

Executive Officer's Annual Report (2021) Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

Submitted by Héctor L. Delgado, PhD

I would like to begin by thanking the many people who make this organization run as smoothly as it does; from the volunteers serving as Division Chairs, on committees, on task forces, and on the Board of Directors, to our staff, beginning with Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager. No one works harder and more efficiently for the SSSP than Michele. We are indeed deeply indebted to her. Helping her and serving the SSSP in extraordinary ways are Rachel S. Cogburn, Information Technology Specialist; Kelsey Whitaker, Assistant to the Administrative Officer; and Zaina Shams, Graduate Research Associate and Webmaster. My deepest gratitude to them and everyone else who serves this organization.

2021 Annual Meeting Cancellation and In-Person 2022 Meeting in Los Angeles

By now you know that we had to cancel the in-person Annual Meeting in Chicago. The Board, led by Dr. Corey Dolgon, met on a regular basis over the past year to monitor the situation and finally made the decision to cancel the in-person meeting and proceed with a full virtual meeting. While we were able to cancel our contract with the Swissôtel Chicago without penalty, we are extremely disappointed. The Annual Meeting is a time and place for old friends to re-connect and attendees to make new friends and network. Meanwhile, the Board decided to proceed with an in-person-only meeting in 2022 in Los Angeles.

2021 Virtual Annual Virtual Meeting in Chicago

This year's virtual meeting, with the theme of *Revolutionary Sociology: Truth, Healing, Reparations and Restructuring*, promises to be an especially exciting and important one for the Society. Exciting because it is the Society's first full virtual meeting since its founding in 1951. Important because it continues, and even ramps up, the Society's re-examination of its original purpose and explores ways in which the Society can and should advance the cause of social justice in its many forms. A review of the papers and other aspects of the program clearly underscores the desire by the SSSP and its members to contribute, as an organization, to struggles for social justice. In the United States alone we witnessed an attempted coup on January 6th, after perhaps the most secure election in this country's history, and are now witnessing attempts by state legislatures to depress and suppress voting by people of color and other groups.

Social Problems

Our flagship journal, *Social Problems*, continues to thrive. As I reported last year, Dr. Annulla Linders and Dr. Earl Wright II agreed to serve another three-year term as editors of the journal, and are now joined by a third editor, Dr. Derrick R. Brooms, a faculty member in Sociology and Africana Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Once again, I want to express my gratitude to them and to welcome Derrick, and to thank as well Oxford University Press, the reviewers of articles submitted to the journal, and the members of the Editorial and Publications Committee.

In last year's report, I noted that when we advertised the search for a new editor, the response was tepid at best. The response was not much better than it was the two previous times. While we managed each time to find excellent editors, we may not be so lucky next time. So, we urge members to begin now to think about serving as a future editor of *Social Problems*. If you are not interested or cannot do it, please help us to identify talented individuals who may be and can, and encourage them to apply.

Membership Decline, and Deficit

One of the unfortunate effects of the pandemic and the cancellation of the in-person annual meetings has been a decline in membership. We are recouping members at an encouraging rate, but membership is down, and the deficit is up. We have healthy reserves that so far have allowed us to weather the storm, but in the long term we have to find a way to increase our membership, minimally, to pre-COVID-19 levels. If you are reading or hearing this, you are probably a member. Please renew every year and please help us recruit new members.

Concluding Remarks

My next report, for 2022, will be my last one as Executive Officer. I notified the Board that I will be stepping down as EO after the Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. I retired as a full professor in July 2019, and now it is time for me to retire fully. I want (and need) to spend more time with my family, including, and especially, with my grandson (and soon another grandson), to travel, and to get more involved politically in my new home, Georgia. Let me end, appropriately, by thanking this Board, previous Boards, and the membership for allowing me to serve as the organization's Executive Officer since 2009. It truly has been an honor.