

President Michael Ann Williams called the fall 2015 meeting of the American Folklore Society Executive Board to order at 9:31 am on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, in the Marina Room of the Westin Long Beach Hotel in Long Beach, California. Members present: President Michael Ann Williams, President-Elect Kay Turner, Brent Björkman, Norma Cantú, Lisa Gilman, Maggie Holtzberg, Maggie Kruesi, Pravina Shukla, Jeff Todd Titon, Diane Tye, and Carolyn Ware. Members absent: Maria Carmen Gambliel. Executive Director Timothy Lloyd, Associate Director Lorraine Walsh Cashman, Membership Director Paulina Guerrero, and Graduate Assistant Shannon Larson were also present.

As per the Executive Board directive of October 17, 1991, the proceedings of this meeting were recorded.

Michael Ann Williams thanked departing Board members Brent Björkman, Maria Carmen Gambliel, Pravina Shukla, and Carolyn Ware for their service to the Society and field, and Tim Lloyd presented gifts from the Board to these members. Tim Lloyd introduced AFS's new staff members: Membership Director Paulina Guerrero and Graduate Assistant Shannon Larson.

Michael Ann Williams noted the need, based on discussion among the Board about some of the proceedings of the Board's March 13-14, 2015, meeting, to formalize some of the Board's voting procedures. Starting with this meeting, all Board votes will be followed with an oral summary by the Executive Director of the voting, to which all Board members will be asked to assent; and Board votes that are not unanimous will require all those voting to state their individual votes via a roll call to be conducted by the Executive Director.

Carolyn Ware moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Board's March 13-14, 2015, meeting as submitted. Brent Björkman seconded the motion, which passed with 10 votes in favor and one opposed (Michael Ann Williams).

Michael Ann Williams then delivered the President's report, beginning by citing the contributions of the AFS staff to the additional work this year of moving the AFS office and responding to the labor situation at the Westin Long Beach. She also summarized her recent China activities, and noted work underway within the Society (an initiative of her Presidency) to strengthen ties with the field of historic preservation, and suggested that we need to take steps to bring folklorists in the museum world back into our fold. She also summarized recent work at the Western Kentucky University-based editorial office of the *Journal of American Folklore*, and distributed the tables of contents for first two issues of *JAF* to be published under their editorship.

Timothy Lloyd then delivered the Executive Director's report, focusing first on a summary of the Society's positive financial performance in the fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2015. He also summarized the Society's move to the Indiana University campus in summer 2015, sessions of particular note at this year's annual meeting, and

some of AFS's priorities for the year to come, including the naming of the Board's 12th member in January 2016, the 2016 membership survey, and the opening of the public phase of the AFS Endowment Fund campaign.

Lorraine Walsh Cashman then presented a report on the 2015 annual meeting. Registration numbers are down, but this is often the case with West Coast meetings. So far as they have informed us, only a very small number of members have withdrawn from the meeting, or decided not to participate in the first place, because of the UNITE HERE!-Westin labor issue. In recent weeks, we have been able to reestablish communication with the union, which is participating in Cultural Diversity Committee-sponsored sessions off-site. We attempted to develop other labor-specific programming but were unsuccessful.

The Board took a break at 11:30 am and returned to its agenda at 11:45 am.

Timothy Lloyd then presented the recommendations from the respective review committees of the Botkin, Hurston, and Paredes Prize recipients for 2015: Maida Owens (Botkin), Rebecca Panovka (Hurston), and Charles Briggs (Paredes). **Kay Turner moved that the recommendations from the respective review committees of the Botkin, Hurston, and Paredes Prize recipients for 2015 be approved. Maggie Holtzberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board took a break for lunch at 11:55 am and returned to its agenda at 1:00 pm. Paulina Guerrero and Shannon Larson left the meeting at this point, and Catherine McKemie of ConferenceDirect, AFS's annual meeting site researcher and contract negotiator, joined the meeting at this point.

Timothy Lloyd introduced a draft text of a letter that UNITE HERE! has asked the Board to send to the Utah Retirement System, one of the major owners of the Westin Long Beach, outlining our position about the labor issues at the hotel. Catherine McKemie responded to Board-member questions about UNITE HERE!'s proposed protective language that may help conference planners to negotiate with hotels undergoing labor disputes that fall short of a strike.

After further discussion, **Norma Cantú moved that the Board approve, sign, and send the letter about the Westin labor situation as drafted by the staff to the Utah Retirement System. Carolyn Ware seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

There was further discussion of a meeting that some Board members (acting as individuals rather than as members of the Board) and AFS meeting attendees have scheduled with the Westin Long Beach management.

The Board took a break at 2:00 pm and returned to its agenda at 2:30 pm. China Folklore Society President Prof. Chao Gejin, Vice President Prof. Song Junhua, AFS

China-US Project Senior Advisor Bill Ivey, and AFS China-US Project Coordinator Chen Xi entered the meeting at this point. Timothy Lloyd introduced them, thanked them for their partnership work with AFS, and summarized AFS's China-US folklore studies activities of recent years. The Board then engaged in a discussion with its guests about present and possible future China-US folklore studies activities.

Under the heading of Old Business, Kay Turner reported in greater detail on AFS staff and Cultural Diversity Committee conversations with UNITE HERE! during the last two weeks before the meeting. Those discussions, in part, led the union to agree not to demonstrate in front of the Westin Long Beach during our meeting.

Under the heading of New Business, Timothy Lloyd asked for volunteers to help with formalizing the procedure for document. Michael Ann Williams and Maggie Kruesi agreed to take part in this work. Pravina Shukla also asked about the possibility of AFS sponsoring social events for non-students at the annual meeting.

Lisa Gilman then moved that the meeting be adjourned. Brent Björkman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

April 8, 2016

Timothy Lloyd
Executive Director

Date

Approved by the American Folklore Society Executive Board:

April 8, 2016

Kay Turner
President

Date