

2017 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2017
4:15PM – 5:25PM

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Society President Donileen Loseke

ITEM 2: ADOPT (REVISE) AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

ITEM 3: REVIEW OF THE BY-LAWS CHANGES AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE CHANGE

Vice-President Valerie Leiter presented the By-Laws changes from the past year, and there were six (6) proposed changes, as described by the Vice-President. All were voted into effect by the Society membership. There were no proposed future By-Laws changes.

ITEM 4: REPORT FROM THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Vice-President Valerie Leiter presented on the actions of the Resolutions Committee. There were five (5) resolutions proposed, and these were presented to the membership as follows. Discussion ensued.

ACTION: By separate votes of the membership present, resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were approved.

Compiled by Valerie Leiter, SSSP Vice-President

1. "Resolution on the United States Medical Insurance Access"
Submitted by Paul Draus and Ethel Nicdao (Co-Chairs) on behalf of the Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division
2. "Resolution on Refugee and Immigrant Rights and Executive Order"
Submitted by Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado (member) on behalf of the Global Division
3. "Resolution in Support of the United States' Involvement in the Paris Climate Accord"
Submitted by Laura McKinney (Chair) on behalf of the Environment and Technology Division
4. "Resolution on Free Speech and Academic Freedom"
Submitted by President Donileen R. Loseke and Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado (members)
5. "Expression of Gratitude"

RESOLUTION 1: Resolution on United States Medical Insurance Access

Submitted by Paul Draus and Ethel Nicdao (Co-Chairs) on behalf of the Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division

Whereas access to adequate and quality health care is necessary for humans to flourish; and

Whereas current legislative and administrative actions are aimed at weakening access to medical services;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) will strongly support and encourage continuing research on the causes and consequences of health disparities, including but not limited to inequities in the provision of medical services; and

Be it further resolved that the SSSP will continue to advocate for a **universal medical insurance system**, through scholarship and education.

RESOLUTION 2: Resolution on Refugee and Immigrant Rights and Executive Order

Submitted by Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado (member) on behalf of the Global Division

Whereas, the United States historically has been a place of refuge for people fleeing political and religious persecution, famine, terrorism, and other atrocities;

Whereas, immigrants and refugees have contributed enormously to the economic, political, and cultural well-being of the United States since its inception as a nation of immigrants;

Whereas, immigrants and refugees have fought for and have given their lives for the security of the United States;

Whereas, the United States is one of 146 nations who in 1967 signed the United Nations Protocol to the Status of Refugees, and who has since welcomed over millions of refugees from the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America;

Whereas, the President of the United States issued an Executive Order on January 27, 2017, suspending the issuance of visas to nationals from Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen; shutting down the country's refugee program for 120 days; reducing the number of refugees admitted to the United States in 2017 from 110,000 to 50,000; and halting the resettlement of Syrian refugees indefinitely;

Whereas, on March 6, 2017, a second, modified Executive Order, superseding the January 27 order, was issued in an attempt to address the concerns of the judges who blocked the first order;

Whereas, the second Executive Order was also blocked by the Courts, principally, as a federal judge in Hawaii stated, because, in the view of a "reasonable, objective observer," the order was issued "with a purpose to disfavor a particular religion, in spite of its stated, religiously neutral purpose;"

Whereas, on January 25, 2017, the President of the United States issued an Executive Order on border security that raised concerns among immigration experts and activists regarding human rights, the expanded use of detention, limits on asylum, denial of access to legal representation, enhanced enforcement along the southern border with Mexico, and the construction of a 2,000 mile wall along the border;

Whereas, the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), as an academic and social justice organization, is committed to protecting the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees, and, toward that end, fashioning immigration and refugee policies that are fair and in the best interest of the United States, and recognizing the many contributions immigrants and refugees have made to the United States;

Whereas, the SSSP believes that the Executive Order as presently drafted makes the United States, less, not more, secure, by providing fuel for extremist groups to recruit new members and launch new attacks and alienating Muslims in the United States and other parts of the world at a time that the country should be welcoming them and enlisting their support for and participation in the struggle against terrorist organizations that themselves espouse a form of religious intolerance and distortion that as a nation, the United States should eschew;

Whereas, a policy that targets a religious group diminishes the United States' moral standing in the world; undermines the United States' ability to work with other nations and international organizations on humanitarian initiatives and peace efforts; and destabilizes immigrant communities, encouraging individuals to take risky and desperate actions;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved, that the SSSP supports immigration and refugee policies that allow for a careful review of applications, but on an individual basis, rather than on the basis of religion or country of origin; and

