

President Michael Ann Williams called the fall 2014 meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 9:00 am on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, in the Tesuque Board Room of the Santa Fe Community Convention Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Members present: President Michael Ann Williams, Past President Diane Goldstein; and Brent Björkman, Maria Carmen Gambliel, Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, David Todd Lawrence, Solimar Otero, Pravina Shukla, Diane Tye, Carolyn Ware, and Juwen Zhang. Members absent: none. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd and Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman were also present.

As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, the proceedings of this meeting were recorded.

Michael Ann Williams thanked departing Board members David Todd Lawrence, Solimar Otero, and Juwen Zhang, and departing AFS President Diane Goldstein, for their service to the Society and field, and Tim Lloyd presented gifts from the Board to these members.

David Todd Lawrence moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Board's April 11-12, 2014, meeting as submitted. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Michael Ann Williams then delivered the President's report. She announced the Society's new Judith McCulloh Award for Lifetime Service to the Society, noted her activities as an *ex officio* member of the Board of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, and reminded the Board of her Presidential initiative to bring material culture and vernacular architecture scholars back within the AFS orbit. She also cited the need for training issues for young scholars, noted that the AFS historic preservation policy working group's white paper gaining traction in the historic preservation world, and announced that the proposed leadership intensive to be postponed until 2016. She closed by mentioning that she had invited Simon Lichman to deliver this year's Presidential Invited Plenary Address.

Tim Lloyd then delivered the Executive Director's report, focusing first on a summary of the Society's positive financial performance in the fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2014. He also summarized plans for the public phase of the AFS Endowment Fund campaign that will begin in 2015.

He then described progress on the museums portion of the Society's three-year grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for work in collaboration with the China Folklore Society. Juwen Zhang then described the summer 2014 folklore field documentation workshop that AFS produced with Central China Normal

University in summer 2015. A second such workshop is scheduled for summer 2015, as are the development of bilingual syllabi for undergraduate and graduate courses in folklore and intangible cultural heritage, and a database of China and US dissertations on folklore and intangible cultural heritage topics.

Tim Lloyd closed his report by noting that negotiations with Indiana University for the move of AFS's executive office to the Indiana campus were still underway, and reminded the Board that this possible move was still not for public discussion as long as negotiations were still ongoing.

Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman then reported on the annual meeting that was about to begin. The Santa Fe annual meeting will be the largest AFS annual meeting in the last 25 years and one of the largest in history. She described the refinements the staff made this year to the schedule modifications first tested in Providence in 2013, and noted increases in both first-time attendance at the meeting and international participation.

The Board took a break at 10:30 am and returned to its agenda at 11:00 am.

Tim Lloyd and Solimar Otero then announced the recommended recipients of the Society's 2014 Benjamin A. Botkin and Américo Paredes Prizes, Roby Cogswell of the Tennessee Arts Commission and Maria Herrera-Sobek of the University of California, Santa Barbara, respectively. **David Todd Lawrence moved that the Board approve the recommendation that Roby Cogswell receive the Society 2014 Benjamin A. Botkin Prize and that Maria Herrera-Sobek receive the Society's 2014 Américo Paredes Prize. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

David Todd Lawrence then made a report on the recent deliberations of the Society's Cultural Diversity Committee, which the Board had asked to discuss and propose strategies for increasing the diversity of participation in the annual meeting. The Committee has not yet arrived at final recommendations, but at present they are considering the following two possibilities: the production, by the Committee and the local planning committee, of a regular annual meeting session or sessions at the annual meeting on diversity topics; and the hosting of a Committee reception at the annual meeting. Committee member Jerrilyn McGregory will attend the Modern Language Association and Popular Culture Association meetings to investigate their activities toward the same end.

Pravina Shukla, Board representative on the Nominating Committee, then reported on several nominating- and election-related matters, focusing in particular on the Candidates' Forum. She proposed the elimination of the Forum, which has historically drawn a very small audience, in favor of other forms of

communication of candidates' positions and plans. After discussion the Board asked the staff to undertake a survey of the membership about their opinions of and participation in the nominating and election process, including but not limited to the Candidates' Forum.

The Board took a break for lunch at 12:30 pm and returned to its agenda at 1:45 pm.

Michael Ann Williams then made a report on the plans of the Western Kentucky University-based collective, of which she is a member, that is now editing the *Journal of American Folklore*. The WKU team has been working with outgoing the outgoing *JAF* editorial team at the University of Wisconsin, and has met with the Journals Division staff of the University of Illinois Press. Ann Ferrell will be the editor-in-chief throughout the five-year WKU editorship; Erika Brady will be co-editor in the first year of the term, and others will follow in that role annually. The new team began receiving submissions on October 6.

The Board, moving ahead to discuss an item of old business, heard a brief report from Brent Björkman on the Public Programs Section's advocacy toolkit project. Maggie Holtzberg moved that the Board approve the toolkit and that it be made openly available on the AFS web site. Maggie Kruesi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

President Valdimar Hafstein, Vice President Peter Jan Margry, and Board assistant Sophie Alpers of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore then joined the meeting. Hafstein described the ISEF organization and its activities, including the interactions of ethnologists and folklorists in its membership and activities, and its several active topically focused working groups (similar to AFS sections). ISEF is interested in pursuing collaborations with AFS based on our common goals and shared memberships. After discussion it was agreed that the Society and ISEF would pursue several possible collaborative activities: a formal recognition of sisterhood between the two societies, explorations of common activities involving AFS sections and ISEF working groups, an AFS version of the ISEF online map of the discipline, joint membership discounts, and a joint thematic meeting at some point in the future.

The ISEF delegation left the meeting at this point, and the Board took a break at 3:10 pm and returned to its agenda at 3:25 pm.

Under the heading of new business, Tim Lloyd presented a petition for the creation of an AFS museums section. **David Todd Lawrence moved that the Board approve the petition for the creation of an AFS museums section. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Tim Lloyd then presented a proposal for new activity and financial guidelines for all AFS sections. **David Todd Lawrence moved that the Board approve the proposal for new AFS section activity and financial guidelines as presented. Maggie Holtzberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board then discussed the present situation at the University of Missouri academic program in folklore, the American Historical Association's new program to develop metrics for the competencies that are gained through the study of history, and the panel of folklorists in academic leadership positions organized by Diane Goldstein for this annual meeting to communicate best practices

David Todd Lawrence moved that the meeting be adjourned. Diane Goldstein seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

March 13, 2015

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

March 13, 2015

Michael Ann Williams
President

Date