

Minutes
Meeting of the New England Regional World History Association's Executive Council
205 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University
29 August 2015

Present:

Michele Louro, President
James Diskant, Vice-President
David Burzillo, Treasurer
A. J. Andrea, Secretary
David Kalivas, Council Member
Angela Lee, Council Member
Robert Pelletier, Council Member
Heather Streets-Salter, Council Member

President Louro called the meeting to order at 9:19 AM.

Strategic Planning

As the first order of business, Michele Louro asked each member to write down one idea regarding where he/she wanted NERWHA to be and what it should be doing five years into the future. Ideas that were offered included: 1) more prizes and awards for members; 2) doubling the membership; 3) more institutions involved in partnerships with NERWHA; 4) finally figuring out the package of benefits that NERWHA can offer its diverse membership; 5) doing more on the web site.

A lively discussion ensued, especially in regard to recruiting and the benefits that NERWHA can offer its members.

Specific points that were raised included: 1) workshops on the essentials of teaching and research in world history and educating the academic community of New England that world history is a valid research field; 2) reaching out to the vast numbers of persons in New England who teach world history but are not members; 3) aiming our recruiting efforts especially at people who globalize within their specialized areas and do not yet think of themselves as world historians; 4) we must have a members-only link on the web site on which we can place proprietary materials, and with membership comes an individual password; 5) place subscription podcasts and WEBINARS on that proprietary page; 6) revive the mentorship program that actually never got off the ground; 7) return to our practice in the 1990s of on-line conferences and discussions of topics in world history.

As an initial step, Michele Louro asked each member of the Executive Council to reach out to one institution that might be a natural ally of NERWHA. For example, Heather Streets-Salter will contact the History Department at MIT; Andrea will reach out to the New England Historical Association--again. Additionally, a member-only link on <nerwha.org>, which is now empty, will soon be activated. Finally, NERWHA should search for a digital humanities specialist within its ranks.

Reports

The President's written report is attached as **APPENDIX A**. In her oral remarks, Michele Louro noted that NERWHA has accomplished quite a bit over the past three years, including growth of its membership, and it has much to be proud of. In her words, "NERWHA is in a good place."

Vice-President Jim Diskant's written report is attached as **APPENDIX B**. In his oral remarks, Jim noted that his major effort for NERWHA this past year was working with David Barr and his associates in web development. This necessary updating of <nerwha.org> was time consuming.

The Secretary's report is attached as **APPENDIX C**. In submitting his report, Andrea moved that the minutes of the Spring symposium be accepted, and so they were. (The report, which appeared as Appendix A in the Secretary's report, was sent out to the entire membership in the spring and is not appended here.)

Regarding the upcoming NERWHA elections, the Secretary reported that four Council seats are open, three for three years and one for one year. But only four candidates have stepped forward, so that once again the seats will be uncontested. There are, however, two candidates for president and two for vice-president. In the brief discussion that ensued, several persons expressed the desire that future elections be contested, but this depends on the willingness of candidates to step forward. It was decided that Angela Lee and Robert Pelletier will oversee the election process and report the results.

The Secretary expressed the hope that Michele Louro would have a graduate assistant for the academic year of 2015-2016 because her assistant last year proved invaluable so far as updating NERWHA's gmail lists and overseeing symposium registration were concerned. Unhappily, Michele Louro informed the Council that she would not have an assistant this year.

A break was taken between 10:30 and 10:45, during which time Lee and Pelletier developed a ballot for the forthcoming election.

David Burzillo presented the Treasurer's report, which appears as **Appendix D**. The gist of his oral report was that NERWHA is in a solid financial situation with promise of a steady increase in its resources thanks to the semi-annual symposia. Moreover, because of his wife's expertise with QuickBooks, for the first time in recent memory, NERWHA has a firm grasp of its income and expenses.

When discussion turned to NERWHA's annual contribution of \$500 to the WHA, Andrea moved that the money be explicitly earmarked for the WHA Endowment Fund. David Kalivas seconded the motion. In light of the discussion that followed, the motion and second were withdrawn, and there was unanimous consensus that the money be sent without any explicit instructions but that the Executive Director and officers of the WHA be informed that NERWHA wishes that the funds, in whole or part, be applied to the Endowment Fund if they deem it prudent.

