

2025–2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026
11:45AM–1:15PM (Eastern Time)

Item 1. Call to Order and Welcome

President Sarah Jane Brubaker called the meeting to order at 11:46am. The meeting convened over Zoom.

Item 2. Brief Introductions

Attendees, including officers and board members introduced themselves. The introductions set a collegial tone for the meeting.

Members present:

Sarah Jane Brubaker, President
David G. Embrick, President-Elect
Clare E. B. Cannon, Vice-President
Kasey Henricks, Vice-President-Elect
Felicia Arriaga, Secretary
Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer
Meghna Bhat, Board Member
Jerome Krase, Board Member
Anthony A. Peguero, Board Member
Janelle M. Pham, Board Member
Faryal Razzaq, Board Member
Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member
Rafia Javaid Mallick , Board Member, Student Representative
Natasha Israt Kabir, Board Member, Student Representative
Shannon K. Carter, Ex-Officio, Chairperson, Council of Division Chairs
Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer
Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

Board Members absent:

Rose M. Brewer, Past-President
alithia zamantakis, Board Member
Andrew S. Fullerton, Editor, *Social Problems*

Item 3. *Adopt (Revise) Agenda*

A revision was made to the proposed agenda to include an item under Item 7. New Business: A. Discussion and Vote on Proposed Annual Meeting Merchandise Items.

Action: The Board approved the revision to the agenda to include a discussion and vote on proposed Annual Meeting merchandise items (13-0-0).

Item 4. *Report from the President*

A. Virtual Events – Upcoming

President Sarah Jane Brubaker gave an update on the Virtual Poster Mini-Conference scheduled for March 26-27.

Members requested a Virtual Town Hall to share their concerns, recommendations, and feedback about the Society, particularly for those unable to attend the Annual Meeting in person. In recent years, panelists have included the President, current and incoming leadership, and/or others. The Board suggested including a student representative. This event will be held in mid-late July so that it feels connected to the Annual Meeting.

Item 5. *Report from the Executive Officer*

A. Update on Sociological Initiatives Foundation Grant

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer, provided an update on the Sociological Initiatives Foundation Grant. They reported that award decisions are expected in late January.

B. Report on Status of the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) Contract (1/1/22–12/31/26)

Elroi provided a report on the status of the UTK Contract. The current contract expires at the end of 2026 and discussions are ongoing with the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee. Staff were recently brought into the discussion. While not directly related, IT Specialist Rachel Cogburn will resign effective July 31, prompting broader discussion about managing workload and restructuring possibilities. The Board discussed the need to shift the culture of the organization to take ownership versus the overreliance on staff.

Board members asked questions regarding the IT Specialist costs, implications if the UTK contract is not renewed, and payroll expenses.

Item 6. Annual Meeting Updates

A. Update on the 2026 Final Site Visit – New York City

Michele Smith Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager, provided updates from the final site visit. The hotel has made recent renovations to the escalators and guest rooms.

Previously approved subsidized hotel rooms for officers will not be offered due to current financial constraints; however, some room upgrades will be available at the group rate.

As of this date, 190 submissions have been received compared to 70 at the same time last year.

B. Update on the 2026 Annual Meeting

1. Discussion and Vote on the 2026 Proposed Annual Meeting Accessibility Statement from the Accessibility Committee

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer, raised concerns with the statement including a note on more acceptable language around disability and some inaccuracies with the technical components.

ACTION: The Board approved the revised 2026 Annual Meeting Accessibility Statement (15-0-0). See Addendum #2.

2. Reminder: Call for Papers Submissions Deadline – 11:59pm (Eastern Time) on 1/31/26

Item 7. New Business

A. Discussion and Vote on Proposed Annual Meeting Merchandise Items

President Sarah Jane Brubaker shared merchandise ideas for the 2026 Annual Meeting. She noted collaboration with an Indigenous artist, with 20% of the cost of the merchandise designated to the artist. Michele Koontz presented a spreadsheet outlining pricing scenarios. Proposed items include tote bags, magnets, buttons, and stickers.

ACTION: The Board approved merchandise items and pricing for Tote Bags (\$10), Magnets (\$5), and Stickers (\$3) (15-0-0). See Addendum #3.

Item 8. Adjournment of the 2025–2026 Board

President Sarah Jane Brubaker adjourned the meeting at 1:05PM and reminded members of upcoming Board meetings on February 19, March 19, April 23, and May 21, all from 11:45AM-1:15PM (Eastern Time).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary.

