



**General Business Meeting  
Southern Regional Honors Council  
NCHC – Dallas Sheraton  
Trinity 2  
Saturday, November 5, 2022  
10:00AM-10:50AM (CDT)**

**Call to Order and Appointment of Parliamentarian**

SRHC President Aaron Hanlin (Florida State College at Jacksonville) called the meeting to order at 10:01AM. He appointed Tom Jones (Gardner-Webb) as Parliamentarian.

**Welcome and Introduction of Officers**

Aaron welcomed everyone, and introduced the following SRHC officers and executive committee members: Rusty Rushton (Past-Past President, University of Alabama Birmingham), Maria Vandergriff Avery (Vice President, Catawba College), David Coleman (Treasurer, Eastern Kentucky University), Jon Blandford (Secretary, Bellarmine University), Juan Antonio Alonso (Faculty At-Large, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga), Tom Jones (Parliamentarian, Gardner-Webb University), Taylor King (Student Vice President, North Carolina A&T), Emma Nantz (Student At-Large, Catawba College), Madison Cothorn (Student At-Large, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga),

**Approval of Agenda**

Aaron called for a motion to approve the agenda after adding an item – a proposal to add the president and conference chair as signatories to the Treasury. *Jeff Chamberlain (University of North Florida) so moved. Malin Pereira (University of North Carolina – Charlotte) seconded. Motion approved.*

**Approval of Minutes**

Aaron called for approval of the minutes from the spring 2022 SRHC general business meeting at conference in Birmingham, disseminated in advance of the conference via Jon. *Maria so moved. Juan Antonio seconded. Motion approved.*

**Treasurer's Report + PITP Scholarships**

David explained that we are in good financial shape, with 80 institutional members (78 at this point last year; 106 by the time of last spring's conference). We are back in good shape and could endure a cancelled a conference if we had to. For the first time in over four years, our bank account went over \$100,000 in October 2022. Reasons for previous decrease were heavy losses in VA and Memphis.

Exec Committee approved yesterday 12 PITP scholarships of up to \$800 each, with no more than one per institution Last year only 7 out of 12 were awarded because we only received 7 applications. Encouraged students to apply, and directors to encourage their students to apply.

Aaron called for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. *Jeff Chamberlain so moved. Tracy Hardin (Seminole State) seconded. Motion carried.*

**2023 Conference Report**

Conference co-chairs Denise Lynch (UNCC) and Maria reported on the planning for the spring 2023 conference, which will take place in Charlotte and is being co-hosted by UNCC and Catawba College. The hotel block is now open, with a link on the website, and Jon sent the CFP out yesterday to membership. Accepting submissions through January 30, and registration opens on January 9. Fees still being finalized, but will be a little more than last year because things are more expensive. Early bird deadline Feb 17.

Theme is Honors in Transition. Norris Feeney (Catawba) talked about this theme, which resonates both how our students are always in transition – entering college and graduating—and how Charlotte, like most cities in the fast-growing South, is a place in transition. There is excitement about the new, but also unease and uncertainty.

Question about what dues were last year from Jessica Morris (Northeast Mississippi CC) – Aaron explained \$180.

### **2024 Conference**

Jacksonville, with UNF hosting and Jeff serving as conference chair. Hotel rate is \$169 a night, a very good rate, and also a great location downtown /on the river.

### **2025 Conference – Chattanooga**

Juan Antonio and Linda Frost (conference co-chairs, both UT-Chattanooga), explained that while Chattanooga was originally supposed to host in 2024, the city does not have the capacity /space to host that year. Instead, deferring to 2025, March 27-March 29. Contracts are already signed with the convention Center + Marriott downtown, with a room rate of \$169 locked in. Will take place almost entirely at CC, with receptions on campus and at aquarium.

### **Exec comm initiatives**

Exec committee met yesterday and would like to add president and conference chair as signatories to the treasury, in keeping with best practices for a non-profit.

Also discussed moving half of treasury into an interest-bearing account. Has not been worth it because interest rates so low and we needed liquidity, but now makes sense to shift portion to interest bearing annuities.

Also discussed increasing dues by \$25 increase, and have posted notice on website, giving 60+ days notice per constitution. Membership will vote on the dues increase at spring meeting.

Exec Committee member Karen Keaton Jackson has been doing great work on outreach to HBCUs, and getting lots of responses from those institutions about participating in the spring conference and beyond.

### **Other Announcements**

Angela Mick (Hillsborough Community College) plugged Partners in the Parks, having done Everglades program for two years. Stressed that one does not have to be a professional camper, and that it is an amazing, life changing experience. Encouraged students and faculty to get involved as well.

Malin asked how many days this programs are? Angela answered no more than a week. Students responsible for getting there; once they are there, everything else is taken care of as part of registration fee.

Applications for summer months open in January – info on NCHC website.

Rusty Rushton talked about *Sanctuary*, the SRHC literary arts journal published out of UAB. New issue will be in mail soon. Rusty gave shout out to Russell Helm's design work. Encourage students to submit creative work. CFP going out to directors shortly.

Linda encouraged people to check out *UReCA* – new issue up online now. Great way for Honors students to get their research and creative work published, and also give back to undergrad community at large by serving on editorial board.

Kara Coyer from Place as Text committee announced that institutes coming back in summer 2023, including Charleston in our region.

Prompted by Tom, Aaron called for motion to approve actions of Executive committee. *Malin so moved. Rita Barnes (Tennessee Tech) seconded. Motion approved.*

### **Roll call**

North Carolina wins after shout-off with Arkansas, which staged a surprisingly strong challenge in spite of being fewer in number.

Jeff Portnoy reminded everyone that the Southern Region is heart of NCHC pubs. Encouraged folks to read pubs and submit. Great forum in JNCHC written by Southern Region's own John Z about regime change. Pub board table upstairs. Next monograph coming out is on Honors Colleges, edited by Richard Badenhausen. Couple of other monographs that are complete and in the pipeline.

### **Adjournment**

*Aaron asked for motion to adjourn. Donna Clevinger (Miss State) so moved. Juan Antonio. **Meeting adjourned (early!) at 10:41AM***