There was also discussion of PayPal, which NERWHA uses as its default system of on-line payment. It appears that some people, unaccustomed to using it, have registered for the Fall symposium and think that they have paid, but their payments have not been received.

Angela Lee presented a detailed oral report on the activities of the Outreach and Membership Committee.

First, perhaps most significant, was its **updating the master solicitation list**. David Burzillo updated and completed the independent school sublist; Angela Lee updated the public school sublist with the assistance of Michele Louro's graduate assistant and transferred the information for private/public schools into a Google Spreadsheet. With the assistance of that same graduate assistant, the universities/colleges sublist was updated, but there is a need to find persons at these institutions of higher learning who can represent and advertise NERWHA more actively than is currently possible. Finally, Angela Lee updated the organizations sublist. The graduate student sublist needs updating. The master solicitation list is used to inform all on that list regarding all aspects of our symposia and other matters on a quarterly basis. The Committee believes that sending out announcements through the master list more than every three months is unnecessary and unwise.

Regarding the master solicitation list, the Committee presented several inquiries. First, can the Council members suggest additional organizations for inclusion on that sublist? Second, is it necessary to create another sublist? Whom else does NERWHA wish to reach out to? Should NERWHA enter into reciprocal agreements with other learned associations to exchange master lists? Such organizations as Primary Source, the New England Historical Association (NEHA), the New England History Teachers' Association (NEHTA), and Education for India have expressed interest in list-sharing.

Relevant to this activity and these inquiries, the Committee proposes that a professor be added to its membership to assist in reaching out to professors who teach world history and a graduate student be added to reach out to other graduate students and to compose a full list of graduate students in world history in our region.

In the discussion that followed there appeared to be universal consensus that sharing master lists is a good idea, but no action was taken immediately on that issue other than the decision to list the coming events of NEHA and NEHTA on <nerwha.org> and to share information for our respective newsletters.

A second area of activity for the Outreach and Membership Committee has been in the area of **social media and the website**. The LinkedIn account is managed by Jeremy Greene; Angela Lee manages the Facebook account that has 100 members; the Twitter account, which has 91 members, is co-managed by Tom Rushford and Angela Lee for the purposes of advertising NERWHA events on the website and live tweeting from NERWHA symposia and WHA conferences.

In regard to these media, the Committee notes that they need more content in order to create a greater buzz, but the question is: How much time can volunteers invest in these media to supply that content? Further, given the difficulty presented by heavy teaching schedules, should NERWHA seek a dedicated Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn volunteer? Should it seek multiple volunteers for these accounts? Along those same lines, the Committee notes that inasmuch as its responsibility to report regional world-history events has greatly expanded, who will be responsible for these postings? Is it possible to get a dedicated volunteer for this duty? In summary, the Outreach and Membership Committee needs more help. In essence, all work is

currently being borne by Angela Lee and David Burzillo.

In the discussion that followed, it was acknowledged that in a forthcoming reorganization of committees, this committee should be split into two discrete committees—Outreach and Membership. It was also decided that the president will ask Dane Morrison to take over the NERWHA Twitter account.

A third area reported on by the Outreach and Membership Committee was **Updated Symposium and Membership Registration Procedures & Forms**. In brief, Digital forms have been created for symposium registration and membership that have helped greatly with record keeping. Regarding membership, the Committee proposes that a person should be designated at each symposium whose sole task is to help non-member participants join NERWHA online. To that end, we will need a computer dedicated only to that task at each symposium. Andrea will seek to have such a computer available at the forthcoming symposium at Bryant University.

The report of the Symposium and Future Site Selection Committee followed. A. J. Andrea's report is attached as **Appendix E**.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding future symposia sites. First, it was agreed that the Rivers School would be an ideal location for the Spring 2016 symposium at a time to be determined but at one that does not conflict with Christian and Jewish holy days or weekends filled with other school activities. Then, led by President Louro, the members unanimously agreed that, given the recent change in leadership at the library, Osher Library at the University Southern Maine University should no longer be considered a viable site. Heather Streets-Salter noted that Jeffrey S. Ravel, head of the History faculty at MIT, has expressed a strong desire to host a symposium in 2017. It was also noted that we could return to Northeastern in 2017. But what about Fall 2016? Boston College was proposed as a possible site. At this juncture Rob Pelletier suggested his school, Salem Academy, and Michele Louro further suggested—to great appreciation—that Salem State University act as co-sponsor. Furthermore, it was suggested to apparent universal approval that this symposium feature two keynote speakers and that the symposium have a global maritime theme in keeping with the history of Salem. Andrea promised to do his best to “nail down” The Rivers School, Salem, and MIT as sites by the meeting at Bryan University on 9-10 October.