Be it resolved, that while the SSSP is aware of the powers vested in the Office of the President of the United States on immigration, the SSSP urges the President to review the Executive Order he issued most recently to ensure that it is not motivated by a desire to deny entry to, or even advertently targets, a group on the basis of religion, ethnicity, or country of origin; and

Be it resolved, that in an attempt to secure the country's border, the United States must ensure that individuals are not denied, intentionally or unintentionally, their human, civil, and legal rights, including sufficient time to find and consult with legal counsel; and

Be it resolved, that the SSSP applauds the efforts by attorneys and immigration- and refugee-rights organizations and activists to ensure that the United States retain its moral standing in the world as a nation that is welcoming and fair to people fleeing persecution or searching for a better life for their family; and

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and the leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and posted on the SSSP's website.

RESOLUTION 3: Resolution in Support of the United States' Commitment to and Participation in the Paris Climate Accord

Submitted by Laura McKinney (Chair) on behalf of the Environment and Technology Division

Whereas the President of the United States has announced the United States has withdrawn from the Paris Climate Agreement;

Whereas the scientific community has achieved consensus about the existence of adverse effects of climate change, with research findings supporting the mandate of the Paris Climate Accord;

Whereas the United States' commitment to and participation in the Paris Climate Accord is critical to reaching targets for global emissions reductions;

Whereas failing to achieve emissions reductions as outlined in the Paris Climate Accord poses grave threats to the health and wellbeing of individuals worldwide;

Whereas the adverse effects of climate change are disproportionately concentrated among vulnerable and marginalized populations worldwide;

Whereas failing to meet targets for global emissions reductions as outlined by the Paris Climate Accord unnecessarily puts into peril future generations' health and wellbeing;

Whereas withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord impinges on employment of individuals across diverse sectors of environmental policy, planning, science, research, and development;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) stands in solidarity with the policies and practices established by the Paris Climate Accord; and

Be it resolved that the SSSP will communicate support for the Paris Climate Accord to the leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate, all members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, the House Committee of Natural Resources, the director of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the President of the United States; and

Be it further resolved that the SSSP will stand in solidarity with the nations and other public and private entities that remain steadfast to upholding emissions reduction targets as outlined in the Paris Climate Accord, posting this resolution on its website.

RESOLUTION 4: Resolution on Free Speech and Academic Freedom

Submitted by President Donileen R. Loseke and Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado (members)

Whereas a democratic society depends upon the free exchange of ideas in classrooms, on campuses, and in the public;

Whereas there can be no knowledge or progress without a genuine search for truth which requires free speech;

Whereas disagreeable or controversial ideas should be challenged through empirical research, reasoned discussion, and debate;

Whereas there is evidence that organizations that attack instructors and staff take comments out of context, spread accusations, fabricate and misrepresent information, and orchestrate campaigns, targeting instructors and staff deemed to promote “liberal” ideas in their work and personal lives;

Whereas instructors and staff members in an increasing number of academic institutions and in a variety of academic disciplines (including sociology, philosophy, classics, politics and global studies, and communications) have been the targets of threats of violence because of their ideas;

Whereas faculty and staff who occupy marginal social positions or experience precarious employment are more vulnerable to attacks and sanctions;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) stands in solidarity with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the American Sociological Association (ASA), and other professional associations in its commitment to academic freedom and due process and in denouncing violence and harassment of all types targeted toward those engaging in free speech; and

Be it resolved that the SSSP agrees with the AAUP that it is the responsibility of campus governing boards to develop and enforce policies that will protect the safety and freedom of instructors and staff; and

Be it resolved that we adopt and add to our website a statement, consistent with the AAUP’s, on academic freedom; and

Be it further resolved that the SSSP will send a copy of this resolution and statement on academic freedom to the AAUP and to the presidents and boards of the institutions at which these types of cases have occurred, on an ongoing basis.

