**Oral History Association**

**Midwinter Council Meeting**

**February 19-21, 2016**

Present: Annie Valk, Doug Boyd, Todd Moye, Paul Ortiz, Amy Starecheski, Allison Tracy, Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, Gayle Knight

**Friday, February 19**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Council approved the consent agenda consisting of the following:

October, 2015, Council minutes

President’s Report

International committee report

Publications committee report

Education committee report

Nominating committee report

**Executive Office report (Knight)**

* The submission process for the 2016 meeting just wrapped up, and we received 111 individual paper submissions and 73 session submissions, a very robust year.
* The first digital newsletter went out in early January, thanks to much effort by editor Mary Kay Quinlan and graphic designer Seth Kelly. Kelly was hired to create a template in MailChimp so that we can send digital newsletters three times per year. The hope is that we can continue to mail a print copy to the 100+ members who have requested that.
* Membership was up again in 2015 over the previous year. We ended 2015 with 845 members, up from 730 at the end of 2014.
* Gayle is still working to find an accounting firm to do the review requested by Council. One has been recommended, and Gayle hopes to meet with them shortly to discuss OHA finances.
* The pamphlet *Doing Veterans Oral History* was re-printed to correct the margin issues that appeared in the first batch sold at the Annual Meeting. It is now available again online.
* The office will begin a series of posts on the website called “Throwback Thursday” to highlight activities of the first two decades of OHA history, one year each week, beginning in March.
* Jessica Keys, one of the graduate students at Georgia State, has continued to work on the fundraising efforts she began with Cliff Kuhn. The office needs ideas for projects that would be interesting to funders, perhaps in the technology area.

Council ended the evening with a discussion on the topic “What is OHA doing right?” Council members also remembered Cliff, his excitement about bringing this Council meeting to Atlanta, and his passion for the OHA.

**Saturday, February 20**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

**2016 Annual Meeting Update (Boyd)**

* Plans for the meeting are going well. Two plenaries are scheduled, workshops have been selected, and only the keynote is still undecided.
* The 50th celebration event will be at the Aquarium of the Pacific, a wonderful venue within walking distance of the hotel. The Friday diversity reception will be offsite, and Saturday evening will be free with no scheduled events.
* The local arrangements committee is working to develop tours and possibly some outdoor events.
* There are plans for a second annual poster session as well as a tech/equipment showcase.

**Long Beach Renaissance labor situation**

* Council discussed what response OHA should have to the Renaissance Long Beach, the 2016 conference hotel, being included on the UNITE HERE boycott list.
* Council members agree that communication to keep members updated on the situation is important.
* Council discussed creating a webpage on the OHA site where we could post news articles and updates on the situation throughout the summer.
* Council plans to send a letter to the Renaissance management encouraging resolution of the labor dispute. Council decided to revisit this topic on Sunday and review draft letter which Starecheski has started.

**Future site selection**

The ad hoc committee on site selection drafted recommended language to include in future hotel contracts that would allow OHA to withdraw from contracts if a labor dispute arises. Council discussed implications of the recommendation to only contract with union hotels since that will severely limit the choices. Council agreed to modify the language and draft a resolution on site selection outlining 2016 plans and guidelines for future hotel contracts. The draft will be reviewed by Council on Sunday.

**Finance committee (Navarro-McElhaney)**

The finance committee would like to begin development of the upcoming year’s budget to earlier in the summer. Committee requests staff to explore Board Insurance for Council members.

**Discussion of Executive Director replacement, GSU contract**

Council discussed Georgia State University proposal to hire visiting professor as executive director for remainder of grant period through 2017. Council feels the low proposed salary may keep those OHA would find qualified from applying. It was the sense of Council to move forward with a search for an institutional home. Given a probable time frame of 18 months, the search should be announced by summer. Council asked President Annie Valk to develop a task force for the search that would include at least one member of Council.

Arizona State has approached OHA about the possibility of Kristine Navarro-McElhaney, current Council member, serving as interim director on a part-time basis. She would remain based at Arizona State and her institution would continue to pay her full salary. This would provide leadership and continuity given Navarro-McElhaney’s knowledge of the OHA. Council voted to authorize OHA leadership to talk with Arizona State University to pursue an agreement that would enable OHA to have Navarro-McElhaney as interim executive director.

**Strategic Plan**

Council discussed items accomplished on strategic plan and plans for prioritizing those that have not been addressed. The plan is designed to go through 2017 so there may be a need to begin future long range planning when OHA finds an institutional home.

**50th Anniversary Task Force**

Task force chair Mary Larson has approached targeted lists of OHA members such as past Presidents, Council members, and endowment donors to ask for contributions. She has asked Council for ideas of projects that the endowment could fund that would excite members to contribute.

* Council discussed some form of diversity scholarship or internship.
* Staff asked to contact Judy Sackett, one of the Diversity Committee co-chairs, to discuss diversity scholarship possibilities as she has experience with an organization that offers a diversity scholarship.
* The OHA archives at UNT also needs to be addressed. Boyd would like to see funding for digitizing the audio portions of the archives, particularly the recordings of early OHA annual meetings. Council discussed a possible Kickstarter campaign for archive preservation.
* Larson and 50th committee are planning a digital publication with memories from Past Presidents. This will be edited by Larson and Rina Benmayor. The task force does not anticipate needing funding for their plans. They are also working with program chairs and committee on a 50th anniversary track of sessions.
* Given that the task force does not foresee any expenses, Council discussed using $10,000 in adopted budget for the 50th anniversary to digitize OHA audio in UNT archives. The audio could be used at the 50th meeting, and it needs to begin before the materials are compromised. It was the sense of Council that this would be a wise use of money, and Todd will pursue with UNT.

Council discussed potential 50th anniversary commemorative items for the meeting such as tote bags, pins, and T-shirts. Staff encouraged to pursue these items as funding will allow.

**Oral History Review report**

Editors Kathy Nasstrom and Troy Reeves have worked to lay out a timeline to transition to the next editor or team of editors. The proposal includes funding for a period of overlap between the two editorial teams. Council would like to look for more funding for the editors of the OHR in the future. Council asked staff to confirm the time frame of the current Oxford University Press contract. Council and Valk will need to establish a task force for an editor search during 2016.

**Sunday, February 21**

**2017 Annual Meeting report**

* Todd Moye has begun putting together a program committee and working with members on a theme for the Call for Papers for the Minneapolis meeting.
* The Mill City Museum is a possible venue for Presidential Reception.
* Moye plans to visit Minneapolis in the summer to meet with those interested in serving on the local arrangements committee and local organizations that could support the meeting.

**2018 Meeting**

* Proposal from Concordia University for Montreal meeting is still a possibility.
* Council asked staff to contact Helms Briscoe, our site selection firm, to research other possible cities now that we have new site selection guidelines. The guidelines need to be incorporated in to our standard request for proposals.
* Council requested inquiries for Memphis, Nashville, San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and Baltimore.

**Old Business**

Council reviewed the draft letter to the Renaissance Hotel regarding the labor situation and finalized content. Council reviewed and approved a Resolution on Site Selection and Labor Issues. Council will wait to get input from Council member Claytee White who could not attend the meeting before moving forward to post distribute the resolution to the membership.

Staff directed to set up Google Drive folder system for Council to use. Dropbox does not have the same capacity and we need more online files for access to documents.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.