

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Executive Council  
New England Regional World History Association  
6 September 2014  
206 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University

N.B. These minutes were made possible due to the note-taking and work of Angela Lee and Michele Louro. All errors are the responsibility of the Interim Secretary.

The meeting commenced at 9:40 AM with a welcome by President Michele Louro. Those in attendance were Michele Louro, James Diskant, Heather Streets-Salter (NEU host), Alfred J. Andrea, David Kalivas, David Burzillo, Malcolm Purinton, and Angela Lee.

Reports followed.

**Secretary-Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Acting Secretary-Treasurer Dane Morrison, President Louro gave the report. The resignation of Mary Jane and the transition to an Acting Secretary-Treasurer, who received incomplete records, created a gap in record keeping in terms of membership, and those rolls need immediate attention. To help in this endeavor and future record-keeping, Salem State University has granted a graduate assistantship for NERWHA's administration.

The current NERWHA accounts balance is \$6018.40, and as in years past, ten percent of that will be sent to the WHA Secretariat as NERWHA's annual contribution. Other pending expenses include the Executive Council Annual Meeting (breakfast rolls and lunch), and a social hour with graduate students to be arranged by Malcolm Purinton.

The search for a new Secretary and Treasurer was discussed. The EC agreed to separate the duties of Secretary and Treasurer, creating two discrete offices. (See below for more on this matter.)

**Outreach and Membership Committee:** Angela Lee, Acting Chair of the Outreach Committee, gave the report. A link to the entire report is at:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hWUgYX7XLW57TAJ\\_doBBt1qa\\_R1w4WyltI3TVV5qD18/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hWUgYX7XLW57TAJ_doBBt1qa_R1w4WyltI3TVV5qD18/edit?usp=sharing).

Lee reported that the Outreach Committee has worked on a Master Solicitation List (MSL), which includes local public and private secondary schools. In the discussion that followed it was noted that this master list should include professors and scholars at local higher education institutions. Such additional work is beyond the capability of the Committee as currently constituted. For that reason, the following measures were proposed and agreed to: 1) This can be done in coordination with the WHA's outreach plans; 2) the Committee add at least one person from higher education; 3) Malcolm Purinton, who will serve as a graduate

assistant to the yet-to-be-named new executive director of the WHA, and Heather Streets-Salter, chair of History at NEU, will informally help. It was further decided that Malcolm Purinton will not be a member of the Outreach Committee, but will coordinate with outreach to graduate students.

Discussion also raised the following points and issues: 1) Despite the Outreach Committee's labors, teachers likely will not join NERWHA, but they do seek the resources and packages for their classroom that are available at our symposia. 2) NERWHA has a social media presence, namely LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter. (Facebook is maintained by Nick Russell, who is currently in Spain, however, and Angela Lee. LinkedIn is maintained by Jeremy Greene. Twitter is maintained by Tom Rushford.) There could and should be more activity in regard to these communication media resources. Angela Lee asked if we might seek new volunteers to maintain these accounts. Or multiple volunteers? No decision was made. 3) The issue was raised but not really answered: How can the Outreach Committee better promote the WHA? 4) The Outreach Committee's responsibilities in reporting regional world-history events have greatly expanded. Who will be responsible for these postings? Is it possible to get a dedicated volunteer for this duty? This question was left in abeyance. 5) NERWHA's affiliated regional organizations are the New England Historical Association, and the New England History Teachers Association. Its parental affiliate is, of course, the World History Association. Members of any of these organizations pay a reduced annual dues of \$10. Should NERWHA seek other affiliate, such as the New England Council on Social Science? Further, how can NERWHA use these affiliations to increase membership? 6) The current Committee requests additional help. Discussion of this was delayed until the agenda item: reorganization of committees. 7) NERWHA could do more at each symposium to recruit members. It needs volunteers to work the registration and membership booth during the entire day. This way, potential members can join on-site. 8) all agreed that there is a necessity to offer PDPs for high school teachers. It was agreed to discuss this under the agenda item: reorganization of sub-committees. 8) Lee noted that the Committee's immediate duty was to send out information regarding the Fall symposium.

**Lowell Symposium Program Committee:** David Kalivas, chair and local host, gave the report with Alfred J. Andrea, a member of the Committee, in attendance. As of 6 September there were three registrants for the symposium. The program promises to be a good one and is set, but the question was raised: How can NERWHA attract more symposium presenters? It was suggested that we encourage graduate students to use NERWHA symposia as an opportunity to refine their presentations for larger conferences. Regarding symposium logistics: 1) There is limited parking at the Middlesex Community College Federal Building symposium site in Lowell. David Kalivas and Middlesex Community College can validate parking in local garages. 2) For persons who do not wish to drive, unfortunately the train

arrives in Lowell too late on Saturday. 3) The MCC Honors Program will provide students to help with registration. 4) David Kalivas also has invited students to display posters, but there will be no formal poster presentations. 5) Christoph Strobel is working on a tour of the National Park Service's Cotton Textile Mill.