RESOLUTION 5: 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 Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). First, we thank President Donileen R. Loseke for her outstanding leadership in developing the 67th Annual Meeting and its theme: *Narratives in the World of Social Problems: Power, Resistance, Transformation*. We also thank this year’s Program Committee members Sara L. Crawley (Co-Chair), Hsiao-Chuan Hsia, Karyn D. McKinney, Marc R. Settembrino, and Jessica Sperling, but especially the committee’s chair, Amir B. Marvasti, for putting together such an excellent program; and Local Arrangements Committee Chair Jason Carmichael and his committee Annie Carrier, Alissa Mazar, Naomi Nichols, and Sophie Pomerleau. We thank the staff of the Montreal Bonaventure Hotel for fine accommodations, and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Isabelle Blais, Convention Services Manager.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President David A. Smith for his years of leadership; Vice-President Valerie Leiter for managing the resolutions process; Glenn W. Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Patrick Donnelly for his service as Treasurer.

The Society also thanks Luis A. Fernandez, President-Elect; David G. Embrick, Vice-President-Elect; Board of Directors: Louis Edgar Esparza, Saher Selod, Elroi J. Windsor, Sarah Jane Brubaker, Claire M. Renzetti, outgoing members Cheryl A. Boudreaux, Keith M. Kilty, student representatives of the Board Kasey Henricks (outgoing) and Sarah A. St. John; Bhoomi K. Thakore, Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions; Pamela Anne Quiroz, Editor of *Social Problems*; Stephani Williams, outgoing Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members, Nancy J. Mezey, Lauren Eastwood, Patrick Donnelly, and Susan M. Carlson; Corey Dolgon, outgoing Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members Gregory D. Squires, Valerie Jenness, Anna Maria Santiago, Jackie Krasas, Heather MacIndoe, Stephani Williams, Becky Pettit, and Pamela Anne Quiroz; and the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office. A special thanks to the University of South Florida Department of Sociology and President Donileen R. Loseke for their financial contributions to program activities and to Oxford University Press for subsidizing the purchase of the conference bags.

The Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, Information Technology Specialist Rachel Cogburn, Administrative Assistant Marisa Stone, Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Bethany Nelson (outgoing), and the leaders of the 22 Divisions for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out.

ITEM 5: REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM LAST YEAR'S MEETING

Secretary Glenn Muschert presented the minutes of the 2016 Society Business Meeting.

ITEM 6: REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZING 2017 BOARD ACTIONS.

Secretary Glenn Muschert summarized the 2017 Board Actions.

ITEM 7: REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Kasey Henricks presented on behalf of *Social Problems* editor Pamela Anne Quiroz on the state of the Society's journal. There were 428 submissions, with an acceptance rate 7% to 8%. There are c. 6,000 followers on Twitter and Facebook, and *Social Problems* has a strong social media presence. There were eight (8) awards given for articles published in the journal. There is one more year remaining in Pamela Anne Quiroz's time as editor, after which the editorial office will transition to a different editor.

ITEM 8: REPORT FROM THE TREASURER ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOCIETY

The financial state of the Society is good. Net revenues exceeded expenses by c. \$70K. In various revenue categories, there was an increase in revenue. Investments in our socially responsible mutual funds increased due to market conditions. The Society received a clean financial and organizational audit. The Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee will continue to monitor the Society's investments.

ITEM 9: REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado presented the report from the Executive Officer (EO). The EO started with a note of appreciation to those who contribute to the Society. This year's meeting has the highest attendance ever for an annual meeting, and includes an outstanding program. The EO thanks the staff in the Administrative Office. The EO specified the reasons behind the Board's decision to change the Society's tax status to 501(h). The EO described the Society's work in pursuit of social justice.

ITEM 10: REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz presented the report from the Administrative Officer (AO) and Meeting Manager (MM). The AO announced the 2017 meetings are the largest ever in Society history, with 1,020 registrants. Of these, 49% are professionals, and 49% are students, unemployed, or retired. The other 2% fit the exempt category. We have a surplus from our annual meetings since 2011. The AO/MM described efforts undertaken to control costs at annual meetings, and efforts to make the meetings as welcoming and rewarding as possible.

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was proposed.

ITEM 12: INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Society President Donileen R. Loseke (2016-2017) introduced rising President Luis A. Fernandez (2017-2018), and passed the gavel.

ITEM 13: NEW PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE SITE, DATE, AND THEME FOR THE 2018 MEETING

Society President Luis A. Fernandez announced that the 2018 Society for the Study of Social Problems annual meeting will take place in Philadelphia, August 10 – 12, 2018. The theme for the meeting will be “Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems.”

ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

There being no further business, the 2017 business meeting was adjourned by Society President Luis A. Fernandez.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary