

Annual Business Meeting of SSSP  
Friday, August 11, 2006, Montréal, Québec, Canada

President Claire M. Renzetti called the meeting to order.

The agenda was accepted as distributed.

JoAnn Miller, Secretary, reviewed the minutes of last year's meeting as printed in the Fall 2005 issue of SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM.

Susan Carlson, Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of SSSP. She noted that the Society continues to be in good financial condition. She urged the Society to take steps toward increasing income for three reasons: (1) to reduce the deficit; (2) to prepare for the transition of the Executive Office; and (3) to preserve investments for minority scholarships.

Susan Carlson, along with the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee recommend a membership dues increase and an aggressive pricing strategy for institutional subscriptions to *Social Problems*.

A flat \$20 increase in membership dues will be proposed initially for the purpose of seeking membership response. *Social Problems Forum* will publish an article and comments on membership dues. The eventual proposal, which will likely be a progressive dues structure, will be brought to next year's Business Meeting. A five percent membership quorum is necessary to vote on the proposal at the Meeting. Tom Hood noted that the Bylaws require the question to come before the Business Meeting. If a quorum is not met, an electronic ballot can follow.

JoAnn Miller reported on the actions of the 2005-2006 Board of Directors. The Board approved changes in the Society's Operations Manual. It approved the recommendation from the Budget, Audit, and Finance Committee to increase the institutional subscription rate for the 2008 volume of *Social Problems* to \$175.00. It approved the revised budget. The Board refers to the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee the need to form a committee or a procedure for handling bequests in general; and the creation of a new award, the Joseph B. Gittler award. The Board recommends a change to the Bylaws and asks the Bylaws Committee to write an amendment to enable electronic balloting for the Special Problems Divisions and general election. The Board approved the creation of a PDF document that summarizes the mission and vision of each Special Problems Division. It will be similar to the booklet that Pam Roby organized and edited in 1997. Tom Hood will contact the Special Problems Division chairs to ask each to contribute to the document. The Board authorized Michele Koontz and Tom Hood to pursue San Francisco sites for the 2009 meeting.

Amy Wharton reported on *Social Problems*. The editorial office transition was smooth. A total of 343 manuscripts were received. On average, a full review was achieved within 70 days. Two special sections are forthcoming; one on institutional ethnography in the August issue and one of race, gender, and feminist theory in the November issue. The Table of Contents for each issue is now online, and soon a featured article will be available on the SSSP web page.

Ken Kyle reported on *Social Problems Forum*. There is a new “News of Note” section and he is encouraging more convergence/divergence pieces.

Tom Hood gave the Report from the Executive Officer. He noted that SSSP is more responsive each year to the Society’s mission. The journal is doing well in rankings on the Science Citation Index. The number of individual subscribers to *Social Problems* exceeds the Society’s membership. He encouraged each member to bring one new member into SSSP during the year.

Michele Koontz presented the Report from the Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager. She thanked Claire M. Renzetti and the Program Committee for an excellent program. A total of 630 persons registered for this year’s meetings; 593 had pre registered and 36 percent are student registrations. The AIDS fundraiser will donate \$1,675 plus additional proceeds to Maison Plain Coeur. Michele Koontz thanked Mary Walker and Tom Hood and announced that Mary Walker, the SSSP graduate assistant, will continue in her position next year.

Kim Cook reported on Bylaw changes. The past editor of *Social Problems* is an ex-officio member of the Editorial and Publications Committee.

Kim Cook reported on the Resolutions Committee. She introduced new resolutions. A total of six resolutions were passed.

**Resolution #1**

From: Environment and Technology Division

Sustainable Development in Montreal

WHEREAS the City of Montreal developed “Montreal’s First Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development” in 2003, encouraged partnerships with community organizations to promote sustainable development, and made a commitment to consider innovative solutions to newly emerging environmental problems; AND

WHEREAS the recent auditor general’s report noted setbacks in efforts to meet recycling targets as well as significant concerns about the slow permitting and authorization processes and lack of monitoring of industrial waste releases into the air and sewers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SSSP commends the City of Montreal on its efforts to promote sustainable development through the involvement of community partnerships and innovative solutions, encourages continued commitment to sustainable development to address newly emerging environmental concerns in spite of setbacks and requests that SSSP write on behalf of the membership to representatives of the City of Montreal to express this commendation and encourage continued commitment to issues of sustainability.

**Resolution #2**

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to all of the officers of this Society, committee chairs and members who have made this program possible and whose efforts maintain the vitality of the

