Society for the Study of Social Problems
LABOR DIVISION MEETING and FINAL REPORT
San Francisco, CA
Stanford Court Hotel
August 7-9-2009

1. Introductions/Attendance

Kendra Jason (In-coming Chair) North Carolina State University
Ted Brimeyer Georgia Southern University
Daniel Tope Florida State University

2. Paper competition

More information on this topic will be available in the upcoming Newsletter.

3. Next Year's Sessions – Atlanta GA

Session #1:
"Social Justice Work through Organizing"
Organizer: Ted Brimeyer and Dan Tope

The achievement of social justice in the workplace is often the result of organizing those who face injustice as well as their allies in the community. We seek submissions from scholars and activists who study and/or participate in organizing workers and communities in the struggle for workplace justice. We are also interested in organizing minority workers and worker rights, and the implications of these changes for worker's rights and racial labor justice.

Session #2
Co-Sponsored with Poverty, Class and Inequality
"New Labor, Union Movements, and Social Justice".
Organizers: John C. Alessio and Kendra Jason

Session #3
Co-Sponsored with Institutional Ethnography
"Labor market reorganization: Immigration, Globalization and Racialization"
Organizers: Roxana Ng and Dan Tope

Session #4
Co-Sponsored with Law and Policy
"Law and the Workplace"
Organizers: Emily Horowitz and Reuben Roth

NOTE: *If you want to organize a session for the 2010 Conference, please let me know. We are taking proposed sessions until September 18. Please forward me the title with a 2-3 sentence description of your session, along with the organizer(s) name(s). Keep in mind that our sessions can be in guest speaker, roundtable, and workshop format as well.*

4. Resolutions

a. Resolution on the Employee Free Choice Act (EPCA) of 2009 was presented to SSSP Board
b. This resolution was **accepted** by the Board.

See link for an AFL-CIO post on our resolution urging passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

http://blog.aflcio.org/2009/08/28/society-for-the-study-of-social-problems-supports-employee-free-choice/

http://blog.aflcio.org/

5. Newsletter

Ted Brimeyer and Dan Tope agreed to serve as co-editors for the Labor Studies Division Newsletter.

6. Special Concerns for Labor Studies Division: Recruitment and Visibility

The total number of SSSP registrants was high this year. In fact, it was the 4th highest attendance in the history of our meetings with a total of 688 registrants. However, our division is losing members. In 2008, we had 176 members, but in 2009 we only had 152. Furthermore, our actual representation at the conference was low.

We had four great sessions on the schedule, yet our sessions averaged 11 people (including presenters). Our division meeting was attended by only 3 people. There was an especially lack of visibility at the 4:30 PM session Sunday, August 9 with Robert Ross (presider), Judy Stepan-Norris, Richard Flacks, and Peter Olney on the future of the labor movement. Only one person from the division and three others attended.

We hope to have better attendance and activity at the Atlanta, GA meeting. Historically, the labor movement has had some of its biggest and most insurmountable struggles in the Deep South. Our division is especially needed at this time to be visible and to bring critiques, analyses and solutions to workers, organizers, political advocates of the labor movement.