

President Kay Turner called the fall 2016 meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 8:32 am on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, in the Orchid C Room of the Hyatt Regency Miami hotel in Miami, Florida. Members present: President Kay Turner, Past President Michael Ann Williams, Berry Bergey, Katey Borland, Norma Cantú, Guillermo De Los Reyes, Lisa Gilman, Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, Jim Leary, Jeff Todd Titon, and Diane Tye. 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.

Kay Turner thanked departing Board members Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, and Diane Tye for their service to the Society and field, and Timothy Lloyd presented gifts from the Board to these members.

Executive Director Timothy Lloyd noted that, according to the Board's new procedure, all Board votes will be followed with an oral summary by the Executive Director of the voting, to which all Board members will be asked to assent; and Board votes that are not unanimous will require all those voting to state their individual votes via a roll call to be conducted by the Executive Director.

**Maggie Kruesi moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Board's April 8-9, 2016, meeting as submitted. Guillermo De Los Reyes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 12 votes to 0.**

Kay Turner then delivered the President's report, citing several aspects of the annual meeting program for special attention, including a session marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1986 AFS annual meeting folklore and feminism sessions in Baltimore, a Lydia Cabrera altar exhibition at HistoryMiami, and a meeting about her Presidential curriculum development project. She also updated the Board on work toward her proposed narrative project.

Timothy Lloyd then delivered the Executive Director's report, which included a financial summary for fiscal year 2016, which just ended; an update on the 2016 Sustainers' Fund campaign; a briefing on our new staff members, Membership Director Meredith McGriff and Graduate Assistant Jesse Fivecoate, and a summary of new employment arrangements for Lorraine Cashman as a result of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

Lorraine Cashman then delivered a report on the Miami joint conference with the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, citing a tentative tally of the numbers of participants and sessions and the complications of planning a joint meeting with another society: Timothy Lloyd added information about outside funding for several meeting activities, and about issues some international participants experienced with getting US visas. Cashman completed her report by mentioning the relatively small number of withdrawals due to concerns about the Zika virus in south Florida, and with a note about the Society's new withdrawal and refund procedure.

The Board took a break at 10:40 am and returned to its agenda at 10:55 am.

Timothy Lloyd then presented recommendations from the review committees for the recipients of the 2016 Benjamin A. Botkin Prize, Zora Neale Hurston Prize, and Américo Paredes Prize. **Barry Bergey moved that these three 2017 AFS prize recommendations (Botkin Prize: Andrea Graham; Hurston Prize: Tyler Parry; Paredes Prize: Susan Kalčík) be approved as presented. Katey Borland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 12 votes to 0.**

Diane Tye then made a report on the 2016 work of the Nominating Committee.

Michael Ann Williams then delivered a report from the *Journal of American Folklore* editorial office at Western Kentucky University, including statistics on the number of submissions, acceptances, and rejections, and the average number of days required on average for the review of *JAF* submissions. She closed by recommending that we move the next editor search up one year (to 2018) to allow for a more effective turnover of responsibility and *Journal* contents-in-progress.

The Board then moved ahead in its agenda to consider items of Old Business. For the first of these, Timothy Lloyd presented proposed language for several amendments to the section of the *AFS Bylaws* that describes the makeup and responsibilities of AFS standing committees. Collectively, these amendments will:

1. Make the International Issues Committee and Mentoring Committee, both of which have operated as *ad hoc* (i.e., temporary) committees for a number of years, into standing (i.e., permanent) committees
2. Clarify the responsibilities of the Membership Committee
3. Simplify the system of standing committee membership, terms, and succession
4. Formalize what has for some time been our informal practice by specifying that all standing committee members must be members of the AFS
5. Reschedule the annual deadline on which standing committees submit their reports, since the Society's annual report now appears in the spring rather than the late fall

**Maggie Holtzberg moved that the Board approve the presentation of these Bylaws changes to the membership for approval as part of the 2016 AFS election. Norma Cantú second the motion, which passed unanimously, 12 votes to 0.**

The second of these was discussion of a possible policy statement on appropriate professional behavior at AFS annual meetings. Kay Turner provided the background to this matter, and the Board agreed that the President and Executive Director should form a committee to draft such a statement for Board review and approval at the next Board meeting in April 2017.

The Board took a break for lunch at 11:56 am and returned to its agenda at 1:05 pm.

Timothy Lloyd then reported on plans for, and shared informational materials about, the announcement of the AFS Endowment Fund campaign to the membership in November 2016.

The Board then held a discussion of the future transition to the Society's next executive director. Timothy Lloyd presented a proposed plan for managing the transition, centered

on the appointment of a Succession Committee charged with developing a position announcement now, and then—at such time as the present director's retirement is announced—with promoting the position within our field, interviewing semi-finalist candidates, and recommending final candidates to the Board for second interviews. Members of the Succession Committee would be named jointly by the President (Kay Turner), Past President (Michael Ann Williams), and Executive Director (Timothy Lloyd). **After discussion, Barry Bergey moved that the Board approve the plan for the future transition to the Society's next executive director as presented by the Executive Director. Norma Cantú seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 12 votes to 0.**

Timothy Lloyd then presented a proposal for the AFS to take a leading role in the formation of an International Federation of Folklore Societies and an application to the International Council of Philosophy and the Human Sciences (CIPSH), a UNESCO affiliate, for membership in that body. The AFS, the China Folklore Society, and the Folklore Society of Japan are taking the leading roles in starting the proposed federation; a number of other societies worldwide have expressed their interest in becoming part of it. **Jim Leary moved that the Board approve the Executive Director's proposal for the AFS to take a leading role in the formation of an International Federation of Folklore Societies and an application to the International Council of Philosophy and the Human Sciences (CIPSH), a UNESCO affiliate, for membership in that body. Guillermo De Los Reyes seconded the motion, which passed, 11 votes in favor, 0 votes opposed, and 1 abstention.**

Kay Turner then presented the matter of a possible AFS Executive Board endorsement of the boycott of Wendy's now underway, led by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. After discussion, **Barry Bergey moved that the Board approve the issuance of the following endorsement: Folklorists have long brought the voices of working people to the attention of public and scholarly audiences. The Executive Board of the American Folklore Society supports grassroots organizations working for just, equitable, and safe workplaces as elements of a healthy culture. We endorse the work of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to ensure social and economic justice for workers throughout the food-supply chain, including their boycott of Wendy's. We encourage AFS members to learn about the issues involved. Katey Borland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 12 votes to 0.**

The Board took a break at 2:55 pm and returned to its agenda at 3:10 pm.

Cultural Diversity Committee (CDC) co-chair Wanda Addison and committee members Anand Prahlad and Suzy Seriff then joined the Board for a discussion of the present work and future directions of the committee. They and the Board discussed several understandings of what "a diverse" AFS might mean; the need for institutions across the field of folklore studies, not just AFS, to collaborate on work toward resolving diversity-related issues in the field; possible activities to increase recruitment of young people of color into our field, as well as the presence of diverse members of AFS in the Society's leadership; and the respective roles and responsibilities of the CDC and the local planning committee in exploring and presenting local traditions, artists, cultural activists, and cultural issues at our annual meeting each year. It was also noted that in the past year conflicts of interest have arisen regarding the participation of Executive Board

members as members of the CDC, and it was suggested that the Board develop a policy about such participation.

**Lisa Gilman then moved that the meeting be adjourned. Maggie Holtzberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 12 votes to 0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Lloyd  
Executive Director

April 7, 2017  
Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

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Kay Turner  
President

April 7, 2017  
Date