

NERWHA Executive Council Meeting
Saturday, September 7, 2013
Middlesex Community College

Present:

Michele Louro
James Diskant
Mary Jane Maxwell
David Kalivas
Lincoln Paine
Roland Higgins (morning)
Al Andrea
Heather Streets-Salter
Dane Morrison
Tom Rushford
Angela Lee
David Burzillo
Jeremy Greene (afternoon)

9:00 AM

NERWHA President Michele Louro began the meeting with a welcome and thank you for carving out time on a Saturday for this important day. She offered cautious optimism that our membership will grow due to the growth and success of our past symposia -- there were 65 attendees at Salem symposium in the spring. To date, NERWHA has thirty-one members who pay dues and Michele asks "how can we make all members pay dues?" She invited the Executive Council (EC) to capture our current enthusiasm and think about how to get new members -- or get past members to pay dues. Her second point was to renew support for NERWHA's commitment to the WHA. She also asked the EC to move forward as a professional organization. To that end, NERWHA officers and Al Andrea met in June to reflect on the NERWHA Constitution where they proposed changes for the EC to consider and vote to approve or amend. Finally, Michele thanked the EC for taking the time to meet for a one-day retreat and proposed that we do this once a year, rather than rush to meet the mornings of the symposia. At the annual retreat we would thoughtfully discuss our vision for NERWHA. She summed up with a note on where we've been, where were going, and her desire to strengthen existing programs.

I. Officers Reports

Michele Louro reiterated that the NERWHA officers and Al met in June and made some proposed constitutional changes on the role and responsibilities of officers. She stated that we'll focus on this later in the afternoon.

Jim noted that he asked, "What is the role of a vice-president?" in June. He is not going to take over as president; his role, rather, will be a liaison to the WHA and the VP will assume tasks delegated to him or her.

Mary Jane reported that we currently we have \$4,018.84 in the bank and checks for about \$350.00 still not deposited. Michele commented that registration for symposia generates our greatest revenue and wants to make sure that future host institutions do not cost us money. Dane noted that NEHA has \$25,000 in the bank (a 50 year organization) and Al remarked that it's a common model to have a profit-making symposia with free access to venue and AV.

Angela Lee gave the Outreach report for Nick Russell (not present). We all congratulated Nick for receiving a grant for a year in Spain! She offered Nick's proposals:

1) Outreach wants to expand on his current list of schools and organizations that Nick send info to like NEHA, Council for Social Studies, NETA. Tom Rushford offered Center for History and New Media at George Mason. Angela remarked on the importance of AP world history. David Kalivas reminded us that right now Nick has forty-four organizations, high schools and colleges.

Commented [A.L.1]: Burzillo

Tom asked for a password protected page to post information to members since the purpose of the list is to communicate and exchange ideas.

2) Angela stated that Outreach is struggling to get more high school teachers involved -- currently only eleven members. Heather remarked that NERWHA must make sure to give teachers continuing ed credit at each symposium. We reflected that we get lots of teachers to attend symposia, but they rarely join. Al stated that the eleven teachers in NERWHA mirrors the 12% high school teacher membership at the WHA. It's typical. We reminded the group that we do give credit at our symposia and it's relatively easy to set-up. David Burzillo stated that the symposia topics MUST appeal to teachers and to make sure to offer the credit.

David Kalivas stated that we will get new members at the symposia if we have the forms there for new members to sign up.

Discussion over whether or not the location in Burlington will result in fewer participants due to the distance from the greater Boston area. We will have to wait and see.

Roland stated that if after a year or two our current NERWHA organizational model is not working, he recommends using the Association for Asian Studies model which has five or six regions. The regional officers are elected by the national officers and there is a yearly regional meeting. The national organization selects the symposia sites and also selects the keynote speaker. Whoever hosts the symposium is also the chair of the symposium. He expressed disappointment that although what Nick is doing is fantastic, he spoke with a grad student at BU who did not even know about NERWHA.

Michele reminded us that grad students are our future and we need them to contribute to the EC. Northeastern has a great presence at NERWHA and she asked Malcolm to reach out to the BU grad community. Mary Jane mentioned that all colleges and universities in the New England receive fliers and notification of our symposia. Heather also remarked on Harvard's Weatherhead Center and she wants NERWHA to network with them -- the contact is a grad student named "Holger." Discussion about connecting with other grad programs in the New England region.