In additional business, Michele Louro announced that she will soon preside as chair over a Strategic Planning Committee. Volunteering for that committee were David Burzillo, Jim Diskant, David Kalivas, Heather Streets-Salter, and Al Andrea.

The upcoming elections were also discussed and it was agreed by all that for future elections it is necessary to recruit “new faces” to stand for the Executive Council, in order to incorporate more fully our members into NERWHA's governance.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 with all thinking that it had been a most productive three hours. As the Secretary rushed away to return to his hermitage in Vermont, the other members headed off for a convivial luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred J. Andrea
Secretary

APPENDIX A
NERWHA President's Report: August 29, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of the New England Regional World History Association,

I welcome this opportunity to reflect on the state of our association after three years of my presidency (2013-2015). We began reconstituting NERWHA several years ago, and in the past three years we have witnessed growth and increased stability. Let me begin with a brief summary of events that have occurred over the past few years, which have greatly improved our finances, membership and presence in New England.

Our symposia continue to be the most important activities we do. We have a remarkable record of organizing first-rate semi-annual symposia. These have brought to our organization new members and former members. The symposia also attract world-renowned scholars of world history to provide the keynotes. These symposia include:

- Spring 2013: Salem State University, “Connecting the Global and the Local” with keynote by Howard Spodek.
- Fall 2013: University of Vermont (UVM-Burlington), “Latin America in World History,” with a keynote address by Felipe Fernández-Armesto.
- Spring 2014: Southern Maine Community College, “Maritime Civilizations and World History,” with keynote by Lincoln Paine.
- Fall 2014: Middlesex Community College and U-Mass Lowell, “Industrialization and World History.”
- Spring 2015: Northeastern University, “World History through the Northeastern Passage” with keynote by Patrick Manning.

These events increasingly attract more members, elevate our prestige as a place for world historians and enrich the world history field in New England.

We also became a more professional and stable organization thanks to our efforts to standardize our procedures as outlined in the constitution. The constitution was revised and approved at the 2013 annual meeting of the E.C. We also established a mandatory E.C. annual meeting to be held each year in order to discuss the current state of NERWHA and plans for the future. We also shifted the NERWHA institutional home from Salem State to Northeastern University in 2014. This move situates NERWHA within a university that also houses the WHA. NERWHA receives more support and benefits from an active and robust world history community at Northeastern.

The construction and dissemination of a regular newsletter has been a major achievement. This has been a premier space for sharing NERWHA news and updates. It also offers a critical outreach tool for our association.

The reorganization of the website has been an ongoing project. I thank Tom Rushford for his leadership, and the work of Derek Barr Media Associates as well.

This year, I focused on two initiatives. The first was a project to update our membership lists and contact lists. I had a graduate assistant to help in this regard. She went through our records since 2009 and created a master list of contacts in an excel sheet and as a gmail list. Thanks to our secretary, Alfred Andrea, for working with the graduate assistant in this process. Our treasurer, David Burzillo, has been extremely helpful in cleaning up our membership records and financial documents. I recommend that we continue to update our contact lists after every symposia in the future. The second project was an overhaul of the website. I contacted and began the process of hiring Derek Barr for a one-time website update. I handed over the web design project and all other presidential duties to James Diskant, who served as the acting President for my maternity leave from November 2014 – February 2015. I want to extend a special thanks to James for his excellent work in overseeing the website construction and NERWHA during this time.

The major improvements over this past year and in years past have led to growth and stability for NERWHA. I believe our organization is entering a new chapter. Already, the fall symposium at Bryant University promises to be another stimulating and widely attended event. We hope to add new venues to the schedule for next year and beyond.

It is with great pleasure that I turn the presidency over to a new candidate in October. I am fully confident that NERWHA is on steady and stable ground. I have every reason to believe that we will witness further expansion and growth in the years to come.

The continuing strength of NERWHA is absolutely dependent on the support of dedicated officers and E.C. members. I would like to thank you all for your commitment to NERWHA and the WHA. Our association continues to play a significant role in fostering a community of world historians locally and as part of the WHA.

