

## MINUTES

### Annual Business Meeting

### African Literature Association

18 April 2009

Maureen Eke called the meeting to order. Irene D'Almeida moved and Thelma Pinto seconded that the distributed agenda be accepted. Motion carried. Rashid Na'Allah moved and Kenneth Harrow seconded that the distributed minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

**President's Report:** Out-going President Maureen Eke thanked the attendees for their presence at the conference and, most especially, at the business meeting. She recognized the achievement of the conference convener Lokangaka Losambe and thanked him and his university for an outstanding conference. She also gave a Resolution of Thanks to the outgoing members of the Executive Committee: Omoniyi Afolabi, Fahamisha Patricia Brown, and Anthonia Kalu and out-going Treasurer E. Anthony Hurley. In a review of the past year, she called attention to the re-organization of the ALA web site under the management of Mark Lillileht. She also announce the ongoing move of headquarters from San Diego State University to Hobart & William Smith College under the direction of George Joseph. She announced the successful organization and presentation by members of the EC of three panels/workshops at the 2009 conference.

**Elections Report:** The president announced the results of the 2009 Election. Janice Spleth is the new vice president; Wangui wa Goro is the Deputy Vice President; Amy Elder has be re-elected Secretary; Fahamisha Patricia Brown is the new Treasurer. New members of the Executive Committee serving until 2012 are Tomi Adeaga, Laura Murphy, and Abdul-Rashid Na'Allah. George Joseph moved and Sonia Lee seconded that the ballots be destroyed. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** see attached. There was a brief discussion of the possibility for a higher return on ALA Savings. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee. Auditors Aliko Songolo and Emmanuel Yewah reported that the treasurer's books were in good order. Robert Cancel moved and Joseph McLaren seconded that the reports of the treasurer and auditor be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

**JALA Editor's Report:** Editor Abioseh Porter reported that the *Journal of the African Literature Association* has received seventy-two submissions and has thirty readers. He also praised the web manager for his assistance.

**Headquarters Report:** George Joseph reported that his college is providing secretarial support. Hard copies of the ALA Newsletter will be available next year, and the possibility of distribution by e-mail is being explored.

**Standing Committee Reports:** Folabo Ajayi reported that the Finance Committee is exploring fund-raising options. Mark Lillileht reported on the Issues Committee's display during the conference. He added that the committee will be adding an academic component to its work with a possible panel at the 2010 conference and a column in the Newsletter.

Oty Agbajoh-Laoye reported for the Awards Committee, calling for nominees for the Fonlon-Nichols and Distinguished member awards. Anthonia Kalu reported that travel grants of \$1000 each were awarded to Chioma Opara of the University of Port Harcourt, Nwachukwu Agbada of J.O.J. (both in Nigeria) and Wandia Njoya of Daystar University (Kenya) to support their participation in the conference.

Chiwengo Ngwarsungo reported that the Teaching and Research Committee is recruiting new members for its work of interviewing writers and organizing panels and workshops. A call for papers and panel proposals for 2010 will be posted on the ALA web site. The committee especially welcomes participation by junior faculty, graduate and undergraduate students. Fahamisha Patricia Brown called for volunteers for the Publicity Committee to promote the achievements of the association and its members.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports:** Debra Boyd announced the goals of the Heritage Project to produce a film and visual display in celebration of the African Literature Association's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014. She has been conducting interviews with founding members for inclusion in the film and for archival purposes.

The Committee on Employment is being reconstituted.

**2009 Convener's Report:** Lokangaka Losambe reported the presence of 451 registered participants including 120 graduate students. He thanked the Officers and members of the African Literature Association for their support. He further thanked the administration, faculty, staff and student volunteers for their support of the conference. A resolution of thanks to Convener Losambe and the University of Vermont for a successful conferred was extended by President Eke.

**ALA 2010:** Convener Irene D'Almeida announced the 2010 conference would be held at the University of Tucson in Arizona from April 7 to 11. Conference theme is "Eco-Imagination: African and Diasporan Literatures and Sustainability." A Call for Papers is being distributed. A discussion followed on scheduling conflicts with other conferences. Professor D'Almeida agreed to explore the possibility of changing the dates. **[The conference dates subsequently have been changed to March 10-14.]**

**ALA 2011:** Convener Ghirmai Negash announced that the 2011 conference will be held at Ohio University. The theme is "Translocal Spaces: African Literature, Film, and Visual Arts." Details will be forthcoming.

**Caucus Reports:** Women's Caucus President Helen Chukwuma announced the results of WOCALA elections. Huma Ibrahim is vice president. Cathy Kroll has been re-elected secretary, and Fahamisha Patricia Brown has been re-elected treasurer.

The Graduate Students' Caucus has inaugurated a Facebook page.

The Translation Caucus sponsored two panels and a roundtable at the 2009 conference. The TRACALA luncheon speaker was Anthony Appiah. Current membership is 42. Plans are underway for 2010.

The Francophone Caucus 2009 conference activities included a luncheon and three panels. Caucus Dues are \$5 for graduate students and \$20 for general membership.

**New Business:** The president called for a resolution of thanks to be extended to former Headquarters Director JoAnne Cornwell and San Diego State University. The resolution was approved by acclamation.

Bernth Lindfors announced the availability of retirees and elders in the Association to make themselves available as resources for junior faculty and graduate students. Interested members should contact him.

Wangui wa Goro announced the foundation of Maya Angelou Milestone Libraries in Ghana and South Africa and encouraged contributions.

**Remembrances:** Members remembered the lives and works of Ngugi waMiri, Es'ca Ezekiel Mphahlele, Miriam Makeba, Abdel Khativi, Boubacar Joseph Ndaye, and Tayeb Salih who died since the last conference. A moment of silence ended the tributes.

Aliko Songolo moved and Anthonia Kalu seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.