

## Labor and Labor Movements Section Business meeting

Tuesday, September 23, 2011

Minutes by Ellen Reese, Secretary/Treasurer

- I. Report by outgoing chair, Carolina Bank Munoz
  - a. Our past webmaster (George P. Mason) has stepped down and we have successfully recruited a one (Paul Morgan).
  - b. We have started a facebook page for our section and a number of members are using it to communicate.
  - c. Our reception at the Culinary Workers Union hall was very successful and inspiring & our program this year was also very good.
- II. 2011 Election results (Chair, Chris Tilly)
  - a. Anna Guevarra is stepping down from the section council and we thank her for her years of service. She will be replaced by Robyn Rodriguez, who is joining the section council this year.
  - b. Steve Lopez is our new Chair-Elect.
- III. Financial Report (Sec/Treasurer, Ellen Reese)
  - a. We currently have \$4,031.59 in our account.
  - b. We have a few conference –related expenses that are still being processed.
- IV. Membership Report (Chris Tilly)
  - a. We currently have 352 members plus a few more that signed up during our reception.
  - b. If we can get 400 members, we can have 3 sessions at next year’s ASA meeting. We will need to do a recruitment drive to sign up more members. We especially need help from senior scholars to do this. Please sign up with the section’s membership committee or contact Chris Tilly (ctilly@irle.ucla.edu) to help out.
- V. ASA 2011-12 Committee Sign-Up: contact Chris Tilly (ctilly@irle.ucla.edu) to help out with any of the committees listed below.
  - 1) Program
  - 2) Nominations
  - 3) Membership
  - 4) Book Award
  - 5) Article Award
  - 6) Student Paper Award
  - 7) Mentoring
  - 8) Web
  - 9) Reception
- VI. Section Mini-conference
  - a. The section council decided to organize a mini-conference in 2013 when the ASA will be in New York where it will be easier to recruit more participants. Although we are on day 1 of the ASA program next year, the conference will be in Denver

where we have fewer members and contacts. Seek to get sections to cosponsor—  
find out what days some of the key sections meet.

- VII. 2012 ASA program (August 17-20 in Denver, CO)
  - a. 2012 ASA President: Erin Olin Wright
  - b. Theme for next year's meeting: Real Utopias: Emancipatory Projects, Institutional Designs, Possible Futures
  - c. Deadlines: November 2010 (thematic sessions); February 2011 (regional spotlight/special sessions)
  - d. Thematic sessions already organized
    - i. Worker-owned cooperatives
    - ii. Workers' search for utopia
  - e. If we combine Roundtables and Business Meeting, that doesn't count against our session total.
  - f. Brainstorming session ideas
    - i. Council's suggestions
      - 1. one international session & one U.S.-focused
      - 2. Utopia for who? (class, race, gender dimensions, etc.)
      - 3. Neoliberalism as utopia (Section members suggested some possible forms for this including university restructuring, contingent employment, etc.)
      - 4. Immigrants' rights & movements away from dystopia; alternatives to Arizona
      - 5. Health & labor
      - 6. Possible co-sponsoring sections: global/transnational section, international migration, Altruism/Morality/Solidarity, Inequality
    - ii. Ideas from members
      - 1. Labor & globalization; possible co-sponsoring sections: Marxist section; PEWS section
      - 2. Economic sociology & the sociology of labor/labor movements: what can we learn from each other? (especially on financialization of the economy & how public policy makes a difference)
      - 3. Comparing India & China (or possibly even a broader comparison: also Brazil, others?). Comparison of social movements in the Global South?
      - 4. International comparison of low-wage work
      - 5. Labor & development or Labor in the global south
      - 6. Labor & politics (2012 is an election year; Citizens United could be an aspect)
      - 7. Citizens United

8. High skilled work & rethinking the 'labor aristocracy' concept  
(would be interesting to look comparatively, e.g. India-China)
  - iii. Chris Tilly said that if any of the above ideas were not used for the 2012 ASA conference, we would keep them in mind for the 2013 meeting and the upcoming 2013 mini-conference
- VIII. Update on ISA, Research Committee 44: Labor Movements (Jennifer Chun)
- a. 2012 is the midterm meeting and then the next World Congress meeting is 2014, so 2013 for the section mini-conference works well; we should get RC44 co-sponsorship for the mini-conference
  - b. Michael Burawoy is the next ISA president
  - c. Over the past 8-10 years, ISA has grown and RC44 has contributed to the growth and vitality of this association
  - d. ISAS forum meeting is 8/1-8/4, 2012 in Buenos Aires; theme: social justice & democratization; 14 sessions are planned; 12/15/11 is final deadline for submissions
  - e. 3 types of sessions are organized at ISA (standard panel; roundtables; practicums on topics we need to know more about)
  - f. See ISA website for more details: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/> or <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/rc.php?n=RC44>
  - g. For more info on the ISA, upcoming conferences, & how to get involved, contact Jennifer Chun ([jjchun@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:jjchun@interchange.ubc.ca)), Peter Evans ([pevans@berkeley.edu](mailto:pevans@berkeley.edu)), or any of the session organizers for 2012
  - h. Funding subsidies are only given to participants from the global south, so North American scholars are not eligible
- IX. Conference announcement (Robert Ross): PEWS annual conference: "Labor, Democracy, and Global Capital" at Clark University on April 19-21, 2012: for more info, see <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionpews/pews36cfp.pdf>
- X. 2011 Section Awards
- a. Distinguished Scholarly Monograph Award : Jane L. Collins and Victoria Mayer, *Both Hands Tied: Welfare Reform and the Race to the Bottom of the Low-Wage Labor Market* (University of Chicago Press, 2010). Also two honorable mentions: Jennifer Jihye Chun for *Organizing at the Margins: The Symbolic Politics of Labor in South Korea and the United States* (Cornell University Press 2009); and Marshall Ganz, *Why David Sometimes Wins: Leadership, Organization, and Strategy in the California Farm Worker Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2009)
  - b. Distinguished Scholarly Article Award: Christopher Rhomberg, "A Signal Juncture: The Detroit Newspaper Strike and Post-Accord Labor Relations in the United States." *The American Journal of Sociology* 115(6): 1853-1894.

- c. Distinguished Graduate Student Article: Lu Zhang, "From Detroit to Shanghai? Globalization, Market Reform, and Dynamics of Labor Unrest in the Chinese Automobile Industry"