

Annual Business Meeting
Immigration and Ethnic History Society
Washington, DC
April 9, 2010

President Barbara M. Posadas called to order the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Immigration and Ethnic Society at 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 9, 2010, at the Washington Hilton. Twenty-four Society members were present, including all six officers and a majority of the Executive Board.

President Posadas asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the 2009 meeting, which was seconded and approved. She then announced plans for the annual dinner following the business meeting and recognized the chairs of the Society's various committees, giving special recognition to Rachel Kranson, who organized the very successful Graduate Student and Junior Faculty Reception earlier in the week. The President's report alluded to the various actions taken by the Board during the course of the past year to streamline Society operations, including a change of policy in communicating election results from the Secretary to the President and Nominating Chair in order to facilitate travel arrangements for new officers and Board members.

During the Secretary's Report, Timothy Dean Draper provided the names of the three new Executive Board members: Maddelena Marinari, Raymond Mohl, and Anna Pegler Gordon. Draper communicated some of the challenges encountered during the transition from exclusively paper balloting to electronic balloting, and President Posadas recognized the fine job Nominating Chair Charlie Zappia and his administrative staff performed in updating the Society's membership email database. John Bukowczyk suggested that the updated database be sent to University of Illinois Press for communicating with subscribers.

Treasurer Cheryl Greenberg reported that the Society made money during the past fiscal year, finishing with funds of \$142,000 after tabulating \$90,000 in revenue and \$60,000 in expenses. Past President Ron Bayor inquired about financing for the Pozzetta Award, which Greenberg stated was at \$10,000 at the conclusion of 2009, which allowed the Society to pay for the amount of the award. Barbara Posadas pointed out that the amount of the award had been lowered from \$500 to \$250. Discussion ensued as to the desirability of restoring the award to its former amount. Alan Kraut asked in which type of banking account the Society held its funds, and Treasurer Greenberg explained that she had used both checking and interest-bearing savings accounts along with a nine-month CD. She then indicated that she had closed the CD after it came due because of its low-rate of return. Victor Greene opined that with its largesse the Society might consider how it might spend surplus funds, but James Bergquist and Barbara Posadas cautioned that unanticipated costs and rising publication expenses might require a continued surplus. Greenberg added that a significant part of the Society's liquid assets were part of the one-time \$50,000 settlement

with Transaction Publishing. John Bukowczyk noted that the Polish American History Association utilized an investment house to help invest its funds and had done quite well, which might be an idea for the Society to pursue. Posadas added that, based on her experience with the Illinois State Historical Society, management of funds requires a knowledgeable investment committee and that maintenance fees might be high.

John Bukowczyk provided the Journal of American Ethnic History report, discussing the transition from the History Cooperative to JSTOR as an electronic repository for the Journal. He stated that the Journal had lost approximately one-third of its institutional members since 2003, which reflects a general trend in the publication of scholarly journals. Citing JSTOR's higher rates, Bukowczyk maintained that this venue provided a better means of marketing the Journal, including new readership venues. He reported that Allan Austin, the Book Review Editor, will be stepping down at the end of 2011; therefore, the Society will need to find a replacement. Finally, he indicated that the quality and quantity of submissions are fine and there are future special issues planned.

Newsletter editor James Bergquist reported that IEHS is sending out about 800 newsletters at a time, running a bit ahead of membership totals due to free subscriptions. As always, he is interested in new articles, for example on ethnic stereotyping. The next newsletter will carry an article by Marian Smith, Senior Historian, US Citizenship and Immigration Services and her staff about the accessibility of immigration and naturalization records in the new federal archival environment.

Program Chair Hasia Diner revealed that the Society has submitted panels for next year's meetings of the American Historical Association, American Studies Association, Berkshire Conference on Women's History, and the Organization of American Historians. She asked that Society members consider other conferences they attend so that the Program Chair might approach them for possible co-sponsorship of panels.

Maria Christina Garcia announced that this year's Theodore Saloutos Book Award winner was Anna Pegler Gordon for her *In Sight of America: Photography and the Development of U.S. Immigration Policy*. Raymond Mohl announced that Jared Toney had received the George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award. Finally, Elliott Barkan announced that Aaron Ivan Cavin, Julian Lim, and Shira Miriam Cohen received the OAH/IEHS John Higham Travel Grants. Ron Bayor reported that his ad hoc committee, charged with exploring a new "best" dissertation award named after Rudolph Vecoli, is presently inactive until a possible contributor may be found.

Rachel Kranson outlined the changes planned for the IEHS website, including a general redesign, online voting, online dinner reservations and payment, updated membership lists, better navigability, syllabus section, password protection, and

other features, which would cost about \$3,500 annually. General discussion of additional features, such as a discussion forum, followed, and Kranson pointed out that an IEHS Facebook page, for example, might be the best solution for some of the alternatives. John Bukowczyk posed a query about a possible Web Editor, which Posadas replied would be taken up by the Executive Board meeting following the general business meeting. Posadas then suggested that members should email Rachel Kranson any further suggestions they might have. President Posadas then directed the Society Secretary to read the language of the pertinent section of the By-Laws and the proposed amendment which had been distributed in advance to the Society's membership in accordance with the By-laws. Following the reading, Posadas asked Bukowczyk to provide his rationale for the proposed change. Bukowczyk explained that due to the volatility of online publishing and need for the Society to be flexible with JSTOR's subscription schedule, the following language should be adopted:

That Amendment VI (which amended Article V, section 1), be replaced with the following language:

Amount of dues. Fees and amount of annual dues for all membership categories and sub-categories shall be established and changed by a majority vote of the Board.

The proposed amendment was carried unanimously.

Barbara Posadas adjourned the annual meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Dean Draper, IEHS Secretary