

Minutes of the NERWHA Executive Council Meeting by Zoom, 2 April 2022

In attendance: David Kalivas, President, Dave Burzillo, Treasurer, A. J. Andrea, Secretary, Nicolas Hardisty, Tom Johnson, Elizabeth Lear, Angela Lee, Nicholas Roberts, Luke Scalone, Heather Streets-Salter, Kerry Vieira

Following five minutes of social interaction in which the situation in Ukraine and the Kalivas grandson were the main topics of conversation, the meeting commenced at 11:35.

Unanimous acceptance of the Minutes for the Zoom meeting of 29 November 2021, although no one, the Secretary included, had the minutes in hand or could remember what had transpired or been recorded. Obviously, the Minutes had been so complete, nay, overwhelming, that everyone decided the document said it all, and any gloss on it would be unwarranted and unwanted.

Dave Burzillo offered the Treasurer's report, a summary of his emailed report of 1 April. NERWHA's current balance is \$7,372.63, of which \$520 is from dues collected in 2022. The current paid membership is 22 (20 regular and 2 student memberships), and of these 11 are multiyear memberships. The number of members is down a bit from previous years, but memberships continue to trickle in, and because dues were increased, NERWHA's membership income is more or less on par with previous years. Despite not having had a fund-raising symposium for two years due to COVID-19, NERWHA will be able to continue its various payments and subventions. In response to a private inquiry via email, Dave further reported that NERWHA received a total of \$125 in donations from two members.

Kerry Vieira reported that as of yesterday, the two NERWHA travel grants of \$500 each were awarded. One went to Denisse Delgado-Vázquez, a Visiting Research Associate from Cuba at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, who is working in the areas of migration, transnationalism, social and racial inequalities, and public policy. The other was given to Nicholas P. Roberts, an assistant professor of Middle Eastern history at Norwich University. These awards will make it possible for both colleagues to attend the June 2022 World History Association annual meeting in Bilbao, Spain.

Kerry further noted that the WHA's Under the Baobab series recommences on 26 April. Further information is available at <https://www.thewha.org/>.

Dave Burzillo stated that because NERWHA has not sent out subvention checks in a while, he is unsure when they should be sent. A voice popped up, "immediately." All agreed.

Heather Streets-Salter remarked that NERWHA's virtual symposium of 26 February featuring Cemil Aydin was quite the success. Cemil was exceedingly happy with it and is ready to participate in future NERWHA events. Kalivas noted that he was engaging and willing to go on beyond the allotted time. Let's involve him in future NERWHA activities. Heather agreed, noting further that he likes coming to Boston.

Regarding the online symposium, Heather remarked we had 38 participants (out of 62 registrants as noted by Dave B.), and David K. added that some were non-members from afar. Of course, the topic "A Conversation on Islam and Muslim Societies in World History" was quite a draw. Heather further noted that, additionally, Cemil is well known and respected.

The Council now turned to the Fall symposium, the reason for ruining a perfectly good Saturday morning with a Zoom meeting.

Confusion prevailed as the Council members could not remember which date had already been decided on for the symposium. Eventually, realization dawned that no date had been set at the last virtual meeting of the Council.¹ Consequently, in consultation with Heather, the Council agreed that it would be held at Northeastern on 17 September. She further pledged to secure a room in the Curry Student Union that has the capability of providing full online access for all who cannot attend in person, or who wish not to. To be clear, it will be a hybrid symposium. She noted that the cost of retaining the all-day services of a technical assistant would be reasonable and well within NERWHA's budget.

Food, always a major concern, was next discussed. All agreed that a modest breakfast of coffee, tea, fruit, and pastry should be provided as always. As far as lunch is concerned, the options on campus and nearby Huntington Ave. are numerous, so it was decided to allow a generous amount of time for a lunch break. But NERWHA should provide information as to the locations of nearby eateries.

The Council members further agreed that all events should be held in a single room; therefore there would be no concurrent panels.

A number of questions arose. Shall we invite specific presenters or shall we put out a general call for participants? Further, how shall we work pedagogy into this symposium? Should we immediately tie it into Heather's keynote in the discussion session that follows her address? It would be particularly "cool" to have a panel or roundtable on innovative pedagogy relating to empires in world history. What about a graduate-student round table in which they discuss their work? With these questions and desiderata in the air, Andrea volunteered to write up a draft announcement² tentatively setting out the nature and workings of the symposium. He promised to deliver that draft by Sunday evening so that the Council members can tear it apart and put it back together with some semblance of coherence.

It was a wonder that he was able to communicate this inasmuch as the audio on his computer (a model slightly younger than Commodore 64) transmits his voice with the clarity of two cans joined by a piece of string. As he noted, he refuses to use any medium not available to Peter Abelard at the twelfth-century University of Paris. Maybe Peter's inability to communicate led to his unfortunate fall from grace.

A troika of Heather Streets-Salter, David Kalivas, and A. J. Andrea will serve as the symposium organizing committee, and Kerry Vieira will use the facilities of the WHA to advertise it widely.

¹ Pedantic note: Later research by the Secretary (viz. going into the dusty archives and reading the Minutes that he had neglected to review before this meeting) revealed that the Fall symposium was not a topic of discussion at the 29 November Zoomathon. Memory (always a frail tool) has it that email alone was used to discuss in modest detail the Fall symposium and only three points had been heretofore agreed upon: 1) it would be an in-person meeting at Northeastern University in September; 2) the topic would be "Empires in World History"; 3) Heather Streets-Salter would deliver the keynote address.

² In his words "a mock announcement." A double entendre? Make of it what you will.

The next issue for discussion was the symposium fee. Because lunch will not be provided, it was decided that a fee of \$25 is reasonable, with a reduced fee of \$15 for students. It was not mentioned but assumed that, as in the immediate pandemic past, persons participating virtually will do so without fee.³

Angela Lee noted that the next issue (does one speak of an online “issue”?) of *World History Connected* will focus on imperialism. It might be a good idea to tie its articles to the symposium’s panel or roundtable on pedagogy.

David Kalivas noted that with this Fall symposium decided, it is time to think of the Spring 2023 symposium. We also need to think of bringing in new officers. The Secretary noted that the current executive officers (president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary) will serve through 2023, but in the Fall the three-year service of three members of the Executive Council will expire (as happens every Fall).⁴

In what is certainly record time for an EC meeting, David Kalivas adjourned the meeting *sine die* at 12:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. Andrea, Secretary

³ A musing. Two persons offered donations to NERWHA in lieu of a symposium fee in February. Might it not be a good idea to suggest—ever so gently—that virtual participants who can afford to do so might consider a modest donation?

⁴ Those whose terms expire in 2022 (he discovered upon later consulting his records) are Tom Johnson, Angela Lee, and Luke Scalone.