

2024–2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (EDT)

VIRTUAL MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

President Rose M. Brewer called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

ITEM #2 – INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present:

Rose M. Brewer, President

Sarah Jane Brubaker, President-Elect

Mary Bernstein, Past President

David J. Luke, Vice President

Heather Dillaway, Treasurer

Glenn W. Muschert, Secretary

Meghna Bhat, Board Member

Jerome Krase, Board Member

Tamara Leech, Board Member

Janelle Pham, Board Member

Claire M. Renzetti, Board Member

Barbara Katz Rothman, Board Member

Rafia Javaid Mallick, Board Member, Student Representative

Kelly Sittner, Co-Editor, *Social Problems*

Shannon K. Carter, Chair, Council of Division Chairs

Elroi J. Windsor, Executive Officer

Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer and Meeting Manager

Rachel Cogburn, IT Specialist

ITEM #3 – ADOPT AGENDA

The Board adopted the agenda as presented.

ITEM #4 – REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Rose M. Brewer discussed the plans for the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Sub-Item A. Update on the Ad Hoc Fundraising Campaign Committee for the SSSP 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting.

President Rose M. Brewer discussed fundraising activities concerning enhancing the 2025 Annual Meeting. Pledged donations now exceed \$2000. President Brewer spoke about the relevance of the SSSP and its values.

ITEM #5 – DISCUSS AND VOTE ON NEXT STEPS REGARDING THE BOARD’S DECISION TO REOPEN THE DISCUSSION ABOUT A FINANCIAL ADVISOR, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF ELLEN RAPIER WITH THE OAK TREE GROUP OF KOVACK SECURITIES

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

President Rose M. Brewer clarified that the Board previously voted to reopen the discussion to identify a financial advisor for the SSSP, including considering Ellen Rapier with Oak Tree Group of Kovack Securities.

ACTION: The Board empowered the Ad Hoc Search for a Society Financial Advisor Committee to arrange a meeting with Ellen Rapier with Oak Tree Group of Kovack Securities to assess suitability. (Vote: 13-0-0)1

ITEM #6 – CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE REVISED REPORT FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AND THE SOCIETY’S VALUES

Ad Hoc Committee Member Rafia Javaid Mallick presented the report of the committee on behalf of Clare E. B. Cannon, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, focusing on the report’s highlights and recommendations.

1. Develop a social media platform policy.
2. Schedule revisiting that policy every 2 or 3 years.
3. Do not create a standing committee to do this, but have an ad hoc committee from the board to develop and review the policy.
4. Recommend more social justice messaging across platforms.
5. If the Board approves recommendation 4, recommend establishing a service position for a strategic communications person. This person must be carefully selected as they require skills, tech, and media savvy.
6. Separate from social media platform policy, consider connecting with and supporting other organizations in their advocacy efforts (ASA, APHA suits), such as coordination (e.g., file amicus briefs, etc.).
7. The Committee did not reach consensus on whether to drop social media platforms; instead, it has outlined options for the board to consider and weigh.

The Board discussed the recommendations. However, due to a lack of quorum, the item was tabled until the next Board meeting. No action was taken at this time.

ITEM #7 – ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES

Sub-Item A. Update on the 2025 Annual Meeting

Meeting Manager Michele Koontz reported that 335 participants have been asked to affirm their listings on the program, and currently 309 remain. Thus far, there are 119 registrants, including 11 non-program participants. We now have 201 guest rooms reserved at the conference hotel, which is 28% of the required room block. There are 1,362 current members (i.e., 2024+).

Sub-Sub-Item 1. Share Audio-Visual Pricing for Streaming

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor described requests and practices concerning virtual presentations/participation at the Annual Meetings. Meeting Manager Michele Koontz described the costs of hybrid AV options for the annual meeting.

Sub-Item B. Unfinished Business Carried Over from 3/17/25 Board Meeting

Discussion and Vote on Virtual Attendance Request in Chicago

Excerpt from the 3/17/25 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

****Begin Excerpt**** ITEM #5 – DISCUSS SSSP TAKING A PUBLIC STANCE ON CURRENT EVENTS

Sub-Item A. Discuss Virtual Attendance Request in Chicago

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor noted that numerous potential participants of the 2025 Annual Meeting have expressed hesitance to attend a meeting in the United States. *Therefore, many have requested permission to attend virtually.* (Emphasis added) The Board noted and discussed the related issues. After discussion, the Board tabled this sub-item. President Rose M. Brewer plans to discuss this issue with President-Elect Sarah Jane Brubaker and Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor and report back at the next Board of Directors meeting. ****End Excerpt****

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor described relevant developments, such as conference participants' hesitance to travel within the US and to the US from another country. The Board referred to the SSSP's Approved Accessibility Statement.