SSSP. First, we thank President: Claire M. Renzetti for her outstanding leadership in developing this 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and its Theme: Building Just, Diverse and Democratic Communities. We also thank this year's program committee: Program Co-chairs: James Gruber and Phoebe Morgan, Program Committee: Madelaine Adelman, Steven Barkan, Michele Paludi and Stephani Williams, Local Arrangements Chair: Yesim Bayar. We thank the staff of the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure Hotel for fine accommodations and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Jean-François Tourigny, Manager - Convention Services and Banquets and Roxane Sigouin, Senior Sales Manager.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to past president Gary Alan Fine for his years of leadership; Vice-President Kimberly J. Cook for managing the resolutions process; JoAnn L. Miller for her service as Secretary; and outgoing Susan M. Carlson for her service as Treasurer from 2003-2006. The Society also thanks Valerie Jenness, President-Elect; Keith M. Kilty, Vice-President Elect; Board of Directors Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Wendy Simonds, Donald Cunnigen and Tracy L. Dietz, outgoing members Kathleen S. Lowney, David A. Smith, Paul Luken; Luis Fernandez (outgoing) and Ingar P. Johnson, student representatives of the Board; Carrie Yang Costello, outgoing Chair of the Council of Special Problems Divisions; Amy S. Wharton, Editor of *Social Problems*; Ken Kyle, Editor of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*; Kimberly J. Cook, Long Range Planning Committee Chair and committee members Karl Bryant, Susan M. Carlson, Donald Cunnigen, Nelta M. Edwards, Luis Fernandez, Kathleen J. Ferraro, Martha A. Hargraves, Robert Perrucci, Claire M. Renzetti and Aimee Van Wagenen; David Rudy, outgoing Budget, Finance and Audit Committee Chair and his committee Marino Bruce, Gray Cavender and Susan M. Carlson; James Orcutt, Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and his committee Wendy Chapkis, Doris Wilkinson, Patricia Yancey Martin, Peter J. Kivisto, A. Javier Treviño, Amy S. Wharton, Ken Kyle and David Rudy; Solstice band for performing at the AIDS fundraiser; the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Executive Office; the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost of the University of Dayton for their financial contribution to the program and the reception honoring our past presidents; and the University of California Press for their financial contribution to our registration bags. Finally, the Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Tom Hood, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, and Graduate Research Associate Mary Walker for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out.

### **Resolution #3**

From: Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division

Whereas, we affirm support for the declaration of sexual rights as constructed by the World Association for Sexuality, in which all human beings are entitled to the following sexual rights: the right to sexual freedom, sexual autonomy, sexual privacy, sexual equality, emotional sexual expression, sexual education, sexual health care, to sexually associate freely and make responsible choices,

Therefore, be it resolved that the SSSP recognizes the sexual rights of all people as long as sexual behavior does not infringe on the rights of other humans or non-human animals.

**Resolution #4**

From: Global Division

Resolution in support of an immediate and enduring cessation of hostilities in Lebanon:

Whereas the recent violence in the Lebanon has escalated beyond all prior imaginable proportions; and

Whereas the SSSP membership supports a peaceful and political solution as an alternative to armed conflicts;

Whereas US policies continue to provide support to the Israeli military establishment;

Whereas considerable evidence exists that war crimes have been committed by the Israeli armed forces (IDF) and other armed parties to the conflict;

Whereas civilians and United Nations Forces have been repeatedly hit by Israeli retaliatory actions without adequate safeguards to protect Lebanese and other civilians;

Be it therefore resolved that the SSSP:

Urges the U.S. government to join other countries who call for an immediate, unconditional, and enduring ceasefire by all parties;

Implores the United States government to not obstruct ongoing United Nations inquiries into the human rights conduct of any of the armed parties; and to that effect,

We hereby direct the SSSP Board of Directors to communicate these sentiments in a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the White House, and the leaders of both Houses.

**Resolution #5**

From: Institutional Ethnography Division

Whereas the Sacred Lands of First Nations in Canada and Indigenous Peoples around the globe are under threat from development and other destructive activities;

Whereas, increasing the understanding and recognition of sacred lands is a human rights issue.

Therefore, be it resolved that the SSSP:

1. Condemns the destruction of what are considered the sacred lands of First Nations in Canada and Indigenous Peoples around the globe,
2. Supports the continuance and preservation of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples' cultural and spiritual practices which are closely tied to land areas known to be sacred to them.

Directed to:

- United Nations Division of Human Rights, Geneva Switzerland (Indigenous Human Rights).
- The International Indigenous Treaty Council (IITC) headquartered in San Francisco CA

- Bureau of Indian Affairs, USA
- Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada
- US Department of Justice

**Resolution #6**

From: Institutional Ethnography Division

Whereas today many governments practice torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment, thereby making torture a global problem, and

Whereas “extraordinary rendition,” a practice by which detainees are transferred to other countries where they will most certainly be tortured, is part of the global mechanism of torture, and

Whereas torture and “extraordinary rendition” are violations of international law, and

Whereas there have been recent cases when medical and psychological scientists and practitioners have abetted the practice of torture in cooperation with governments,

Now, therefore be it resolved that the SSSP:

1. Condemns the world-wide practice of torture, and
2. Specifically condemns the practice of and support for torture by world governments, and
3. Calls on all members of SSSP to stand up for and support colleagues who resist the use of social science knowledge and skills in the practice of torture.

Directed to:

- Foreign Affairs, Government of Canada
- Secretary of State, US
- Chiefs of Staff, US Military Branches
- Members of Parliament, Canada
- Members of Congress, USA
- Kofi Annan, United Nations

Claire M. Renzetti introduced the new president, Valerie Jenness.

Valerie Jenness announced that next year’s meetings will be held in New York. She thanked Claire Renzetti for this year’s program and announced that next year’s theme will focus on research activities and how research is used.

The meeting was adjourned by Claire M. Renzetti.