Respectfully submitted by Michele L. Louro, President August 29, 2015

APPENDIX B

TO: Executive Council, New England Regional World History Association (NERWHA)

FROM: James Diskant, Vice President

RE: Report of Work during the past year, 2014 – 2015

DATE: August 24, 2015

During the last year, my work has focused on the following areas:

- Serving as Acting President from November, 2014 – February, 2015

During Michele's maternity leave, I was responsible for communicating with the officers, members of the Executive Council, and others, most significantly in coordinating the updating of the website with Derek Barr of Barr Media

- Assisting the other officers in planning and working on the Symposia
I helped coordinate both the fall and spring symposia and ran the Business Meetings at the two events, as well as coordinated a roundtable conversation at each of the two symposia
- Working with the webmaster in the creation of the Quarterly Newsletters
I worked with Tom Rushford to finalize 4 newsletters that were distributed to members, as well as posted on the NERWHA website
- Sharing our work with the WHA at its Annual Meeting

APPENDIX C
NERWHA Secretary's Report
29 AUGUST 2015

The Secretary has been busy, throughout the first eight months of 2015, composing over-long and relentlessly pedantic electronic letters regarding NERWHA business to members, officers, and the several hundred persons on the NERWHA general listserv. Surprisingly, only one person asked to be taken off that list in the wake of this deluge. This prodigious outpouring of verbiage has been achieved despite the fact that gmail remains largely a mystery to him. Not unlike the Mithraic mysteries, it probably demands blood sacrifice from the initiated.

Additionally, the Secretary prepared and distributed the Minutes of the Spring Symposium (which are appended to this report as Appendix A).

MOTION: The Secretary respectfully moves that the Minutes be accepted by this Council with whatever emendations it deems necessary. (This motion does not require a second.)

In addition to communication and minute-taking, record-keeping, especially in regard to Membership, is a secretarial duty mandated by the Constitution. Unhappily his technophobic inability (or unwillingness) to master the intricacies of gmail has led him to depend on the kind help of the Treasurer, who informs him that currently NERWHA has -- dues-paying members.

ACTION: The gmail lists will need updating, one hopes by Michele Louro's graduate assistant but with the Secretary's meddling oversight. Failing that, the Secretary will have to take a gmail tutorial.

The Secretary has also been overseeing the 2015 nomination process. All four executive offices are open for election as well as four seats on the Executive Council. Appendix B provides a list of nominees. Please note that only two offices are contested--president and vice-president. The Secretary has asked the four candidates for these two offices to provide photos and brief (3-6 sentence) statements for <nerwha.org> so that members can vote with some degree of

knowledge of the candidates. If all goes according to plan, the elections will be held for several weeks in September. Inasmuch as the Secretary will be hiking to Buddhist monasteries in Bhutan from 15 to 30 September, he hopes to have the elections over by 14 September.

QUERIES and ACTION: If a deadline of 14 September proves unfeasible, is some member of this Council willing to be the person receiving and counting votes in the Secretary's absence? Indeed, given that the Secretary is on the ballot for reelection and despite the fact that it is an uncontested seat, does this Council deem it appropriate that someone other than the Secretary receive and count votes regardless of the time frame?

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred J. Andrea
NERWHA Secretary

APPENDIX D

NERWHA Treasurer's Report

August 29, 2015

Current

NERWHA currently has \$7,520.57, with two thirds of its funds in a Citizen's Bank account and about one third of its funds in a Paypal account. (See Exhibit A)

Notes on Our Accounts

Our Citizen's Account does not pay interest on the funds we have deposited, but by keeping a minimum daily balance we avoid bank fees.

Paypal does not pay interest either, so I have reduced our balance in this account over the past year. I think that it is worth keeping money in that account, at least for the time being, as it does give us additional flexibility in the way we pay our bills.

Review of the year from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Note: After much thought and discussion, I have decided that the traditional business "year"—July 1- June 30-- makes the most sense for NERWHA, so the Profit and Loss statement (See Exhibit B) reflects this choice.

Income

-The vast majority of our income comes from conferences. In our three recent conferences, our costs have come in under our receipts, so we have netted some profit in each case.

-If future conferences follow the pattern we are currently on, we can expect to add about \$1000-\$1400 per year to our accounts from conference receipts.

