



Minutes
2013 OAH BUSINESS MEETING
Hilton San Francisco
San Francisco, California
April 13, 2013

The OAH Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Al Camarillo.

I. A motion to approve the minutes of the previous 2012 OAH Business Meeting was presented, duly seconded, and approved.

II. Report of the President

Al Camarillo called the meeting to order and opened with a word of thanks to the staff and the OAH Executive Board for the hard work they have done in the past year to advance the organization. Camarillo noted that the organization is redoubling its effort to encourage students and junior scholars to join the organization. The OAH has launched a Sponsored Membership this year in which advisers can pay \$35 for their students or recent graduates to join the OAH. In the few months since this category was rolled out, the OAH has received approximately one hundred sponsored members. Along these same lines, Camarillo and the board are looking into establishing a travel fund for young scholars to attend the annual meeting since many universities have cut travel funding. Finally, the board is looking at the possibility of launching a new magazine that will meet the needs of teachers and public historians. A task force produced a report that provides a wonderful blueprint for a future publication for a digital era. Over the next few months the Executive Committee will be considering this proposal.

Camarillo noted that the OAH, in conjunction with the American Studies Association, filed a friend of the court brief in *United States v Windsor* (a same sex marriage rights case) before the US Supreme Court. He added that he was proud that the OAH could deliver to the Court such a well-researched history of discrimination against gay and lesbian people. The entire brief will be posted on the OAH Web site.

Camarillo added that during this past year the OAH has worked to create a “bigger tent.” He noted that he received funding from Stanford University to encourage more participation from teachers, in particular.

III. Report of the Treasurer

Jay Goodgold noted that the OAH remains on target to balance its budget by the June 30 close of the 2013 fiscal year. Reflected in the current budget are the increased operating expenses that address the changing demographics of our membership and the enhanced use of social media by our members. These challenges are pushing the OAH to refocus its efforts to maintain a positive

cash flow throughout the remainder of the year, enhance fundraising efforts, and reassess expenditures on an ongoing basis. The OAH has begun this proactive approach to maintain its balance. To build up long-term assets, the OAH once again this fiscal year has not drawn from its long-term asset base: the Fund for American History and the OAH Reserve Fund.

The OAH maintains its long-term funds with the Indiana University Foundation. The preservation and growth of these funds are essential to the financial viability of the organization. In times of financial exigency the funds have been invaluable to maintaining the organization's mission and financial security. The Fund for American History and the OAH Reserve Fund had a combined asset value of approximately \$1.1 million as of the end of December 2012. The organization's major goals over the next several years are to enhance these funds through long-term donations, whether from outright gifts or through bequests, as well as portfolio appreciation. Through the dedicated work of OAH Executive Director Kathy Finley and the Leadership Advisory Committee, led by Bill Chafe and Paul Sperry, the OAH is more actively emphasizing such financial enhancement.

For the 2013 fiscal year ending June 30, the organization is expecting total revenues of approximately \$2,901,672 and expenses of \$2,859,401, resulting in a small surplus. We have been able to offset reduced revenues from our National Park Service (NPS) projects, the *OAH Magazine of History*, and the Distinguished Lectureship Program through additional expense control, an improved membership management process, and increased donations from our members and friends. Going forward, the OAH expects revenues from the National Park Service to decline in fiscal year 2014 but then resume an upward trajectory as more NPS projects are recorded. There is a lag in seeing the financial contribution from the National Park Service, and the OAH is now experiencing an increase in the number of projects that will positively affect the OAH in the years ahead. The *OAH Magazine of History* platform and mission are currently being revised under the guidance of President Al Camarillo and Task Force Chair Jane Kamensky. Due to the loss of the Teaching American History grants, the organization will see a slight reduction in fiscal year 2014 revenues from our Distinguished Lectureship Program. However, we still have a very strong base of support and are refocusing our efforts in this important area.

The OAH is conservatively projecting fiscal 2014 revenues of \$2,796,294 and expenses of \$2,788,084, and while both amounts are lower than those of the prior year, we will maintain our balanced-budget emphasis. The reduction in revenues from the NPS, the *OAH Magazine of History*, and the Distinguished Lectureship Program will affect the budget for the upcoming year, but the organization is taking the necessary steps to control expenses to offset that loss of revenue.

