

2012 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2012
9:50AM – 11:00AM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

President Wendy Simonds called the meeting to order.

ITEM #2 – ADOPT (REVISE) AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as presented.

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

Secretary Glenn Muschert reviewed the action items from the 2011 business meeting.

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZING 2012 BOARD ACTIONS

Secretary Glenn Muschert presented the action items from the 2012 Board meetings, as follows.

ACTION: The Board approved that the Nominations Committee would be composed of four members appointed by the Board, and that the Nominations Committee would be chaired by the Chairperson of Special Problems Divisions. Such a change will move forward as a By-Laws amendment. The 2012 members of the Nominations Committee included Stephani Williams (Chair), Stephen Morewitz, Marlese Durr, Erin Robinson, and Shawn Cassiman.

In future years, the membership of the Nominations Committee will be determined according to the by-laws amendment, approved in 2012, as follows:

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 11A. Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting. The committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Special Problems Divisions and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Council of the Special Problems Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.

ACTION: The Board accepted the report of the Nominations Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the amended nominations list for the 2012 SSSP election.

ACTION: The Board approved the report from the Student Representatives.

ACTION: The Board approved the 2012 budget as proposed.

ACTION: The Board approved the report of the Committee on Committees and the slate of members for the next year's committee. Kathleen Lowney, Deborah Little, Tommy Horejes were added to the roster for the Accessibility Committee.

ACTION: The Board accepted the report and recommendations, including the stated reprint policy, of the Editorial and Publications Committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems* editor's report and the slate of associate editors, advisory editors, and student editors for *Social Problems*.

ACTION: The Board created an Ad Hoc Committee on Social Action whose purview will be to explore social action and activism, including identifying actions for responding to social issues of concern to the Society's membership. The committee would be chaired by the Vice President.

ACTION: The Board approved a request from the International Coalition Against Sexual Harassment to partner for the 2012 meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee report.

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

ACTION: The Board approved the 2012 amended budget.

ACTION: The Board modified income categories for membership fees, which will be "\$85,000 to \$99,999", and "\$100,000 & up". This will replace the former category: "\$85,000 & up". The proposed changes will be submitted for ratification at the annual business meeting of the Society.

ACTION: The Board approved that starting in 2013 the annual membership fee for members will be \$250 in the "\$100,000 & up" category.

ACTION: The Board approved the removal of the one-day conference registration fee.

ACTION: The Board approved the new proposed conference registration fees, as recommended by the BFA Committee. Details are as follows:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>Approved 2013-NYC</u>
Pre-Registration Member	135	\$175
Pre-Registration Student/Underemployed/Emeritus	\$50	\$60
On-Site Registration Student/Underemployed/Emeritus	\$60	\$70
On-Site Registration Member	\$170	\$200
Exempt Conference Registration	\$70	\$75
Guest Registration	\$20	\$35
Non-Member Registration Surcharge	\$75	\$100

ACTION: The Board approved the Executive Officer's report.

ACTION: The Board authorized the creation of a new position for a permanent part-time employee for the Administrative Office, to be hired for January 2013.

ACTION: The Board authorized the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee to define a job description (with the consultation of the Executive Officer and Administrative Officer) for the new permanent part-time position.

ACTION: The Board approved new standards of uniformity (using the ASA Style Guide) for title capitalization of paper titles for future programs.

ACTION: The Board approved the Program Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Local Arrangements Committee report.

ACTION: The Board encouraged future Local Arrangements Committees to develop an on-line cost-effective way to provide a local restaurant guide.

ACTION: The Board approved the Administrative Office to consider multi-year contracts for audio-visual services.

ACTION: The Board authorized the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee and the Administrative Office to explore cost-effective measures to continue recording the Society's Presidential Address.

ACTION: The Board approved a policy that program participants will be dropped from the annual meeting program, if they do not register by July 1 of that year. The Board requests that program participants receive at least three notices prior to the July 1 deadline for registration.

ACTION: The Board approved the Meeting Manager's report.

ACTION: The Board accepted the *Social Problems* Budget and Circulation Report and the Sales, Marketing, and Circulation Report.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems* Editor's report.

ACTION: The Board approved the *Social Problems Forum* Editor's report.

ACTION: The Board charged the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee with exploring the possibility of creating a Listserv.

ACTION: The Board nominated and voted upon Stephani Williams as Board member to serve through 2014, as a successor for Elisabeth Sheff, who has resigned from the Board.

