

**Minutes of the Business Meeting of the
Central States Anthropological Society
Saturday, April 10, 2010 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Pyle AT&T Lounge, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI**

Approved April 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

President Buckner called the meeting to order at 12:53 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Margaret Buckner

President Buckner welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new officers who were present, including Azizur Molla, Jon Wagner, and student representative Audrey Ricke. She thanked outgoing board members Kathleen Adams, Cindy Hull, and Claude Jacobs for their service.

Dr. Buckner recognized the 2009 CSAS Award Recipients as follows:

White award: Sarah Trabert, University of Iowa

Dillingham award: none given in 2009

Graduate Student Paper award: Joseph Weiss, University of Chicago

Undergraduate Student Paper award: Mary Benedetto, University of Akron

Reporting on actions taken by the Board of Directors at its Thursday evening meeting, Dr. Buckner turned the podium over to Dr. Alice Kehoe, who described the special testimonial award that the board had approved for presentation to Dr. John Messenger in recognition of his 50 years of service to CSAS. The certificate was presented to him on his 90th birthday, April 2nd.

Dr. Buckner then turned the podium over to Dr. Harriet Ottenheimer who announced that Dr. Justine Cordwell's offer to subsidize the modification of six pairs of CSAS earrings had been accepted by the board.

Dr. Buckner then turned the podium over to Dr. Nancy Eberhardt who presented Dr. Paul Durrenberger's resolution. After considerable discussion the resolution was accepted (M/S/P Hopkins/Dow; 25 for, 0 against, 5 abstaining) and Dr. Feinberg was directed to bring Dr. Durrenberger's resolution to the Section Assembly as quickly as possible. [Copy of resolution attached to minutes]

Dr. Buckner reported on actions taken by the Board of Directors at its December 2009 meeting in Philadelphia, including the approval of a "retired" membership category (\$10) and an introductory membership rate of \$10 (\$5 for students). The board has also decided to number our conferences to reflect the historical age of the the CSAS; the 2011 conference will be our 90th anniversary conference.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT -- Harriet Ottenheimer

The minutes of the April 2009 business meeting were summarized and approved. (M/S/P Guinee/Molla)

At the end of 2009 CSAS had \$25,370.10 (up from 15,641.46 at end of 2008); the white award fund was up to \$17,920.71 (\$500 was awarded in 2009); the Dillingham award fund was up to \$17,235.91 (no award in 2009). Membership was 208 (up from 203 at end of previous year but note that March membership numbers were 216 and at least seven people joined at the conference). Twenty-five expirations are coming at the end of April. Members were reminded to renew as early as possible in the month of their expiration so that AAA can process the renewals in time for inclusion in the following month's list. Dr. Kaplan suggested that the Secretary send reminders to those individuals to renew. The treasurer's report was accepted (M/S/P Adams/Guinee).

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Robert Ulin

Dr. Ulin reported that 295 people had registered for the 2010 conference. He thanked Dr. Buckner for her assistance with the program.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - H. Sidky

Dr. Sidky was not present. No report was given.

Dr. Buckner announced that she has begun preliminary arrangements for the 2011 CSAS meeting which will be held in Iowa City, April 7-10. Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh has agreed to be the distinguished speaker for the 2011 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - Alice Kehoe, Alan Sandstrom

Dr. Alan Sandstrom reported on the results of the 2009 elections (2nd vp-elect: P. Nick Kardulias; Nominations: Alice Kehoe; Board: Azizur Molla, Jon Wagner).

Dr. Sandstrom presented the 2010 slate

2nd vp-elect: Bill Guinee

Nominations: MaryCarol Hopkins, Claude Jacobs

Board #1: Douglas Kline, Willie McKether

Board #2: Nobuko Adachi, Angela Glaros

introducing those who were present (Guinee, Hopkins, Jacobs, McKether, Adachi).

The slate was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Ottenheimer and Dr. Cordwell reported that they had experimented as directed with improving the way the CSAS logo earrings hang. Two methods were tried: moving the posts higher and replacing the posts with shepherd's hooks. The first method has been chosen. Dr. Cordwell will subsidize this modification for six pairs of earrings.

NEW BUSINESS

See above for action on the Durrenberger resolution

NECROLOGY - moment of silence

Dr. Anderson mentioned the passing in January 2009 of Dr. Jack Wadell, a member of the Anthropology Section/Department at Purdue University who had retired in 1995.

MEETING THANK YOUS

Thanks were extended to the Anthropology Department, University of Wisconsin – Madison;; the 2010 Program Chair: Robert Ulin (Rochester Institute of Technology); the local arrangements person: Katherine Bowie; the Pyle Center Staff, in particular Marty and Hope on the third floor; the distinguished speaker: Neil Whitehead, and to all the conference participants at the 2010 CSAS conference.

