



ACTIONS OF THE OAH EXECUTIVE BOARD

April 2013

At its spring 2013 meeting held on April 11 at the OAH Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, the OAH Executive Board took the following actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the November 10-11, 2012 Executive Board meeting held in Chicago and the minutes of the OAH Executive Board conference call held on January 28, 2013 were approved with one correction to the latter set of minutes: Elizabeth Clark-Lewis was on the OAH Executive Board call on January 28.
2. Approved the electronic vote on March 4 and 5 conferring the 2013 OAH Friend of History Award on the more than 80,000 participants in the Teaching American History Grant Program.
3. Approved criteria for future consideration of the OAH signing on to friend of the court briefs or endorsing policy issues. For consideration by the board, the case or policy issue should be one of which the relevance of knowledge or claims about American history is extremely high, or the degree of consensus among professional historians about the knowledge or claims at issue are extremely high. During its January 2013 conference call, the board agreed to join with the American Studies Association in filing an *amicus curiae* brief in opposition to California's 2008 Proposition 8 ballot initiative amending the state's constitution to allow only opposite-sex couples to marry. (Read full brief online: <http://www.oah.org/about/papers/reports/>)
4. Heard a report from the OAH Executive Director on the national office's operations, finances, programs, and publications, including the recently launched online career center for the OAH, the OAH Career COACH™. The board reaffirmed the organization's commitment to providing career advice, providing more membership benefits and attracting younger members to the organization.
5. Approved a motion that ended fee sharing (upon the speaker's request) in the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program.
6. Established a committee for the David Montgomery Book Prize in American labor and working class history. The award will be given annually beginning in 2014 and will be cosponsored with the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA). Criteria for the committee and award were proposed and accepted by the board.
7. Approved a new, simplified dues structure based on income categories rather than employment status designations. Dues structure is as follows: \$200 for incomes above \$100,000; \$150 for those with incomes between \$70,000–\$99,000; \$95 for those with incomes between \$45,000–\$69,000; \$60 for those with incomes below \$45,000, as well as bridge and dual members; \$45 for retirees; and \$35 for sponsored members.

8. Appointed a five- to six-member subcommittee to determine funding sources for the OAH President's travel fund for graduate students, including approaching foundations that might have an interest in this. Appointed to this new subcommittee are William Chafe, Katherine Finley, Alan Kraut, Amy Kinsel, Albert Camarillo, and Patricia Limerick.
9. Approved the Fiscal Year 2014 annual budget of \$2,791,294 in revenue and expenses of \$2,786,154, with a \$5,041 surplus.
10. Heard a report from the OAH Task Force on a New Publication for a Digital Era chaired by Jane Kamensky. The proposed new bimonthly publication will be sent to all members and will focus on teaching tools for those working in high schools, colleges, university, community colleges, and in public settings and will be available in print edition as well as a robust digital edition. The proposal was turned over to the OAH Executive Committee to determine funding possibilities. The executive committee will act before summer to determine the final scope and funding for this new publication.
11. Heard a report from Lee White, Executive Director, of the National Coalition of History, about the advocacy climate in Washington, D.C. and the creation of a new history caucus by the coalition members to advance history on Capitol Hill.
12. Heard a report from Patricia Thomas, Oxford University Press (OUP), on the status of *The Journal of American History* as well as OUP's ongoing marketing campaigns, and the placement of the *JAH* within the Humanities collection at OUP.
13. Changed the status of the four committees—Academic Freedom, Disability and Disability History, Ethics and Professional Standards, and OAH-Japanese Association/Japan Historians Collaborative Committee—from *ad hoc* status to full service committees. Also, changed the term of the Academic Freedom Committee so that it will now consist of three members serving staggered three-year terms.
14. Heard a proposal from the National Park Service Committee for a new award for excellence in an NPS history project. The board agreed that there should be an award but asked that the NPS committee incorporate the board suggestions into the criteria for the award and present these criteria to the board.
15. Created an *ad hoc* Committee on Marketing and Communication to work with OAH staff. The Committee on Committees will appoint members of this new committee.