

California Sociological Association

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June 1998 CSA Newsletter

California Sociological Association

NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Number 3

URGENT--ALERT!!

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS A CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM. IN ORDER TO HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD, YOUR BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED BY CSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JIM GLYNN ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 1998.

A Revised Constitution Proposed for CSA

A decade ago a constitution was written for the CSA, in anticipation of the organization being formed. The CSA was created a few months after the first constitution was written, and has grown into a durable organization with an institutional history and memory. Practices and procedures have evolved for conducting business and for dealing with daily operations.

Our evolving CSA policies and procedures differ in a number of respects from those envisioned when the CSA was only an idea and not a reality. A few examples may serve to illustrate this point. The first constitution delegates important

tasks to a now defunct position (Treasurer). The CSA assigns important duties to a number of committees (Membership, Publications, Scholarships, Nominations) which no longer function in the manner originally envisioned. Our current operating practices give voice to constituencies which were overlooked when the first constitution was written (e.g., faculty at private four-year colleges and universities), and our current operating practices give clearer voice to other constituencies (graduate students in contrast with students attending institutions with graduate departments).

A bigger problem concerns issues on which the first constitution is silent (delegation of many of the tasks associated with running a successful conference), confusing (multiple and overlapping membership categories), or inadequate (dispute resolution).

Acting in our capacities as CSA President and CSA Executive Director, and working in consultation with members of the CSA Executive Board and Governing Council, we have developed a new constitution for CSA consideration. We urge you to support the adoption of this new constitution.

Constitutional Referendum to be Held!

The provisions of the first (and current) CSA constitution require that a constitutional referendum be held in the event that 15% of CSA's members participate in a petition drive calling for a referendum. At the bi-annual CSA Governing Council meeting, the Executive Board and the Governing Council of CSA were presented with petitions from 25% of CSA's members calling for a referendum on a new constitution written by Executive Director James Glynn and President Charles Powers. The Executive Director to arrange for a referendum as soon as possible.

Council Urges YES! Executive Board Urges YES!

At the bi-annual joint meeting of the Executive Board and Governing Council held in San Francisco on April 17, the Executive Board and Governing Council agreed to urge all CSA members to vote in favor of replacing the CSA's original constitution with a new constitution by voting YES the referendum.

Expect Ballot in Mail

All members who have paid their 1997-1998 dues may vote on the proposed constitution. You can determine your status by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. If your name is followed by the numerals "98," you are a member in good standing (current dues have been paid). If your name is followed by the numerals "97," you paid your dues last year, but you have not yet paid this year. Only currently paid members--those with "98" following their name--can vote.

As a courtesy, the CSA continues to send copies of the CSA Newsletter to people who have been recent members. However, the computer-generated mailing labels that will be run for the ballot will be printed only for those people whose names are followed with "98."

The ballot will be mailed to all eligible voters about three or four days after the CSA Newsletter arrives. At the present time, we are asking that ballots be returned on or before July 15, 1998. However, this date may be revised depending on the production schedule and mailing process for the ballots. The due date will appear on the ballot.

The CSA's dues year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

Mailing labels have been updated as of May 2, 1998. If you believe that a mistake has been made, contact Jim Glynn at (805) 395-4294 or jglynn@bc.cc.ca.us.

CALIFORNIA SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Constitution

ARTICLE 1--NAME

SECTION 1 This organization shall be known as the California Sociological Association, referred to throughout this document as The Association.

ARTICLE 11--PURPOSE

SECTION 1 The purposes of The Association shall be threefold: (1) To promote the scientific study of society, with particular emphasis on the challenges facing the State of California; (2) To promote the dissemination of public-policy related sociological research; and (3) To foster the early professional involvement of students and continued professional involvement of practitioners and educators.

ARTICLE III--MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 Any person who is interested in one or more of the purposes of The Association shall be eligible for membership in the organization, according to the terms stipulated in Article I of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV--OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1 The Executive Board of The Association shall be comprised of President, immediate Past-President, President-Elect, Vice-President (North), Vice-President (South), Executive Director, Newsletter Editor, and Executive Editor.

SECTION 2 For the purpose of determining the constituency of the Vice-Presidents, the South shall include Santa Barbara County, Kern County, San Bernardino County, and all counties farther south. The North shall include all other counties.

