

## Minutes from Business Meeting of Labor and Labor Movement's Section (Tuesday, August 19, 2003)

The business meeting touched on several topics revolving around ways to generate greater participation in the Labor and Labor Movement Section.

A lively debate weighed the advantages and disadvantages of distributing the newsletter in either electronic and/or paper forms. Strong opinions were voiced on both sides of the issue with some strongly opposing paper and preferring the virtual alternative while others strongly objecting to electronic communication and favoring paper. Without rehearsing all of the arguments, the members agreed to look for a compromise solution that would allow for people to choose the communicative vehicle for receiving the newsletter. If the ASA office cannot handle the dual distribution strategy, then we will circulate the 2003-4 newsletters by post and as an email attachment. In the future, we will work toward electronic-only distribution in order to save money and trees.

Discussion of how to enrich the content of the newsletter generated many new ideas. This fall the newsletter will feature an Author Meets Critic section devoted to Forces of Labor: Workers' Movements and Globalization since 1870 by Beverly Silver. Michael Burawoy, Ching Kwan Lee and Ian Robinson have written reviews. In the future guest editors could solicit comments on important new books. Each newsletter will include profiles of members especially of students. These profiles will announce up-coming publications and projects. We also will highlight student's work by publishing dissertation abstracts. An added section will provide data sources such as websites on labor issues. Members will be asked to contribute to debates on current issues of relevance to labor and the labor movement. Any new ideas are welcome and we encourage submission of profiles and data sources. Please send profiles to Richard Sullivan at [Sullivan@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:Sullivan@umail.ucsb.edu).

The website provides access to information about the section and section members and useful links to other sites. We will post and up-date member profiles on the website. There was interest in adding syllabi on labor and labor movements as well as pdf files of papers and comments from ASA sessions.

Kim Voss gave a report from ASA Council. All sections must maintain a threshold of membership and demonstrate vitality in order to receive full funding from the ASA office. Smaller sections can indicate vitality in other ways beside number of members such as by attendance at sessions and the newsletter. ASA sections cannot endorse political positions, but can recommend to Council to take a position on political matters.

The Section will establish two awards to begin 2003-4: a Distinguished Labor Scholarship Award, alternating between best article and book, and a Best Student Paper Award. Next year, the Section will give out an award for best article published any time between January 2001 and January 2004. Dan Clawson will chair the Committee. Any student at the time of submission is considered eligible for the Best Student Paper Award. The chair of the Best Student Paper Award is Harland Prechel.

A vigorous membership drive will be undertaken this year. All current and former members will receive a reminder to renew membership. We will also experiment with other ways of increasing membership especially among students. Faculty will be asked to sponsor student memberships in the section. Any ideas for organizing the unorganized are welcome.

Finally, the business meeting generated several possible Themes for 2004 Annual Meeting as follows:

1. Organizing in the South
2. Organizing service workers
3. Labor movements and anti-globalization movements
4. Labor movements in international comparison
5. Labor's response to neo-liberal privatization
6. Teaching about labor

Standing Committees 2003-4:

Program Committee: Ruth Milkman (chair)  
Dan Clawson (ex-officio member)  
Chris Rhomberg  
Sarah Hernandez

Membership Committee: Kim Voss (chair)  
Daisy Rooks  
Jill Esbenshade

Distinguished Scholarship Committee: Dan Clawson (chair)  
Michael John Mulcahy

Best Student Paper Committee: Harland Prechel (chair)  
David Brady

Newsletter Editor: Dan Clawson

Webmaster: George Mason

Mini-Conference:

PEWS and Labor and Labor Movement Section will jointly sponsor a Mini-conference on "North/South Social Movements: Bases for Alliances and Tensions" to take place on the day before the beginning of ASA in 2005. The committee consists of members from both sections including: Gay Seidman, Bob Ross, Jennifer Chun and Joel Stillerman.