

NERWHA Executive Council
Fall Meeting, 9/16/17
Middlesex Community College, Lowell Campus

Present:

David Kalivas, President	David Northrup, Vice-president	David Burzillo, Treasurer
Angela Lee	Whitney Howarth	Robert Pelletier
Thanasis Kinias	Heather Streets-Salter	Kerry Vieira
Sana Tannoury-Karam		

Absent: Al Andrea (Secretary), Michele Louro, Bryan Sheckman

NB: In the secretary's absence, Dave Burzillo and Angela Lee kept the minutes. This report is a blend of their notes.

President Kalivas called the meeting to order at 9:53 AM.

DK made a motion that the minutes of previous meeting be adopted, TK seconded. Passed unanimously.

1. Announcements

Deaths of Michele Forman and Adam McKeown were noted. Various members commented on the impact of these two world historians on them personally and the field in general. DB will post notices about each on website when available. Angela shared Michelle's; nothing for Adam yet. WH noted that a November memorial was scheduled at Columbia for Adam.

2. Secretary's Report

DK motioned that the Secretary's Report be adopted, TK seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

\$7081.05 currently in Paypal and Citizen's accounts. Largest expense last year was the WHA cocktail reception, so funds are down a bit, but next three symposia will be supported by hosting institutions. NERWHA Fall Symposium will be supported by Salem State. Thirteen people have registered already for the Fall Symposium. Current membership stands at twenty-seven paid members. Many members pay their dues when they register for the spring symposium, so the fact that we did not have a spring symposium may have affected renewals. Some discussion followed about growing membership and how to incentivize becoming a member. Paypal changed its encryption, but no one has had trouble registering for the symposium or paying dues, and there has been no interruption in our access to our funds.

DK motioned that the Secretary's Report be adopted, TK seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. Website and Social Media

Discussion of the current state of the website, social media, and the interface of them. DB reported having updated many sections of the website during the past year and has been editing materials on the Eventbrite website for the purpose of collecting dues and symposia registrations. Has not experienced any challenges in working with either. As a result, DB does not anticipate the need for expenditures for website updates or tech services in the near future. TK is helping out the WHA with its website this year and offered to help update/improve NERWHA site, and KV also offered support. WH noted parts of the website still in need of update. It was noted that it would be good to install a counter to get a sense of how many visitors the website gets. AL agreed to help with updates and work on Twitter handle. ST-K talked about the need for clearer connection of website and social media (Facebook, etc....). WH made the helpful distinction between the website (our "archives") and our social media (how we connect in real time with our members). In terms of how to attract viewers to the website and social media feeds, ST-K suggested links to NU podcasts (Breaking History) could be shared on the website. AL (current moderator) said she would invite other EC members to be moderators of our Facebook. TK suggested that we should discuss appropriate posts if we expand the moderator pool. HS-S suggested posting member activities and events happening in the area.

5. Dues for the Coming Year

Membership dues were revisited in light of a comment about graduate student subventions. You have to be a NERWHA member to take advantage of these. ST-K/HS-S/TK noted that the membership fee is very low and paying it shows commitment. Just need to require small level of commitment. Consensus of group was opposition to free membership to full-time students.

The EC voted to adopt the following membership dues structure - Student membership: \$15; regular membership:\$25 (with the option to pay for up to 3 years in advance, but with no discount)

6. Elections/EC

A number of members commented on the importance of reaching out to others, going beyond the core group to fill executive council positions.

7. November Symposium Update

DK reported that planning for the Fall 2017 at Salem State was well-in-hand. Committee members are currently working on menu and catering.

8. Future Symposia Update: MIT and BB&N

DK presented a brief update on the status of MIT symposium. WH asked if there was room for other papers/panels at the symposium. This led to a lengthy discussion of the symposium planning process. The Program Committee is really a committee one at this point, with AA doing all of the heavy lifting. Ideally the committee for a typical symposium consists of three people: a representative from the host school, AA, and DK. What is the procedure? Discussion of the uniqueness of the MIT event, where they have a strong idea of what they want to do, involving their new online resource archive. MIT is driving the program and paying for the entire symposium. We want to get other universities involved in NERWHA, beyond NU and SSU, which have been very generous and supportive, and this seemed like a good outreach opportunity. They approached us. DK noted that the decision had been made by the EC at its previous meeting to give MIT greater control over the program than is normally the case for the host institution. WH asked that AA review this with Jeff Ravel of MIT and noted her objection to not opening up for CFP.

