

**American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) Business Meeting Agenda**  
NCA 2020, November 17, 2020

*N.B., These will be approved at NCA 2021.*

**1. Welcome. Call to Order. (ASHR President, Dr. Michele Kennerly)**

The documents for today's meeting can be found at [Ashr.org](http://Ashr.org) → Gatherings → ASHR at NCA.

**2. Approval of the 2019 Business Meeting Minutes.** These were impeccably recorded by Allison Prasch, but a little garble made it through a few years of minutes: Paul Stob's term as web coordinator and steering committee member expires today, so we need to conduct an election. If you are an ASHR member, then, yesterday, you received an email about the process. If you are not an ASHR member, but you'd like to nominate yourself for the position or forward the call to someone, please email me at [kennerly@psu.edu](mailto:kennerly@psu.edu) (.)

Prasch moved to approve; Woods seconded. Kennerly forgot to take a vote. (Whoops.)

**3. The Current Steering Committee.**

If each of you could say "Hi!" as I call you, that'd be great:

*Officers (2019-2021, with 1 exception)*

- President: Dr. Michele Kennerly (Penn State University)
- Vice President: Dr. Alessandra Von Burg (Wake Forest University)
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Scott Stroud (University of Texas, Austin) [not present]
- Treasurer: Dr. Bjørn Stillion Southard (University of Georgia)
- Membership Coordinator: Dr. Allison Prasch (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Website Coordinator: Dr. Paul Stob (Vanderbilt University) [2018-2020]
- Social Media Coordinator: Dr. Jordan Loveridge (Mount St. Mary's University) [not present]
- *JHR* Editor: Dr. Ned O'Gorman (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) [not present]

*At-Large Members (2019-2021)*

- Dr. Martin Camper (Loyola University, Maryland)
- Dr. Kundai Chirindo (Lewis & Clark College)
- Dr. Jamie Downing (Georgia College)
- Dr. Christa Olson (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Dr. Carly Woods (University of Maryland)

*Advisory Committee*

- Dr. Michele Kennerly (2019-2023)
- Dr. Scott Stroud (2017-2021)

- Dr. Richard Enos (Texas Christian University, emeritus) (2018-2022)
- Dr. Steve Mailloux (Loyola Marymount University) (2018-2022)
- fifth member pending

ASHR members are welcome to contact members of Steering on matters of society business connected to their respective offices.

#### 4. November 2019-November 2020.

##### **A Journal of a Plague Year:**

- **November-November. NCA planning.** Gratitude to NCA 2020 planner, Dr. Brandon Inabinet (Furman University). Thanks in advance to Dr. Anne Kretsinger-Harries (Iowa State University), who will plan for the ASHR NCA unit in 2021.
- **January. *JHR. Journal for the History of Rhetoric*** (formerly *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*) launches with volume 23, with Prof. Ned O’Gorman as editor and Dr. Christa Olson as book review editor. A fuller report from the editor is forthcoming.
- **March-May. The “EXCESS!!!! in/and the History of Rhetoric” ASHR Symposium was covid-canceled.** A few participants took up our invitation (that is, *not* mandate!) to submit video teasers of what would have been their talks. [Teasers from five presenters](#) are up on our website.
- **May. Covid-19 Microgrant + Membership Initiative.** In solidarity with non-tenure-track rhetoricians, we tendered microgrants of \$50 and covered a year of membership fees for 30 rhetoricians. Thanks to some quick fundraising, we were able to tender double what we thought we’d be able to handle. There are about 20 people we couldn’t help, but we hope to be able to do so.
- **June. “DONATE” button.** Speaking of which, we now have [a donate button on our website](#). For the time being, we’ll be using any money that comes in to cover the rest of our microgrant + membership applicants.
- **June. ASHR Made a Commitment to Scholars of and Scholarship about Black Rhetor/ics.** ASHR committed to centering and supporting scholars and scholarship that draw upon the history of rhetoric to call out anti-Black systems and structures (including within the study of the history of rhetoric itself) and trace their historical-rhetorical development and deployment, to enrich understanding of Black rhetorical traditions, or to otherwise bring Black perspectives to the field. In doing so, we follow the lead of scholars and scholarly groups who have been doing and promoting such work for decades, and at no little personal and professional risk.
- **Summer & Fall. *JHR* Open Access.** We successfully petitioned Taylor & Francis to make the following *AHR/JHR* articles open-access for a limited time: 1) a cluster about Black rhetors and rhetorics and anti-Blackness (McCann 22.1; VanHaitsma 21.3; Hatch 22.3; Tell 20.2; Flores 23.1) and 2) a cluster about presidential rhetoric (Saas 21.2; Chaput 21.2; Haskins 18.2; Chirindo 19.1). We plan to try to continue to open thematic clusters.

