

**Labor and Labor Movement Section**  
**Business meeting minutes**  
**August 2005**  
Submitted by Heidi Gottfried

New members = Rick Fantasia, Chair-elect; Bruce Nissen, Secretary-Treasurer; Carol Bank, Council

Departing members = Ruth Milkman, Past-Chair; Heidi Gottfried, Secretary-Treasurer; 344 members (as of August 2005).

**REPORT ON GLOBAL LABOR MINI-CONFERENCE** (Bob Ross). Over 110 people attended the very successful Mini-Conference on Global Labor. The quality and the quantity of papers received were due to the joint sponsorship of the three sections (PEWS, Political Sociology, Labor and Labor Movements) and to the topic. Dan Clawson and Ruth Milkman facilitated a lively and electrifying discussion about the AFL-CIO split during the luncheon break. Section members expressed interest in future mini-conferences jointly sponsored with other ASA sections

**GLOBAL LABOR IN SOUTH AFRICA 2006** (Gay Seidman, Neva Makgetla, Bridget Kenny, Peter Evans, Dan Clawson, others) [The International Sociological Association will be meeting in Durban, South Africa, July 23-29; the Research Committee on Labor Movements (RC-44) is working to organize 11 sessions to connect labor researchers from around the world]. The abstracts are due to session organizers at the end of October 2005.

**PRESENTATION OF PRIZES**

The student paper award was presented by Rick Fantasia (Chair) to David Fitzgerald for his paper entitled, "Mexican State Responses to Labor Emigration, 1900-2004." The Best Student Paper Committee included: Jeff Sallaz, Rachel Sherman and Teresa Sharpe. The book award was presented by Michael Schwartz (Chair) to Steve Lopez for his book, *Reorganizing the Rust Belt: An Inside Study of the American Labor Movement* (University of California Press), with Honorable Mention to Chun Soonok, *They Are Not Machines: Korean Women Workers and their Fight for Democratic Trade Unionism in the 1970s* (Ashgate), and Beverly Silver, *Forces of Labor: Workers' Movements and Globalization since 1870* (Cambridge University Press). The Best Book Committee members, Daisy Rooks, Kim Scipes, Heidi Gottfried, Ruth Milkman, Marisa Friedman, and Preston Rudy, reviewed 46 outstanding nominees.

**BUDGET** (Heidi Gottfried) The current budget contains about \$300 after disbursing \$650 for the section's reception, \$250 for the mini-conference, and nearly \$500 for the hardcopy of the newsletter.

## REVISED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** By the rules established in 2004, the committee consists of the out-going Chair (Dan Clawson), an out-going Council member, and an out-going student member (Teresa Sharpe) if there is one. The Nomination Committee is responsible for nominating not only officers and council members, but also a newsletter editor and web-master. (Rachel Sherman has agreed to stay on as newsletter editor for the next year.)

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:** By the rules we established in 2004 and amended in 2005, the Program Committee will be chaired by the current chair (the person about to become chair, Peter Evans) and include the chair-elect (Rich Fantasia), the incoming Council member (Carol Bank) and volunteers.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** By rules established this year, the Membership Committee will be chaired by the out-going Chair (Dan Clawson), and the Secretary-Treasurer will serve as ex-officio member. Volunteers from the business meeting will be solicited. Peter Evans has ideas for recruiting more student members, and there was agreement that we should make student recruitment a priority.

### **PRIZE COMMITTEES:**

**Student paper award:** By the rule we adopted last year, it always includes the winner of the previous year's prize (in this case, David Fitzgerald). As of this year, the Student Paper Award Committee will be chaired by the second-year council member (Mike Schwartz).

**Best article alternating with best book award:** By the rule we adopted this year, the Award Committee will be chaired by the winner of the previous year's prize (in this case Steve Lopez), the third-year council member, plus volunteers solicited at the business meeting. Mike Schwartz, who superbly chaired the first competition for the best book award, will provide a detailed summary of the process for soliciting book nominations and for selecting the best book.

## OTHER ISSUES

**NAMING PRIZES:** This year's book prize committee discussed naming the prize and generated several possibilities including Dolores Huerta, Harry Bridges, Antonio Gramsci, Caesar Chavez, and Lucy Gonzalez Parsons. None of these labor leaders seemed ideal for lending their name to the prize for the best book. No action was taken to name the prize.

