

**REA-APPRRE  
Annual Meeting  
Business Meeting Draft Minutes  
Sheraton Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia  
November 4, 2012**

The meeting opened at 12:00pm.

- I. Approval of the Minutes from the November 6, 2011 Business Meeting.  
Elizabeth Nolan moved and Nelson Stroebert seconded that the Minutes be approved. Motion passed.
  
- II. Reports
  - A. Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2012 Budget  
Michael noted that money follows our mission and we are working to be consistent in our finances. He drew our attention to the disaggregation of the Networking Coordinator position and the Web Manager position as we moved to separate these positions. He also noted that an effort was made to reduce the cost of the Annual Meeting, especially with the meals. This year 55% of registrants signed up for the luncheons and 60% of the registrants signed up for the banquet. He also noted that our tech budget was reduced due to members bringing projectors for use in the breakout sessions. Appreciation was given to the members for doing this. Michael then presented the 2012 budget. There being no further discussion, Michael Horan moved and Barbara Ann Keely seconded to accept the 2012 budget. Motion passed.
  
  - C. Executive Secretary's Report  
Lucinda Huffaker offered her report. She noted that we had 152 participants this year with a few cancellations. Our email list also grew to 350 people. She reported that the 2013 Annual Meeting will be at the Westin in Waltham, Massachusetts with rooms at \$119.00 and the 2014 Annual Meeting will be in the Hyatt Oakbrook, outside of Chicago with room rates at \$119.00 as well. If participants are satisfied with this location and if the Board decides to change the rotation schedule to meet in Atlanta instead of Denver, we will negotiate for our 2015 Annual Meeting here at the Sheraton. The Board will be re-evaluating the rotation schedule as a means to control costs and to support having a healthy attendance.  
  
Lucinda also introduced Beverly Miller-Johnson as our new Archivist and reported on her meeting with Barney Kathan at Yale to ensure a smooth transition. She also offered appreciation for AIB - Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Network for their recording of the program this year. She also noted that the new Poster Sessions this year on Saturday morning went very well. This helped with the increase in proposals this year, which was over 100. Finally, appreciation was offered to Dr. Dwight Andrews for the use of the First Congregational Church. Barbara Ann Keely moved and Patty Myers seconded to receive the Executive Secretary's Report. Motion passed.
  
  - D. Networking Coordinator's and Web Manager's Report  
Sybrina offered highlights for 2012. She noted the major increase in paper proposals. The website has increased sections included the Directory, Memorials, Announcements,

Video, Blogs, News and other sections for the membership. She noted the change in the online registration process through a 3 step process and the ebookstore on the website. She encouraged members with publications to ensure that they are noted. Mention was made of the expanded membership database as well. She also noted that her responsibilities have shifted through her transition to Web Management rather than being Networking Coordinator. Barbara Ann Keely moved and Tom Wolters seconded to receive the Report. Motion passed.

E. *Journal* Editor's Report

Jack Seymour offered a brief report on the *Journal* and noted the increase in submissions. He noted that over 18,500 articles were downloaded this last year which shows the value of the *Journal*. He reported that there will be an ad posted for Editor-elect by June with interviews in the Fall to assure a smooth transition to the new editor by 2016. He encouraged the membership to feel free to recommend possible candidates for this position. Jack also reported that a manuscript will be chosen from submissions by younger scholars to be printed in the "Horizon" series of the Association. Michael Horan moved and Elizabeth Nolan seconded to receive the Report. Motion passed.

II. Nominating Committee Report and Election of New Board Members

The Committee has offered the following slate of members:

Mai-Anh Le Tran:	2014 Program Chair, Vice-President Elect
Evelyn L. Parker:	At-Large Board Member
Najeeba Syeed-Miller:	Religious Education in Academic Disciplines & Institutions Forum/ <i>Journal</i> Editorial Board
David F. White:	Religious Education in Faith Communities Forum/ <i>Journal</i> Editorial Board
Hyun Sook Kim:	Religious Education in Public Life and the Global Community Forum/ <i>Journal</i> Editorial Board
Justus Baird:	Harper Committee
Sara Lee:	Harper Committee

The Board moved and Elizabeth Nolan seconded that the slate be elected. There being no additional nominations from the floor, the question was called. Motion passed.

III. 2013 Annual Meeting

Siebren offered a brief introduction to the 2013 Annual Meeting at the Westin Waltham (Boston). The theme will be "Coming Out Religiously." He noted that this is an important topic for all members as it involves education, theology and politics. As noted by Siebren, at the end of the 20th century most of the former defenders of the so-called secularization theory had to acknowledge that this theory was false. As an offspring of the Enlightenment Project the theory stated that modernization of societies necessarily leads to the decline of religion in societies and in the life of individuals. However, religion has been more persistent and global than was expected on the basis of the development in the sixties and seventies of the twentieth century. The dramatic events of 9/11 have given an extra impetus to the debate on the place and role of religion in the public sphere, nationally and globally.

At the level of political theory there is the positive reaction to the return of religion in the public sphere, but also the negative reaction from the side of radical secularists and new atheists. These debates have an immediate impact on the view of the position, the role as well as the function of religious and/or worldview education in state and denominational schools.

Some of the pressing questions in the new national and global contexts that Siebren suggests need to be addressed by religious educators include:

- (a) Should religious education be banned from or neglected at state schools or should religion and worldview become an inclusive part of the core curriculum of such schools?
- (b) Should the state stop financing denominational schools because religious education is just a private matter? Here the relation of state and religion is at stake.
- (c) Should all schools realize a teaching about and from approach aiming at the religious or worldview identity formation of the students as part of their citizenship education?
- (d) In what way do religious communities foster the identity formation of its children and young people with an eye on their participation in social and public spaces?

In conclusion, Siebren presented possible topics for research papers, colloquia, and workshops that include:

- (1) Should each government within its particular context take the political-pedagogical responsibility to stimulate religious/worldview identity formation of students in elementary and secondary schools?
- (2) What role do media (radio, TV, newspapers), political parties, associations and religious and worldview communities play in these debates?
- (3) Which persons, groups, associations and communities are specifically excluded when religion is privatized?
- (4) What can we learn from historical case studies?
- (5) Is there a linkage between particular stances in these debates and certain pedagogies? How do we evaluate this?
- (6) What kind of examples of 'good practice' could we as Association provide as a fruitful contribution to these debates?

#### IV. Other Business and Reports

Dean noted that, in an effort to be more conscientious, we are engaged in an ongoing conversation concerning how we function, notably concerning the Annual Meeting. He noted that we are financially strong but we need to be vigilant to remain financially viable.

He also discussed the ongoing assessment that the Board is undergoing in relationship to our mission as an Association. In particular, we began to look to the 4 key statements that guide our vision and mission as an Association. This past year, we focused on the ecumenical focus. Due to the work of Mary Hinton, we are to continue this assessment process so to better serve the needs of our membership.

In closing, appreciation was offered for Dean Blevins's leadership and Mary Hess' leadership and contribution to the Association.

There being no further business, Russ Dalton moved and Elizabeth Nolan seconded to close the meeting. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Winings  
Secretary