-Typically, most of the registrations for conferences occur in the month of the conference, with a few the month before. For this fall's conference, as AI has noted, we already have 17 registrants, so we are well ahead of our typical pace.

Costs

-This year we had a one-time (hopefully!) expense related to the upgrading of our website. We should perhaps plan for a similar outlay in a few years, but I don't anticipate having this expense in the next few years.

-Our non-profit corporation status had lapsed at the beginning of 2014. After investigating our options, it made the most sense to refile with the state of Vermont. The \$95.0 in filing fees represent the costs involved in renewing that status. We will have a small, yearly fee to maintain our status in the future.

-For the third year in a row we made a donation to the WHA, and for the second year in a row it was \$500. We also, for the first time, provided travel subventions for the WHA conference totaling \$600.

-We have certain operating expenses that will recur (Paypal credit card fees, EC meeting costs, and website hosting fees) that can be covered by dues if we our membership numbers around forty.

Respectfully submitted

David Burzillo

NERWHA Treasurer

APPENDIX E

NERWHA Symposia Report

FALL 2015

Plans for the Fall symposium at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI, 9-10 October, are proceeding well. A provisional program has been sent out to all NERWHA members. I am happy to report that, as of 26 August, only four persons have had to withdraw themselves and their papers due to an inability to secure travel funds. One of these was scheduled to come from London, one from Rome, and one from New Delhi, India. A fourth was scheduled to come from Tennessee. We know of two persons, one from South Africa and one from Iran, who have pledged to come regardless of the cost. We can only hope that more colleagues from abroad, whose papers have been accepted, will join them. Whatever their number, participation by colleagues from abroad will certainly be something in which NERWA can take great pride. It certainly speaks well for the publicity generated by H-World and by the various international contacts of the symposium's chief coordinator, Michael Bryant. It also is an indication of the academic importance of our theme: "Genocide in World History."

Our Treasurer reports that, as of 25 August, 17 persons have registered and paid their fees. Inasmuch as our registration form went up on our website quite early in the process, we are sanguine that the number of registered and walk-in participants will be impressive come 10 October.

I toured Bryant University on 11 August and was suitably impressed by the beauty of the campus, the facilities offered us (a large auditorium and five comfortable classrooms--all fully wired), and the eagerness of everyone whom I met to assist in making this symposium a first-rate event. As Michael Bryant has noted, this symposium is a “big deal” for Bryant. He has also noted that there is a certain advantage to holding such an event at a small, private, well-endowed university.

NERWHA should come out of this symposium in an enviable position.

Please Note: If you are planning to attend the symposium and would like to assist, we need chairs for many of panels that are listed below in Appendix A. Will you volunteer? If so, which panel (or panels) most attracts you?

SPRING 2016

It is time for NERWHA to hold a symposium at a secondary school, and our Treasurer, David Burzillo, has suggested his institution, The Rivers School in Weston, Massachusetts, as a suitable venue. There is much to discuss and decide, including finding a Saturday in March or April that is mutually convenient for the school and NERWHA, but I am confident that we can work this out. I plan to visit The Rivers School as soon as is convenient for David and me.

FALL 2016

Sad to say, the plan for our returning to Portland, Maine and holding a symposium at the Osher Map Library at the University of Southern Maine is looking increasingly less viable due to expected costs. Although I will keep lines of communication open with the director and special events coordinator, I am currently looking for an alternate site and welcome any and all ideas and leads.

2017 and Beyond

Likewise, we must look for venues as far into the future as possible. True, we have the pledge of Northeastern University to host a symposium every several years, but we must continue to look for additional hosts. NERWHA has never met in Connecticut (at least as memory serves me), and it has been a long while since we met in New Hampshire. To be sure, there is the “easy driving distance from Greater Boston” principle that should govern our choice of most of our venues, but we should not automatically preclude sites that are a bit farther away. Moreover, we must be both creative and proactive. In other words, we should not expect potential hosts to come to us; we should seek them out. Finally, we must break out of the trap of looking only for university, collegiate, and secondary-school hosts. There are many independent historical institutions that potentially could welcome us. For example, Dane Morrison and I have discussed in the past a possible invitation from the Strawberry Banke Museum (and Portsmouth, NH has so much to offer, as well as being within easy driving distance from Boston). So, I ask you: Any ideas? Any volunteers to help in this pursuit?

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred J. Andrea

