President Jack Santino called the annual meeting of the Executive Board to order on October 8, 2003 at 1:10 p.m. in the Fiesta 1-2 Room of the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Members present: Betty Belanus, Carole Carpenter, John Dorst, Judy McCulloh, Elliott Oring, Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, and Peggy Yocom. Members absent: William Wiggins, Jr. AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present. As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, this meeting was recorded on audiotape.

Jack Santino called for review of the minutes from the Board’s April 2003 meeting. Judy McCulloh moved that the Board approve the minutes of the April 2003 Board meeting, with a few typographical corrections. Carole Carpenter seconded the motion. Board members noted a few typographical corrections that need to be made. The motion passed unanimously.

Jack Santino then delivered the President’s report. He announced the proposed recipients of 2003 Society prizes: Benjamin Botkin Prize (Alan Jabbour), the Zora Neale Hurston Prize (Wanda Addison), and the Américo Paredes Prize (Norma Cantú). (Note: The other 2004 AFS Prize—the Kenneth Goldstein Award for Lifetime Academic Leadership, awarded to Edward Ives—was approved by the Board in April 2003.)

John Dorst moved that the Board approve Alan Jabbour as the recipient of the 2004 Benjamin Botkin Prize. Judy McCulloh seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Elliott Oring moved that the Board approve Wanda Addison as the recipient of the 2004 Zora Neale Hurston Prize. Betty Belanus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Judy McCulloh moved that the Board approve Norma Cantú as the recipient of the 2004 Américo Paredes Prize. Peggy Yocom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Santino then briefly discussed the annual meeting about to begin, and finally moved on to a discussion of his experience attending the summer 2003 meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This is an important initiative for AFS, which as a non-governmental organization has the ability to advance a broad range of positions.
Timothy Lloyd then made the Executive Director’s report. Focusing first on Society finances, he explained that the Society had had an excellent year in FY 2003, which ended in August 2003, with a net income of about $79,000 (unaudited), as opposed to the -$5,600 that had been predicted 18 months ago.

Society membership is also up, and has just passed 1,100 for the first time in almost three years.

On the matter of special projects, Lloyd reported that the Society recently submitted a proposal to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for $483,000 to complete the Ethnographic Thesaurus project, in collaboration with the American Folklife Center. The Mellon Foundation invited us to submit this proposal, and their response thus far has been very encouraging.

Our contract with the Veterans History Project (another American Folklife Center initiative) to provide leaders for community-based workshops on collecting oral histories from US military veterans is going quite well. To date, we have provided leaders for over 100 workshops participated in by approximately 2,000 people.

He then turned to a matter carried forward from the April 2003 Board meeting: the several AFS sections which have been moribund for several years. Based on the investigation the Board had asked him in April to undertake, he reported that the last-known conveners of three sections—American Indian Folklore, Catholic Folklore, and Popular Music—reported that their sections had not undertaken any activities for some years. Despite this fact, people continue to pay dues to the Popular Music Section, the only one of these three with membership dues.

Judy McCulloh moved that the Board dissolve the Society’s American Indian Folklore, Catholic Folklore, and Popular Music sections, as provided for in Article X, Section 6 of the AFS Bylaws, and that the current members of the Popular Music Section be offered the opportunity to transfer their membership to the AFS Music and Song Section. Elliott Oring seconded the motion, which passed, 9 votes for, none against, and 1 abstention.

Lloyd then discussed matters relating to the increasing administrative workload in his office. He concluded by recommending that the Society contract with the University of Illinois Press to handle all institutional subscriptions to the Journal of American Folklore, and by presenting a draft agreement between AFS and UIP for that purpose.
Betsy Peterson moved that the Board approve this agreement for a period of three years (2004-2006). Michael Owen Jones seconded the motion, which passed, 8 votes for, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

The meeting then paused briefly at 3:10 pm and resumed at 3:30 pm.

Jack Santino introduced Burt Feintuch of the University of New Hampshire, AFS’s representative to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Feintuch then introduced Wend Wendland, Head of the Traditional Knowledge Section of the WIPO, and they both discussed a number of WIPO-related matters with the Board.

Wendland explained the role of the WIPO within the United Nations system. As opposed to UNESCO, whose main mission is preservation, the mission of WIPO is protection. Most of its members are nation-states, but there is considerable participation by intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations like AFS, as well as organizations representing “indigenous peoples.” The particular group in which AFS participates is the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore (IGC-GRTKF).

How can intellectual property rights in traditional materials be considered and treated so as to preserve the rights of original traditional communities? Will styles and modes, be protected, as opposed to the protection of actual creative works? One of the main questions facing this part of WIPO is whether existing systems of intellectual property protection (basically the existing copyright and patent systems) are adequate to protect folklore and traditional cultural expressions, and to provide answers to such questions; whether these existing systems can be modified to provide such protection; or whether new _sui generis_ systems, customized to the special circumstances of folklore and the special needs of traditional communities, need to be created. Overall, the process can be characterized as proceeding along the lines, as Wendland put it, of “constructive ambiguity.”

