

2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024
10:30AM – 11:45AM (EDT)
LE CENTRE SHERATON MONTRÉAL HOTEL, MONTRÉAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER

Society President Mary Bernstein called the meeting to order at 10:38 am.

ITEM #2 – ADOPT (REVISE) AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

ITEM #3 – REVIEW OF THE BY-LAWS CHANGES AND ANY PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CHANGE

By-Laws Committee Chair Valerie Leiter presented the changes over the past year. There were nine (9) By-Laws changes submitted, of which eight (8) were approved in the last year. One (1) proposed By-Laws change is pending Board of Directors' discussion.

The list of approved By-Laws changes includes:

- Article VI. Section 32. Justice Committee
- Article VII. Section 6. Setting Mail Ballots for Membership
- Article XIII. Section 1. Voting
- Article XIV. Section 4. Voting on Proposed Resolutions
- Article XV. Timely Statements. Section 1. Proposing Timely Statements to the Membership
- Article XV. Timely Statements. Section 2. Membership Voting on Proposed Timely Statements
- Article XV. Timely Statements. Section 3. Statement for Handling Matters Needing an Immediate Response
- Article XV. Timely Statements. Section 4. Actions Resulting from Approved Proposed Timely Statements and Immediate Responses

ITEM 4 – DISCUSSION IN FAVOR OF OR OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Vice President Anthony Peguero presented the resolutions brought forward through the Society's resolution process. The Board forwarded two (2) resolutions to the membership for comment and voting.

The details of the resolutions presented to the membership are as follows:

RESOLUTION 1: Expression of Gratitude

Submitted by: SSSP Administrative Office

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the officers, committee chairs, staff, and members who helped make this program possible and whose efforts maintain the vitality of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).

A special thank you to President Mary Bernstein for her exceptional leadership in developing the 74th Annual Meeting and its theme, *Toward a Sociology of Violence*.

The Society thanks this year's Program Committee Chair, Claire Renzetti, and program committee members Ligaya Lindio McGovern, Raja Staggers-Hakim, and Dolores Trevizo for putting together such an outstanding program. Our gratitude is extended to the Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Anick Desrosiers, and her committee, Helen Hudson, Amanda Keller, and Véronic Lapalme. We also thank the staff of the Le Centre Sheraton Montréal Hotel for our fine accommodations, and we particularly recognize the efforts made by Joyce Coll, Senior Meetings & Events Manager and Amy O'Keefe, Senior Sales Executive.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President Shirley A. Jackson for her years of leadership; Vice-President Anthony A. Peguero for managing the resolutions process; Glenn Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Heather E. Dillaway for her service as Treasurer.

The diligent efforts of the Board of Directors, along with the prudent oversight of Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway, Investment Advisor Susan M. Carlson, and the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, have been instrumental in ensuring the continued viability and fiscal health of our organization.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has selected Drs. Andrew Fullerton, Michael Long, Rachel Schmitz, and Kelley Sittner of Oklahoma State University as the 2024-2027 Editors of *Social Problems*. We are excited to have them as our new editors as they take on this critical responsibility for the SSSP. The new team shows a strong collective vision for the journal and a commitment to diverse methodologies. As we welcome them, we want to thank our current editors, Drs. Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick R. Brooms and the *Social Problems* editorial staff for their strong leadership and dedication.

In addition to selecting our new editors, the Board also voted to extend our contract with Oxford University Press for an additional five-year term, valid through December 31, 2029. This is an exciting time for the Society and *Social Problems*, and as always, we are open to your ideas for ways to improve our superb journal.

The Society also thanks Rose M. Brewer, President-Elect; David J. Luke, Vice-President-Elect; Board of Directors: Meghna Bhat, Kristen M. Budd (outgoing), Ebonie L. Cunningham Stringer (outgoing), David G. Embrick (outgoing), Jackie Krasas, Barbara Katz Rothman, Cameron T. Whitley; Student Representatives of the Board Shiv Issar (outgoing) and Foroogh Mohammadi; Giovanna Follo (outgoing), Chairperson, Council of the Divisions, Shannon K. Carter, Chairperson-Elect, Council of the Divisions; Annulla Linders (outgoing), Earl Wright II (outgoing), and Derrick R. Brooms (outgoing), Co-Editors of *Social Problems*; Nancy Mezey (outgoing), Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members Susan M. Carlson (Investment Advisor), Sarah E. Castillo, Heather E. Dillaway (Treasurer), and Anna Maria Santiago; Marlese Durr, Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members Alexis A. Bender, Yvonne A. Braun (outgoing), Derrick R. Brooms (outgoing), Kristen M. Budd (outgoing), Luis Alberto Fernandez, Annulla Linders (outgoing), Nancy Mezey (outgoing), Claire Renzetti (outgoing), Linda M. Waldron, and Earl Wright II (outgoing); and Chair of the Department of Sociology and SSSP Project Director Stephanie Bohon, the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for their continued support to host the SSSP Administrative Office.

