thanks to the Awards Committee: Janice Hume, Carolyn Kitch, Raluca Kozma, Aimee Edmondson, Earnest Perry, Dave Davies, and Harlen Makemson; many have been around the whole nine years. He praised the diversity of AJHA and noted that the last three Kobre winners were women.

Blanchard Chair Jane Marcellus (via Erika Pribanic-Smith): The online system for submitting and evaluating Blanchard entries continued to work well for the second year we've done it this way, providing more time for judges to read entries and the ability for all to be involved in the final selection, since we don't have to rely on postal mail. (In fact, we already have one for next year!) Following the system established by David Abrahamson and long in place, the selection committee continues to be made up of six AJHA members who comprise two "juries" of three. They are preferably somewhat senior scholars who have experience with graduate committees though not necessarily with PhD's, since that would create a conflict of interest for their own students. Committee members serve for three years. She would like to have more diversity of all kinds represented. If you would like to serve on this committee now or in the future, or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact Jane Marcellus. Also, if you advise doctoral dissertations, please do nominate your students!

Book Award Chair Aimee Edmondson: The committee is talking about going to a more Tankard-like format for next year. They definitely want to add a line in the call indicating the winner is expected to come to the conference. Ann Bourne is taking over for Aimee. The current format remains a conversation between winner and celebrity interviewer. Maurine Beasley will do the Q&A with Carolyn Edy later this afternoon.

Convention Sites Chair Caryl Cooper: She called for applause for the Salt Lake City local host committee; everyone pitched in and did a wonderful job. Thanks to LoWanda, who does a great job making the conference sing. Future dates are Dallas (Oct. 2-5, 2019), Memphis (Oct. 1-3, 2020), and Columbus, Ohio in 2021. The sites committee has talked about options for the future. They're trying to not always get into a top-tier city but a second-tier because more and less expensive options are available. They also try to make it easier with travel.

Graduate Student Chair Madeleine Liseblad: Her main duty has been as a cheerleader for AJHA, making students feel welcome so they want to come back, through communication, awareness, answering questions. The committee staffs check-in at the registration desk. They had a panel yesterday on community and local news. Fourteen people came to a student dinner. Students also wrote four testimonials in the Intelligencer. Thanks to everyone who donated for student travel; it was exciting to give out those big checks. She will be rolling off, and Patti Piburn (Arizona State) will take over.

Long-Range Planning Chair Dave Vergobbi: Convention hosts get a list of duties and responsibilities and learn about other things as they go. Last year the committee talked to other prior hosts and got further information. There will be an addendum to the constitution listing all duties and responsibilities so when you become a host you immediately have that reference; members will be voting on that next year.

Membership Co-Chair Candi Carter Olson: The committee has been talking about outreach to get people into the organization by reaching out to departments, but no one forwards the emails. A letter will go up on the website with the benefits of being a member; members are encouraged to download and hand it out. Members also are encouraged to tell the committee what would make the AJHA a useful organization for them. The committee plans to purchase AJHA swag as part of its marketing strategy.

Oral History Chair Pamela Walck: The committee tries to capture the oral histories of members and what they do, how they got involved in AJHA. The committee is looking at how to make Oral Histories more available; the incoming chair has some ideas.

Publications Chair Paulette Kilmer: Thanks to the publication committee for making sure things happen. They have loved working with Ford as editor of *American Journalism* and asked him to continue into a second term, but he has other projects; they will start a search for a new editor. The goal is to fill the position in the fall and have a transition year. Dane Claussen stepped down from the *Intelligencer*; he did a great job after taking over at the 11th hour, and we will always be grateful for his service. The new editor is Melony Shemberger from Murray State, who has many accomplishments in journalism.

Public Relations Chair Willie Tubbs: Thanks to the committee; they need more members, so let him know if you like to do PR. Their primary job is writing press releases; they wrote 15 releases this year and updated the Kobre Award page on Wikipedia. Thanks to everyone for quickly responding for quotes by email and to the officers for editing.