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ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE DECEMBER 8, 2025 BOARD MEETING

ACTION: 1/20/26 – The Board approved Laura Parson to serve on the Editorial and Publications Committee for the 2026-2028 term. (Vote: 15-0-1)1

Respectfully submitted by Felicia Arriaga, SSSP Secretary.

ADDENDUM #2 – 2026 SSSP ANNUAL MEETING APPROVED ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

SSSP aims to make the annual meeting an accessible and inclusive space. The Accessibility strives to ensure that all facilities at the annual meeting are accessible to disabled participants to encourage and assure their full participation in the annual meeting. In addition, SSSP upholds an [Anti-Harassment Policy](#) to create a safe and welcoming space. We offer various [travel awards](#) to support attendance mostly by students, lower-income members, and international scholars from the Global South, as defined by the [American Sociological Association](#), and other oppressed areas outside the U.S.

All SSSP Annual Meeting attendees will be required to follow any COVID-19 related protocols mandated by local authorities at the time of the meeting. SSSP strongly recommends that attendees receive COVID-19 vaccination in advance of participation and use masks while we are together in New York. As you navigate the meeting space, please do your best to help protect all of our colleagues. SSSP may choose to enact stricter protocols should they be warranted by public health on or before the meeting time.

Adhering to such precautions is both a political act and a statement of solidarity. Cultivating a more just and sustainable world requires a commitment to transnational solidarity and thus an awareness that an “injury to one is an injury to all.” Similarly, COVID-19 made it terribly clear that no one is safe until everyone is safe. To this end, we ask all attendees to prioritize relationality and a praxis of care by considering what it means to be accountable to themselves and to others during the conference.

Options for remote presentation will be made available for paid meeting registrants who have a disability or have a medical condition for which medical advice was given against in-person attendance. SSSP is optimistic that all remote presentation requests can be accommodated, but depending on demand and availability of Wi-Fi bandwidth. Remote presenters should be aware that Wi-Fi could potentially fail to support the presentation. Therefore, registrants are asked to only request remote presentation if indeed necessary to increase the chances that sufficient bandwidth will be available to those who need it. A request for remote presentation must be made by July 15, 2026. To request remote presentation, contact Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager, at mkoontz3@utk.edu.

The Board recommends that those who have registered for the annual meeting and are fearful of travelling be encouraged to submit a written copy of their paper(s) to be distributed and read at the appropriate session at the annual meetings. Participants interested in this option should contact the session organizer or presider to request the distribution and reading of their paper.

Vote format: (Vote: XX-YY-ZZ) NN, where XX = Yes, YY = No, ZZ = abstain, and NN = no vote.

ADDENDUM #3 – DETAILS CONCERNING PROPOSED MERCHANDISE FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

2026 Proposed SSSP Merchandise			Description	Price Per Item	Setup Fee	Graphic		Proposed Pricing	Board Approved
Quantity						Artist's 20% Fee	Total		
Tote Bag	150	Minimum Order	Made from sturdy 80 GSM premium quality non-woven polypropylene, 100% recyclable and reusable, with stitched seams, side and bottom gussets, reinforced sewn handles, and hemmed opening. These tear resistant and water repellent bags are made from recycled material. This premium quality tote bag is reusable 100% recyclable. Contains 20% post-industrial recycled content. Tear and water repellent; Full color process imprint; Dimensions: 6"L x 20"W x 16"H; Imprint Area: 14" W x 10" H	\$4.98	\$50.00	\$149.40	\$946.40	\$10.00	Yes
Stickers	50	Minimum Order	2"x2" Circle Sticker; Thick, durable vinyl protects your stickers from scratches, water and sunlight	\$1.16		\$11.60	\$69.60	\$3.00	Yes
Buttons	100	Minimum Order	2" Round 2-Piece Button-Full Color; two-piece celluloid buttons use a metal shell and metal backing. Full safety pin attachment standard.	\$1.21		\$24.20	\$145.20	\$3.00	No
Magnets	125	Minimum Order	Full color process imprint; 2" Diameter; Imprint Area: 1-7/8" diameter	\$1.50		\$37.50	\$225.00	\$5.00	Yes
Packing Supplies									
Bags	250	Minimum Order	5x8 100% Recyclable Paper Bags w/Handles				\$38.00		
Jute Twine	1		Roll-Medium Duty, All Purpose				\$6.00		
Grand Total					\$50.00	\$222.70	\$1,430.20	\$2,575.00	
Approved Flat Rate Shipping									
US/Canada/Mexico: \$9.95									
International: \$14.95									
Approved Refund Policy									
All SSSP merchandise is non-refundable, regardless of circumstances.									
2026 Artwork									

