

2011 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011
9:50AM – 11:00AM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

President A. Javier Treviño called the meeting to order.

ITEM #2 – ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted as written.

ITEM #3 – REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING

Secretary Glenn Muschert reviewed the action items from the 2010 business meeting.

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZING 2011 BOARD ACTIONS

Secretary Glenn Muschert presented the action items from the 2011 Board meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the reports of the Treasurer, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, Ad Hoc Revenue Generating Committee, Program Committee, Local Arrangements Committee, Executive Officer, Meeting Manager, *Social Problems Forum* Editor's Report, Ad Hoc Committee on Information Technology, Accessibility Committee, C. Wright Mills Award Committee, Elections Committee, Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee, Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee, Lee Founders Award Committee, Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee, Lee Student Support Fund Committee, Membership & Outreach Committee, Permanent Organization & Strategic Planning Committee, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee, Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Race & Racism, Ad Hoc Justice 21 Committee, and the Chairperson's Report from the Council of Special Problems Divisions.

ACTION: The Board approved the results of the annual audit.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2011 amended budget.

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee's recommendation – Tabling the usual Board vote on subscription increases for *Social Problems* until April 2012, which would be in line with the market flexibility needed in pricing the subscription.

ACTION: The Board approved three changes in the wording of the Society's proposed By-Laws changes.

To Article IV, Section 2, Qualifications for Holding Society Positions

Approved wording: No person may **be nominated for or** hold any office, serve on any standing or temporary committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems or on the Board of Editors of any periodical publication of the Society who is not a member of the Society. Non-members may be nominated or appointed to such positions provided that they apply for membership when they accept the nomination or appointment except as noted below in Article V, Section 1, requiring two years prior...

To Article VI, Section 6, Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees shall consist of six members of the Society elected by the voting membership to three year terms with the terms staggered so that at least two members are elected

each year, depending on the number of vacancies. Each year the members of the Committee shall select from among their members who have served at least one-year, a Chairperson-elect to serve as Chairperson the following year.

The **Committee's** duties shall be to nominate or recommend for nomination members of selected appointed committees as stated in the By-Laws or assigned by the Board of Directors. **A member may not serve on more than two committees within the Committee on Committee's authority.**

To Article VIII, Section 5, Nomination for More than Once Position

Any **member** nominated for more than one position shall be asked by the Elections Committee Chairperson to select the position in which s/he prefers to serve. If the nominee otherwise qualifies but fails to indicate his or her preference, the Elections Committee Chairperson is required to submit the person's name to be a candidate for only one of the positions. **If a member is currently serving in an elected capacity and is elected to another position, s/he must decide between the two positions. Members may not hold more than one elected position.**

ACTION: The Board expressed its disapproval at Harrah's unwillingness to accommodate a request for a gender neutral restroom for the meeting space. A letter to such effect will be sent to Caesar's Entertainment.

ACTION: The Board accepted the reports from UC Press regarding the *Social Problems* Budget and Circulation Report, *Social Problems* Marketing Program, FY 2011-12 and the Sales, Marketing, and Circulation Report.

ACTION: The Board approved the following change to the membership to special problems divisions: Included in Society membership, each member would receive one division membership, and student members would receive two division memberships. Additional division membership would be available at the cost of \$10 per division.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Society would no longer have a pay-to-attend fundraiser.

ACTION: The Board approved that the proceeds of the fund-raising raffle will go to the winner of the Social Action Award.

ACTION: The Board approved two recommendations from the C. Wright Mills Award Committee, by separate votes. That the nomination deadline would be December 15, and that the cover letters would be required to speak to the criteria for the award.

ACTION: The Board approved a recommendation by the Joseph B. Glitter Award Committee. Namely, the addition to the operations manual to the effect that the solicitation of nominees for the award will be part of the duties they may have to perform as a member of the committee.

ACTION: The Board approved a motion to add "preference will be given to applicants who have not received support from the Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee before" to the criteria for the Lee Scholar Support Fund. In addition, a box will be added on the application from which would require applicants to indicate if they have previously received the award.

ACTION: The Board approved the abolishment of the professional mentorship program (not the meeting mentorship program).

ACTION: The Board approved the recommendation that the site reviews be conducted in the same year that the contracts are to be renewed.

ACTION: The Board charged the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee to move forward with concrete plans to engage the BFA Committee and the Executive Officer to proceed with hiring to meet the staffing needs of the Administrative Office.