ACTION: The Board acknowledged the extraordinary circumstances affecting many members who are afraid to travel to the annual meetings. While the Board would like to approve virtual attendance, the SSSP is financially strained. The costs of providing options for virtual participation are exorbitant, and the Board regrets that it cannot approve these requests due to its current financial crisis. (Vote: 13-0-0)

ACTION: The Board decided not to change its current policy on virtual attendance. Those fearful of traveling to the annual meetings would be encouraged to submit a written copy of their papers to be distributed and read at the appropriate session at the annual meetings. The person must register for the Annual Meeting. Further, it shall be the individual's responsibility to contact the session organizer or presider to request the distribution and reading of their paper. (Vote: 13-0-0)

ITEM #8 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor delivered various updates.

Sub-Item A. ABS-SSSP Event Report – The State of the State

Ninety registered for the virtual event, and c. 44 participated. There seems to have been value in this, as the participants had much to discuss.

Sub-Item B. Membership Survey – Update

The Membership Survey closed on March 19. A total of 224 people started the survey, and 156 completed it. For comparison, in 2019, 177 completed the survey.

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

Sub-Item C. Orientation for New Board Members and Officers

The Executive Officer encourages outgoing leaders to share advice and tips about how incoming leaders can best engage in their new positions.

ITEM #9 – NEW BUSINESS

President Rose M. Brewer raised an item of New Business.

Sub-Item A. Schedule and Request Items for the next Zoom Board Meeting.

Barring an emergency meeting, Rose M. Brewer clarified that the next Board meeting will take place in Chicago.

ITEM #10 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE 2024–2025 BOARD

President Rose M. Brewer adjourned the Board Meeting at 12:41 pm with no time remaining.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary.

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ADDENDUM #1 – RECORD OF BOARD ACTIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL SINCE THE MARCH 17, 2025, BOARD MEETING

ACTION: 3/19/25 – The Board approved the Transnational Initiatives Committee’s Global South Travel Grant Evaluation. (Vote: 17-0-0) 0

ACTION: 3/21/25 – The Board approved OUP’s subscription and article processing charge pricing plan for the 2026 calendar year. (Vote: 16-0-0) 1

Proposed APCs:

	Current	Proposed
List Price APC	\$4,073	\$4,277
SSSP Member APC (20% discount)	\$3,258	\$3,421

Proposed Institutional Subscription Prices:

Subscription Type	2025			2026		
	£	\$	€	£	\$	€
Institutional Print	266	507	399	285	543	427
Institutional Online-only	215	408	320	224	425	333
Institutional Print + Online	290	548	432	311	587	463

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

ACTION: 3/21/25 - The Board approved the Chi-Nations Youth Council as the recipient of the 2025 SSSP Indigenous Peoples' Social Justice Award. (Vote: 17-0-0) 0

ACTION: 4/02/25 – The Board approved that Rin Ferraro will finish Dr. Felicia Arriaga's term on the Membership and Outreach Committee. (Vote: 17-0-0) 0

ACTION: 4/03/25 – The Board approved the revised minutes from the March 17, 2025, Zoom Board Meeting. (Vote: 16-0-1) 1

ACTION: 4/04/25 – The Board voted to rescind its earlier acceptance of the proposal from Merrill Lynch as the Society's financial advisor. (Vote: 16-0-1) 0

ACTION: 4/14/25 – The Board affirmed that Society funds will not cover meals for Division-Sponsored Events. As previously discussed, the Society will not be at risk of falling short of this minimum, as long as we continue to offer AM/PM breaks, receptions, and the New Member Breakfast. (Vote: 0-8*/9**-0) 0

* Society funds should not cover meals for Division-Sponsored Events: 8 votes

** Society funds should not cover meals for Division-Sponsored Events unless the expense is required to meet the food and beverage minimum threshold at the conference hotel: 9 votes

ACTION: 4/17/25 – The Board approved the motion to reopen the discussion about a financial advisor for SSSP -- including consideration of the new option, Ellen Rapier, an Advisor with The Oak Tree Group of Kovack Securities. (Vote: 14-0-1) 2

ACTION: 4/25/25 – The Board approved the following appointments for the *Social Problems* Social Media Committee positions: Carlos Gonzales (Social Media Coordinator), Jenny Rakota and Kajal Patel (Committee Members), along with the proposed stipends. (Vote: 15-0-1) 1