The WIPO depends greatly upon non-governmental organization such as AFS to provide expertise. The alliances, divides, and coalitions among members of the IGC-GRTKF are more complex than might be assumed; such interactions are more nuanced than can be described by simple North vs. South, developed vs. developing oppositions. In many instances, for example, there are significant conflicts between developing countries’ governments and the indigenous groups of that country.
The Board then moved ahead in its agenda to a discussion of new business.

**Judy McCulloh moved that the Board approve that Board leadership Fund income for the upcoming year be used for fundraising costs, particularly those associated with the quiet phase of the Society’s planned giving program. Betsy Peterson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board then discussed the revisions that will need to be made in the Society’s statement on promotion and tenure, drafted in the 1980s. A revised statement will need to be realistic and specific, protecting the reputation of folklore work, suggesting ways in which folklorists’ work can be evaluated, and providing mechanisms for evaluation of a wide variety of work. AFS will need to provide a database or roster of professionals qualified to review folklorists’ work in these cases.

The Board then discussed its desiderata for the next editor of the *Journal of American Folklore* (current editor Elaine Lawless’s term will conclude in late 2005). Those desiderate are: excellent writing ability, editorial experience, strong institutional support, knowledge of and respect within the field, the ability to meet deadlines and to work in an organized manner, the ability to effectively promote the *Journal* and successfully acquire folklorists’ best work, good basic communication and persuasive skills, and—if possible—senior standing in the field. It will also be important to find an institution on the upswing with relation to folklore; an institution within which having the *JAF* editorship would make a difference to the standing of our field at the institution.

This day’s meeting concluded at 5:02 pm, to resume on Sunday, October 12, 2003 at 8:30 am.

President Jack Santino returned the meeting to order at 8:40 am in the Boardroom North Room of the Hyatt Regency Albuquerque, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Members present: Betty Belanus, Carole Carpenter, John Dorst, Judy McCulloh, Elliott Oring, Maida Owens, Betsy Peterson, Jack Santino, and Peggy Yocom. Members absent: William Wiggins, Jr. AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd was also present, as was *Journal of American Folklore* editor Elaine Lawless of the University of Missouri.

Santino noted the departure at the end of the calendar year of three Board members: Betty Belanus, Judy McCulloh, and Elliott Oring. He thanked them for their service to the Society, and presented them with gifts from the other members of the Board.
Lawless then made the *Journal of American Folklore's* annual report to the Board. She has been disappointed by relatively low number of strong submissions, though there is sufficient good material to produce good issues through the remaining two years of her term. There have been few submissions from senior members and, at the same time, she has been working to change perception that *JAF* is inaccessible to younger writers. Two special issues will be upcoming in next year: Creative Ethnography (edited by Kim Lau), and African Diaspora (edited by Anand Prahlad), and the *JAF* staff is in the beginning stages an issue dedicated to Linda Dégh. Lawless’s term as editor ends in mid-2005, but she will stay through December of that year.

The Board thanked Lawless and her staff for their dedicated work. Lawless left the meeting at this point.

The Board then moved to a review of the annual meeting just ended, discussing, for the purpose of improving future meetings, its strengths and shortcomings.

The Board then considered other items of new business.

Betsy Peterson made a brief report on UNESCO matters. The Fund for Folk Culture, which she directs, convened an introductory meeting in July with the Deputy Secretary for Culture at UNESCO, Moamir Bouchenaki; representatives of various US non-governmental organizations concerned with folklore (the Society, the Center for the Arts and Culture, the Fund for Folk Culture, and the National Council for the Traditional Arts); and federal representatives from the American Folklife Center, NEA, NEH, the Smithsonian Institution, and other agencies.

On the matter of student issues, Judy McCulloh and Elliott Oring announced that the AFS Fellows would begin the practice in 2005 of hosting an opening-night reception for all students at the annual meeting. Jack Santino left the meeting during this discussion.

The Board then discussed the planned meeting (the second biannual) between the Board and the heads of US and Canadian academic folklore programs to take place on Wednesday, October 13, the day before the 2004 annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Betsy Peterson and Tim Lloyd reported on the professional development sessions co-sponsored by the Society and the Fund for Folk Culture at the annual meeting just ended. The responses of participants were very positive. AFS has commissioned Elaine Thatcher to prepare a written summary and report of the sessions, which will be
published on the AFS web site, and will produce other workshops at next year’s annual meeting.

Kim Lau of the University of Utah, co-chair of the AFS 2004 annual meeting program committee, then entered the meeting and presented the committee’s plans for that event, set for October 13-17 in Salt Lake City.

**Betsy Peterson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Betty Belanus seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director