SECTION 3 The Executive Board shall perform the following duties: a. Meet at least two (2) times annually, and otherwise upon the request of the President or upon the written request of two (20) of the members of the Executive Board; b. Approve, if appropriate, all regular and on-going expenses of The Association; and d. Mediate any internal disputes that may arise.

ARTICLE V--DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 The President shall be the executive officer of The Association. a. The President shall set the agenda for and preside over all meetings of the general membership and elected officers. b. The President, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall appoint all Standing and Ad Hoc Committee members and shall end their terms of service at her/his discretion. c. The President shall report the activities of The Association to the general membership at the annual meetings. d. The President shall act as the official spokesperson for The Association so long as her/his pronouncements and/or opinions are not contradictory to positions taken by The Association. e. The President shall assemble the slate of nominees for elective office each year.

SECTION 2 The President-Elect shall assist the President in carrying out the business of The Association. a. The President-Elect shall succeed the current President at the expiration of the term of office, if the current President should become incapacitated or should resign from office, or if the current President is recalled from office by a vote of the general membership. b. The President-Elect shall serve as Program Chairperson for the annual meetings held at the conclusion of his or her term as President-Elect. c. The

President-Elect shall select the theme for the year's annual meetings held at the end of her or his term as President-Elect and work with the Executive Director and appropriate Vice-President in implementing the annual meetings. d. The President-Elect has ultimate authority to decide the contents and organization of the program for the annual meetings.

SECTION 3 Each Vice-President will assist the Executive Director in the process of site selection for her/his section of the state. b. Each Vice-President shall aid in dissemination information to and recruiting participation from members and potential members in the geographic environs he/she represents. c. When the annual meetings are held in his/her part of the state, the Vice-President shall arrange for the physical delivery of all equipment and other supplies needed for the meetings, shall arrange for the volunteer staffing of a registration and information table at the conference, and shall be responsible for notifying the American Sociological Association of the recipients of awards and the year's slate of officers of The Association. d. After the year in which annual meetings are held in her or his part of the state, the Vice-President shall keep minutes of the annual meetings and distribute them to members of the Governing Council.

SECTION 4 The Executive Director shall assist the President in the ongoing operation and administration of the affairs of The Association. a. The Executive Director shall maintain and update the files of all members of The Association. b. The Executive Director shall be responsible for all accounting and financial activities of The Association. c. The Executive Director shall remind all members when their dues are payable. d. The Executive Director shall collect dues and accept all donation on behalf of The Association. e. The Executive Director shall give a financial report to the general members at the annual meetings. f. The Executive Director shall maintain or delegate maintenance of The Association's archives, containing those materials the Executive Director deems essential to preserve for future reference.

SECTION 5 The Newsletter Editor shall prepare, publish, and mail all editions of the California Sociological Association Newsletter. a. The Newsletter Editor shall maintain or delegate the maintenance of a Web Site for The Association.

SECTION 6 The Executive Editor shall prepare, publish, and make available all special and on-going publications of The Association, including but not limited to monographs, occasional issues in a series, books, anthologies, and any other special publications in print or electronic media.

ARTICLE VI--GOVERNING COUNCIL

SECTION 1 The Governing Council shall consist of the Executive Board and seven Governors-at-Large, representing (1) undergraduate students, (2) graduate students, (3) practitioners, (4) community colleges, (5) private colleges and universities, (6) the California State University System, and (7) the University of California.

SECTION 2 The Governing Council shall meet with the Executive Board twice yearly to discuss and vote on items on an agenda set by the President.

SECTION 3 Any past president(s) may be invited, at the discretion of the President, to serve in a non-voting capacity at the Governing Council meetings.

SECTION 4 Members of the Governing Council shall assist in the arrangements and preparations for the annual meetings of The Association.

ARTICLE VII--DUES

SECTION 1 Dues shall be set by the Governing Council of The Association.

SECTION 2 The fiscal year for which dues apply shall begin on September 1 and terminate on August 31.

ARTICLE VIII--CODE OF ETHICS

SECTION 1 The Association endorses the American Sociological Association's Code of Ethics and encourages all members to adhere to the letter and the spirit of the document.

