

Labor and Labor Movements  
Minutes August 2004  
San Francisco

The Labor and Labor Movements Section (LLM) sponsored two lively sessions and members participated in several other thematic and labor-related sessions at the ASA in San Francisco. With our membership hovering over the threshold of 300, we will retain two sessions for the convention in Philadelphia. Our membership committee continues to seek new members to build the section. Contact Joel Stillerman with names of potential members ([stillejo@gvsu.edu](mailto:stillejo@gvsu.edu)). We have a healthy treasury to finance the distribution of our newsletters and to support our reception at the annual convention. This past year, LLM co-sponsored the reception with the Marxist Section, and Race, Gender and Class.

The Business Meeting followed the well-attended round-tables. More than 50 people gathered to discuss section business and many joined a delegation to protest labor conditions at the convention hotel (see item below). The meeting began with several announcements: including, an invitation to participate in RC-44, the labor section of the ISA, by Eddie Webster from South Africa; and a description of an AFL-CIO toolkit for teach-ins on labor issues.

Then in the short time allotted, the group agreed on institutionalizing committee structures and several members volunteered to serve on committees. The Council proposed and the members accepted a system to facilitate staffing committees in the future. The Nomination Committee will consist of the out-going Council Chair, an out-going Council member, and an out-going student member of the Council in staggered years and a current student member in the alternate year. In addition to nominating a slate of candidates for vacant and vacated positions, the Nomination Committee will identify a newsletter editor and a web-master. The Program Committee will be chaired by the chair-elect and include the incoming Council member and a volunteer. The Program Committee will solicit topics and organize sessions. Send ideas to Dan Clawson ([clawson@sadri.umass.edu](mailto:clawson@sadri.umass.edu)).

At the ASA in Atlanta, LLM created two prizes to recognize scholarship on labor issues. This past year we awarded the Distinguished Scholarly Article to **Rick Fantasia** for his article, "Dictatorship over the Proletariat," Actes de la Recherche en Sciences Sociales 138: 3-18. The selection committee also chose two articles for Honorable Mention: Moon-Kie Jung for "Interracialism: The Ideological Transformation of Hawaii's Working Class." 2003. American Sociological Review 68: 373-400; and Marc Dixon and Vincent Roscigno for their "Status, Networks, and Social Movement Participation: The Case of Striking Workers." 2003. American Journal of Sociology 108: 1292-1327.

The second award for the Best Student Paper went to **Jeffrey Sallaz** for his "Manufacturing Concessions: Attritionary Outsourcing at GM's Lordstown, USA Assembly Plant." The selection committee also chose two papers for Honorable Mention: Teresa Sharpe for "Union Democracy and Successful Campaigns" and Jason

Moore for "Remaking Work, Remaking Space, Spaces of Production and Accumulation in the Reconstruction of American Capitalism, 1865-1920."

This year the Section will award a prize for the best book. Section members and presses can nominate books for the prize. Self-nominations are welcomed. Books eligible for the current round must have been published between 2002-2004. All nominations must be received no later than Jan. 1, 2005. Send nominations, including a short rationale for nominating the book, to Michael Schwartz at [mschwartz@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:mschwartz@notes.cc.sunysb.edu).

An award for best student paper will be given out every year. The paper should be the length of a typical article. Any paper will be considered eligible as long as the author is a current graduate student during the year in which the award is given. The winner of the award will serve on the Committee to select the next best student paper.

Two resolutions were presented to and passed by the membership at the business meeting. One resolution called on the ASA to publicly state that they deplored the recent NLRB decision ruling that graduate teaching and research assistants are *not* employees eligible to unionize under the act. The resolution also affirmed support for rights to collective bargaining among graduate student teaching and research assistants and urged university administrators to remain neutral toward graduate student employees' decision to form a union and to voluntarily recognize unions. The second resolution offered stronger language to affirm ASA practice of locating conventions in unionized hotels and called on the Association to actively support workers in any labor disputes arising out of a contracted hotel. It was further resolved to add an escape clause to void a contract in the event of a labor dispute. Both resolutions were endorsed at the ASA business meeting.

Mini-Conference co-sponsored with PEWS:

Committee Structure, Members, Tasks:

**Nomination Committee**

Out-going Chair (Ruth Milkman)\*  
Out-going Council Member (Jill L. Esbenshade)  
Student, out-going if possible (Daisy Rooks)

**Program Committee:**

In-coming Chair (Dan Clawson)\*  
In-coming Council Member (Michael Schwartz)  
Volunteers from the Business Meeting (Rob Penney, George Washington U; Marissa Friedman, SUNY Stony Brook; Mary Nell Trautner, U Arizona)

**Book Prize**

Michael Schwartz (Chair)\*  
Heidi Gottfried  
Ruth Milkman

Daisy Rooks  
Kim Scipes

**Student Paper Prize**

Winner from previous year (Jeff Sallaz)

Volunteers (Teresa Sharpe, Rick Fantasia [Chair], Rachel Sherman)

**Membership Committee**

Joel Stillerman  
Teresa Sharpe  
Richard Sullivan