2023 GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023, FROM 5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM
Loews Philadelphia Hotel, Congress Hall A

SUMMARY MINUTES

Charles Strauss, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, calls the business meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Catherine Osborn, Program Committee Chair, provides her report of the 2023 Annual Meeting. Her review included the committee's and individuals' efforts in creating panels for the conference. Osborn did give several warnings for future Annual Meetings surrounding withdrawals; eight presenters canceled at the last minute due to medical or financial strain, and some did not specify. It is encouraged that the ACHA find other avenues in which people can present without being in person. The second warning is that presenters are not registering with the American Historical Association (AHA) or the ACHA. Osborn pressed that it should be stressed to presenters the relationship between the ACHA and AHA and explain why they need to register for both, even if they only go to ACHA panels. She suggested that the ACHA do more fundraising for registration or travel finances of members to alleviate the financial burden some may be facing. She did note that the Annual Meeting is being made up of fewer and fewer Catholics writing about Catholic history. Instead, the meeting is now made up of anybody who writes about Catholic history. Charles Strauss added to Osborne's report about the relationship with the AHA and what the ACHA does to keep the registration fees low for members.

Nelson Minnich, CHR Editor, provided Editor’s Report for 2022. Volume CVIII (2022) consisted of 912 pages. It published sixteen articles, one essay in the "Journeys in Church History" series, one ACHA Presidential Address, two miscellanies, one Forum Review Essay, two review essays, eighty-seven book reviews, and five obituary notices. The editors received twenty-five article submissions in 2022. They fell into the following categories: general (one), early modern (nine), late modern (six), American (seven), and Latin American (two). Of these twenty-two articles, four were published, five were rejected, one was withdrawn, and twelve were evaluated and revised. Of the thirty-one articles submitted in 2021, twelve were published, twelve were rejected, three were withdrawn, and four were still pending. After providing his report, Minnich answered questions from the audience about Peter Guilday Prize.
Father Rick Girrbles provided members with an update on and pushed for donations to the [Christopher Kauffman Prize](#). The prize is three-quarters of the way complete, with a goal of $50,000. This prize would be awarded annually, and if members wanted to donate or had questions about donating, they should contact [Dr. Tricia Pyne](#) (410-864-4074), the archivist of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Charles Strauss, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, provided his Executive-Secretary Treasurer's Report. The first item was [membership numbers](#) which were 427 association members. 15 to 20 years ago, membership numbers were around the 600-700 range. During the COVID-19 pandemic, membership dropped to 399, so the numbers are gradually increasing, and the ACHA's Executive Committee made membership increase a priority for 2023. The second item was the [ACHA 2021-2022 budget vs. actual budget](#). The ACHA budgeted $107,750 for the school year, and the fiscal year begins in July and ends in June. From that budget of $107,750, only $104,664 was spent. The third item was the [ACHA endowment and financial performance for 2022](#). In January 2022, the ACHA investment portfolio was at $1.87 million. However, then there was a $368,000 decrease because of the market in the year 2022. At the time of the business meeting, the portfolio stood at $1.52 million. However, Charles explained that the ACHA policy is not to withdraw the endowment funds more than 4% a year and that when you calculate the 4% for this coming year, it will be much lower than last year because of the change in the market.

The business meeting then shifted to the new business. The first item is [Constitutional and Bylaw changes](#). Over the last year, the ACHA has looked at its Constitution and its bylaws and has noted some areas that needed updating, and also mentioned some ways that we could be more efficient as an association, and one of those ways has been to designate roles and responsibilities for different positions. Those changes include the following:

- a. Provide additional detail on the name and purpose of ACHA.
- b. Clarify the membership process.
- c. Split the position of Executive Secretary-Treasurer to Executive Director, Assistant Director, and Treasurer.
- d. Clarify the Officers and Executive Council.
- e. Clarify the schedule of ACHA meetings.
- f. Clarify the potential for compensation for chairing committees and, more formally, establishing a Finance Committee chaired by the Treasurer.
- g. Permit the ACHA to publish content online.

The most notable change, which the EC approved in their meeting on January 5, is that the Constitution lists an Executive-Secretary Treasurer. However, there have been times when those positions have been separated. The ACHA is proposing that the role of Executive-Secretary Treasurer should be separated again, and the ACHA should change the names of the positions to reflect better what's happening and what kinds of jobs people are playing. The new positions would be Executive Director, Assistant Director, and Treasurer. Since the EC had already
approved the changes, the next step is that the entire membership takes a look at the changes that were introduced in this meeting, and in 30 days, members will receive an electronic vote, similar to how members have voted for officers, and they can determine whether they think these changes should be by checking yay or nay.

Brenna Moore, President, shared information about upcoming meetings and other things members can participate in, such as the next Annual Meeting in San Francisco from January 4-6; the Spring Meeting, which happens every other year, will be happening in spring 2024 and the ACHA is still looking for a host; the Global Catholic Studies Network which is a network partnered with 50 institutions from around the world and members can join the email server; and the ACHA’s NEH SHARP Grant group will be hosting a conference March 24-25 which member can Zoom into and listen to panels.

An engaged membership open forum followed, which circled the following themes: change of titles presented in the Constitutional and bylaw changes, the relationship with the AHA and fees that are paid for during the Annual Meeting, and the planning for the 2024 Annual Meeting in San Francisco (with Program Committee member Monica Mercado).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.