

**2018 Business Meeting
Western Association of Women Historians
50th Annual Conference**

The regular annual business meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians was held on Saturday, April 28th, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the University of Davis Conference Center.

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Thigpen, President; Ula Taylor, President-Elect; Sarah Gold McBride, Executive Director Elect; Lindsay Wilson, Secretary; Jennifer Robin Terry, Treasurer; Laura Ping and Susan Schmidt, Graduate Student Representatives; Susan Schmidt, 2018 Conference Local Arrangements Co-Chair; Abigail Feeley, Future Site Coordinator; Susan Wladaver-Morgan, Founders' Dissertation Fellowship Chair; Barbara Molony, Nominating Committee and 50th Anniversary Committee.

PROCEEDINGS:

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2017 Business Meeting Minutes

Announcements:

The International Association for Research in Women's History will meet in Vancouver August 9-13 at Simon Frazer University.

Our 50th anniversary celebration will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Portland next year.

Executive Board meeting: We voted to raise membership dues slightly.

It was suggested that we raise the life-time membership to \$550-600. We would announce the year in advance. This idea needs to go to the Executive Board.

Someone asked, "Why should we raise the fee for graduate students/low income people?" Answer: We had late graduate student withdrawals, as late as Monday. By raising the fee, we want to discourage withdrawals. We also encourage advisors to pay the fees for their students.

Election of New Board Member:

Sara Gold McBride as Executive Director

Executive Board Reports:

Jennifer Thigpen, President:

Jennifer seeks new board members for every prize committee, the local arrangements committee, 2 new program committee members, and a digital communications specialist.

Ula Taylor will be the co-AHA/PCB presenter for next year.

Jennifer met with graduate students.

Rebecca Plant reported that the transition to Jenny went smoothly.

Ula is shadowing Jenny.

Dissertations by Women Historians will be having a meeting in the fall.
We should link to them. We could have a panel at that meeting.

Sara Gold McBride for the Executive Director:

Sara described what Cheryl did: processed mail; advised treasurer; worked on membership; collected donations; managed Eventbrite; processed registration; wrote a column for *The Networker*; advised local chairs; coordinated conference and awards. As of the end of last year: 486 members; 224 members now. 188 people registered for the conference.

From the Floor: Ideas for Enhancing Communications:

Ask members retiring to write about their careers.

Ask for a 1st-timer's report.

Publish panel reports and some papers, especially those that address teaching and careers beyond academia.

Interview book authors prior to the book launch.

Reformat the *Networker*.

Reach out extensively to presses.

Lindsay Wilson, Secretary: Themes from Last Year's Meetings:

Should we solicit contributions to the *Networker*?

Ask members to join Facebook (219 are already members).

Create a mentorship environment on research and publishing, including all ranks.

Use the *Networker* for students to put together panels. This will bring better cohesion of panels.

Jennifer Terry, Treasurer

We transferred accounts from B of A to Chase, saving us \$300 in fees.

We pay a listing fee with the AHA. We voted to give the president the authority to decide if we should continue doing so. We may ask PCB to reciprocate.

From the floor: Try promoting our organization on Twitter/Facebook with hashtag historians. Our unrestricted funds are declining each year because WAWH has been subsidizing the conferences. Hotels charge a lot more for meals than do institutions.

The prize accounts are doing very well

Susan Wladaver-Morgan: The Fund for the Future

These grants will fund travel by graduate students, pay for honoraria for conferences, and support outreach. The group will contact all members to solicit donations.

They will request \$1 for every year WAWH has been in existence, i.e. \$50 for next year. Perhaps we could give each donor a free copy of the “Histories of the WAWH Historians 1969-1994” as an incentive.

The goal is to raise \$10k the first year. Minimum of \$200 from the president?

From the floor: Membership Fees and Registration

We should follow CCWH’s model for solicitations for funds: They offer lots of categories from which to choose.

We should preferably solicit membership fees at a different time than when we solicit registration fees. (Currently January-March is the time that we register).

From Pamela Stewart, Eventbrite Coordinator in absentia:

Pamela has streamlined Eventbrite.

There should be better coordination between the Eventbrite manager and the program committee.

Laura Ping, Graduate Student Representative:

Laura surveyed graduate students and found that they consider meals and hotels to be too expensive.

Graduate student mentoring is desirable. Students said that they are interested in how to present a paper and other career development.

We should ask how people are learning about WAWH: more likely by Facebook than by advertising.

To facilitate room sharing, we will try to get rooms with 2 queen beds vs 1 king.

Abby Feeley, Future Site Coordinator:

Next year’s conference will be from 4/25-27 2019 in Portland.

For the future, we should consider the U of Redlands for 2020. We could stay in a dorm.

If not, try to stay in the Ayres hotel.

Program Committee:

They have created forms and Google docs that can be renewed each year.

These docs are useful to create a pathway to chart changes in the program.

They request panels, not just single papers.

They would like people to apply for the book launch. They received 13-15 submissions this year.

The 50th anniversary committee is hoping to have 5 complete panels to fill.

We should have intergenerational panels, more teaching panels

and teaching secondary school panels, and more panels on careers outside academia.

Teaching surveys is a topic in which graduate students are particularly interested.

Maybe there should be a panel with lightning rounds during which the audience moves around a choice of teaching scenarios.

50th Anniversary Committee:

Let’s have tote bags in the registration packet; other items like t-shirts for a fee.

“Women with a past”

2017 Book Prizes:**Carol Gold Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize:**

Jaclyn Schultz, "William George's Junior Republic, Progressive Childhood and Capitalist Training as Cure."

Founders' Dissertation Prize:

Trish Kahle, "The Graveyard Shift: Mining Democracy in an Age of Energy Crisis, 1963-1981."

Judith Lee Ridge Prize:

Kelli Y. Nakamura, "Into the Dark Cold I Go, The Rain Gently Falling: Hawai'i Island Incarceration," *Pacific Historical Review*.

Chaudhuri Prize:

There was only one submission, which did not satisfy all the requirements of the Chaudhuri Prize.

Kanner Prize:

Lynn Marie Getz, *Abolitionists, Doctors, Ranchers and Writers: A Family Journey through American History*. University Press of Kansas.

Keller-Sierra Prize:

Sue Peabody, *Madeleine's Children: Family, Freedom, Secrets, and Lies in France's Indian Ocean Colonies* Oxford University Press.

Honorable Mention:

Karissa Haugeberg, *Women Against Abortion: Inside the Largest Moral Reform Movement of the Twentieth Century*, University of Illinois Press.