**NERWHA and the WHA:** Vice-President James Diskant, NERWHA's representative to the WHA, gave the report. The 2014 Annual WHA meeting took place at a gorgeous venue in San Jose, Costa Rica. NERWHA was well-represented at Executive Council meeting and at the conference. Present and participating at that meeting and in the conference were Michele Louro, James Diskant, Alfred J. Andrea, Heather Streets-Salter, Malcolm Purinton, and Lincoln Paine. Future WHA conferences include Savannah, GA (2015); Ghent, Belgium (2016); and Northeastern University in Boston (2017). NERWHA should be actively engaged in that 2017 conference.

### **MAWHA and NERWHA**

The Mid-Atlantic affiliate (MAWHA) wants to collaborate with NERWHA. We plan to co-host with MAWHA the Fall 2015 symposium at Bryant University (see below).

### **NERWHA at NEU**

At this point, Heather Streets-Salter reported on the Spring 2015 NERWHA symposium that will be held at Northeastern University on 28 March and will feature Patrick Manning as the keynote speaker. Heather Streets-Salter has secured funding from multiple sources including the Northeastern Global Seminar Series, the History Department's discretionary funds, NEU's Humanities Center, and the Dean at NEU. The plan for the program includes morning roundtables with Manning's former graduate students. One will feature Manning's PhD students and the other teachers trained at the former World History Center at Northeastern. The keynote address will take place after the morning roundtables. The afternoon program will include roundtables on current research in world history by current NEU graduate students and other researchers in the field. Presenters and discussants will be solicited.

**Future Site Selection Committee:** Alfred J. Andrea, chair of the Committee, gave the report, with Committee members James Diskant and Heather Streets-Salter in attendance. President Louro and Andrea received a formal letter of invitation from David Lux, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bryant University, for NERWHA to hold its Fall 2015 symposium there. The university has initially offered space and light refreshments at no cost to NERWHA. There are ongoing discussions about covering costs for other items, such as a keynote speaker. Andrea has suggested John Cox of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a possible keynoter. Michael Bryant, the on-campus facilitator for this

symposium, and Andrea will discuss and work out these further details, including the date. The theme of the symposium will be “Genocide in World History.” Bryant is a perfect location for both NERWHA and MAWHA attendees. The EC unanimously approved the selection of Bryant University for the Fall 2015 symposium.

Yolanda Theunissen, director of the Osher Map Library at Southern Maine University in Portland, ME, has approached NERWHA regarding its holding its Fall 2016 symposium there. President Louro, Dane Morrison, and Alfred Andrea visited the site and were impressed, but many details need to be worked out, especially regarding funding. This remains a possibility, and negotiations are ongoing.

When Andrea noted that NERWHA seeks a venue for Spring 2016, David Burzillo suggested the Rivers School in Weston, MA, which has a new campus center, as a potential sight. Andrea promises to pursue this vigorously, with an eye to finding a date that is mutually convenient.

Louro and Andrea have been approached by Karen Roberts of St. Thomas University, New Brunswick, Canada about a possible alliance with NERWHA, and Andrea replied with an encouraging but non-committal letter. It is his understanding that she plans to attend a future NERWHA symposium, where they can pursue matters further.

Andrea reiterated his long- expressed desire to hold a NERWHA symposium in Connecticut, and James Diskant noted that he knows Fred Paxton at Connecticut College, which is located near Mystic, CT. He promised to contact him soon and copy Andrea on the e-mail.

**The Webmaster’s Report and New Website Discussion:** In the absence of Webmaster Thomas Rushford, President Louro gave the report. Michele Louro worked with Tom over the summer to redesign the website, and the new website was approved by the EC with several suggested revisions. The EC also agreed that all payments for membership and symposium registration fees should be made through Paypal.

**Newsletter:** James Diskant, who oversees the Newsletter, along with Thomas Rushford, reported that they will finish the next newsletter by the end of September. Diskant will solicit contributions and news from members this week (viz. the week of 7-14 September).

**Northeastern University:** Heather Streets-Salter, Chair of History at Northeastern University gave the report. Northeastern will become the new home of the WHA, which is in the process of searching for a new Executive Director. Heather Streets-Salter and Malcolm Purinton will serve in an advisory capacity in this search, while the WHA’s executive officers will make the final selection. The WHA hopes to wrap up the selection and hiring process by 1 October 2014. (As of 3 October the process had not been completed.)

Northeastern University will also become the home of NERWHA. The Memo of Understanding between NERWHA and Northeastern University was unanimously approved. Given this proximity, the officers of NERWHA plan to strengthen the NERWHA and WHA relationship. As noted above, NERWHA already donates ten percent of its funds to the WHA annually.

## **2014 Elections**

Current Positions:

President: Michele Louro

Vice-President: James Diskant

Secretary-Treasury: Dane Morrison (acting)

Executive Council:

1 year terms ending October 2014 – Angela Lee, Malcolm Purinton, Chris Souza

2 year terms ending October 2015 – Heather, David Burzillo, Jeremy Greene

3 year terms ending October 2016 – David Kalivas, Lincoln Paine, Alfred Andrea

Nominations Committee:

Heather Streets-Salter

Alfred J. Andrea

Michele Louro

A call for nominations will take place immediately following the EC meeting. The following positions are needed:

A Secretary for a one-year term

A Treasurer for a one-year term

Three Executive Council members for three-year terms

In light of Dane Morrison's desire to lay aside the burdens of Acting Secretary-Treasurer due to his many other responsibilities, David Burzillo volunteered to serve immediately as Interim Treasurer for the remainder of 2014 and to place his name in nomination for election this Fall to the remainder of Mary-Jane Maxwell's tenure, which ends in December 2015.

Alfred Andrea agreed to likewise serve immediately as Interim Secretary for the remainder of 2014 and to place his name in nomination for election this Fall to the remainder of Mary-Jane Maxwell's tenure. The EC accepted their offers with thanks and appointed them accordingly.

If both are elected to one-year terms, their positions on the EC will need to be filled, in addition to the vacancies above:

(1) Executive Council Member for a one-year term (replace David Burzillo)

(1) Executive Council Member for a two-year term (replace Alfred Andrea)

The EC discussed possible nominations. Malcolm Purinton would like to run for another term, with the understanding that he will vacate his office after a year due to his completing his PhD program at Northeastern. Angela Lee would like to run for another full term. Possible nominees whose names were raised are: Christoph Strobel (who subsequently agreed); Caroline Stolte; Frank Tipton (whom James Diskant met him at the WHA conference); Rob Pelletier, a teacher at Salem Academy Charter School; Song Choi; David Northrup (as a possible president in the future?); and Whitney Howarth

The EC further discussed the commitment level for service within the EC. To wit: EC members must honor their commitment to NERWHA by attending its annual meetings and semi-annual symposia as well as responding in a timely fashion to e-mail messages. In this spirit, the President should encourage those EC members who are overcommitted to consider whether they would like to remain on the EC.

### **New Business**

James Diskant noted that NCSS will meet in Boston in November 2014. Should NERWHA do anything in conjunction with this event?

### **Three Constitutional Amendments Were Proposed and Approved:**

The EC unanimously approved creating two separate offices, Secretary and Treasurer, in place of the former office of Secretary-Treasurer. Although this goes into effect immediately *de facto*, it will need approval by the membership as a Constitutional Amendment.

The following additional proposed amendments, also approved by the EC, will likewise need to be voted on by the members:

The EC unanimously approved an Amendment to the Constitution that *requires* at least two teachers to serve on the EC at all times. For the purposes of this amendment, the EC is defined as the nine persons serving three-year terms and the four executive officers (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary), making, therefore a total of thirteen persons.

The EC unanimously approved an Amendment to the Constitution that *recommends* that at least one graduate student serve on the EC at all times.

In summary, three Constitutional amendments will be on the October 2014 ballot. Andrea agreed to put all three proposed amendments into proper Constitutional language for the Fall ballot.

### **Proposed Reorganization of Committees:**

See the attachment for NERWHA committees and appointments, 2014-2015.

**Outreach Tactics for Membership:**

Special Social Hours seem desirable: As noted above, Malcolm Purinton will organize a social hour for graduate students in September funded by a modest grant from NERWHA. We will explore outreach events and talks in the future. Heather Streets-Salter promises to try to interest her faculty in joining NERWHA and the WHA.

**A Subvention for a Graduate Student to present at WHA:**

The EC unanimously approved the proposal offered by Andrea to offer a subvention of up to \$500 for a graduate student to present at the WHA. The call for proposals should be made in the fall with a deadline sometime in mid-February. The applicant should include the paper abstract, proof of acceptance, and a travel budget. Heather Streets-Salter and Alfred Andrea will serve as co-chairs for the application and selection process.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M. followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant hosted by NERWHA.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred J. Andrea, Interim Secretary