

President Diane E. Goldstein called the fall 2013 meeting of the Executive Board to order at 9:03 am on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, in the Kent Room of the Omni Providence in Providence, Rhode Island. Members present: President-Elect Michael Ann Williams; and Brent Björkman, Maria Carmen Gambliel, David Todd Lawrence, Sabina Magliocco, Solimar Otero, Leonard Norman Primiano, Pravina Shukla, Carolyn Ware, and Juwen Zhang. Members absent: Lisa Gabbert. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman were also present.

Diane Goldstein welcomed members of the Board to the annual meeting and thanked departing Board members Lisa Gabbert, Sabina Magliocco, and Leonard Norman Primiano for their service to the Society and field during their terms on the Board. Tim Lloyd noted that the customary gifts for departing Board members would be presented near the end of the year.

**Sabina Magliocco moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Board's April 11-13, 2013, meeting as submitted. David Todd Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Diane Goldstein then delivered the President's report. She cited several AFS achievements of the past year, including the publication of issue 500 of the *Journal of American Folklore*; the development of a new version of the Open Folklore search portal; the Society's receipt of a second, \$350,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to continue our China initiative; and the two planning meetings of leaders of AFS and the China Folklore Society that have been supported by the Ford Foundation's Beijing office.

Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman then delivered a report on the 2013 annual meeting, citing the highlights of the meeting program, several design improvements that have been made to the annual meeting program book, and the number of attendees who had pre-registered for the meeting.

Executive Director Tim Lloyd delivered the Executive Director's report. Although final audited figures are not yet available, the Society ended fiscal year 2013 (September 2012-August 2013) with a deficit of approximately \$16,000 in the context of a budget of approximately \$660,000. This deficit was caused by several factors, including decreased revenue from fundraising and *JAF* royalties, and increased costs for health insurance for AFS staff, the New Orleans annual meeting, and the *MLA Bibliography* publication project. We will respond to this deficit by moving funds from the AFS cash reserve, and by curtailing non-essential expenses in the fiscal year that has just begun. However, the total of present gifts and estimated future pledges to the Society's Endowment Fund has

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increased from \$1.24 million to \$1.64 million in the past year because of earnings, new gifts, and new pledges. A major challenge in the coming year will be the identification of the next editor of the *Journal of American Folklore*. A call for proposals has just been distributed to the membership.

Leonard Norman Primiano, Board representative to the Nominating Committee, asked whether candidates should be required to attend the Candidates' Forum at the annual meeting, or whether the Forum should be eliminated or delivered in some other format (e.g., by video). After discussion, the Board decided to leave the present arrangements in place.

The Board took a short break at 10:35 am and returned to its agenda at 10:54 am.

The Board then took up its discussion of the revision of the Society's long-range plan that it had last visited at its April 2013 meeting. In particular, the Board discussed present developments in the worlds surrounding AFS and the field of folklore studies. These included the state of the public sector, particularly in state arts agencies, where the inclinations and priorities of the executive director hold great sway; the shift over the last 25 years from a few flagship academic programs to a larger number of programs occupying more diverse niches in the ecology of the field; and the recent rapid growth in the number of state public folklore programs that are housed within university departments Penn example: is it more of a shift in location and emphasis? BB: Public programs at universities. The Board also discussed the future role of international activities in AFS's repertoire, including the multi-lingual sharing of scholarly products.

Under the heading of old business, Sabina Magliocco and Leonard Norman Primiano presented a proposal to the Board (that they and Lisa Gabbert had drafted) for the creation of an AFS lifetime achievement award for service to the field. After discussion about the details of the prize and the nomination process, **David Todd Lawrence moved that the Board approve in principle the proposal for the creation of an AFS lifetime achievement award for service to the field. Sabina Magliocco seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** The Board informally agreed that Diane Goldstein, Michael Ann Williams, Tim Lloyd, and Lorraine Cashman will work out the details of offering this award and will communicate those details to the Board for discussion and final approval.

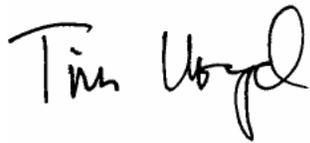
Pravina Shukla then raised the matter of nominations for the Society's major prizes. Should the Board be authorized to add the names of deserving but un-nominated candidates to the list of those under consideration in a particular

year? After discussion, **Brent Björkman moved that the Board be given the authority to add the names of deserving but un-nominated candidates to the list of those under consideration in a particular year, and that the Executive Director should inform the Board each year of the candidates who had been nominated. David Todd Lawrence seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**David Todd Lawrence then moved that the meeting be adjourned. Maria Carmen Gambliel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



April 11, 2014

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Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

April 11, 2014

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Michael Ann Williams  
President

Date