ACTION: The Board approved the Accessibility Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved these two recommendations, by separate votes. First, that the committee should verify that the version of the book submitted is the original copy (not a reprint or later edition). This criterion will also be updated on the Society's website and print versions of the award's guidelines. Second, that a member of the committee who has a book nominated for the award may not continue service on the committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the C. Wright Mills Award Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Elections Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Erwin O. Smigel Award Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee report.

ACTION: The Board added to the role of committee chair of the Lee Founders Award that the chair should forward viable candidates who did not win the award to the chair of the subsequent year's committee.

ACTION: The Board approved the Lee Founders Award Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Lee Scholar Support Fund Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved that all application materials for the Lee Student Support Fund should be submitted electronically, according to the application procedures.

ACTION: The Board approved that a copy of the applicant's student ID is no longer necessary for application for the Lee Student Support Fund.

ACTION: The Board approved the amendment in the criteria. Currently it reads, "The fund provides up to \$500 in travel support (transportation costs only)..." The new wording would be, the following: "Travel support does NOT include luggage fees, hotel, per diem, or other costs not associated with airfare, railway, or driving expenses between their university and the conference locations. All applicants who include unqualified costs will be eliminated from consideration."

ACTION: The Board recommended that the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee consider the committee's request for increased funding for the Lee Student Support Fund.

ACTION: The Board authorized that the Lee Student Support Fund Committee undertake means to recruit more meeting mentors, such as an email blast to members of SSSP a month prior to the Meeting Mentor Program deadline again requesting participation.

ACTION: The Board approved that the mentor/mentee matching process be aided by technological means available, such the use of drop-down menus of Special Problems Divisions. There should be no open-ended questions for primary research/teaching interest.

ACTION: The Board approved the Lee Student Support Fund Committee report.

ACTION: The Board recommended that, as feasible, gift registrations and memberships will be added as an option for payment.

ACTION: The Board approved the Membership and Outreach Committee report, and the Board charged the committee with undertaking all other recommendations contained in the report.

ACTION: The Board approved the development of a Society Listserv according to the following stipulations: that it is not moderated, does not accept attachments, that it is digestible, and that the default response option will be reply to sender. Subscription to the Listserv will be optional. Subscribers to the Listserv must be active members of the Society, and a subscriber will be dropped from the Listserv if their membership lapses. Nancy Mezey has agreed to serve as Listserv Moderator for the first two years.

ACTION: The Board approved the elimination of the *Social Problems Forum*, at the end of the current contract (December 31, 2013). Relevant materials would be migrated to the Society website, as feasible. In addition the Board authorized the Administrative Office to send a minimum of three email blasts annually to the membership, updating them as to relevant news of Society activities.

ACTION: The Board charged next year's Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee to consider the reorganization and/or consolidation of Society committees and Special Problems Divisions.

ACTION: The Board endorsed the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee's salary recommendations for Society staff.

ACTION: The Board approved the Permanent Organization and Strategic Planning Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the continuing members and new members added of the Information Technology Options Committee: Lisa East, James N. Maples (Chair), Shannon M. Monnat, Mary Larue Scherer, and Slade Lellock.

ACTION: The Board approved the Information Technology Options Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the Justice 21 Committee report.

ACTION: The Board approved the request of the Transnational Initiative Committee for meeting space in New York (2013), on the day following the Society's annual meetings.

ACTION: The Board approved the Transnational Initiative Committee report.

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

Becky Pettit, Editor of *Social Problems*, reported on the previous year of the journal's operation, opening by expressing gratitude to the scholars who contribute and review for the journal. The transition from Florida State University to the University of Washington was successful, and the journal is functioning well. All issues have been on-time and within budget. There have been a minimum of 3 reviews for each article with an average time of 112 days from submission to decision. The journal is functioning well under the stewardship of the current editor.

ITEM #6 – REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM: THE SSSP NEWSLETTER*

Brent Teasdale, Editor of *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*, reported that the newsletter has functioned well from its office at Georgia State University. The newsletter currently continues in its electronic distribution.

ITEM #7 – 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. The contract with UC Press (for *Social Problems*) will expire soon, and the Society will consider other publishers. The Revenue Generating Committee is considering avenues for foundation funding. The Society is considering a 501(h) election or an expenditure test to measure our lobbying activities. The 501(h) election does not affect the Society's 501 (c)(3) status. This will help the Society avoid complications related to lobbying activities that could potentially occur under its current status. Two notable letters were sent by the Society this year: one to Michigan that limited ability of organizations to undertake social action, and the other to Topeka, KS which has decriminalized domestic violence in the city.

