



Minutes

2010 OAH Business Meeting
Saturday April 10, 2010
Washington, D.C.

OAH President Elaine Tyler May called the meeting to order and welcomed OAH members and others in attendance. The minutes of the 2009 OAH Business meeting in Seattle were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the OAH President, Elaine Tyler May. May introduced OAH's interim executive director, Katha Kissman, and new OAH Executive Director, Katherine M. Finley.

II. Report of the OAH Treasurer, Robert Griffith

Griffith noted that during fiscal year 2009, OAH experienced the full force of the recession and the OAH endowment declined precipitously. As a result there was a dramatic decrease in OAH's net assets. There was some good news in 2009: the FY 2009 budget showed a surplus; the audit report from Crowe Horwath LLP revealed no financial irregularities; and improved policies and procedures were put in place and the financial operations were reorganized.

Some concerns loom for FY 2010 and beyond include: The OAH does not have the ability to sustain its prizes and awards; attendance at the 2011 conference may be down; and long-term concerns include the decline in membership because of the changing demographics of members and the lack of funding for faculty travel.

A full copy of the treasurer's 2009 report is available on the OAH Web site:
<http://www.oah.org/about/papers/reports/treasurer09.pdf>

III. Report of the OAH Executive Director, Katherine M. Finley

Finley thanked Katha Kissman and the board for their work this past year. Among the major achievements for this past year are:

- revisions to OAH Web sites;
- a new contract with Oxford University Press to handle the production, distribution and marketing of both the *Journal of American History* and the *OAH Magazine of History*;
- expansion of the collaborative with the National Park Service;
- a successful 2010 annual meeting (2,150 had registered for the meeting as of Saturday, April 10)
- expansion of the OAH Distinguished Lectureship Program. The program now has more than ninety active lecturers;
- renewal of OAH's external agency agreement with Indiana University;
- endorsement of the spirit and commitment to equitable employment and professional practice of part-time and adjunct faculty as articulated in the Coalition of Academic Workforce's Issue Brief (OAH Executive Board meeting, April 7, 2010); and
- support for the Public History Committee's guidelines for the tenure of public historians at academic institutions (OAH Executive Board meeting April 7, 2010).

In reporting on the membership, Finley noted that as of March 31, 2010 the OAH lost members and subscribers, compared to the previous year: 8,212 individual members (compared to 8,750); 1,600 institutional subscribers to the *Journal of American History* (1,795); and 4,548 subscribers to the *OAH Magazine of History* (5,320).

Finley promised to continue working to increase membership and the visibility of the organization and the profession. She thanked the OAH Executive Board, committees, and staff for their work with the organization and encouraged continued member involvement from and input in the OAH.

IV. Report of the OAH Nominating Board, Katherine M. Finley

The OAH Nominating Board met at the conference but did not have a complete slate for the 2011 OAH Election. When finalized, the slate will be announced to the membership in an e-mail as well as on the OAH Web site.

The results of the 2010 OAH Election are as follows: **OAH President:** David Hollinger, University of California, Berkeley; **OAH President-Elect:** Alice Kessler-Harris, Columbia University; and **OAH Vice President:** Albert Camarillo, Stanford University. **OAH Executive Board:** Jon Butler, Yale University; Gary Reichard, California State University Long Beach; and Jane Kamensky, Brandeis University. **OAH Nominating Board:** Thomas Sugrue, University of Pennsylvania; Peggy Renner, Glendale Community College; and Lynn Dumenil, Occidental College.

V. Report of the Executive Editor, *Journal of American History*, Edward T. Linenthal

Linenthal thanked Katha Kissman for her work at the OAH and thanked the publications staff. Achievements included: relocation of all OAH publications staff in one location; signing the Oxford University agreement; and continued success of the podcasts.

The complete editor's report may be found in the September, 2010 *Journal of American History*.

VI. Old Business

No old business

VII. New Business

No new business

VIII. Adjournment

OAH President Elaine Tyler May adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.