A special thanks to our sponsors for their financial contributions to program activities: the Department of Sociology at the University of Connecticut, Bristol University Press | Home of Policy Press, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, and the Oxford University Press.

The Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Elroi J. Windsor, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, Assistant to the Administrative Officer Kelsey Whitaker, Information Technology Specialist Rachel Cogburn, Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Helen Elaine Wilds and the leaders of the 23 Divisions for their work on behalf of the SSSP and its members.

RESOLUTION 2: Thanking Outgoing *Social Problems* Co-Editors Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms and the *Social Problems* Community of Scholars

Submitted by: Marlese Durr, Chair, Editorial and Publications Committee

WHEREAS during the past six years, Annulla Linders (2018-2024), Earl Wright II (2018-2024), and Derrick Brooms (2021-2024) have served as Co-Editors of *Social Problems*, the official journal of the Society for the Study of Social Problems; and

WHEREAS Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms and the Editorial Office Team of Molly Broscoe (Managing Editor), Shaontá Allen (Managing Editor), Kyle Shupe (Managing Editor), Jeremy Brenner-Levoy (Assistant Editor), Annie McGhee (Assistant Editor), Marcus Brooks (Assistant Editor), Kierra Toney (Assistant Editor), and Anthony Jerome Stone, Jr. (Assistant Editor) at the University of Cincinnati have served *Social Problems* and the Society with integrity, professionalism and passion; and

WHEREAS Associate Editors Littisha A. Bates (2019-2024), Joyce Bell (2018-2021), Japonica Brown-Saracino (2021-2024), Shantel Gabrieal Buggs (2021-2024), Tomeka Davis (2021-2024), Meredith Huey Dye (2021-2024), John M. Easton (2021-2024), Marcus Anthony Hunter (2018-2021), Ramiro Martinez (2018-2021), Kalasia Ojeh (2021-2024), LaShawnDa Pittman (2018-2024), Fernando Rivera (2018-2021), Mangala Subramaniam (2018-2021), and Jeffrey Timberlake (2018-2024) have provided substantive and methodological expertise and commitment to scholarly excellence; and

WHEREAS 71 Advisory Board members have provided expertise to *Social Problems* in their substantive and methodological areas of specialization during this editorship; and

WHEREAS under the leadership of Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms, the Social Media Committee led by Mi'Chael Wright has expanded the outreach of *Social Problems*, increased the visibility of the journal's authors and the recognition given to scholarship in the pursuit of social justice; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems, meeting in convention in Montréal, Canada, praises and thanks Annulla Linders, Earl Wright II, and Derrick Brooms, the Editorial Team for *Social Problems*, and the Community of Scholars who have supported the work of the journal.

ITEM 5 – REVIEW OF THE MINUTES FROM LAST YEAR’S MEETING

Secretary Glenn Muschert presented the minutes of the 2023 Society Business Meeting.

ITEM 6 – REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY SUMMARIZING 2023-2024 BOARD ACTIONS

Secretary Glenn Muschert summarized the 2023-2024 Board Actions.

ITEM 7 – REPORT FROM THE OUTGOING EDITORS OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

Annulla Linders, Outgoing Editor of *Social Problems*, reported on the state of the Society’s journal over the past year. The Editors thanked all who made the journal possible, including authors, reviewers, editorial staff, associate editors, advisory board members, and members of the social media committee. The journal is in good standing and academically strong. The Outgoing Editors have assisted the effective transition of the journal’s management to the Current Editors.

ITEM 8 – PRESENTATIONS BY THE EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

On behalf of Editorial and Publications Committee, President Mary Bernstein presented the Outgoing Editors of *Social Problems* with a token of appreciation. The members present congratulated and thanked the Outgoing Editors for their outstanding stewardship of *Social Problems*.