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager, reported that 724 registered for this year's meeting, exceeding expectations, including 52% professional, 44% students/unemployed/emeritus, and 4% exempt category registrants. Accessibility services were requested, and the Society was able to provide dietary accommodations, sighted guide services, and ASL services. The hotel provided a gender-neutral restroom. \$1525 was generated by advertising and donations of labor or in kind helped with program activities and registration bags. Michele Koontz expressed gratitude for the cooperation of those with whom she closely works, including Sharon Shumaker and Lisa East, staff in the Administrative Office.

ITEM #9 – REVIEW OF THE BY-LAWS CHANGES AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CHANGE

Tom Hood, By-Laws Committee Chair, reported on the By-Laws Changes and any Proposals for Further Change. Tom clarified the four changes to the Society By-Laws that have taken place in the past year, the full text of which is as follows:

By-Laws Amendment: Article IV, Section 2. Qualifications for Holding Society Positions – Approved

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 membership.

By-Laws Amendment: Article VI, Section 6. Committee on Committees – Approved

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 Committees' authority.

By-Laws Amendment: Article VIII, Section 5. Nomination for More than One Position – Approved

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.

By-Laws Amendment: Article VI, Section 11A. Nominations Committee – Approved

The Nominations Committee for each year following the annual meeting is established at the current annual meeting. The committee shall consist of the Chairperson of the Council of the Special Problems Divisions and four members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Council of the Special Problems Divisions will serve as the Chair of the Nominations Committee and will be the primary point of contact with the Board of Directors.

For next year, the committee will prepare By-Laws changes for the 2013 General Election which would reflect the Board's recent decision to eliminate the *Social Problems Forum* at the end of the current contract (December 31, 2013).

ITEM #10 – REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Vice President Wendy Chapkis reported on the 2012 Society resolutions. In all, five resolutions were considered.

Resolution #1 "African American Men, Criminal Justice, and Education" has been tabled, due to its complexity. The Resolutions Committee welcomes revisions in future years.

Resolution #2 "Wildfires: An Urgent Concern" was withdrawn, as it was perceived to exceed the reach of the membership's expertise.

Resolution #3 "Service Sociology"

Submitted by Gillian "Jill" Niebrugge-Brantley and Patricia Lengermann

Whereas, the history of sociology in the United States has been made in part by citizen sociologists seeking to do service or public or applied sociology;

Whereas, SSSP since 1991 has presented the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award with an attendant honorarium of \$1000 to a not-for-profit doing service sociology in the local area hosting the annual meeting and has reserved a session at the Annual Meeting for a presentation by that group;

Whereas, SSSP in 2011 took as its Annual Meeting Theme "Service Sociology";

Whereas, many students today leave academic sociology with a terminal B.A. or M.A and go on to do work in non-profit or voluntary organizations engaged in service sociology and report feeling most satisfied in their work as it lets them practice sociology;

Whereas, such committed practitioners of sociology are often overlooked or left feeling professionally homeless—a loss to both their own growth and the discipline;

Therefore be it resolved that SSSP reinforce its organizational commitment to the concept of Service Sociology by the following steps: (1) tasking the Chair of Chairs to encourage the Division Chairs to highlight Service Sociology practitioners in their planning efforts, suggesting they try to include Service Sociology practitioners in sessions at the Annual Meeting; (2) tasking the Membership and Outreach Committee to consider a strategy for targeting B.A. and M.A. sociologists encouraging them to find a home in SSSP; (3) tasking the Program Committee with devising a way to highlight in the publicity for the Annual Meeting sessions involving citizen sociologists and the

B.A. and M.A. sociology graduates working professionally in Service Sociology, and (4) taking as a goal having the Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award become widely known for what it now in fact is—one of the most prestigious awards given by the discipline of sociology, and by incorporating past Award recipients in current Annual Meeting plans.

Resolution #4 “Unsolved Homicide Cases” was slightly revised as follows:

Submitted by Michael L. Radelet, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado (on behalf of Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons)

Whereas Unsolved Homicide Cases are a growing menace to public safety in the U.S. and in Colorado; since 1970 there have been nearly 1,500 murders and 100 disappearances in Colorado for which no one has ever been prosecuted and the total of these cold cases grows each year, and nationally the proportion of homicides cleared by arrest has declined from over 90 percent in 1960 to just over 60 percent today;

Whereas many of the families and friends of these cold case victims suffer a complicated grief and post-traumatic stress disorder that does not disappear over time;

