

Northeast Regional World History Association (NERWHA) Minutes

31 May 2008

Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, MA.

Present: David Burzillo, Presiding; Alfred J. Andrea; Holly-Lynn Busier; Sean Delaney; Jeremy Greene; Robert L. Hall; David M. Kalivas; Vitaly Kozyrev; Dane Morrison; Charles L. Newhall; David Northrup; Lincoln Paine; Kristie Poehler; Christoph Strobel; Kristin Hayward Strobel.

The persons present constituted an Interim Steering Committee for the reorganization of NERWHA.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Burzillo in the Library Meeting Room.

Following a brief review of the history of NERWHA, it was agreed that the title “By-Laws of the Northeast Regional World History Association” be changed to “Constitution of the Northeast Regional World History Association,” and that the bracketed material at the end of Article III promising a formal Charter in the future be excised as unnecessary.

A discussion of the finances of NERWHA followed. After paying for rental of this meeting room and coffee service, the treasury will be empty. This was the remnant of a one-time-only grant of \$1000 bestowed by the WHA several years ago that enabled NERWHA to hold a joint conference with the New England American Studies Association at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem and later to offer several panels on globalizing US history at consecutive Massachusetts Council for Social Studies conferences in Boston.

A discussion regarding whether or not NERWHA should continue to have an unstructured membership system and no dues ensued. Issues raised were:

1. What will NERWHA offer in return for dues?
2. If required, what shall the dues structure be?

3. How does NERWHA gain non-profit status if it begins to collect money?
4. Must it apply for recognition by the IRS of exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the IRS Code, or can it piggy-back on the WHA's non-profit status?

Regarding this last point, no one had an answer, and Andrea agreed to seek the counsel of the WHA Secretariat, the chair of the WHA Affiliates Committee, and other affiliates, such as CWHA and SEWHA.

In regard to the first issue, it was agreed that NERWHA will seek to have discounts at various northeastern historical and cultural centers honored with the presentation of a downloadable NERWHA membership card. More important, it will offer a website, a blog or e-newsletter, and continue in other ways to reach out to teachers and students of world history in the northeast (defined as New England, New York, and Eastern Canada, until such time as new affiliates might cause a geographic redefinition). Charles Newhall promised to provide access to the rolls of the New England History Teachers' Association (NEHTA), whose members certainly will be accorded NERWHA affiliate status. The secretary will approach the NEHTA regarding collaboration.

On the second and key issue, it was unanimously agreed that NERWHA will institute at its earliest convenience the following annual dues structure:

1. \$20
2. \$10 for any member of a recognized historical-cultural organization (such as the New England Historical Association (NEHA) or the World History Association) with which NERWHA has entered into an agreement of mutual assistance;
3. \$5 for any student at any level.

Because membership will be offered on-line, Kristie Poehler agreed to take over the duties of organizing and maintaining a NERWHA website and/or homepage and an outreach data base. In order to contact by e-mail all potential NERWHA members, Andrea agreed to contact the WHA Secretariat to see if he could receive a copy of the most recent WHA membership roll. Charles Newhall will get

NERWHA access to the New England History Teachers' Association (NEHTA) mailing list. NERWHA will also begin publicizing its existence and activities in various regional publications, such as the Newsletter of the New England Historical Association. Indeed, regarding regional associations with which NERWHA can possibly enter into some sort of reciprocal agreement, it was agreed that the NERWHA secretary will collect from individual members of the Steering Committee and from other sources a list of potential affiliates and present it to the Steering Committee for vetting. Once this list is established, the secretary will propose to associations on that list the following:

- 1) we exchange notices of interest;
- 2) they allow NERWHA to use their names as affiliates whose members receive an automatic 50 percent reduction in NERWHA dues;
- 3) they consider seriously proposals by NERWHA members for sessions and papers at their conferences;
- 4) if amenable (but this is not required), they share membership lists.

NERWHA probably will also set up a membership-information table at the 2009 WHA conference in Salem.

After lengthy discussion, the Steering Committee unanimously voted to request that Northeastern University accord it a home, namely a mailing address, occasional use of graduate student help as needed, and a free-of-charge venue where it can hold its activities, as appropriate and needed, free of charge. The secretary will make formal application in the name of NERWHA to the chair of the NEU History Department. Professor Robert Hall, chair of Northeastern's African-American Studies Department, pledged \$1500 in funds for activities held on the NEU campus.

Andrea noted that Fred Bisson, emeritus at Keene State, is organizing a world history panel for the October 25th meeting of the New England Historical Association at Endicott College. Panelists will be Bisson, Dane Morrison, and Andrea, with David Northrup chairing. It was agreed that NERWHA will attempt to have a session at each semi-annual meeting of NEHA.

The members broke for lunch at 12:30 and returned to work at 1:45.

Dane Morrison spoke about plans for the WHA conference in Salem in June 2009, emphasizing that a wide variety of cultural, historical, and academic institutions within Essex County have expressed their intent in supporting this effort.

The members then discussed their role in that conference. It was agreed that NERWHA members offer a variety of sessions, roundtables, and papers. One proposal offered and assented to by silence is that NERWHA members request that the WHA print on their conference badges not only their institutional affiliations but also NERWHA, the better to publicize the affiliate's presence at the conference. Interest, without a formal vote being taken, was expressed in NERWHA's developing, with the aid of Brad Austin of Salem State College, a teacher- and student-friendly CD on Salem in the Context of World History to be offered as NERWHA's gift to each conferee at the WHA conference in Salem.

In a discussion regarding how NERWHA might help teachers, Dane Morrison suggested that NERWHA develop a Speaker's Bureau. The idea was greeted with approval without any formal vote.

It was noted that the NCSS—National Council of Social Studies—will come to Boston in 2010. While members expressed interest in participating, the noted high cost of exhibition tables and registration at NCSS cooled their ardor.

Election of interim officers followed. Lincoln Paine was elected president, and Holly-Lynn Busier was elected vice-president. Following deafening silence regarding the office of secretary-treasurer, Andrea volunteered. As already noted, Kristie Poehler will serve as web guru.

As a last item of business, it was agreed that the next business meeting will be held at Middlesex Community College's Lowell campus on 20 September, beginning at 10:00 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred J. Andrea