DK provided a brief update on the Fall 2018 conference at BB&N. The conference theme will be "Cities in World History," and BB&N will be providing a subvention, which includes food and beverages.

Discussion followed about future symposium sites. DN reminded the EC about his previous discussions with Melanie Murphy about the potential for a symposium at Emmanuel College. DB noted that AA had suggested Boston College High School as a venue. A possible future theme of Religions in World History was suggested.

HS-S noted that the process for identifying locations and conference planning has been working well overall, and it seems that NERWHA will always have Northeastern and Salem State as options. It was noted that we have held symposia in Maine, VT, and RI . and that going to NH would be good for a future symposium. Didn't get as many people from the core groups at those more distant locations, but had a lot of folks from those local areas. Whoever the local host is, they have to be able to draw local people.

In further discussion the following points were made: NERWHA must plan symposia two to three semesters ahead of time, making it challenging to respond to current events. How can we be more responsive? KV suggested moderating events, discussions, that attendees come prepared to discuss in a way that is meaningful. HS-S proposed asking people to have read a common reading/article that could be discussed. DK said that we could make better use of social media and H-World to cover current events. DN noted the importance of discussing the current issues infusing our historical study but also noted the importance of differentiating what we think/do as individuals and what we think/do as an organization. ST-K suggested writing letters in support of certain communities, similar to the WHA letter that came out, which could go through WHA channels. DK suggested that NERWHA members could help in sharing historical analysis to give context when issues arise. HS-S added the idea of the importance of professional historians contextualizing what events may mean and linking how history is

relevant. She reminded that monuments are NOT our history. TK reminded us that we need to be careful not to take positions on partisan politics. Other comments suggested that we could use social media to advertise events, like Teach-ins, or recordings, or articles...

9. Archives

DB reported that NERWHA archives had been transferred to the Northeastern University Archives, and that DK had completed paperwork transferring control of those materials to NU. HS-S noted that the Northeastern University Archives had also received a much larger collection of materials relating to the work of the World History Center from Pat Manning.

10. WHA Stewardship

Discussion on ongoing support of WHA and continuation of \$500 annual contribution. EC voted unanimously to make a donation for the current year. KV expressed appreciation on behalf of WHA.

11. Prizes and Subventions

After discussion of the complexities of establishing a suitable process for awarding a \$100 prize to recognize the best paper at a symposium, the proposal was voted down.

The graduate travel subventions were discussed. For the WHA meeting in Ghent NERWHA contributed \$1025 and \$975 was collected in donations. NERWHA made three awards: one of \$1000 and two of \$500. Discussion of logistical issues of subventions followed. It was noted that a domestic airline ticket can vary from \$300 - \$700. DB noted that grants could vary case by case and year by year. KV noted that Milwaukee will be cheaper for students, and they will have access to Marquette residence hall. There was some discussion of whether or not NERWHA should request an itemized accounting of what they would need.

Motion: NERWHA will award a minimum of \$500 for a graduate student, and NERWHA member in good standing, and who will presenting at the WHA Annual Meeting, for travel-related expenses, on a case-by-case basis. Passed unanimously.

Discussion followed about expanding the program. DB asked about the overall goal of the program. Who should get support for the subvention? Is it just to help out graduate students, or should we open this up to the fully employed as well? TK noted that it would be good to open this up to adjuncts, but noted that deciding who should get the awards could get complicated. HS-S asked if we could afford to offer a \$500 award for scholars, educators. In other words, can we afford to commit to grad students AND faculty? DB noted that institutional support for upcoming symposia will help NERWHA grow its funds. DN noted the challenge of setting up another category and organizing a committee to make decisions. WH noted we could make a procedure of an application that wouldn't be need based. It would require submission of a proposal, and

funding would be contingent upon acceptance of paper by WHA. Discussion then focused on the WHA Scholarship Committee and whether NERWHA could ask the WHA to administer the process then place stipulation that it has to be a NERWHA member? KV said she would bring it to WHA for discussion.

Motion: NERWHA will award a \$500 subvention to a full-time teacher, including adjuncts, who is a NERWHA member in good standing, and who will be presenting at the WHA Annual Meeting, for travel-related expenses, on a case-by-case basis. Passed unanimously.

The process for determining the recipient of this award was tabled pending feedback from KV on whether the WHA Scholarship Committee could assume this responsibility.

President Kalivas adjourned the meeting at 12:07