

Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Saturday, January 10, 2004
11:00AM-12:30 PM

1. Call to Order.

President June O'Connor called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

2. Appointment of Secretary Pro-tem.

President O'Connor announced the appointment of Russ Connors as Secretary Pro-Tem.

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian.

President O'Connor announced the appointment of Tim O'Connell as Parliamentarian.

4. Approval of Minutes of the Saturday, January 11, 2003.

The Minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting were approved as submitted.

5. Commemoration of Deceased Members.

Don Shriver read a commemoration for Robert W. Bertram. Peter Paris offered a commemoration for Howard Harrod. Glen Stassen indicated that he would prepare a commemoration for Culbert G. Rutenber, to be offered at the annual meeting next year. John Langan offered a commemoration for Robert Springer, S.J. The death of Kenneth H. Watson was announced. Max Stackhouse read a commemoration for Gibson Winter. And the death of Carl Henry was announced.

6. New Members Recognition.

President O'Connor welcomed the new members to the Society, as well as those who have transferred from student to full-term membership. Each group stood and received the welcome of the members of the Society.

One addition: Nancy Arnisan is a new student member.

One typographical correction – Justin Nuvfeld ("u" not "e").

7. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers.

Maura Ryan came forward to give the report of the Nominating Committee and to conduct the election of officers. She began by thanking the members of the Nominating Committee: Emilie Townes, Frida Furman, Tom Ogletree, and Glen Stassen.

Maura read the slate as published and then invited nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. Nominations were closed and ballots were distributed. Members in good standing, including those newly elected to membership, were invited to vote.

Ballots were collected and the Nominating Committee began the counting. The meeting continued.

Later in the Meeting the results of the elections were announced as follows:

John Langan, SJ, succeeded to President.

Jean Porter was elected Vice-President.

Pamela Brubaker, Cherl Kirk-Duggan, and Audrey Chapman were elected to the Board.

The outgoing members of the Board were thanked for their contribution to the Society:

Jim Childs, Lois Daly, and Maura Ryan.

8. President's Report.

a. Fundraising initiative. President O'Connor explained efforts that have been underway to raise funds on behalf of the Society. A detailed handout (blue pages) had been distributed about this. Her report about this was received by the Society with enthusiasm.

b. Appointments and announcements

1. Nominating Committee – David Smith, Chair.

President O'Connor announced the members of the new Nominating Committee to be chaired by David Smith:

2. Executive Director's Office Task Force: William Spohn, Chair, Marty Stortz, Diana Cates, Robin Lovin, and David Smith.

A report was made about the Task Force brought together to review the positions of the Executive Director of the Society as well as the Assistant to the Executive Director. These positions have become ever more demanding and complex for reasons such as the following:

- a. A 40% increase in membership
- b. The cooperative relationship with SJE
- c. New initiatives – Wabash (junior scholars, students caucus), writers groups,
- d. Website development and maintenance
- e. Significant expansion of the program
- f. Changes in the JSCE
- g. Continuing implementation of 21st Century Report

The Task Force will examine the positions of Executive Director and Assistant to the Executive Director and will report to the Society at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

3. AAAS Initiative – Audrey Chapman.

An announcement was made that the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) meets just prior to the SCE annual meeting. At its meeting in 2005 in Miami the AAAS is proposing a workshop on issues of concern to both societies that would be open SCE members.

4. Professional Conduct Committee Report – Rebakah Miles.

Rebakah Miles submitted a report that indicated that there were no cases calling for the Committee's review during the past year.

5. Resolution of intent to withdraw from CSSR.

President O'Connor announced the intention of the Board to withdraw SCE membership in the CSSR (Council for the Society of the Study of Religion). The decision is made in view of this responsibility for careful stewardship of SCE resources, particularly in light of all of the new initiatives and changes in Society activities described earlier. Moreover, the Board expressed concern for the lack of clarity and thoroughness of reporting on the activities and business of the Council

Significant discussion followed. Several members of the SCE, most notably Glen Stassen who is also the President of CSSR, spoke on behalf of CSSR, emphasizing the benefits of continued affiliation with CSSR. Dennis McCann encouraged SCE members to write to Glen and to report on the value they give to the reception of the CSSR Bulletin. In the end, in response to Patty Jung's question about whether this decision is a decision of the members or of the Board, President O'Connor indicated that it is the Board's decision to inform the CSSR of the Society's intention to withdraw its membership.

9. Executive Director's Report.

- a. Financial Report. Executive Director Regina Wolfe gave the financial report of the Society. A handout outlining the details of the report had been distributed prior to the meeting. The report was received appreciatively and without questions.
- b. Change in fiscal year and dues. In order to simplify both administration and accounting, so that revenues and expenses attributable to the fiscal year are, for the most part, reported in that fiscal year, Executive Director Wolfe announced that the Board had decided to make the due dates for membership dues align with the fiscal year. She noted that the 2004 dues year will be a shortened one, thus the change in dues structure will not begin until FY05, which will run from October 1 through September 30, 2005. This decision was received favorably and without question.

- c. **New Dues Structure.** The Executive Director announced a new dues structure. A handout had been distributed about this prior to the meeting. This will subsidize new initiatives and additional work described in the President's report. This was received without question.
- d. **Audiovisual use.** Executive Director Wolfe explained that as a pilot program for the 2005 annual conference, the Call for Papers will describe a new process for requesting audiovisual equipment for sessions. There will be limited access for such sessions during this pilot period, and those whose presentations depend on AV will be competing for the limited resources in this category. This has been an increase in requests for audiovisual needs in sessions. Christine Gudorf suggested that the Society consider buying its own digital projector. Concerns were raised about this. No action was taken on this suggestion.

10. Report on the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*.

Christine Gudorf summarized the report that had been submitted to the Board of Directors. She reported that all the recommendations that had been made for changes in the *Journal* had been accepted. A Book Review section will be added to the *Journal*. (Authors who would like their books reviewed in the *Journal* should request that their publishers send two copies of their books to the editors.) And consideration is being given to the possibility of having brief reports on the "Breakfast with an Author" sessions be included in the *Journal*.

11. Old Business.

There was no Old Business brought up for discussion.

12. New Business.

- a. John Pawlikowski asked about the status of an inquiry in regard to the joint meetings of the SCE and the Society of Jewish Ethics. Can these annual conferences be made not only "parallel meetings," but truly joint meetings? In response, Executive Director Wolfe said that work was underway to bring this about, so that a member of either Society could register once for both conferences, but without paying twice.
- b. Max Stackhouse announced that a Reinhold Niebuhr Society has been formed. It met for the first time at the Fall, 2004 Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion. Those seeking further information about this Society are invited to contact Dr. Stackhouse.

13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Russell B. Connors, Jr.
Secretary Pro-Tem, 2004