ITEM 9 – REPORT FROM THE NEW EDITORS OF *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*

On behalf of the Incoming Editors of *Social Problems* (Andrew S. Fullerton, Michael A. Long, Rachel M. Schmitz, and Kelley J. Sittner), Editor Kelley J. Sittner addressed the members present. The stewardship of *Social Problems* has effectively transitioned to new leadership.

ITEM 10 – REPORT FROM THE TREASURER ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOCIETY

Heather E. Dillaway, Treasurer, reported that while the financial state of the Society appears strong, the SSSP is facing a financial crisis threatening its long-term viability. The Society’s investments amount to c. \$895K, with fluctuations according to market conditions. For several years, the SSSP has operated at a deficit. For example, in 2024 the estimated budget deficit for 2024 is c. \$182K. Declining revenue from membership dues, journal subscriptions, and meetings is a concern. The SSSP has weathered several years of budget shortfalls by tapping into its investments, a practice that is not feasible for the long term. Thus, the Society is at an inflection point, and there is a need to address this risk to the long-term financial health of the SSSP. The Treasurer made it clear that the long-term viability of the Society relies on balancing its financial statements. While the Society has operated at a financial deficit in recent years, the Treasurer clarified that the Society’s financial auditors see the organization as financially stable, and they gave the Society a clean bill of health, identifying no unusual findings. Overall, the organization is stewarded effectively and runs in a financially responsible way.

Sub-Item A – Propose, Discuss, and Vote on 2025 Membership Dues Increase

Treasurer Heather E. Dillaway discussed the proposed membership dues increase for 2025, which the Board approved at its August 8, 2024, meeting. Due to low attendance and not having a quorum at the Business Meeting, a vote on the dues increase was impossible. The membership will vote on the membership dues increase via electronic ballot in September, as per the following section of the By-Laws:

Article III. Membership, Section 2. Dues:

The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote of its total voting membership, propose changes in the membership dues of the Society. All such proposed changes shall be submitted for ratification at the annual business meeting of the Society. They shall take effect if approved by a

two-thirds vote of the business meeting. If they fail of approval by a two-thirds vote, the Board of Directors may submit the proposed changes to an electronic ballot of the total membership, and they shall take effect if approved by a majority voting in the electronic ballot. The electronic ballot shall remain open for sixty days and the results tabulated and verified by the Elections Committee.

ITEM 11 – REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Elroi J. Windsor presented the report from the Executive Officer (EO), beginning with a statement of gratitude for the opportunity to serve. EO offered appreciation to those who contribute to the Society and the staff in the Administrative Office. The EO is interested to hear from new, current, and former members about what keeps them engaged. As the members are the organization's heart, this is a priority, including maintaining and enhancing an inclusive environment. This year, there were major activities involving *Social Problems*, especially renewing the contract with Oxford University Press and the transition of the journal's editorship to a new team. The EO is working to build connections to other organizations that share our interests, including scholarly organizations and beyond. The SSSP is actively engaged in efforts to economize and reduce costs. Revenue generation is a priority, to preserve the Society viability for the future. The EO indicated it has been an honor to serve in this position and thanked those who assist them in the role.

ITEM 12 – REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MEETING MANAGER

Michele Koontz presented the report from the Administrative Officer (AO) and Meeting Manager (MM). The AO mentioned the valuable work of those involved in developing the program for the 2024 annual meeting. The AO has worked closely with the conference hotel to keep costs contained while offering benefits to the attendees. The annual meeting attendance has c. 535 attendees, with 53% in the professional category, 43% in the student/unemployed/underemployed categories, and an additional 4% exempt. Total membership is down 4% from the previous year, and this decline is less than that observed in recent years. The AO mentioned with gratitude the work of those who assist in the operation of the SSSP.

ITEM 13 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised at the meeting.

ITEM 14 – INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Society Mary Bernstein (2023-2024) introduced rising President Rose M. Brewer (2024-2025) and passed the gavel.

ITEM 15 – INCOMING PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE SITE, DATE, AND THEME FOR THE 2025 MEETING

Society President Rose M. Brewer announced that the Society's 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting will occur in Chicago from August 8 to 10, 2025. The theme for the conference will be "Insurgent Sociology in a Time of Crises." The President introduced Assata Zerai as Program Chair and Committee Members Melanie E.L. Bush, Walda Katz-Fishman, and Rahsaan H. Mahadeo.

ITEM 16 – ADJOURNMENT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

There being no further business, President Rose M. Brewer adjourned the 2024 business meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Glenn W. Muschert, SSSP Secretary.