#### 5. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer (Stillion Southard)

**Treasurer's Report  
American Society for the History of Rhetoric  
2020 NCA Business Meeting**

I. Overview

ASHR's finances improved marginally from last year. ASHR will need a new Treasurer in 2 years. If you're interested, I'm happy to work with you.

II. Taxes and Incorporation

- A. ASHR continues to enjoy the benefits of a 501 (3) (c) tax status.
- B. ASHR is current on its 990-N form filing and will file again in December of 2020.
- C. Corporation filing with GA Sec. of State will occur February 2021; will likely cost \$30.

III. Summary of Finances

- A. Available Balance as of 14 November 2020: \$31,010.99  
Balance as of 13 November 2019: \$27,976.11
- B. Non-Conference Total Credits: \$5317.41
  - 1. Membership funds collected (13 Nov 2019 to 14 Nov 2020): \$4487.81  
Previous period (8 Nov 2018 to 13 Nov 2019): \$5052.08
  - 2. Taylor & Francis: \$169.93  
Previous period: \$196.42
  - 3. Ebsco: \$0  
Previous period: \$68.91
- C. Non-Conference Total Expenses: \$5208.76
  - 1. Non-Symposium Expenses were:
    - a. Taylor and Francis (regular): \$3786  
2019 Report: \$0 (No Payment to T&F due to overpayment previous year)
    - b. 2019 ASHR Award Plaques (NCA): \$96
    - c. Corporation fees: \$30
    - d. Webhosting/website plugins: \$0 (awaiting invoice)
    - e. Membership system: \$116.10
    - f. 2019 NCA Reception: \$548.66
    - g. Reconcile 2018 journal costs with T&F: \$432
  - 2. Previous period expenses: \$754.85
- D. Microgrant program
  - 1. \$1880 collected
  - 2. \$1350 distributed (and ~\$540 worth of memberships)
- E. Symposium
  - 1. \$3250 collected and on reserve for next Symposium

Respectfully submitted,  
Bjørn Stillion Southard

B. Membership Coordinator (Prasch)

**ASHR Membership Report  
NCA 2020**

Prepared by Allison Prasch, Membership Officer  
aprasch@wisc.edu

The state of ASHR membership is active, generous, and continues to grow despite the challenges of 2020.

Since November 2019, ASHR membership increased from 138 to 172 members, or a net increase of 34 members. This increase is due in large part to the COVID-19-Relief micro-grant initiative, which tendered \$50 grants and a year's worth of ASHR membership to non-tenure-track rhetoricians (graduate students, post-docs, teaching faculty, lecturers, adjuncts, independent scholars). Thanks to the generous donations of many of our members and the Society's own investment, we were able to tender 27 of these micro-grants during the spring and summer.

Last November, I reported on a forthcoming membership drive designed to encourage established scholars to sponsor reduced-rate memberships for graduate students, instructors and lecturers, and assistant professors. This was to begin in early March 2020. We put this specific plan on hold due to COVID-19, but plan to revisit it at the beginning of 2021. Please contact me directly if you are interested in contributing to such an initiative.

Jordan and I will continue to find new ways to feature the work of ASHR members and increase the organization's visibility via social media and online content.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Prasch

**Membership numbers (by rate category)  
as of November 10, 2020:**

Graduate Student: 37 (+19 from 2019)  
Instructor/lecturer: 19 (+9)  
Assistant: 22 (+8)  
Associate: 11  
Full: 6 (-1)  
Emeritus/emerita: 9 (+1)  
Sustaining: 5 (-3)  
Five Year: 29 (+2)  
Lifetime: 34

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**Membership Totals in Prior Years**

November 2019: 138  
November 2018\*: 165  
November 2017: 124  
November 2016\*: 141  
November 2015: 126  
November 2014\*: 146  
November 2013: 117  
November 2012\*: 120  
November 2011: 115

\*ASHR Symposium year

**TOTAL: 172**

C. Social Media Coordinator (Loveridge) [read by Kennerly]  
[pdf on website]

D. Web Coordinator (Stob)

#### **ASHR Website Report**

- Some visual refreshes over the past year.
- Our membership system—Memberpress—seems to be working well. But please let me know if you run into problems.

Site stats:

- We average about 50 views per day. But that number spikes up to a couple hundred when we publicize content via social media.
- Our homepage is easily the most visited page (not surprising). But after that our pages dedicated to teaching the history of rhetoric attract a lot of attention. The post on women in the history of rhetoric is the second-most visited page this past year. The third is the page about the journal.
- Other popular pages are about African Philosophy and Rhetoric, Chinese rhetoric, and Arabic rhetoric.
- Also popular this year has been information on ASHR COVID-relief micro grants.

Stob put in a plug for the position and offered to help with the transition to a new web coordinator after the election for the position.

E. Editor (O’Gorman) [read by Kennerly]

#### **JHR Editor’s Report (Ned O’Gorman)**

Volume 23 of the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric* is in press now and should be arriving as a bound volume in the mailboxes of ASHR members before the end of the year. This volume is first volume of ASHR’s journal published under the new title, *Journal for the History of Rhetoric* (JHR). It consists of three issues, each of which ASHR members have had access to online throughout the year. Altogether, including book reviews, volume 23 consists of 30 separate pieces by 35 different scholars in the field, a reflection of the work of Christa Olson, the book review editor, and me to stretch the tent, so to speak, of ASHR’s flagship journal.

Needless to say, 2020 has been a difficult year for all of us, and while JHR is doing just fine, the effects of this year's massive stresses have been seen at the submission level, with the submission rate noticeably decreasing after the onset of COVID-19. This said, we will have no problem filling volume 24 with high-quality essays and articles, including a special issue in the winter of 2021, edited by Christa Olson, on "Americas."

Apart from COVID, we are in the middle of a significant transition period in the history of ASHR's journal. Not only do we have a new name, new look, and new, broader editorial mission, but an ad hoc committee is considering whether or not staying with Taylor and Francis is in the best interest of the society and the journal. My goal as editor is to do my very best to help us transition through these changes, such that the next editor, whomever that might be, can build on a solid foundation.

## **6. Sub-Committee Report from the Awards Sub-Committee (Olson & Downing)**

Downing, co-chair of the Awards sub-committee, introduced the 2020 Top Student Paper Award Committee, which we record here, with thanks: Dr. José Izaguirre III (UT-Austin), Dr. Rudo Mudiwa (Princeton), Dr. Emily Brennan-Moran (George Mason University), and Dr. Erik Johnson (Stetson University).

The winner of this award was PhD student Natalie Bennie (Penn State), for "Enlightenment How? The Reception of Cicero and the Repetition of Judeophobia in the French Enlightenment."

Olson, the other co-chair of this sub-committee, introduced the 2020 Dissertation Award Committee, which we record here, with thanks: Dr. Jennifer Keohane (University of Baltimore), Dr. Jessica Kurr (Northeastern University), Dr. Karriann Soto Vega (University of Kentucky), and Dr. Amy Wan (Queens College).

The winner of this award was Assistant Professor Dr. Ryan Mitchell (Lafayette College), for "Private Parts, Public Selves: The Co-Construction of Safe Sex Before the Discovery of HIV," (Ph.D. 2020, Carnegie Mellon University, Advisor Dr. Andreea Ritivoi).

Olson gave the two finalists honorable mention: 1) Dr. Robert Lively (Truckee Meadows Community College), for "The Rhetoric of Reasonableness: *Hóf* in Civic and Legal Rhetoric of the Medieval Scandinavians" (Ph.D. Arizona State University, Advisor Dr. Kathleen Lamp); 2) Dr. Catalina Uribe Rincón (Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia), for "Shaping Pablo Escobar in Colombian Newspapers" (Ph.D. Northwestern, Advisor Dr. Angela G. Ray)

## **7. Action Item: ASHR Constitutional amendments (Kennerly)**

The extant language of the "Awards" section needed an update (to include, e.g., details about the selection committees and their judgment criteria, which are transparency issues), and ASHR's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access) sub-committee proposed two new

awards: Outstanding Article and Outstanding Mentorship. In their capacity as co-chairs of the Awards sub-committee, Christa Olson and Jamie Downing workshopped the constitutional language and used it to shape their processes for the two awards that were just bestowed. ASHR Steering Committees have talked several times over the past decade about establishing new awards, and the IDEA sub-committee determined “article” and “mentorship” awards to be less exclusionary than a “book” award, since many more rhetoricians write articles and mentor students than write books.

Olson underscored that the new judgment criteria speak to ASHR’s commitment to inclusive, even transformative, excellence.

For today, we’d like to limit discussion to the altered language of the two extant awards and the new award for mentorship.

The ensuing discussion centered on the criterion of ASHR membership for nomination for the Outstanding Mentorship Award, with the following language being suggested and supported:

//Outstanding Mentor Award

1. Eligibility: Nominees for the Award must be current members of ASHR.//

With language from Olson and Jarratt, revised to: Eligibility: Nominees for the Award must be: 1) either current members of ASHR or willing to join upon receipt of the award and 2) have a past relationship with or be willing to commit to a future relationship to ASHR.

Stillion Southard moved to approve the amendments; Stob seconded. Approved. Vote conducted. Changes approved by a clear majority (no votes against; a few abstentions).

Meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted on 12/10/2020 by Michele Kennerly.