ACTION: The Board charged the in-coming Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship Committee with the refinement of criteria for selecting candidates from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The Board encourages the consideration of meaningful qualitative criteria.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the *Social Problems* editor.

ITEM #5 – REPORT FROM THE OUTGOING EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Ted Chiricos reported on previous year of the journal's operation. In all, 355 manuscripts were submitted, 26 accepted, with an average of 3.3 reviews for each journal and an average time of 62.1 days from submission to acceptance. Issues related to the responsible transition to the new editor. Expressions of gratitude were given to those whose support is instrumental in the functioning of the journal.

ITEM #6 – PRESENTATION BY THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Claire Renzetti, chair of the Editorial and Publications Committee, expressed the Society's gratitude for Ted's stewardship of the Society's journal. As an expression the Society's appreciation, Ted Chiricos was presented with bound copies of the journal volumes that appeared under his stewardship.

ITEM #7 – REPORT FROM THE INCOMING EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Becky Pettit, new editor of *Social Problems*, reported on the transition to the new editor's office. The journal is up and running at the University of Washington, the process is moving seamlessly. The new members of the editorial advisory board were reviewed, and the membership was welcomed to submit manuscripts for consideration.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: THE SSSP NEWSLETTER*

Brent Teasdale, Editor of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*, reported that thus far there have been two issues produced by the new office at Georgia State University. The newsletter has been distributed electronically only, and a new comments section has been added to the Society's website.

ITEM #9 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado, Executive Officer, reported on the move of the meetings from Chicago to Las Vegas. In particular, the Executive Officer expressed gratitude to the Administrative Officer and to the members of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Executive Officer discussed the development of a new committee to discuss Revenue Generation. The new website is running, and the Executive Officer expressed gratitude to the technology committee. In addition, the Executive Officer commented on activities in the last year: responding to the death threats received by Francis Fox Piven; responding to the Georgia death penalty case of Troy Davis; efforts by the UNLV administration to terminate tenure track faculty, including some active Society members; and the needs of the Society for legal advice.

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager reported that 716 participants came to this year's meeting, exceeding expectations. Accessibility services were a focus, and the Society was able to provide dietary accommodations and ASL services. Advertising campaigns were run in the previous year, and two new events were held: a new member breakfast and a welcoming reception. Michele Koontz expressed gratitude for the cooperation of those with whom she works closely, including Héctor Delgado, Kelly Flatford, Sarah Hendricks and President A. Javier Treviño. Sarah was presented with a token of the Society's gratitude for her four years of service.

ITEM #11 – REVIEW OF THE BY-LAWS CHANGES AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CHANGE

Héctor Delgado reported on the By-Laws Changes and any Proposals for Further Changes. These changes will come up for a vote by the membership at the up-coming election. See ITEM #4 above for full text of the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Héctor clarified the spirit and reasoning behind the three proposed changes to the By-Laws.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Vice President Carolyn Perrucci reported on the 2011 Society resolutions. In all, there were three resolutions considered. Discussion of Resolution #3 regarding Sex Work was tabled, pending a stronger resolution that would be considered by the membership in the future.

ACTION: RESOLUTIONS #1: EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE and #2: LABOR RIGHTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR were approved by a combined open vote of the membership present at the business meeting.

The full text of the resolutions is as follows:

RESOLUTION 1: Expression of Gratitude

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to all of the officers, committee chairs, and members who have made this program possible and whose efforts maintain the vitality of the SSSP. First, we thank President A. Javier Treviño for his outstanding leadership in developing the 61st Annual Meeting and its theme: Service Sociology. We also thank this year's Program Committee: Chair: Karen McCormack and committee members Luis Fernandez, Holly Foster, Michelle Y. Janning, and Monica White; and Local Arrangements Committee Chair: Shannon Monnat. We thank the staff of Harrah's Las Vegas Hotel for fine accommodations and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Greg MacKenzie, Catering/Convention Services Manager and Cindy Norlander, Citywide Group Reservations Coordinator.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President JoAnn L. Miller for her years of leadership; Vice-President Carolyn C. Perrucci for managing the resolutions process; Glenn W. Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Susan M. Carlson for her service as Treasurer. The Society also thanks Wendy Simonds, President-Elect; Wendy Chapkis, Vice-President Elect; Board of Directors: Sarah Jane Brubaker, Barbara Katz Rothman, Claire M. Renzetti, Valerie Leiter, Nancy Mezey, outgoing members Carol Brooks Gardner, Raymond J. Michalowski; Louis Edgar Esparza (outgoing) and Mandy Frake-Mistak, student representatives of the Board; Stephani Williams, Chair of the Council of Special Problems Divisions; Ted Chiricos, outgoing Editor of Social Problems; Brent Teasdale, Editor of Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter; Stephani Williams, outgoing Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members David L. Levinson, Patrick Donnelly, and Susan M. Carlson; Claire M. Renzetti, Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members Benigno E. Aguirre, Marjorie L. DeVault, Lara Foley, David A. Smith, Suzanne Vaughan, Ted Chiricos, Brent Teasdale, Stephani Williams, and Amy S.