Jim asked if NERWHA's annual donation of 10% should be mandated on all WHA affiliates, but consensus was that we could probable not impose that order. NERWHA should assertively recruit grad students and make sure that all symposia integrate pedagogy with scholarship. Al also remarked that NERWHA could reach out to other disciplines to coordinate symposia.

Tom Rushford proposed using PayPal on our website (\$5.00 a month to keep it internal on our NERWHA site). We all agreed it's a great idea! Let's do it!

Al's report on the October Symposium at UVM will include a "goodie bag" and that publicity is forthcoming, including fliers on the NERWHA website, an announcement to H-World, and he asked us all to distribute fliers to colleagues. UVM is paying for a catered Indian lunch and snacks (we all thanked and congratulated Al for this) and he is searching for two people to chair panels. Mary Jane and Heather volunteered to chair two sessions. Al announced that Felipe will also give a free Thursday afternoon lecture in the Waterman Lounge.

Discussion over which New England state produces the best maple syrup? Hands down that no state can compare to Vermont.

Michele wants to get the NERWHA webpage set up for Paypal and she thanked Al and Holly-Lynn for all their terrific work at UVM.

Lincoln discussed the April 5 Spring Symposium at Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, Maine. The facility he has approached overlooks the Portland Harbor (fantastic view) and can hold 60 people comfortably but has the capacity for 80. It's an eight bedroom student run site and he will get some subvention. The cost is \$32.45 per person for 60 people. The topic is "Maritime History in World History" and potential sponsors and supporters include the Maine Maritime Museum -- a 19th century shipyard in Bath and he (of course) knows the librarian. There is also the Ocean Map Library, the OEE editor for the history of cartography, and the Maine Historical Society who may wish to participate. When he mentioned the need for a keynote speaker a few names were thrown around, but the EX Council unanimously came to the obvious conclusion the LINCOLN was the best choice for the keynote speaker. He accepted. The keynote should contain a Lesson Plan and Al recommends that we send it to the WHA for the Teaching Page and Teaching Prize. We discussed the need for a GIS panel and to get the local high schools involved. Tom Rushford is working on the GIS panel, and Mary Jane gave him a name. Discussion on the importance of the mix of pedagogy and research. Christine Swiot is teaching a Maritime course at Georgia State and she should be contacted to present at the conference.

Michele stated that it made sense to get a local program committee, and Lincoln said that he was aware of two adjuncts who may be interested. She called for volunteers for the Spring 2014 Program Committee which will be chaired by Dane Morrison, and the other committee members will include Angela Lee, David Bruzillo, and Tom Rushford who will also help Lincoln with the Lesson Plan. Michele asked that the Call for Papers should go out soon and requested that someone contact H-Grad and other organizations with a "SAVE THE DATE" April 5 notice. *(Will Outreach do this? MJM)*

Commented [A.L.2]: David Kalivas and Al Andrea for the Program Committee. Dave Burzillo and I will work on the Lesson plan.

Commented [A.L.3]: Yes, we will do a SAVE the Date as planned in late fall after Program committee has come up with a CFD (in November?)

Tom Rushford gave the webmaster report and he recommended that the development and membership content should be proactive. He would like to see a reason for members and others to go to the site on a regular basis. For that to occur, he suggested, then the site must be updated regularly. It needs more social media connections and he noted no movement in Linked In and Facebook. Angela noted Facebook has 61 likes and that it needs more posts and content. Tom suggests that NERWHA develops a new strategy for the webpage such as posting regular dates and regular new content.

Lincoln introduced us to the "Hug, hug, punch" strategy to get more members. Jim asked for a weekly email, Mary Jane reminded Council of the need for a regular newsletter, and Tom suggested that the newsletter should have a design template and that someone should be in charge of it. Who is in charge of the newsletter?

Michele recommended a closer relationship between the social media sites and the webpage and Tom reminded us that we should post the new book by Lincoln and new article in JWH by Heather. Jim said we ought to send out an update every six weeks for the webpage. Tom reiterated the need for a single sheet design template -- an "eblast."

Michele requested that before we blast our members we need to first send out notice for the upcoming NERWHA elections.

Discussion on which company makes the best Greek yogurt? Page is good, but lacks sufficient milk-fat. Again, Vermont produces a 10% milkfat Greek yogurt via Cabot -- the clear winner in the Greek yogurt, or any dairy related, department.

Discussion over the need to create a members-only page that is password protected that contains the NERWHA minutes, outreach data etc.. That's incentive to become a member. Discussed the possibility as well as the pros and cons of printing book reviews and short papers on the NERWHA newsletter. Angela reminded the EC that Howard gave us his paper and that Trevor gave us his book -- there should be incentives to become a member and access a "member only content page" on the NERWHA webpage. Michele stated that a goal will be to announce at UVM another incentive to become a member -- access to the members only content site on our webpage.

