

NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR SPORT HISTORY  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
25 May 2008

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Business Meeting of the North American Society for Sport History was called to order by President Stephen Wenn at 2:10 p.m., Sunday, May 25, 2008, in the Medallion Room of the Hilton Lake Placid Resort, Lake Placid, New York.

There were about 85 present.

The minutes of the 2007 annual business meeting were approved as published in the 2007 Proceedings. PASSED (unanimously).

Ron Smith gave the Secretary-Treasurer's Report. He indicated that the financial situation was solid with income approximately meeting income. Both institutional and individual membership was down slightly. Savings grew somewhat in the past year by about \$11,000.

The Council noted that the Roberta Park Student Fund grants were not intended to be available to students with full-time paid positions but for students with more limited funds.

Council decided that the Graduate Student Essays in the future would be limited to a 6,000 work count, excluding endnotes.

The Council nominated 6 candidates for election to the Nominations Committee. They were Carly Adams, Sarah Fields, Annette Hofmann, Colin Howell, Thomas Hunt, and Gary Osmond. There were no nominations from the floor. The election resulted in electing Sarah Fields, Colin Howell, and Annette Hofmann. Sarah Fields is chair.

The Conference Manager, Bob Barney, announced there were about 200 registrations.

Information Technology Chair, Scott Martyn, said that the new NASSH website has been created. The 2CO credit card provision has been set up and should soon be ready for use. There were about one million hits on the website the past year. A website spam filter has been used to eliminate much of the previous of junk mail.

The Directory of Scholars is accessible, but the individual must allow others to see specific material in the individual's file. Through a password, the individual may change the material that is in the Directory of Scholars.

Kevin Wamsley gave the Time and Site Committee report. NASSH is accepting bids for 2010, 2011, 2012, and beyond. There will be a more aggressive attempt to get future sites.

Andy Doyle of Winthrop University in South Carolina presented a 2009 proposal for the convention in Asheville, North Carolina in the Smokey Mountains, Crown Plaza Hotel. Several airports service Asheville. A Motion (Council) to accept the Crown Plaza Hotel site was PASSED (unanimously).

The Distinguished Lectures Report (Mark Dyreson) was noted with no questions.

Dan Nathan gave the Book Award Report. The Committee was composed of Nancy Bouchier, Allen Guttmann, Martin Johns, Roberta Park, and Dan Nathan.

Dick Crepeau gave the Publications Board report. Wray Vamplew, Journal Editor, said that we are catching up on publications. Vol. 34 (2007) should be completed this summer. The JSH should be on time in Spring 2009. An Associate Editor will be chosen in the near future. Michael Lomax, Proceedings editor, raised the question of this being the last year of the Proceedings being published in paper. The Publications Board's new chair is Ying Wushanley.

Stephen Wenn discussed the future publishing of the Journal of Sport History. He noted the historical background of looking for a commercial or university publisher for the JSH, begun before the Colorado Hotel conference in 2006 at Glenwood, Colorado. A discussion took place over the background of a proposed contract with Routledge. An Ad-hoc Committee of 6 (Mark Dyreson, Tara Magdalinski, Dan Nathan, Ron Smith, Jan Todd, Stephen Wenn) had been established to study the Contract proposal. The ad-hoc Committee voted (not unanimously) to recommend ceasing negotiations with Routledge and take its recommendation to the Council and Publications Board. Both the Council and Publications Board voted unanimously to cease negotiations with Routledge. Council agreed to ask the membership to vote to discontinue negotiations with Routledge.

It was MOVED (Mel Adelman) and seconded to accept the decision of the Council to end negotiations for publishing the JSH with Routledge. (It was amended.)

Questions were raised why the ad-hoc committee chose not to provide a counter-offer to Routledge and whether NASSH might go to another commercial publisher to publish the JSH.

A lengthy discussion ensued over why the specific Routledge contract provisions that the Ad-hoc Committee had reviewed and opposed could not be fully discussed at the Business meeting. It was explained that the negotiations were expected to be conducted in confidence by Routledge and therefore could not be discussed fully outside the NASSH negotiators. Only general statements that the original proposal by Routledge and the actual contract sent to NASSH differed in so many ways that the negotiations became untrustworthy. In addition, it was noted by chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee, Mark Dyreson, that there was a general belief that it was in the best interests of NASSH to continue self-publishing.

A question was raised whether, at this late hour, a quorum existed. The Constitution and By-Laws have no quorum requirement for the annual business meeting.

It was MOVED (Pat Vertinsky) and seconded to amend the previous motion of Mel Adelman to read: NASSH shall hold negotiations with Routledge in abeyance at the present time.” PASSED (5 opposed and 5 abstentions).

Through Council action, the question was raised of pursuing the option of publishing the JSH on-line with Project MUSE, the Johns Hopkins University based e-journal publisher of selected non-profit academic journals.

It was MOVED (Council) to negotiate with Project MUSE for the electronic publishing of the Journal of Sport History. PASSED (1 opposed and 7 abstentions.)

A three person committee would pursue the Project MUSE possibility, including Stephen Wenn, President, Ying Wushanley, chair of the Publications Board, and Ron Smith, Secretary-Treasurer.

Discussion ensued relative to negotiating with other e-journal publishing firms to publish the JSH on-line. Questions were raised on how many issues should be embargoed before the issue would go on-line; whether or not there should be proprietary rights (such as EBSCO Host would demand) or non-exclusive rights (such as Project MUSE). NASSH has an agreement with Los Angeles 84 (formerly Los Angeles Amateur Athletic Federation) for a delay of publishing electronically the JSH of from 4-9 issues; presently it is four.

It was MOVED (Jackie Esposito) and seconded to have the Publications Board seek out other electronic vendors and publishers for the broadest possible distribution of the JSH. PASSED (1 abstention).

A suggestion was made to have a printed agenda for future business meetings that would include motions to be presented by Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald A. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer