



**General Business Meeting
Southern Regional Honors Council
Orlando, FL
October 29, 2021
4:00 PM -5:00 PM
Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin**

Call to Order

SRHC President Kathy Cooke (University of South Alabama) called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. She appointed Tom Jones (Gardner-Webb University) as the Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Kathy Cooke asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Kathleen King (Hillsborough Community College) so moved. Deirdre Ragan (The Citadel) seconded. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes moved to later in meeting to give membership time to review.

Treasurer's Report

SRHC Treasurer David Coleman (Eastern Kentucky University) reported on SRHC budget status. Mentioned membership dues (those who have paid vs those who have not). Tom Jones asked David Coleman to clarify expenses for *Sanctuary* publication.

Kathy Cooke called for motion to accept treasurer's report. Maria Vandergriff-Avery (Catawba College) so moved. Cora Brown seconded. Motion approved.

Members of the exec committee introduced themselves to great applause. Members in absentia noted.

Scholarship Report

Funding offered for more than a decade for students to attend Partners in the Parks. Board authorized yesterday to award up to 12 grants to students interested in attending, with a limit of one student per institution. NO more than one student from each institution.

Kathy Cooke called for motion to accept. Linda Frost (UT-Chattanooga) moved to accept Kathleen King seconded. Approved.

Conference Updates

2022 Conference will take place in Birmingham from March 30-April 2.

SRHC VP Aaron Hanlin (Seminole State College) explained conference theme /focus on civil rights and social justice. Proposals will open a week from today and close on February 1.

Negotiated room rate is \$154 a night, with cutoff of March 9. Planning committee is meeting to determine reg fees in light of Budget issues

Kathy Cooke thanked UAB's Rebecca Freeman, Mike Sloane, and SRHC Past-President Rusty Rushton for all of their efforts.

2023 Conference will take place in Charlotte at Westin from March 30-April 2. Maria Vandergriff-Avery (Catawba College) explained her institution will be co-hosting with UNCC, and that more updates (including theme) are to come.

Just starting to talk about 2024.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy Cooke called for motion to approve minutes from 2020 Virtual General Business Meeting. Jef Vahlbusch (Appalachian State University) so moved. Rusty Rushton seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements

Kathy Cooke described initiatives around DEI, and the importance of making those a focal point given our location in the Southern region. Mentioned logo Aaron designed, relevance to MLK and Birmingham. Reaching out to HBCU institutions that have not been active. Invited people who might be interested in joining DEI subcommittee.

Kathy Cooke shared that executive committee talked about dues yesterday. Current dues are (\$75 per institution) are reasonable. Discussing a modest increase that would allow us to do more things that are of value to members, including advancing DEI efforts. How can we serve folks who might not be able to attend because of limited budgets and other equity issues? If we recommend an increase, we will provide a 90-day notice before next business meeting. Would need to be approved by a majority. Keep eyes open for that announcement. Open

Kathleen King spoke about Partners in the Parks. Have been doing virtual Third Thursdays through the year. Just last week was Grand Tetons. Have announced projects for next year. Kathleen shared some of the locations. Dates will be posted in next week or so. Encouraged students to take advantage. SRHC and NCHC have scholarships. Some state councils have scholarships as well.

Kara (last name? institution?) from City as Text committee talked about faculty institutes in summer 2022. Locations are Pitt and Santa Fe. Mater class at Dallas NCHC in 2022. Encouraged everyone to stop by tomorrow at Idea Exchange breakfast to learn more.

Rusty Rushton talked about *Sanctuary*, and encouraged submission of work. Mentioned there has been discussion of creating a digital version, but moving online is difficult. Has also been discussion of moving to 1 copy per institution because of rising costs. Credited Russell Helm for the handsomeness of the publication and the layout.

Linda Frost from the NCHC Pub Board shared that Pub Board Chair Ada Long has asked us to have alums share reflections about the value of Honors to them. Encouraged everyone to attend publishing in Honors session tomorrow.

Jude Keef (UT-Chattanooga), student editor of *UrECA*, explained that they have seen lower volume of submissions through pandemic. Asked directors to encourage students to submit work, especially STEM and Fine Arts. Submissions open now. Editor app opening in early January. Editorial team meeting at Bryce Canyon next year. Linda Frost talked about what happens at that entails.

Oluwadamilola (Lola) Oke (UT -Chattanooga University of Tennessee) running for NCHC student rep; emphasized she will empower student voices if elected.

Minh Nguyen (Florida Gulf Coast University running for NCHC professional board of directors – cited Southern regional’s history of producing leaders in Honors education. Honored to have support and follow that tradition. Believes in holistic integrated approach to 5 pillars of NCHC, with particular emphasis on Diversity and Inclusion.

John Zubizaretta (Columbia College) reminded us we need to recognize Steven Engel (Georgia Southern University) will be receiving Sam Schuman Award, the highest honor for someone from a four-year institution.

Roll Call

After much hooting and hollering, Florida capitalized on home field advantage and emerged victorious.

Adjourn

Kathy Cooke asked for a motion for adjournment. Casey Alment so moved. Maria Vandergriff Avery seconded. Motion approved.

Adjourned @ 4:44 PM