The organization has completed the second year of the relationship between Oxford University Press, the *Journal of American History*, and the *OAH Magazine of History*; we will continue working with them to expand our publications' international reach while keeping expenses steady. The *JAH* continues its solid revenue contribution to the OAH. The 2014 OAH annual meeting in Atlanta will allow the association to keep costs flat (in relation to the current year) while showing an increase in revenues. As the OAH treasurer I am cautiously projecting a steady financial environment for the OAH in 2014.

IV. Report of the Executive Director

OAH Executive Director Katherine Finley thanked everyone—including the board, the staff, and members—for making 2011–2012 another good year at the OAH. She began by comparing the renovation of the historic building in which the OAH business offices are housed (Raintree House) to the revitalization of the organization. She noted that like Raintree House, the OAH shored up its foundation and then went about transforming itself into a revitalized and vibrant association.

Finley reported that OAH membership has increased to well over 7,500—250 more than last year at the same time. Equally, if not more, important is the fact that the retention rate for membership has increased from 72 percent to 80 percent. The OAH is offering sponsored memberships for students and recent graduates in an effort to attract younger members. The organization has also developed a number of new member benefits, including the OAH Career COACH (Creating Opportunities for Our Community of Historians)TM Web site, a discount on the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, discounts on Oxford University Press products, and a new OAH Web site (to debut this summer).

Finley also noted that members have increased their participation in the organization. The OAH recently sent a survey to members and received a remarkable 31 percent response rate. In this year's election of officers, a record 23.6 percent (1,755 members) voted; this represents the largest number of members voting in an OAH election and is well above the average of 22 percent for academic associations. Moreover, this year's meeting attendance was 1,806, which is comparable to attendance at previous meetings held on the West Coast and is an impressive number, considering the number of individuals who could not travel because of lack of funds and the number of government employees who were unable to travel because of sequestration.

Elected to the OAH Executive Board (with terms starting on May 1, 2013) are Andrea J. Sachs, St. Paul Academy and Summit School; Jennifer Morgan, New York University; and Alan Taylor, University of California–Davis. At the conclusion of the 2013 OAH Annual Meeting, Alan Kraut (American University) will become OAH President, Patricia Nelson Limerick (University of Colorado) will become President-Elect, and Jon Butler (Yale University), will become Vice President. Elected to the OAH Nominating Board were Margo Anderson, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee; Seth Rockman, Brown University; and Gloria Elizarras Miranda, El Camino College.

Finley reported that the OAH is in good financial shape. The organization finished fiscal year 2011–2012 with a \$124,798 organization-wide surplus and a \$107,701 increase in unrestricted assets. It has ramped up its fundraising efforts and hopes to finish the year with a modest surplus.

Finley concluded that the OAH is not focused solely on quantity but also values quality. The work of the organization continues to be first-rate. Two articles in the *Journal of American History* have won awards from other associations; the National Council on Public History will be giving the NPS/OAH study *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service* the Excellence in Consulting Award at its meeting, and the OAH-NPS Collaborative won a

STAR Award (for the best association non-dues revenue program in Indiana) from the Indiana Society of Association Executives. *OAH Outlook*, the quarterly membership newsletter of the OAH, won best newsletter two years ago, and the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program received recognition as the best non-dues revenue program. Finley encouraged everyone to go to the OAH Web site to read the organization's annual report for this past year.

V. Report of Nominating Board

Nominating Board Chair Tom Sugrue reported that the board met at the 2013 Annual Meeting and chose Nancy Cott as Vice President of the OAH (starting May 1, 2014). The Nominating Board is working on the board member pairings for the next election and will announce the slate during the summer. Sugrue also noted that the Nominating Board added forty-five speakers to the Distinguished Lecturer Program roster.

VI. Report of the Executive Editor

Ed Linenthal was unable to attend the meeting because of travel problems. However, OAH President Al Camarillo noted that the *Journal of American History* is in excellent condition.

VII. Old Business – None

VIII. New Business – None

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.