

Alabama Association of Historians

Mid-Year Meeting – 2013

University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Minutes

Executive Council Meeting

Members Present: Robert England, Kari Frederickson, James Gentsch, Larry McQuiston, Paul Beezley, John Jackson

Meeting brought to order by Bob England. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting from February 22-23, 2013 as written. The motion to accept was made by Gentsch. England then called for any discussion on the previous meetings minutes. England then opened the discussion by maintaining that any discussion of the separation of the office of Secretary/Treasurer through AAH Constitutional amendment should be deferred to the February 2014 meeting. He stated that the Executive Council must give membership 30 days' notice of the proposed changes made to the Constitution.

Discussion was followed by a unanimous vote that the minutes be approved as read.

The vote on the minutes was followed by a lengthy discussion of the upcoming annual meeting slated for February 2014.

Kari Frederickson: Thanked everyone for agreeing to meet in Tuscaloosa at the site of the February annual meeting. She indicated that a parking hang tag would be available in the registration packet for the conference for presenters and those that pre-register. She indicated that the dates for the conference and meeting would be the last day in February and the location on the University of Alabama campus will be the AIME Building (the Alabama Institute for Manufacturing Excellence). She also stated that the keynote address would be at the Capstone Hotel.

Bob England: Stated that the average attendance in the past had been between 40 and 50. However, with the conference being held in Tuscaloosa he maintained that the attendance could be upwards of 70.

Kari Frederickson: Stated that Friday night's dinner would be at the Capstone Hotel and that the Saturday lunch would be there as well. She also mentioned an alternate venue along the river that could be considered as a potential site for the reception. She said that she would investigate that option. She continued to include that the keynote speaker would be Lawrence Kohl, a professor in the University of Alabama History Department. She asked him to speak on the importance of the humanities.

Bob England: Asked that he be allowed to introduce Professor Kohl.

Keri Frederickson: Asked the Council if there had ever been a speaker at the lunch? She stated that she had been considering asking Rick Bragg to speak at the lunch. Council members Larry McQuiston, Paul Beezley, and Bob England agreed that would be a good addition to the program. Frederickson said that she would ask Bragg if he would be available to speak at the event. Frederickson then asked the Council to consider and to discuss several ideas that might improve the attendance of the yearly conference. She said that the Council could consider involving local history teachers more by considering making the first half of the day on Friday "History Day at UA" for high school students. To that end she remarked that ideas for working with high school students could include those students coming up with displays that could be put up at the conference and possibly judged in some way. She stated that the project could be good outreach for the University and for the AAH.

Jeff Gentsch: Mentioned that when the conference was in Livingston in 2009 he set up a display of a personal collection to draw attention to the event and would be willing to do the same again at the 2014 meeting. He advocated setting up a number of displays in the ballroom including those prepared by students.

John Jackson: Offered to create a display of the Walter Overton Collection that is owned by the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History.

Larry McQuiston: Offered suggestions on limitations of space, etc. referring to guidelines established through the National History Day project.

Paul Beezley: Stated that he liked the idea of the displays and the incorporation of public history because that aspect of the AAH sets it apart from other professional organizations in its attempt to involve teachers, amateur historians, and high school students.

Bob England: Reiterated the need to publish the "Call for Papers" early as possible. It had been done the prior year and had added to the success of the event.

A discussion of the conference schedule followed.

Keri Frederickson: Said that she envisioned the morning being used for activities with high school students, displays, etc. She said that the schedule could be arranged in the best manner possible based on input from the Council members.

Jeff Gentsch: Volunteered to take a look at the facilities to ensure that rooms were conducive to their proposed use.

Under the New Business category Bob England introduced a discussion on the proposed AAH Constitutional amendments.

Bob England: Said that he had spoken to Marti Oliff and had arrived at acceptable language to amend the AAH Constitution in regard to officers and the powers and duties of those officers. He then asked for a motion to approve those amendments separating the office of Secretary/Treasurer and the duties of that office. Gentsch made the motion to accept the motion which was seconded by Frederickson. It then passed unanimously by a vote of the Council.

Under the Old Business Category Bob England asked for a Treasury report from Jeff Gentsch.

Jeff Gentsch: The AAH fund balance totaled \$4,913.70 which represented an increase of over \$1800.00 based on funds received at the Muscle Shoals conference in February 2013. He also stated that he purchased a tape recorder from AAH funds to assist in recording meeting minutes. The total cost of the recorder was \$43.59.

Kari Frederickson: Stated that the Council should examine the possibility of reducing registration fees. She asked if a student rate could be instituted.

Bob England: Stated that he would like to have an idea of the total cost of the conference and then consider a reduction in the registration fees. Nevertheless he was in favor of a graduate student fee of between \$25.00 and \$50.00.

Paul Beezley: Reiterated that the AAH conference is a wonderful venue for graduate students to get their "feet wet" presenting a paper in a comfortable environment. As such the fees should be more affordable for those presenting those papers.

Kari Frederickson: Suggested that she would find out how much money she could get from the University and how that might offset costs and afford the opportunity to make cuts in fees.

Jeff Gentsch: Stated that he would like to see permanent cuts even though he understood that the fees underwrote the meetings and the annual conference. He mentioned keeping the \$100.00 registration for those that could pay that amount and create reductions for high school teachers, graduate students, and presenters.

Bob England: Stated that one last piece of New Business pertained to the Awards; the Flynt Award and the Ramsey Award. He stated that the previous year's recipient of the Ramsey usually chaired the committee for the following year and that Larry (McQuiston) would be the logical choice to chair the Flynt Award.

Kari Frederickson made the motion to adjourn the meeting which had unanimous support.