

Annual Reports, 2017

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The one-hundred and tenth annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association took place at California State University, Northridge, in Northridge, California, August 3–5, 2017. The conference had 249 registered attendees, who participated in seventy different sessions. During the conference, Miroslava Chávez-García (University of California, Santa Barbara) spoke to the Latina/o Scholars Luncheon on the topic, “*A Dios: Migration, Gender and Heartbreak across the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.*” Verónica Castillo-Muñoz (University of California, Santa Barbara) spoke to the Western Association of Women Historians luncheon on the topic, “*Women, Intimacy, and Families across the Mexican-U.S. Borderlands.*” President Katherine G. Morrissey (University of Arizona) presented her presidential address, “*Traces and Representations of the U.S.-Mexico Frontera,*” which appears in expanded form in the *Pacific Historical Review* (Winter 2018).

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, Building 21, California State University, Northridge, August 3, 2017.

President Katherine Morrissey called the meeting of the PCB Council to order at 2:09 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance: President-Elect Mary Elizabeth Berry, former presidents Anne Hyde and George Sánchez, future president Andrew L. Johns, Marc S. Rodriguez representing the *Pacific Historical Review*, American Historical Association executive director James Grossman, Local Arrangements Committee chair Jessica Kim, Program

Committee co-chairs Michael Lansing and Stacey Smith, Council members Matthew Garcia, Andrew Kirk, Beverly Lemire, Lorena Oropeza, and Janet Ward, and executive director Kevin A. Leonard. Following introductions, the approval of the minutes was moved down in the agenda.

President Morrissey reported that the actions taken by the Council have reaped dividends: the PCB did not have to dip into reserves at all this year. Executive director Leonard presented the financial report, which led to questions about the organization's previous and future financial positions. The board discussed a stipend for the executive director and agreed that a significant stipend would place too great a burden on the PCB's finances.

Sánchez's financial committee reported that he has talked with department chairs, and chairs from the top 20 Ph.D.-granting departments in the region could give \$500 per year. Rodriguez suggested a motion to use \$20,000 from the PHR fund to constitute the basis of a new reserve fund—for fundraising. This money would not be used as operating funds. The motion was made by Sánchez and seconded by Kirk. The motion was approved unanimously by the voting members of the Council.

Rodriguez presented data from the *Pacific Historical Review*. Sánchez moved and Oropeza seconded the motion to approve new members to the editorial board: Andrea Geiger of Simon Fraser University, Julie Weise of the University of Oregon, and Henry Yu of the University of British Columbia. Rodriguez also reported that the *Pacific Historical Review* has a backlog due to special issues. Suggestions followed on how best to work with the University of California Press on publishing, advertising, and marketing.

Leonard and Rodriguez announced the awards. The names and titles appeared in the program. The two awards for the *Pacific Historical Review* were the Louis Knott Koontz

Memorial Award for most deserving contribution to the *Pacific Historical Review* to Devra Anne Weber (University of California, Riverside) for “Wobblies of the Partido Liberal Mexicano: Reenvisioning Internationalist and Transnational Movements through Mexican Lenses” (May 2016), and the W. Turrentine Jackson Prize for a graduate student whose essay has been adjudged by the *PHR*’s editors to be of outstanding quality to Heather M. Sinclair (University of Texas, El Paso) for “White Plague, Mexican Menace: Migration, Race, Class, and Gendered Contagion in El Paso, Texas, 1880–1930” (November 2016). The three Pacific Coast Branch awards were as follows:

The W. Turrentine Jackson Award to the author of a dissertation adjudged to be the most outstanding on any aspect of the history of the American West in the twentieth century; Margaret Huettl (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) for “Nindandishinaabewimin: Ojibwe Peoplehood in the North American West, 1854–1954” (University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2016).

The Norris and Carol Hundley Award for best book published in history during the past calendar year by a scholar living in the region served by the PCB: Jessica Marglin (University of Southern California) for *Across Legal Lines: Jews and Muslims in Modern Morocco* (Yale University Press, 2016).

The Pacific Coast Branch Award for the best book submitted by a scholar who resides in the states and provinces from which the PCB draws its membership, offered only for first books: Peter A. Kopp (New Mexico State University) for *Hoptopia: A World of Agriculture and Beer in Oregon’s Willamette Valley* (University of California Press, 2016).

Janet Ward reported on the executive director search on behalf of the committee, consisting of her, Morrissey, Berry, David Igler, and Betsy Jameson. The committee had conducted two

interviews. The third would occur later in the day. A lively discussion followed on when the new executive director would begin, and how this needs to happen sooner rather than later, but other people do not want to rush the decision. They wanted to make certain that the right person is selected.

Kirk, Oropeza, Rodriguez, and Smith reported on possible site selections for the next conference.

Those present also discussed the relationship between the American Historical Association and its Pacific Coast Branch. AHA Executive Director Jim Grossman offered to provide as much help as possible. They discussed what the AHA can do for the PCB, including providing expertise in conference planning and possibly in program submissions.

Morrissey then thanked everyone for their service, especially those leaving their posts, including former president David Iglar; Council members Catherine Gudis (University of California, Riverside), Lorena Oropeza (University of California, Davis), and Coll Thrush (University of British Columbia); Nominations Committee members Erika Pérez (University of Arizona), Matthew Basso (University of Utah), and Jennifer Seltz (Western Washington University); Awards Committee members Andrew Highsmith (University of California, Irvine, Pacific Coast Branch Award), Ernesto Chávez (University of Texas, El Paso, W. Turrentine Jackson Dissertation Award), and Hazel Hahn (Seattle University, Norris and Carol Hundley Award); and executive director Kevin Leonard. She announced the incoming president-elect, Andrew L. Johns (Brigham Young University); new Council members Sara Dant (Weber State University), Andrea Geiger (Simon Fraser University), and Natale Zappia (Whittier College); and new Nominations Committee members Stacey Smith (Oregon State University), Tamara

Venit Shelton (Claremont McKenna College), and Anna Booker (Whatcom Community College).

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Kevin A. Leonard, Former Executive Director

Michael S. Green, Executive Director