ARTICLE IX--AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 Articles of Amendment may be submitted to the Executive Board, signed by any twenty (20) Members of The Association or by twenty percent (20%) of the Association's membership, whichever is the greater.

SECTION 2 Upon verification of signature by the Executive Director, the Executive Board shall determine the timing and manner of conducting a vote of the membership.

SECTION 3 This Constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) plurality of the votes cast.

ARTICLE X--RECALL

SECTION 1 Any officer of The Association may be subject to recall from office upon petition to the Executive Board by twenty (20) Members or twenty percent (20%) of the members, whichever is the greater.

SECTION 2 The Executive Board shall determine the timing and manner of conducting a vote of the membership.

SECTION 3 Any officer shall be recalled from office by a two-thirds (2/3) plurality of the votes cast.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I--MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

SECTION 1 Dues shall be set the the Governing Council.

ARTICLE II--FINANCE

SECTION 1 The Association shall be a non-profit organization that operates to benefit the field of sociology and in accordance with the purposes as identified in ARTICLE II of the Constitution.

SECTION 2 All officers serve as non paid volunteers of The Association.

SECTION 3 The Association shall maintain tax-exempt status, according to the laws of the State of California.

SECTION 4 The Executive Director shall prepare an annual budget that is based upon sound fiscal policy and shall submit is as part of the financial report for approval by The Association at the annual meetings.

SECTION 5 The Executive Director shall accept or reject any offers of donation, which may include, but not be limited to, real property, annuities, royalties, and cash.

SECTION 6 It shall be the policy of The Association to collect all dues and pay bills in a timely fashion.

SECTION 7 In the event of the dissolution of The Association, any unspent monies shall be disposed of by donation or other method approved by the Governing Council.

ARTICLE III--PUBLICATIONS

SECTION 1 Some official publications of The Association shall be available to non-members of The Association on a subscription or individual-price basis. The subscription or individual price shall be determined by the newsletter Editor or Executive Editor, as appropriate to their responsibilities.

ARTICLE IV--ANNUAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1 The timing and location of the annual meetings of The Association shall be determined by the Executive Board, after consultation with the Executive Director.

SECTION 2 The Program Chairperson of the annual meetings shall prepare and make available a preliminary schedule of meetings at least two months prior to the meetings.

SECTION 3 All participants in The Association's annual meetings must be members of The Association or specially invited guests.

ARTICLE V--ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 The President shall develop a ballot for elections and arrange for distribution of ballots to all members.

SECTION 2 Whenever practical, the American Sociological Association's model of double envelopes to assure anonymity shall be used for the collection of ballots.

SECTION 3 Elections shall conclude at least one month before the commencement of the annual meetings.

SECTION 4 In the event that any person elected to any office is unable to serve, the President has the option of appointing a person to fill the seat for the balance of the term or leaving the seat vacant.

ARTICLE VI--TERM OF OFFICE

SECTION 1 The term of office, for each of the following offices, shall be: (a) President-one year, (b) President-Elect-one year, (c) Vice-President (North)-two years (First full term beginning 1998), (d) Vice-President (South)-two years (First full term beginning 1999), (e) Executive Director-indeterminate, (f) Newsletter Editor-indeterminate, (g) Executive Editor-indeterminate, (h) Governors-at-Large-three years.

SECTION 2 The President-Elect becomes President at the end of the current President's term.

SECTION 3 The Executive Director, Newsletter Editor, and Executive Editor serve at the pleasure of the majority of the remaining members of the Executive Board.

SECTION 4 The newly-elected officers shall be installed at the Business Meeting at each year's annual meetings.

ARTICLE VII--AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Council, present and voting.

SECTION 2 Amendments to the By-Laws shall be announced at the annual meetings and shall be published and distributed to the membership in a timely manner.

Editor:

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The California Sociological Association Newsletter is a Publication of the California Sociological Association, a not-for-profit organization that represents members in the fields of education, research, sociological practice, and government service.

The California Sociological Association Newsletter is distributed to all members who are in good standing with the association. Unsolicited articles, book reviews, and letters are invited and should be mailed to the editor.

Officers of the California Sociological Association:

President: Chuck Powers, Santa Clara University

President Elect: Gordon Clanton, San Diego State University

Executive Director: James A. Glynn

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