CHANGE OF PRESIDENCY

Dr. Buckner handed the gavel to Dr. Ulin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Ulin

Dr. Ulin announced that the 2010 Student Paper Competition is accepting submissions. The deadline is May 3 and papers should be sent to Dr. Nick Kardulias

Dr. Ulin announced that the 2010 White & Dillingham awards are accepting applications. The deadline is April 23 and papers should be sent to Dr. Margaret Buckner

Addresses are in the program and on the CSAS website.

MOVE TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Appendix

RESOLUTION

Whereas the AAA has a history of supporting UNITE HERE workers in the San Francisco lockout of 2004 and in negotiations during 2006.

Whereas the best way to support the people and places that host our annual meetings is for the AAA to switch from Conference-Direct, a for-profit meeting planner, to INMEX, a non-profit, union-friendly, planner that helps professional organizations (such as the American Studies Association and the Democratic National Committee) plan meetings, and use their "hotel spend" in a socially conscious manner.

Be it resolved that AAA will use INMEX as its conference planner.

BACKGROUND:

From Durrenberger email, dated 3/8/2010

Colleagues, we recently discussed our stand on labor matters, and now I'd like to open another facet of that discussion. You may remember that we sponsored the original resolution to the Section Assembly that the AAA should meet only in union hotels as a means of using our collective spending in a socially responsible way. That passed resoundingly and became AAA policy. Then in 2004 the AAA canceled its meeting in the San Francisco Hilton because it had locked out its workers. Again in 2006, when we were scheduled to meet in that same hotel, they were still refusing to negotiate with the union that represents the workers, mostly minorities and women. Again AAA canceled its contract and moved the meeting. After that, there was an item on a mail ballot to change the policy from a requirement that AAA meet only in union hotels to a "strong preference" to meet in union hotels. That passed and became policy. That was important because AAA staff and leadership were contemplating meeting in New Orleans, where no large hotels have staffs that are represented by unions. The idea, of course, was to "help" New Orleans reconstruct by bringing our buying power there. The problem was that as Naomi Klein points out in Shock Doctrine, what is really going on there is corporate hijacking of the local economy and freezing out of all unions. So that turns out to be a move that helps no one but large corporations, no matter how good the motives of AAA leadership may have been.

Also in the wake of the events of 2004, AAA formed a Labor Relations Commission on which I served. That commission advised strongly and repeatedly against meeting in New Orleans. Our advice was rejected and the whole commission was side lined and made irrelevant by not having any advisory or policy making role in AAA. Then it became a permanent committee and the president appointed a chair, Mike Chibnik. At that time Mike asked LRC members what the pressing matters were and we all responded.

Meanwhile the main union that organizes hotel workers, UNITE-HERE recognized that one of the problems was that associations have no way to really understand the status of labor issues across the country, especially as they involve hotel workers. They also recognized that it's a very complex matter to organize such meetings. It's so complex that AAA hires the services of a firm to do it. That firm is a for profit firm that was organized by ex-Hilton executives. It is called Conference Direct. So UNITE-HERE organized a different conference planning operation called INMEX (for INformed MEeting

eXchange) (<http://www.inmex.org/>), a not-for-profit organization. When that happened, before the AAA New Orleans decision, the LRC recommended repeatedly that AAA use INMEX instead of Conference Direct to organize our meetings. These folks have to make sure there is a room for each function-- business meetings, academic sessions, sleeping rooms and be sure the hotel gets paid and so on...it's no small task. So Conference Direct is for profit and at least informally Hilton connected whereas INMEX is not for profit and explicitly aimed at supporting labor.

AAA staff has consistently refused to use INMEX.

So now there's a new LRC. The old LRC advised Mike C. to move AAA to use NMEX. There has been no motion in over a year.

I won't go to New Orleans. For me it's a matter of principle. I won't participate in that kind of event.

But that's not the point. The point is to move AAA to use NMEX in planning its future meetings. These meetings are planned way out into the future for as much as ten years. But time flies, and there's always "the year after that." I and some AAA colleagues with interests in labor issues want to move AAA to use NMEX.

Therefore, we are proposing that the CSAS once again lead the way by starting a resolution to the section assembly. I've written to Rick, our SA rep about this and he's suggested a board discussion and vote. The resolution I have in mind would be simple and read like this:

RESOLUTION

Whereas the AAA has a history of supporting UNITE HERE workers in the San Francisco lockout of 2004 and in negotiations during 2006.

Whereas the best way to support the people and places that host our annual meetings is for the AAA to switch from Conference-Direct, a for-profit meeting planner, to INMEX, a non-profit, union-friendly, planner that helps professional organizations (such as the American Studies Association and the Democratic National Committee) plan meetings, and use their "hotel spend" in a socially conscious manner.

Be it resolved that AAA will use INMEX as its conference planner.

We think this would be most effective if it could be discussed and voted on by the Section Assembly well before the New Orleans meeting. We also plan to submit a resolution for the Business Meeting in New Orleans. At the same time, we plan to work with the new LRC.

So I herewith move that the CSAS board authorize Rick as our representative to SA to submit this resolution.

With warm regards to all,

EPD