Wharton; the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office; the Provost's Office at Wheaton College for its contribution to program activities and to the University of California Press for its financial contribution to the registration bags.

The Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Assistant Kelley Flatford, and Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Sarah Hendricks for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out. We especially want to thank Sarah for her exceptional service over the past four years.

RESOLUTION 2: Labor Rights in the Public Sector

WHEREAS: Public employees in many contexts have already made financial sacrifices to work in the public sector and have already been negatively affected by cuts or threatened cuts in public funding.

WHEREAS: Several state legislatures, in the name of closing these deficits, have moved to disenfranchise public employees by removing workers rights and restricting unionization; reduce and negate tenure for public teachers and college employees and professors; and overturn their collective bargaining rights;
AND

WHEREAS: polls indicate a majority of Americans oppose the weakening of public sector employees bargaining rights;

AND BE IT RESOLVED: that the SSSP opposes restrictions on the rights of public employees at the local, state and federal level to collective bargaining and freedom of association and opposes legislation curbing collective bargaining for elementary, secondary and higher education institutions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the SSSP stands in solidarity with public workers, including university and public education employees in their right to collective bargaining and to a fair and reasonable bargaining process.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution with a cover letter be forwarded to the governors, legislative leaders, and organizations, including public-sector unions, in states where legislation threatening the collective-bargaining rights of workers is pending or is being challenged, and any other individual or body that the Executive Officer of the SSSP and the Division determine.

Resources:

Cooper, Michael and Megan Thee-Brenan. 2011. "Majority in Poll Back Public Sector Unions" New York Times February 28.

Cauchon, Dennis. 2011. "Poll Americans favor union bargaining rights." USA TODAY February 23.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-02-22-poll-public-unions-wisconsin_N.htm

Greenhouse, Steve. 2011. "Strained States Turning to Laws to Curb Law Unions." New York Times January 3.

Brown, Kevin 2010. "Public Sector Unions." Monthly Review May 20

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/04/business/04labor.html?_r=2&pagewanted=1

American Rights at Work. 2011. "Partnerships in Education: How labor-management Collaboration is Transforming Public Schools." (Education Fund Publication)

<http://www.americanrightsatwork.org/publications/general/partnerships-in-education-how-labor-management-collaboration-is-transforming-public-schools-20110531-1016-116-116.html>

ITEM #13 – REPORT FROM THE TREASURER ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOCIETY

Treasurer Susan M. Carlson reported on the financial condition of the society. Susan thanked those with whom the Treasurer closely works. Despite difficult economic times, the Society continues to break even, with sufficient revenue to cover expenses. The Society realized a growth in the net assets, as result of the Society's socially-responsible investment holdings. One area of present and future concern is the decline in institutional subscriptions for *Social Problems*, a significant source of revenue for the Society. Institutional subscriptions have declined approximately 35%, and this appears to be due to the availability of the journal via ProQuest. The journal has been removed from ProQuest, and efforts are underway to regain some of the lost subscriptions. A call to the membership will be forthcoming, in the form of an email that encourages members to encourage the maintenance and/or recapture of institutional subscriptions. Susan also spoke about the IRS audit experienced in the past year, and the Society's tax-exempt status was retained, and no penalties or levies were applied to the Society. The Society is currently discussing the implications of the IRS audit, especially regarding the efforts on behalf of the Society to engage in political lobbying, which may threaten the Society's tax-exempt status. Finally, the Society received a clean bill of financial health from the independent accounting auditors. In sum, despite challenges, the Society continues to be financially sound.

ITEM #14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No new business was proposed.

ITEM #15 – INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESEIDENT AND PASSING OF THE GAVEL

President A. Javier Treviño introduced the 2011-2012 President, Wendy Simonds.

ITEM #16 – NEW PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE SITE AND DATE AND THEME OF THE 2012 MEETING

President Wendy Simonds announced that the 2012 Annual Meeting will take place August 16-18, 2012 in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the 2012 meetings will be "The Art of Activism."

ITEM #17 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned by President Wendy Simonds.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary