

SVHE News: Views & Values



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Gearing Up for FM 2005

Ellen Maher
Program Committee Chair

The 81st SVHE Annual Fellows' Meeting will take place at Portland State University, Portland, OR, July 28 – August 2, 2005. This year's theme will be "Values and Dialogue in a Polarized World." Since PSU houses the Society's offices, we hope to make this a mini-homecoming of sorts. Put the meeting dates on your calendar! You can register using the enclosed registration form or online.

Portland State is an urban campus, more so than any Fellows' Meeting site in recent memory. While there are dormitories and other features of campus life, they are embedded in the heart of the city. And what a city it is! The Park Blocks extend a lovely tree-canopied walk through campus making the whole area pedestrian-friendly. When you tire of walking, catch a free trolley or bus within Portland's unique "Fareless Zone," which encompasses most of the PSU campus and many of the city's finest attractions, including the Portland Art Museum and legendary Powell's Books.

Plenary sessions for the 2005 meeting will include talks by former Oregon governor Barbara Roberts (Thursday); Larry Wallack, Dean of PSU's College of Urban and Public Affairs (Friday); and husband-and-wife team Elizabeth Minnich and Si Kahn (Sunday). Saturday evening will feature the ever-popular SVHE auction, and on Monday we will revive the Fellows' Lecture tradition in a new form, an invited presentation on the meeting theme by a

continued on page 7

From the Editors' Desk

At its February 2005 meeting, the Board of Directors approved resumption of the Society's newsletter. The Board approved the appointment of Diane Brotemarkle (E 87) as general editor and Meg Wiant (E 98) as layout editor.

The Board temporarily suspended publication pending clarification of publishing guidelines and policies. The Communications Committee established guidelines which set a two year limit on editorship, and clarified the newsletter's mission: to enhance the Society's goals, provoke thoughtful responses, and help members, both current and prospective, learn about the Society's on-going work.

Speaking personally, I believe one volunteers because one enjoys certain work, and I fully expect to enjoy editing the SVHE newsletter. Contributions of not much more than 500 words are welcome as book reviews or mini editorials. Informational data about Fellows, honors earned, births and deaths, books published, and high achievements of all kinds are welcome and must be signed. The editors welcome suggestions and contributions via e-mail or during conversations at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Officers and Fellows of the Society, thanks to former editors Gail Eifrig and Aditi Gowri for giving their energy and time to newsletter production.

Again, many thanks.

-Diane Brotemarkle

Executive Director's Corner

Dear Fellows,

It is a pleasure to greet you in this newsletter. While we have communicated over the past 8 months via general letters, I am pleased that we are able to now contact you through this reorganized newsletter format. I want to pay a special welcome to SVHE Fellow Diane Brotemarkle for assuming the editorship, and to thank Meg Wiant for her special assistance in production. Diane is a long-time, faithful, and talented member of the Society who looks forward to creating a newsletter that will continue to nurture our fellowship.

To further enhance the Society's communication channels, we have redesigned the SVHE website. I hope you will find occasion to visit our home page and explore the site's potential. Through both the home page and our links we hope to enhance our capacity for staying current with all of you. We encourage you to contribute to discussion on existing forum topics, or fashion a new topic that will invite discussion. We also anticipate the website's use as a kind of incubator for new morning groups. (Please feel free to contact the SVHE office, either by phone or e-mail, if you have any question regarding the website.)

One current website forum topic invites conversation about the Society's name and mission statement. It has been several years since we have formally re-examined both name and mission. Do our current name and statement still capture the essence of the Society and communicate adequately with our various audiences? We hope that you will participate in this on-line conversation about these questions. We anticipate more discussion on this topic at this year's Town Meeting.

We are delighted with the new development in two Society activities. First, we welcome our new partnership with the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges to support faculty development. This summer, as part of our General Meeting, young faculty from VFIC will join us as participants in SWCT [Summer Workshop for College Teachers]. I am especially grateful to Bob Spivey of SVHE and Ned Moore of VFIC for supporting this effort. We look for a long-term and mutually supportive relationship between our two organizations. This partnership also signals our mutual commitment to the special calling that we have as reflective teachers and professors.

The second activity, as noted in the newsletter, is the next stage of SVHE's Democracy Project. Over the past four years, through the inspired leadership of Nancy Thomas, SVHE has taken a national leadership role in working with colleges, universities, and national educational organizations to address educational issues at the campus and national levels through the dialogue process. We are happy to announce that we have now been invited by the Johnson Foundation to lead a Wingspread Conference on Religion and Public Life this summer for invited participants. This invitation recognizes the long and proud history of the Society's engagement with values issues. It also testifies to the Society's visible national leadership role in enhancing the very core of democratic society, that is, citizen dialogues that lead to action. This is indeed a special opportunity for the Society.

Finally, we are truly excited to have the Society return to Portland, Oregon for its Annual Meeting this year, July 28-August 2. As you will note from this newsletter, we are planning a wonderful 81st gathering. Come participate in a stimulating meeting and enjoy a special time in Portland and the Pacific Northwest.

With gratitude to all of you for the gifts you bring,

Marvin A. Kaiser
Executive Director

Committee Reports

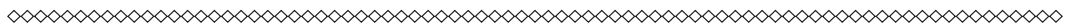
Communications Committee Report

John C. Raby, Chair .

We are pleased to report significant progress since the summer 2004 Fellows' Meeting. *Soundings* is in excellent financial shape, thanks to Allen Dunn, who has obtained the University of Tennessee's agreement to continue funding *Soundings* indefinitely at its present level. We anticipate three issues of *Soundings* this year, which will draw it even with its publication schedule. On our recommendation, the Board of Directors has officially and unanimously appointed Diane Brotemarkle as editor in chief and Meg Wiant as layout editor of our newsletter which resumes publication in early April. We anticipate a second issue before the 2005 FM in Portland, Oregon this summer. The newsletter will continue its function as developed by Aditi Gowri and David Armstrong, not only as an avenue for official and personal information and as a means of honoring our members and promoting their life's work, but also as a forum for serious and lively thought dialogue.

The Website is now able to accommodate color blind users and will soon add focused discussion forums aimed at least in part to develop new projects and morning groups and always to promote ongoing dialogue among members and registered users. We are adding non-members as registered users in part as a way to attract new members. Non-members may not introduce new topics for discussion, but they are welcome to discuss any topics which members introduce. Meanwhile, the SVHE office will work on developing a clear policy about release of personal information on the Website, approval of which we anticipate will require official board action.

As its ongoing work, the communications committee will act as an advisory group to the newsletter and the Website, and periodically check the Website for quality and user-friendliness, and make recommendations as necessary to improve how we communicate among ourselves and to the larger society beyond our membership.



Financial Committee Report

Tom Poole, Chair

When the financial report is full of good news, it can be brief! On September 30, 2004 we closed the books on fiscal Year 03-04. You might recall that we budgeted for a \$5000 deficit. However, due to some "belt-tightening" and salary savings, we were able to close the year with a balance of over \$200.

As we approach the mid-point of FY 04-05 we have reason to be optimistic. Our Annual Fund contributions are running way ahead of last year's pace and our investment portfolio is showing a nice gain at this point in time. With your continued support of the Annual Fund and attendance at our Fellows' Meeting in Portland, we can close the books on 04-05 with more good news.

Thanks for your continued financial support of SVHE!

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Report Fiona Tolhurst, Chair

The Society would like to welcome its 2005-8 Board of Directors members, Walter Blass, Emily Hartigan, Hal Jackson, Tom Poole, Steve Sfekas, and Anne Underwood. These individuals will begin their terms of service at the 2005 Fellows' Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Society members should note that over the next couple of years the Board of Directors will become a group of 14 (reduced from a group of 20). In 2006, the membership will be asked to elect four Board members from a slate of candidates presented by the Nominating Committee (2006 Chair Meg Wiant). If you are interested in running in 2006, please contact Meg Wiant at megwiant@hotmail.com. By reducing the size of the Board of Directors gradually, all current Board members will be able to finish their terms of service, and we will preserve a healthy rotation of new members onto the Board each year. This change in Board structure offers the Society the following benefits:

- 1) The SVHE Board will become a more manageable size, which will facilitate discussion at both live and telephone Board meetings.
- 2) SVHE will bring the size of its Board in line with the size of our current membership of approximately 300 active members.
- 3) By reducing the total number of Board members, Committee Chairs will be able to involve more Fellows in Committee projects — a process the Board hopes will improve communication between the Board and Fellows as well as increase participation of Fellows in the work of the Board.
- 4) SVHE will reduce the costs of holding Board meeting by substantially reducing costs of travel, room, and board involved.
- 5) SVHE will be able to maintain a larger pool of potential Board candidates by both reducing the number of in-service people at a given time and getting more Fellows involved as Associates with Committee Projects.



Program Committee Report Ellen Maher, Chair

The Program Committee has been hard at work preparing for the 81st Annual Fellows' Meeting, to be held at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, from July 28 to August 2, 2005. The theme for the meeting is "Values and Dialogue in a Polarized World." More information appears elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter and on the SVHE website. Put it on your calendar now!

Janet Edwards will chair the Program Committee for 2005-2006. Janet, Steve Sfekas, and Anne Underwood have already begun planning for the 82nd Annual Fellows' Meeting, which will take place at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, from July 20 to July 25, 2006, with a tentative theme of "Honor in the Professions." Janet, Steve, and Anne will be happy to hear from anyone who's curious about that theme or who'd like to volunteer to help.

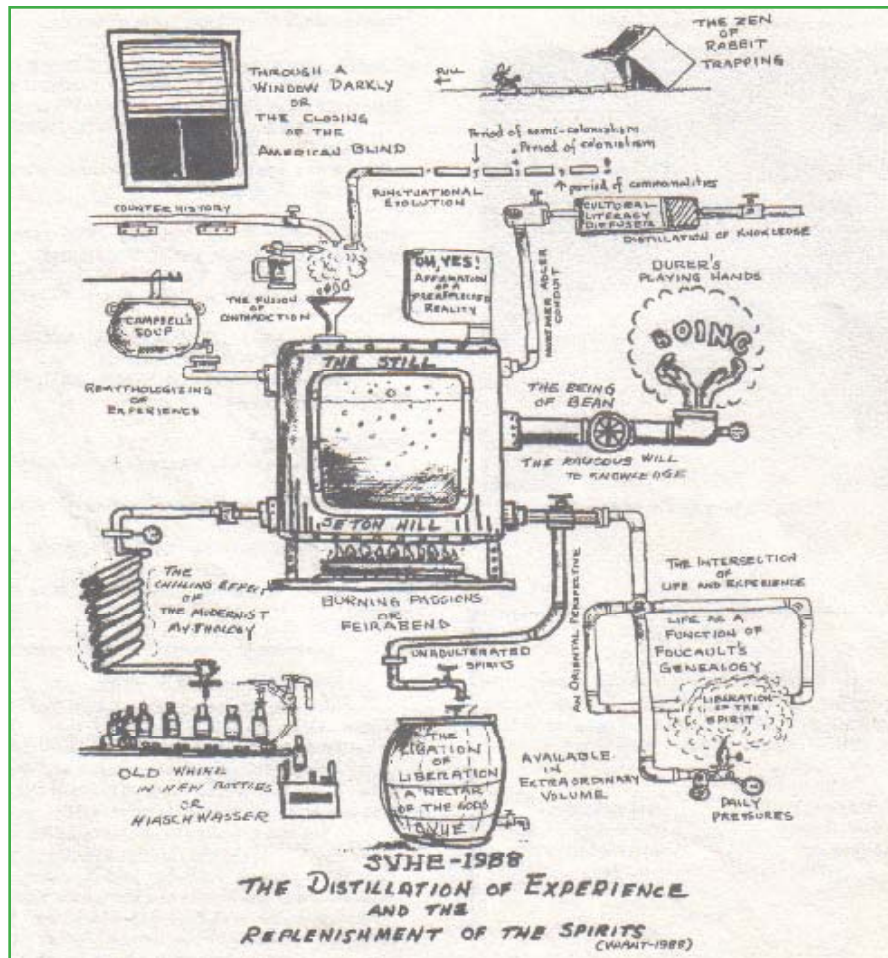
Democracy and SWCT Projects High Priority for SVHE

SWCT, Summer Workshop for College Teachers, has been granted new life for three more years because of a commitment by the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges. Formerly known at SVHE as the “New Teacher’s Workshop,” this project now appeals to mid-career and other college teachers as well. According to Richard Carp, Project leader, “SVHE is pleased to announce a three-year collaboration with the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges (VFIC). Beginning in summer 2005, VFIC will send up to 20 participants from the faculty of its member colleges to the Summer Workshop for College Teachers. Each summer, VFIC will provide one staff member for the Workshop, and SVHE will provide three. The SVHE Board has approved a stipend of \$1500 plus conference registration and room and board for SWCT staff. Fellows interested in serving as Workshop Staff for 2006 should attend the SWCT Afternoon group at the Portland meeting to work with Cynthia Magistro (a former SWCT Coordinator) to develop skills for leading components of the Workshop.”

Editor’s Note: Thanks to Richard Carp, SWCT has had a passionate advocate at SVHE Board meetings and the Board has agreed that SVHE’s commitment to its projects entails some project leaders be present at future Board meetings, this in spite of down-sizing the Board itself. SWCT will have a voice at Board of Director’s meetings. In addition, an entire recent edition of *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* has been devoted to the concept of democracy; This is indeed an honor for SVHE’s Democracy Project headed by Nancy Thomas.

SVHE - An Illustrated History

Originally conceived by Jon Wiant following the 1988 Fellows Meeting



Fellow's Point of View

“BEEN THERE, DONE THAT!” Fellow Robert P. Smith, E ’75, has distributed to other Episcopalians in the Diocese of [north] Florida a 27-page position paper defending the church’s acceptance in General Convention 2003 of Gene Robinson as New Hampshire’s bishop, and its authorization of liturgical blessings for lifelong same-sex monogamous unions.

Smith’s paper is by his own account a polemic, albeit one annotated to biblical and scholarly sources, and to the public record of recent years, which targets “the separatist clergy” in the Episcopal Church USA – those ordained by that church who have become so absorbed in objecting to General Convention’s action that, Smith would show, they turned to inciting the primates of other Anglican churches, notably archbishops Akinola of Nigeria and Orombi of Uganda, to call down on their own Episcopal Church the sanctions of the Anglican Communion. Their aim, according to Smith, is to displace the constitutional governance of ECUSA with oversight locally by “alternative” bishops and nationally by doctrinal monitoring from abroad.

Smith asserts that this movement would regress the American church to a dependency akin its 150-year domination by the Church of England in pre-revolutionary Virginia, an oppressive era brought to a close by Jefferson’s Act of Religious Liberty (Virginia 1787), the Constitution of the United States (1789), and the constitution (1789) and canons of the Episcopal Church. Hence the title of this monograph.

The theological energy in this “separatist” movement, Smith argues, flows from the apostle Paul’s error, Romans 1:20-27, in supposing that natural law as evidenced in creation has designated sexuality to be the exclusive domain of heterosexual males and females, excluding the homosexual minority – an error that is extraneous to Paul’s Christian witness, Smith argues, which now should recede with Paul’s similar errors on the divine rights of rulers, the slave’s obedience to his master “as to Christ,” and the subservience of women.

Copies of “Been There, Done That!” are available by request through the SVHE office in Portland.



Special Commendation

We congratulate SVHE Fellow and Board Secretary Jon A. Wiant (D 70) who was recently decorated by Director of Central Intelligence Porter Goss with the national intelligence distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his contributions to national security under ten presidents during his 37 years of government service. Earlier he received Secretary of State Colin Powell’s Career Achievement Award.

Memorial Fund to Honor Deceased Fellows

At its February meeting, SVHE Board members unanimously endorsed the creation of a Memorial Fund to honor deceased fellows whom we will especially miss at our Annual Meetings. It is fitting that in their memory we encourage members to contribute to a fund dedicated to the financial support of younger Fellows to attend Annual Meetings. Fellows will be invited to name an individual in whose memory their contribution is being made. The Board believes that this new fund would be a fine memorial to those whose presence contributed so much to our fellowship, and whose spirit of fellowship will be carried on by those younger members who will be grateful for the support they receive in their memory.

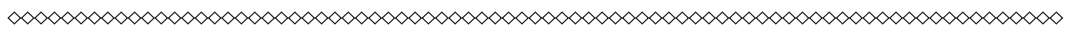
Gearing Up for FM 2005

continued from Page 1

long-time Fellow. Jon Wiant has been chosen as this year's speaker.

The meeting will feature varied Morning Groups, along with afternoon Interest Groups and other sessions (go to www.svhe.org for descriptions). Attendees will have several sight-seeing opportunities, for which SVHE office staff will prepare self-guided tour materials. You can easily sight-see on your own or join up with others. You can drive to the Columbia Gorge in about half an hour, or to the spectacular Oregon coast in about an hour and a half. The SVHE office will have self-guided tour materials and sign up sheets for people with similar interests.

But what about the necessities of life -- food, shelter, and conversation? We've got it covered. Housing choices range from the usual Spartan dorm rooms (actually, a cut above the usual) to comfortable hotel-quality digs in a former Doubletree Hotel now owned and operated by the University, with a couple of more modest commercial inns between. Our meals will be catered by the PSU food service (Aramark), with menus chosen carefully to meet our diverse dietary needs, served in a spacious room overlooking the Park Blocks, with optional outdoor balcony seating. Afternoon and post-plenary socials will provide more time for relaxing and catching up with old friends and making new ones.



New Simplified Membership Process

To encourage new membership applications and expedite the application and approval process, the Membership Committee, in cooperation with Associate Executive Director George Karnezis, has established a new procedure. Fellows should send nominations to the SVHE office, which will then send an invitation letter to the nominee, requesting a vita and letter of interest. These will be forwarded immediately to the Membership Committee for approval and action. Upon Committee approval, the SVHE office will send a welcoming letter to new Fellows, with copies to those who nominated them. Prospective members who have indicated an interest in SVHE will receive an information packet and letter inviting them to apply for membership.

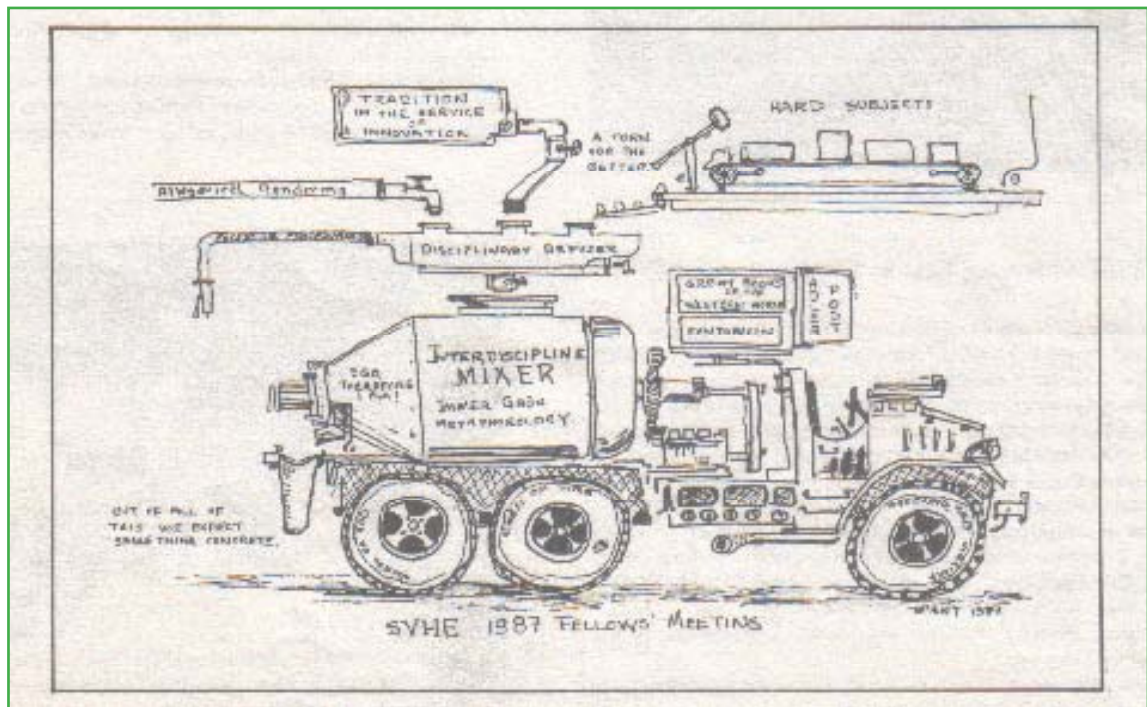
These new procedures make it easier for the SVHE office and the Membership Committee to coordinate their efforts. The entire process should take no longer than a month to complete.

The Membership Committee and the SVHE office thank the many Fellows who have sent either nominations or names of potential members to the SVHE office. We encourage all Fellows to assist in our effort to increase membership by submitting, by e-mail if convenient, either nominations or the names of prospective members who may be interested in joining SVHE. Names and brief profiles of new Fellows will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the contributors and general editor, and do not necessarily represent official policy of the Society or its Directors.

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