

Minutes of the HIST Executive Committee
August 26, 2001

Meeting started at 5:10pm. Mary Virginia Orna, Ben Chastain, Steve Weininger, Ned Heindel, Al Kirsch, Anne Higgins, Roger Egolf, Jim Bohning, Paul Jones, Vera Mainz

1. Minutes Approved with minor changes.
2. Anne Higgins, NHCLP, discussed:
 - Landmark Designations
 - People to serve on Ad Hoc Committee
 - Public Awareness

Anne asked what the Office of Communications do to keep a relationship with HIST? We discussed having adding a HIST member to Ad Hoc Committee. Currently, no formal link exists between HIST and the NHCLP. The Ad Hoc Committee will be reviewed in 2002 to be a regular ACS committee (Board Council Committee). She welcomes suggestions on how Office of Communications can keep the link open to Ad Hoc Committee. Some of the original people who founded the NHCLP will be leaving the committee this year. Anne feels there should be both chemical historians and historians on NHCLP. She noted that you don't have to be members of the ACS to serve. Peter Morris, John Eklund (museum curators) will both be going off. The committee needs both academic and industrial chemists and chemical engineers, as well as those who understand how the ACS works. Also helps if someone on the committee understands public outreach and public awareness.

Dr. Andersen wants nominations by early October. They are preparing a list of people as well.

NHCLP did a trial publication to see if it would appeal to younger, non-chemist audience. Website is ready to launch and has won a national design award.

A teacher's guide on Joseph Priestley is being prepared and will be incorporated into the website.

Landmarks program is in the matching funds - \$10,000. Therefore \$20,000 available. This fall is a packed schedule. Evnet in Savannah Georgia honoring Hurdy. Second part of landmark on Charles Hallswork – aluminum metal production. Nov. 16, NYU, John Draper's work on the founding of the ACS. It is planned as an all day event. Hoping to have 150 people or so attending.

At this meeting the ACS Board of Directors will review all approved landmark designations. One is coming up with Vitamin C with the Hungarian Chemical Society. Final one for 2001 will be in Gaithersburg for Myst. Anne's last day will be Dec. 7th. Frank will have a new position after this meeting. He will be in the Secretary's Office.

3. Ned Heindel reported that John Wotiz (83) died this on August 21st in a car accident. As he served the division and the discipline, Ned drafted a suggested letter to his daughters for HIST to look over.

Committee agreed to send this as a private communication, signed by executive committee. Notification should be placed in Bulletin. Herb Pratt would be asked if he would write on obit for the Bulletin.

4. Chair's Report. Material from Royal Society with respect to allowing RSC members associate status in HIST In the abstracts. Mentioned having an evening lecture for Edelstein awardee – a popular lecture in addition to the symposium. Tuesday evening would be a good time and date.

Vera reported on income/expense. Things seem stable, seems no reason to raise the dues. Announced eminent arrival of searchable database for the bulletin.

Roger – 50 papers at this meeting. Nine sessions in all. Light on symposia on the meetings coming up. Look in Abstracts for list. Boston has only one symposium scheduled so far. LCD projectors also available for free still at this meeting. Royal Society newsletter is printed within our abstracts.

Richard is thinking about someone to replace Roger. Richard said he would check with RSC History Division about clearing checks in dollars vs. pounds sterling.

Jim Bohning – symposium on ACS anniversary. Frank has been careful to note that HIST has been a co-sponsor of symposium and exhibit. Asked HIST to send a letter to him Walworth thanking him. As part of of symposium, they put together a cachet, which they are giving to each HIST committee member.

Paul Jones: v26(2) is almost ready to ship. Opening article is Alan Rocke's Dexter Award address. Jim Bohning paper on the almost failure of founding of the ACS is also in this issue. Suggested we put Draper on the cover as involved as founder/first president of ACS. We have roughly 60 subscriptions. MV suggested that we raise the library subscription to get closer to the standard multiplier, such as 2.8 or 3. It might be a better benchmark to use the associate membership rate. Group voted to increase cost to \$36 and \$40 for domestic and international subscriptions.

Jim Bohning – Wotiz delivery of material to Jim for deposition in HIST archives. Wanted it preserved and have it sealed for a length of time that John was going to determine. Since his death, the time has yet to be determined. HIST archives will be housed in CHF. (Vera, send Jim the Wotiz lawsuit material.) (Vera look for old programs and abstracts.)

Councilors

Council meeting on Wedn. Size of society committees; Ben is now full member of DAC. Probably won't be decided at this meeting. CHED opposes urgent action memo on this bill. Asked if HIST should also send a resolution opposing this label. We don't see the need for urgent action on this petition.

Unanimously approved the following: Be it resolved that the Executive Committee of HIST opposes the urgent action petition to be brought up on council floor on Aug. 29, 2001. Vera is to drop off a copy at the ACS Operations office and ask them to give to the Secretary and one to Atilla, President of the ACS.

MV - Finishing term on N&E but will running for Committee on Committees.

Steve W. – Nominating Committee. One confirmed and one tentative member – Jeffrey Seeman (editor of ACS History Series) and David Lewis is the tentative. Jeffrey is very interested in outreach. Has done some stuff for the Imperial College webpage. He is not currently a HIST member. Run both and have the runner up be the chair elect.

For Councilor, MV, Ben and Carmen Giunta are the candidates. For Sec/Treas, Vera agreed to run again. Since this will be her third election, she can run unopposed. There was some discussion about finding another candidate for the Chair position, as the plan proposed to present to our members is that the person elected will become Chair-elect next year, and the second place finisher will become the chair-elect the following year.

Old Business: Ruth Edelstein Barrish has pledged to support the Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry at the \$3500 level. Her communication stated that she would continue to provide this amount as would her heirs. She is not in a position to endow the award now, but believes she will be in a position to do so in about five years. Richard will check on exactly how she wants the sponsorship statement to read and someone else is looking into a new design for the award plaque.

Steve W. suggested that this was an opportunity to ask our members to contribute to an endowment fund to support the travel of the Edelstein symposia speakers. Bader has also pledged \$2000 for when we start an endowment drive.

Meeting ended at 7:30pm.