Discussion about future possibility to make some symposia live-cast for a fee. This is a topic to bring up at the business meeting at UVM and, perhaps, we'll record the spring symposium. At the business meeting at UVM Michele will bring up the website ideas.

Angela continued her Outreach report, and Tom Rushford volunteered to join the Outreach committee. We all agreed that Twitter was not appropriate for NERWHA's purposes.

Michele moved us to the Constitution and she highlighted the proposed changes on the projector.

Heather, Whitney, and Dane will make up the Nominations Committee. Members can self-nominate. Heather asked that all nominees provide a one-page CV and a short statement. Al stated that the newly elected EC will be made up of 2 one-year posts; 3 two-year posts; and 3

three-year posts plus the three officers. Discussion on whether or not past-presidents were ex-officio members to the EC?

Heather motioned to approve that past-presidents were made EC ex-officio members and David Burzillo seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Michele proposed a site selection committee to plot out the next three symposia (we should always stay three ahead). Al will chair the committee joined by Mary Jane and Jim Diskant as committee members. Al recommended that we look at Providence, Rhode Island as a site and Heather volunteered Northeastern for Spring 2015. Al recommended to set guidelines for the committee.

LUNCH (really good pizza)

Resume meeting

Discussion over whether or not NERWHA needs an institutional home and how much we can count on grad students to assist organizing the events. Michele announced that Salem State will not be the institutional home -- the Dean (our supporter) left. We agreed that what is ideal for NERWHA symposia is a free venue and some subvention. Discussion on whether or not an institutional home is necessary and the problem when the key person leaves; we can become overly dependent on one person who can leave a post and leave NERWHA without a home. Heather will approach Northeastern about committing to hosting a NERWHA symposium every two years and it may be in combination to the NE global history seminar already in place. Discussion that we cannot overwork grad students at these events, but nonetheless their involvement in NERWHA activities and the EC is vital to the sustainability of NERWHA.

Michele made a motion to make Northeastern the institutional home and David Kalivas seconded the motion. Motion passed. Heather said that she will approach NE and ask for venue and space. Start small with goodwill and then grow. But we can't overtax the grad students who are already overworked.

Michele brought up the Student Prize Committee and the EC decided to table offering money until after we see the revenue from UVM symposium.

Discussion again over having grad students publishing book reviews on NERWHA website. Heather remarked that she already has grad students writing book reviews in her methodology course and that these can be published on NERWHA site. David also reminded the EC that H-World publishes book reviews.

Michele asked about the status of the Mentoring Program? Al stated that it had not gone anywhere. Tom suggested that a Google hangout might increase activity. Mentors could post their CV and experience and could hold an "office hour" on the Google site. Decision to pass around a sign-up sheet at UVM to gauge whether or not NERWHA members are interested. Al will compose the questionnaire and, if there's interest, Tom can quickly set-up the Google hangout so we don't lose momentum after the symposium.

Discussion that at the UVM meeting we must push membership at the beginning and end of the day, and also ask about future venues -- ask for comments and follow up with an email to members.

Heather recommended that we always have some invited panelists at our future symposia because we are not always successful by accepting everyone who proposes a paper. Also she recommended a roundtable to discuss the top ten most important books in world history. This is a way to make sure that the symposia keeps its focus on *world history*. We can do the same with a roundtable on world history pedagogy.

Michele requested that NERWHA should have its own member panels at the WHA, NERC, NEHA and NETA. Jeremy asked us to look for the NETA spring 2014 exhibition at Holy Cross on "American Encounters with Asia." Pat Johnston is the contact.

Mary Jane offered to chair a panel at the WHA on Imperialism with Heather, Whitney and Michele presenting their papers. Michele requested we make up a NERWHA panel for the NEHA spring conference.

Heather also suggested that we invite other organizations to send representatives to NERWHA symposia, and AI added that we could offer reciprocity as a token of collegial amity.

Angela will send out an "eblast" and registration forms to all forty-four contacts on the Outreach list to advertise our October UVM symposium, as well as a save-the-date for the Spring Symposium on April 5 in Portland, Maine.

Michele thanked us all for a productive and congenial day!

Adjourn at 2:50 PM

Commented [A.L.4]: Nick already did this.

I'll be sending out a reminder two weeks prior to the event.