Research Chair Erin Coyle: Thanks to everyone for helping make this conference possible. We had 66 paper reviewers. Forty-one papers were submitted; one was disqualified for being previously published and presented at three other conferences, and one was withdrawn. Sixty-percent were accepted, 25 papers on the program for presentation. Twenty of the 29 submitted research-in-progress proposals were accepted for presentation, as were six of seven proposed panels. The board is going to look at new language for the paper call, making more clear that previous research falls outside of the rules. Please read the call carefully.

History in the Curriculum Chair Gerry Lanosga: Thanks to committee members for working on specific initiatives. The challenge is that it's a broad abstract concept and we have to boil it down to concrete tasks. They have documents that propose website language approved by the board to be posted online. The committee is doing some survey work. (Erika Pribanic-Smith gave an update on collection of survey data and asking for members to make sure to return the survey they've received.) The idea behind all of this is to have info to approach chairs and make a pitch for expansion of history in the curriculum. It's a great committee. They would love to have some students and more members. They really need a new chair.

Awards

Maurine Beasley Award for the Outstanding Paper on a Women's History: Winner: Natascha Roelsgaard, Ohio University; Runner-up: Bailey Dick, Ohio University; Runner-up: Pete Smith, Mississippi State University.

J. William Snorgrass Memorial Award for the Outstanding Paper on a Minorities Topic: Winner: Gwyneth Mellinger, James Madison University; Runner-up: Linda Lumsden, University of Arizona; Runner-up: Sara Browning, University of Maryland.

Jean Palmegiano Award for Outstanding International/Transnational Journalism Research: Winner: Debra van Tuyll, Augusta University.

Wally Eberhard Award for the Outstanding Paper on Media and War: Winner: Patrick S. Washburn and Michael S. Sweeney, Ohio University; Runner-up: Michael Fuhlhage, Tabitha Cassidy, Erika Thrubis, Darryl Frazier, Scott Burgess, and Keena Neal, Wayne State University; Runner-up: Harlen Makemson, Elon University.

Robert Lance Memorial Award for Top Grad Student Paper: Winner: Natascha Roelsgaard, Ohio University; Runner-up: Bailey Dick, Ohio University; Runner-up: Sara Browning, University of Maryland.

Wm. David Sloan Award for Top Faculty Paper: Winner: Gwyneth Mellinger, James Madison University; Runner-up: Patrick S. Washburn and Michael S. Sweeney, Ohio University; Runner-up: Debra van Tuyll, Augusta University.

McKerns Grants (out of seven applicants): Michael Fuhlhage, Wayne State University; Amy Mattson Lauters, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Raymond McCaffrey, University of Arkansas; Pamela Walck, Duquesne University.

Rising Scholar: Susan Swanberg, Arizona.

Best American Journalism Article: Tom Mascaro, Bowling Green.

Certificates for Outgoing Chairs: David Vergobbi (Long-Range Planning); Madeleine Liseblad (Graduate Students); Mike Conway (Awards); Aimee Edmondson (Book); Teri Finneman (Oral History); Pamela Walck (Oral History); Erika Pribanic-Smith (Web Editor).

Caryl Cooper received a plaque for planning the convention.

Dianne Bragg presented the President's Award to David Sloan and Carol Sue Humphrey. Carol Sue also was presented with a painting by Mike Sweeney and a booklet of memories from members in recognition for her many years of service as secretary.

Announcements

Michigan State University is looking for a department chair

The Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference will be in March with a full day of research in progress presentations

AJHA Southeast Symposium: Bring your students from all levels

AEJMC History Division has a new master's thesis award chaired by Amy Lauters; they need reviewers

The History Division also has a new Journalism History podcast, available on iTunes

Leadership Transition

Dianne Bragg presented a gavel and gifts to Ross Collins.

Ross presented Dianne with gifts and a plaque recognizing her service.

Earnest Perry moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.; Linda Lumsden seconded.