Whereas many of those who took the lives of these victims walk among us without having been held accountable for their crimes, they live in our neighborhoods, and some threaten our families and/or intimidate witnesses;

Whereas a Bill passed by the Colorado legislature in 2007 by a 99-1 vote calls for a Cold Case Team of Investigators at Colorado Bureau of Investigation to augment efforts of local law enforcement to examine these cases, but that Cold Case team never materialized due to an absence of funding;

Be it therefore resolved that the membership of the Society for the Study of Social Problems is encouraged to be mindful of the social problems surrounding unsolved murders, including their impact on family and friends of the victims as well as the need for specially trained investigators to assist local law enforcement in addressing these difficult cases;

Be it further resolved that the SSSP shall officially endorse the full funding of the Cold Case Team of Investigators envisioned in the 2007 legislation and communicate their endorsement to both houses of the Colorado legislature and the State’s Governor;

Be it further resolved that SSSP communicate its support for Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, Inc. (“FOHVAMP”) in its ongoing efforts to find, support, and empower family members and friends suffering from a loved one’s unsolved homicide or from their long-term, suspicious disappearance.

Resolution #5 “Expression of Gratitude” was accepted as written.

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 Wendy Simonds for her outstanding leadership in developing the 62nd Annual Meeting and its theme: The Art of Activism. We also thank this year’s Program Committee: Co-Chairs: Heather M. Dalmage and Tanya L. Saunders and committee members Ashley Currier, Michael T. Maly, Nancy Michaels, and Chavella T. Pittman; and Local Arrangements Committee Chair Lisa M. Martinez. We thank the staff of the Grand Hyatt Denver Hotel for fine accommodations and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Megan Pool, Convention Services Manager and Elizabeth Taylor, Catering Assistant.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President A. Javier Treviño for his years of leadership; Vice-President Wendy L. Chapkis 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 R.A. Dello Buono, President-Elect; Tracy L. Dietz, Vice-President Elect; Board of Directors: Valerie Leiter, Nancy Mezey, Marlese Durr, Elisabeth A. Sheff, outgoing members Sarah Jane Brubaker, Barbara Katz Rothman, Claire M. Renzetti, Mandy Frake-Mistak (outgoing) and Patrick K. O’Brien, student representatives of the Board; Stephani Williams, Chair of the Council of Special Problems Divisions (outgoing); Becky Pettit, Editor of Social Problems; Brent Teasdale, Editor of Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter; David L. Levinson, outgoing Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members Patrick Donnelly, Paul D. Steele, and Susan M. Carlson; David A. Smith, Editorial and

Publications Committee Chair and committee members Marjorie L. DeVault, Lara Foley, Suzanne Vaughan, Nancy C. Jurik, JoAnn L. Miller, Becky Pettit, Brent Teasdale, David L. Levinson, and Ted Chiricos; the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office; the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Sociology, and the Gerontology Institute of Georgia State University for their 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 Sharon Shumaker, and Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Lisa East for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out.

ACTION: Resolution #3, Resolution #4, and Resolution #5 were approved by a combined open vote of the membership present.

ITEM #11 – 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. In 2011, the Society realized an increase in net assets. The 2011 meetings were the first since 1988 in which the Society has realized a profit (c. \$2K) for its annual meeting. This is very noteworthy. However, the 2013 annual meeting in NYC is predicted to be costly. The Society's investments continue to rebound to levels approximately equal to the levels prior to the 2008 crash. 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. However, the Treasurer predicted that the Society would run a deficit in 2013, due to the costs of the annual meeting venue.

ITEM #12 – REPORT FROM THE BUDGET, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

David Levinson thanked those who served on the committee.

- A. Discussion of proposed 2013 Membership Dues Category (\$100,000 & up - \$250).

ACTION: By a vote of the members present, the proposed changes to the membership dues were approved.

ITEM #13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No new business was proposed.

ITEM #14 – INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESEIDENT AND PASSING OF THE GAVEL

President Wendy Simonds introduced the 2012-2013 President, Ricardo Dello Buono.

ITEM #15 – NEW PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE SITE AND DATE AND THEME OF THE 2013 MEETING

President Ricardo Dello Buono announced that the 2013 Annual Meeting will take place August 9-11, 2013 in New York City, NY. The theme of the 2013 meetings will be "Re-Imagining Social Problems: Moving beyond Social Constructionism." Ricardo clarified the theme with his poem, "The 2013 Annual Meeting Will Not Be Televised." David Fasenfest will be next year's Program Chair.

ITEM #16 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned by President Ricardo Dello Buono.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary