

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD  
THE ASSOCIATION FOR LIVING HISTORY, FARM & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS  
AMERISUITES HOTEL, BATON ROUGE, LA  
JUNE 2 & 3, 2006**

Members present and a quorum: Lynne Belluscio, Judith Sheridan, Mark Texel, Michelle Dondo-Tardiff, Bruce Henbest, Ed Schultz, Manuel Lopez, Charles LeCount, John Caramia, Gwen Miner and Mike Beckett. Incoming board members: Karen Becker and Pete Watson. Ex Officio: Debra Reid. Not present: Jim Mattson, Brock Cheney.

**Friday, June 2, 2006**

President Lynne Belluscio called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM in a meeting room at the Amerisuites Hotel. Belluscio appointed LeCount as the timekeeper. Introductions were made around the table. Ed Schultz explained the new "Revolutionary City" program at Colonial Williamsburg. Don Roseberg, president of the Early American Industries Association, from Prairieville, LA asked us to join them in an informal liaison to plan meetings at some ALHFAM member sites. They usually have 30-40 people at their meetings. They are interested in tools and work processes. Sheridan will act as the liaison. The agenda was reviewed and approved with minor changes. The minutes of the November 2005 meeting in Minneapolis, MN were approved by e-mail last June. Sheridan reported that there was \$30,167.08 in the checking account at the start of the board meeting. The first quarter financial report was issued and e-mailed in early April. A motion to file the treasurers report for audit was made by Henbest, seconded by Miner. Motion passed. The 2005 990 IRS tax return was reviewed by the board.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**2006 CONFERENCE.** David Floyd, director of the Rural Life Museum and conference host, reviewed some of the numbers for the conference and changes in the schedule. 142 members and 30 non-members will be participating. All admission fees at sites to be visited have been waived and a complimentary registration given to each site. Much of the food has been donated and over 100 volunteers are working at various jobs during our visit.

**2007 CONFERENCE.** Lopez reported on progress for the 2007 meeting. Sue Hanson is the conference coordinator and is being paid for this job. She has made one visit to Santa Fe to review venues and program ideas. The committee will be meeting Monday afternoon. They will have a preliminary budget for the fall board meeting and the break even will be set at 115 attendees. The lodging will be at the College of Santa Fe. Because of the area, registration will likely be over \$400.00. The board meetings are scheduled for Thursday evening and Friday. Pre-conferences will be on Saturday and Sunday will be a visit to an annual event held at El Ranchos de las Golindrinas. The conference will be the same length as usual. The logo has been chosen and is very colorful.

**2008 CONFERENCE.** Dondo-Tardiff and Henbest gave an overview of plans. The call for papers is ready now. They are working on a timeline and budget. Lodging will be at the University of Ottawa.

**AUCTION.** Belluscio said that Carrie Fellows is now a part of the official auction committee.

**FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS.** Miner announced the fellowship recipients. They were Erik Holland, Ruth Bueter, Linda Alan Larson, Kimberly Costa and Sten Rentzhog. Regions sent Amy Hollander (MA), Dawn Bondhus (MW), Jonathon Failor, Gary Vidito, and Julia Rose (SE). At the last minute the New England recipient could not attend and will be offered the fellowship for 2007. There were no applicants from the Western Region and the Canadian regions did not sponsor any fellowships. Miner has all of the forms in her computer to pass on to the next committee. There were no nominations for the Schlebecker Award this year. Nominations will continue to be sought annually. LeCount will ask regional reps to review the criteria for the Schlebecker Award at their regional meeting in hopes of receiving more nominations. Henbest suggested an ALHFAM Achievement Award. The committee is still discussing additional awards. Belluscio will recognize members who have been members for many years and attended many annual meetings at the annual meeting.

Miner moved the acceptance of the Ad Hoc Committee reports, Texel seconded. Motion passed.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**PUBLICATIONS.** Reid noted that a board member is needed to replace Katz-Hyman on the committee. More of the committee's business is being done electronically. The 2005 Proceedings are published and mailed. Carol Kennis and Cliff Jones will edit the 2006 Proceedings. The committee will meet during one of the site visits. Themes are set for the next 4 issues of the Bulletin. The 2001 Guidebook to Institutional Members was sent to each renewing institution as a bonus gift during the last year. Reid suggested closer ties with MOMCC on areas such as livestock policies. A new Index to the Proceedings will be published as soon as Mary Seelhorst completes the updating. It will be printed and mailed to every member. IMLS is doing a study on living history and including Conner Prairie and Old Sturbridge Village. Sheridan moved that we extend the Bulletin contract with the Cherry Valley Group for one year. Beckett seconded. Motion passed. A contract will be prepared by CVG and signed by the president.

We adjourned temporarily at 8:45 PM.

We resumed meeting at 9:25 AM at Amerisuites.

**CORN.** LeCount is seeking names for new regional representatives in Atlantic Canada and Western Canada. Regional information will be shared between New England and Atlantic Canada and Western Canada and Mountain Plains or the Western region. The New England rep asked for the recent surveys from her area. Mattson will send those to her.

**FUTURE SITES & CONFERENCE SUPPORT.** Texel said the Conference Planning Guide needs serious updating. It needs to be more current with new technologies. Conference planners need to know that they can call on board members and past conference committee people for suggestions and help. A representative from the host site(s) for the next Annual Meeting is strongly urged to attend the board meeting prior to their conference and will receive the same stipend as board members. Conference chairs should have attended at least 2 annual meetings prior to hosting an annual conference. We discussed declining attendance at annual meetings and its causes. It was suggested that a letter be sent to institutional members urging their support in sending people to the annual meeting and stressing the importance of interpretive training and staff development. The regional meetings should include some of the basics to attract new people from their areas. Program suggestions for future sessions should be sought at all meetings. Annual meetings and regional meetings should be complimentary and not have session overlap. The annual meeting should be aimed toward training the trainers in administration, education, trades and interpretation. Our serious purpose seems to be suffering from the use of our acronyms and diminishes our image. LeCount volunteered to start a survey project to contact upper level site directors and ask what we can do to get them to send people to annual and regional meetings and how many cover expenses for training. LeCount needs names of directors to include. Miner, Texel and Watson volunteered to help LeCount.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** Caramia discussed the challenges of getting regionally diverse candidates for the board seats. He said a nominating form should be in the Bulletin and on the website asking for suggestions from members. His committee will also be looking for a candidate for vice president this year.

**ARCHIVES.** Caramia is the chair. No report.

**MEMORABILIA.** A T-shirt fashion show was done at the 2005 annual meeting and a game of ALHFAM Jeopardy was played. It may return in future years.

**PIG REPORTS.** Belluscio has urged the PIG committees to submit sessions for the 2006 annual meeting.

**SPAM.** Packets are being prepared for regional membership chairs with ways to approach potential members. Special SPAM t-shirts will be given to membership chairs. Lists of potential members from similar organizations are being sought.

**REPLICA RESOURCE LIST.** The new website will work on including the RRL in a members' only section when the website is online.

**C.O.O.P.** Belluscio attended AAM and the Council of Affiliates. AAM is beginning a lobbying campaign that says that museums are not only nice but essential. They hope to get IMLS grants doubled by the federal government in the next 5 years. AASLH is working on a set of incremental standards in 5 core areas for its members. Caramia represented ALHFAM at a meeting with other history museums that is starting work on

definitions that apply to this field with the hope that it will result in grant monies. He will write an article on the project for the Bulletin.

**AUDIT.** Belluscio reviewed the written audit committee report.

The board took a lunch break.

**PIG COMMITTEES.** Belluscio said the Livestock Committee will become part of the new Farm Committee. CPR was not able to get a project to do with this conference. FPIP has an online discussion list with Yahoo. ITCH still needs a chairperson

LeCount moved the acceptance of the Administrative Committee reports. Beckett seconded. Motion passed.

We took a lunch break.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**BYLAWS.** Henbest and Belluscio reviewed bylaws activity since the last board meeting. A draft copy was sent to a Maryland lawyer for review. The lawyer added some clarifications. All agreed that the new bylaws must reflect the character of ALHFAM. We turned to strategy for the upcoming annual business meeting. The proposed amendment sent to all members in April needs a slight tweaking that can be done via a friendly amendment introduced during the discussion period. The addition will include wording that bylaws cannot be passed until they have been discussed at an annual meeting after which they would be submitted to the entire membership for a vote by mail. If the amended amendment passes, the draft bylaws will be further refined and reviewed by legal counsel again before the 2006 fall board meeting.

**WEBSITE.** Hayes and Boardman joined us for this discussion. Hayes has been working with Katz-Hyman to make the new website as user-friendly as possible and have the best content. Several issues such as a charge for job listings and benefits of business associate members will be discussed at a committee meeting in Baton Rouge and a proposal will be presented at the next board meeting. An ad hoc committee of Henbest, T. Sheridan, Seelhorst, Hayes and a SPAM rep will work on website issues. Members can now sign up for a members only section of the website. It is expected many more members will want to use this feature. Caramia moved the acceptance of the Administrative Committee reports. Texel seconded. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS.** Belluscio will send the new committee assignments to the board via e-mail.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Belluscio will host the fall board meeting in Leroy, NY at the Jell-o Museum. The dates are November 3 & 4, 2006. She will try and find housing in private homes for those interested. Nearby motels are 15 minutes away from LeRoy in Batavia, NY. A Friday visit to Genesee Country Village is a possibility. The European Open Air Museums meeting will be in the Netherlands on the last week in August 2007. The Association of International Museums of Agriculture also meets in 2007 in Serbia. The board thanked Gwen Miner and Mark Texel for their board service as they retire from active duty. Boardman thanked everyone for sending materials for the Bulletin.

Texel moved for adjournment. Caramia seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Sheridan, Secretary