

# **NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR SPORT HISTORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

May 21, 1999

The meeting of the NASSH Council was called to order by President Patricia Vertinsky on May 21, 1999 at 9:00 in the Nittany Lion Room of the Nittany Lion Inn, Penn State University.

Present were: James Coates, Joanna Davenport, Don Morrow, Sam Regalado, Maureen Smith, Ronald Smith, Nancy Struna, and Patricia Vertinsky. Also present were ex-presidents Bob Barney, Dick Crepeau, and Alan Metcalfe, and Nancy Bouchier, Computer and Technology Committee, and Scott Martyn, WEB site supervisor.

It was MOVED (Nancy Struna) and seconded that the minutes of the 1998 Council Minutes be approved as distributed. PASSED (unanimously).

In the momentary absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, a discussion of the Distinguished Lectures and Awards commenced. Grant Jarvie and Julies Tygiel were chosen as the lecturers. No Awards will be given this year. It is possibly best to have Distinguished Lectures at luncheon meetings rather than after evening meals. The President will appoint two new members to go along with the two newly elected members, Chuck Korr and Don Kyle.

Don Morrow gave a verbal Convention Program report. The Committee was composed of Nancy Bouchier, Margaret Costa, and Kevin Wamsley. He noted that approximately eight proposed papers were rejected for the program, mostly those that were contemporary abstracts or commercially-oriented abstracts. Numerous student papers were accepted.

It was noted that the original abstracts submitted to the Program Chair are not necessarily the abstracts that should be published in the annual Proceedings. If the abstracts are updated, the updated abstract should be published in lieu of the original one.

A question about coordination between the Program Chair and Convention Manager was raised. It was generally agreed that:

- 1) A member of the on-site committee will be an ex-officio member of the Program Committee to further collaboration relative to the program.
- 2) Ultimate responsibility of the Program lies with the Program Chair.

It was noted that when an officer is elected, the Operation Code for that office should be sent to the member who is elected.

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Ron Smith gave the Secretary-Treasurer's Report. He noted a problem with the decline of student members over the past 5 years. He said that the financial situation was solid and that the savings at Fidelity Investments have done well, especially the Max and Reet Howell International Funds (Equity Income II) and Roberta Park Student Fund (Puritan). The other two mutual funds were purchased just before the stock market dropped in September and October of 1998. He noted that the cost of publishing the Journal was rising, but more importantly it was difficult to tell exactly what we were paying for. He would bring that question before the Publications Board.

Ron Smith gave the report for the Convention Managers, Mark Dyreson and Susan Hamburger. There were over 150 registered. It was fortunate to have two afternoons free so that special activities could take place. On Saturday, the Bellefonte Historical Railroad trip to Curtin Village was scheduled to see iron making and an iron master's mansion. There will be about eight special trips and activities scheduled for Sunday afternoon. He said that the facilities at the Nittany Lion Inn would be first rate. Food buffets will be available each noon.

Nancy Struna gave the Park Endowment Fund report. She said that 15 students will receive funds of \$150 each to support their costs at the meeting. The deadline for applications has become more flexible, more in line with when the final program has to be completed.

Nancy Bouchier said that she has no report on the Computer and Technology Committee.

Patricia Vertinsky gave the Graduate Student Essay Award Report. There were seven submissions with Brad Austin of Ohio State University chosen the winner. Critiques were sent to each of the seven entrants. Pat suggested that the deadline for completed papers might be extended to the end of January. A question was raised whether or not students were encouraged to submit their papers to the JSH. This was deemed to be a good idea.

John Findling's written Promotions Committee Report was read by Patricia Vertinsky. Application to American Historical Association is relatively simple and allows joint sessions with the AHA. Affiliation with the Canadian Historical Association and Organization of American Historians is less formal. Panels are set up by individuals and are not necessarily created under NASSH's name. Ron Smith will send in material for affiliation with the AHA, and Ron Briley has offered to help in the process. Affiliation is intended to promote NASSH.

Nancy Struna raised the question of promotion of NASSH through such activities as where the JSH is ranked among other historical journals in number of citations. A 1980s AHA survey of citations ranked the JSH 7th among historical journals in number of citations.

A question was raised about the possible need for aggressive promotion of NASSH. Sam Regalado has agreed to lead a new promotion effort with a presidentially appointed committee.

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Scott Martyn provided a lengthy report on the progress of the WEB Site Maintenance Committee, composed of Bob Barney, Scott Martyn, and Wayne Wilson. NASSH now has its own Internet/World Wide Web domain name with InterNIC, the United States domain-name registering body. It costs \$70 for two years. It is no longer on the University of Western Ontario WEB site. It is now registered as "nassh.org." Emails addresses are included of officers and other key individuals of NASSH. At present there are 10,000 pages available under the NASSH Web site. The Directory of Scholars is now on the WEB site, but only in a test form. Scott demonstrated the WEB site operation. JSH is on line under "JSH Online" up to the past four issues by being directly linked to the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles under Wayne Wilson. This is Y2K compatible, but is also on zip drives as backup.

The Site Maintenance Committee was commended for the terrific job it has done.

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Mark Dyreson and composed of Steve Geitschier and Kevin Wamsley, reported the election results:

President-Elect:	Allen Guttman
Secretary-Treasurer:	Ronald A. Smith
Members-at-Large:	Mel Adelman Linda Borish Jan Todd
Student Member:	Scott Martyn
Publications Board:	Steve Riess Synthia Sydnor
Distinguished Lectures Committee:	Chuck Korr Don Kyle

Joanna Davenport gave the Time and Site Committee Report. She indicated that the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, Indiana (2001) and Bernie Kish has put in a bid. The University of Western Ontario is also interested in 2001. Sacramento-San Francisco is possible for 2001 or 2002. The University of Utah is a possibility for 2002.

Patricia Vertinsky noted the International Ambassadorship program, financed under the Max Howell and Reet Howell International Funds, was first used by Nancy Struna and Patricia Vertinsky at the British Sport History Association in 1998. Roberta Park will be representing NASSH at Budapest in 1999.

The Publications Board Committee will not meet as scheduled at the NASSH conference. It will be held, however, under the leadership of Allen Guttman on Saturday, May 22, 1999.

Gretchen Ghent has not rushed into her project to explore the indexes in which the JSH is included. The major question was: Is JSH included in citation indexes? Her initial report was given at NASSH in 1997.

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Wayne Wilson has set up an Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles Website at the NASSH Convention for participants to observe the run of the scanned-in NASSH Journal issues and annual Proceedings up to within about a year of present issues.

A question was raised whether or not to pay expenses of the Distinguished Lectures that are not funded by the Maxwell and Reet Howell International Address.

It was MOVED (Joanna Davenport) and seconded that the basic expenses (travel and accommodations) for those presenting the John R. Betts and Seward Staley addresses be paid at NASSH Conventions, similar to those of the Maxwell and Reet Howell International Address. PASSED (unanimously).

It was suggested that the Book Award Committee consider, though with no mandate to enact any of the suggestions, the following:

- 1) giving more than one award in a year (if more than one is particularly noteworthy),
- 2) having books available for 1-2 years (such as 1998 and 1999 for year 2000 award), and
- 3) raising the stipend (above the present \$500).

It was MOVED (Ron Smith) and seconded that the Directory of Scholars be published in the year 2000. PASSED (unanimously).

Maureen Smith volunteered to edit the Directory of Scholars, and Scott Martyn agreed to put a form of the Directory on the WEB site.

A question was raised about when meetings (Council, Board of Publications, Book Awards) should be held on the day before the Convention Program. The time of meeting was considered a prerogative of the chairs of the groups.

It was decided that discussion of placing of the money from the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles-NASSH Publications arrangement (\$3,000 per year) into a separate fund be brought up at Council in 2000.

The JSH Index will be sent to Scott Martyn for including in the WEB Site. [However, the Publications Board later deemed that this should only be done after people see how the index developed by the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles operates.]

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald A. Smith  
NASSH, Secretary-Treasurer



NASSH feasts at Curtin Village.