

Labor and Labor Movements Section

Chair's report for 2004-2005

Submitted by Dan Clawson, clawson@sadri.umass.edu on October 8, 2005

1. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING:

The section's membership meeting [for this section, I hate to call it a "business" meeting] was attended by 63 people; there was a lot of energy and enthusiasm. See attached for the agenda and minutes of the meeting.

2. REPORT OF SECTION COUNCIL MEETING:

We welcomed new members and gave thanks to departing members
New members = Rick Fantasia, Chair-elect; Bruce Nissen, Secretary-Treasurer; Carol Bank, Council

Departing members = Ruth Milkman, Past-Chair; Heidi Gottfried, Secretary-Treasurer.
There was no departing council member, because Harland Prechel and David Croteau both resigned after last year's meeting.

We noted that section membership stood at what we believed to be an all-time high of 344 members; as of today it has reached what is definitely our high, 371 members.

We reviewed and approved the past year's budget and expenditures for the coming year. These consisted of charges for the newsletter and the section reception, and a vote to allocate \$250 to support the Global Labor mini-conference co-sponsored with the Political Economy of the World-System and Political Sociology sections.

We discussed and reviewed the agenda for the membership meeting to be held later that day, including the formation of Nomination, Program, Student Prize, Article Prize, and Membership committees, generating names and agreeing on-designating Council members to serve on each committee.

We discussed the problem of finding names for section prizes, and the special difficulties this poses for our section.

We discussed whether to switch to an electronic newsletter, in place of the hard copy newsletter we have used to date, and decided to switch to an electronic newsletter, pending results of a survey conducted at the membership meeting. The membership survey strongly endorsed the move to an electronic newsletter.

3. NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE:

The Nominations Committee will notify the membership of the open positions, solicit candidates for nomination, and will actively recruit people who would make outstanding section officers. For the 2005-2006 year the Nominations Committee members will be Dan Clawson, Teresa Sharpe, and Mary Nell Trautner.

4. OPERATING BUDGET:

The section council approved the following budget:

Allocating \$250 as our share of the Global Labor Mini-Conference

Allocating approximately \$650 as our contribution to the joint reception

Allocating up to \$150 to pay for assistance in formatting the newsletter.

The remainder of our budget to be set aside and saved to provide resources for a future one-day mini-conference.

5. REVIEW OF CURRENT YEAR'S ACTIVITIES (2004-2005):

- a. Put out two copies of the newsletter, both of which engaged serious substantive issues as well as reporting on numerous section activities.

- b. Sponsored two regular sessions at the ASA, several well-attended roundtables, and a special session on "How Sociology and the Labor Movement Shape Each Other." The two regular sessions and the roundtables were each attended by more than 60 people; the special session (at 8:30 on Saturday morning) was attended by 40 people. At all sessions there was energy, numerous questions and comments, and active debate. Our sessions were placed in rooms that only held 40; in order to get 60 people in there were people on the floor in front, in every aisle, standing at the back, and spilling out into the hallways.

- c. Co-sponsored a Mini-Conference on Global Labor. This was attended by 110 people with tremendous energy and enthusiasm. Many people found it a peak experience. The success of the mini-conference led for a move to switch to an electronic newsletter in order to generate the savings that could pay for our taking the lead in sponsoring a future mini-conference. (This year's was primarily funded by PEWS.)

- d. Increased our membership and positioned ourselves for future membership increases.

- e. Co-sponsored a reception, along with the Marxist Section and the Race Class Gender Section.

- f. Held a well attended membership meeting, with over 60 people there.

6. PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR (2005-2006):

- a. Switch to an electronic newsletter, but continue to put out a newsletter containing substantive articles and debates.
- b. Organize first-rate regular sessions for the ASA.
- c. Organize a special session, on the split in the labor movement. [This has subsequently been approved by Cynthia Epstein, and participants from the labor movement are being arranged.]
- d. Continue to increase our membership. [Steps in that regard have already been taken.]
- e. Arrange some sort of reception at the ASA meetings, possibly in conjunction with local labor unions.
- f. Award prizes for Best Student Paper and Best Article.
- g. Nominate outstanding candidates for open positions.
- h. Work to inform our members about, and connect them to, the activities of the Labor Section of the International Sociological Association, which plans an active program for the July 2006 meetings in Durban, South Africa.
- i. Continue to be intellectually vibrant and to engage our members.

7. COPIES OF SECTION NEWSLETTER:

See attached.