**NEWSLETTER: Hard copy or on-line?** We revisited the issue of whether to continue to publish a hard copy newsletter, or whether to move to an on-line version only. The most recent issue of the newsletter cost \$492.62. Dan laid out the pros and cons for each choice: If we put out a hard copy newsletter twice a year we will be financially stable but broke, barring some kind of fundraising or an increase in membership. If we go on-line we are rich, but people may not read what has been a serious newsletter. An additional reason for producing an on-line newsletter is that we could use savings to sponsor a mini-conference in a three-year rotation. Rachel Sherman distributed a survey to solicit member's views. Among those who answered the survey, the overwhelming majority supported the adoption of an online newsletter to replace the hard copy sent to members.

**RECEPTION:** This is the most expensive item in our budget. The prohibitively high cost of hotel-catered food not only depletes scarce resources, but also reduces the amount of refreshments available for the reception. We discussed several alternatives. Bruce Nissen suggested an innovative approach to this perennial problem. Whenever possible, we would contact local labor unions for co-sponsorship of the reception. Rick Fantasia and Ian Robinson have agreed to contact Canadian unionists so that we can hold our **reception** in a union hall close to the Convention Center in Montreal and combine the reception with a substantive discussion with "**Resisting the American Model**" -- featuring Rick and one or more Canadian unionists.

### **BRAINSTORMING FOR 2006 PROGRAM** (Peter Evans)

1. Co-sponsoring a session on "Organizing Undocumented Workers" with PEWS, Bob Ross will serve as liaison.
2. Chris Rhomberg has agreed to organize a session on "**Labor and the University**,"
3. Alternative Forms of Organizing
4. Global Labor

### **MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Global Companies – Global Unions, Global Research – Global Campaigns: An International Conference, Crowne Plaza Times Plaza, 1605 Broadway, New York, NY, February 9-11, 2006. For more information contact Kate Bronfenbrenner, at [klb23@cornell.edu](mailto:klb23@cornell.edu).
2. Workers Independent News (WIN) is a national radio news service focusing on labor and workplace issues. Visit [www.laborradio.org](http://www.laborradio.org) to hear WIN.

**Labor and Labor Movement Section  
Committee Members 2005-06**

**Nominations Committee**

Dan Clawson (chair) ([clawson@sadri.umass.edu](mailto:clawson@sadri.umass.edu))  
Teresa Sharpe ([tsharp@socrates.berkeley.edu](mailto:tsharp@socrates.berkeley.edu))  
Mary Nell Trautner ([mnt@u.arizona.edu](mailto:mnt@u.arizona.edu))

**Student Paper Committee**

Mike Schwartz (chair) ([mschwartz@ms.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:mschwartz@ms.cc.sunysb.edu))  
David Fitzgerald ([dfitzger@ucla.edu](mailto:dfitzger@ucla.edu))  
Piya Pangsapa ([pangsapa@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:pangsapa@acsu.buffalo.edu))  
Nancy Plankey Videla ([plankeyvidela@tamu.edu](mailto:plankeyvidela@tamu.edu))  
Marisa Friedman ([cliofurie@hotmail.com](mailto:cliofurie@hotmail.com))

**Best Article**

Steve Lopez (chair) ([lopez.137@sociology.osu.edu](mailto:lopez.137@sociology.osu.edu))  
Jeff Sallaz ([jsallaz@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jsallaz@email.arizona.edu))  
Matthew Mahutga ([mmahutga@uci.edu](mailto:mmahutga@uci.edu))  
Leslie Bunnage ([lbunnage@uci.edu](mailto:lbunnage@uci.edu))

**Membership Committee**

Dan Clawson (chair)  
Bruce Nissen (ex-officio) ([nissenb@fiu.edu](mailto:nissenb@fiu.edu))  
Jennifer Chun ([jchun@berkeley.edu](mailto:jchun@berkeley.edu))  
Lu Zhang ([lzhang30@jhu.edu](mailto:lzhang30@jhu.edu))

**Program Committee**

Peter Evans (chair)  
Rick Fantasia ([rfantasi@email.smith.edu](mailto:rfantasi@email.smith.edu))  
Ian Robinson ([ian@umich.edu](mailto:ian@umich.edu))  
Chris Rhomberg ([christopher.rhomberg@yale.edu](mailto:christopher.rhomberg@yale.edu))  
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