

MINUTES

**WPSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH , 2008
5:15 – 6:15 P.M.
MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT HOTEL
ELIZABETH E**

1. *Call to Order*

The business meeting was called to order by President Peter Steinberger at 5:21 p.m.

2. *Moment of Silence in Honor of Donald R. Matthews, University of Washington – President of WPSA 1978-79*

President Peter Steinberger began the meeting by taking a moment of silence to honor former University of Washington professor Donald R. Matthews, who died in November 2007. Steinberger described Matthews as “one of the west’s most distinguished political scientists.”

3. *Awards*

An awards presentation ceremony was presided over by President Peter Steinberger.

The Dissertation Award was presented by Dan Crowley to Dr. Joseph Wright for his dissertation, “Political Regimes and Foreign Aid: How Aid Affects Growth and Democratization.”

The Pi Sigma Alpha Award was presented by Peter Steinberger to Patricia Strach, SUNY Albany, and Kathleen Sullivan, Ohio University, for their paper, “Beyond the State: Governance, Status, and Welfare Provision in the United States.”

The Betty Nesvold Women & Politics Award was presented by Mary Caputi to Lori Marso, Union College, for her paper, “Feminism’s Quest for Common Desires.”

The WPSA Best Paper on Latina/Latino & Politics Award was presented by Matt Barretto to Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel R. Sanchez, and Jason L. Morin, University of New Mexico, for their paper, “The Institutional Mobility of Minorities in Congress.”

The Charles Redd Award for Best Paper on the Politics of the American West was presented by Peter Steinberger to Charles W. Gossett, California State University Pomona, and Gregory Lewis, Georgia State

University, for their paper, “Explaining Support for Same-Sex Marriage in California.”

The PRQ Best Article Award was presented by Ted Lascher to Rene Rocha, University of Iowa, for his June 2007 PRQ Article, “Black-Brown Coalitions in Local School Board Elections.”

Peter thanked all the committee members for hard work.

4. Reports

a. San Diego Convention

Program Chair Andrea Simpson reported that we have had a very good conference, with 216 panels, 746 papers, and 850 preregistered participants.

Local Arrangements co-chair Barbara Morris welcomed everyone to the San Diego. She said that the association took a chance by scheduling the conference during Easter week and at a more expensive hotel. The chance proved a great success. Noelle Norton, the other co-chair, announced that the conference was the most second most successful in the association’s history.

b. *Political Research Quarterly*

Political Research Quarterly editor Amy Mazur reported that she and Clayton Cornell are in their second year as editors. She reported that this was the 60th anniversary of *PRQ*. She also talked about recent changes in *PRQ*, including the use of an electronic submission process and the debut of a new service that will allow readers to access manuscripts on line prior to publication. She also reported that past *PRQ* articles are now available online, dating back for most of the publication’s history. Finally, she reported an increase in submissions and a reduction in acceptances.

c. Executive Director

WPSA Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds gave an overview of the events leading to Executive Council’s passage of a resolution on Thursday morning reaffirming the association’s commitment to mutual respect and tolerance, and condemning efforts to discriminate. The Council’s policy statement was in response to a report that the owner of the convention hotel had contributed a donation to an initiative that would ban same-sex marriages in California.

Betty reported that the association's finances are solid and that she has been moving forward in planning future meetings. She announced future meeting location and dates: Next year we will be in Vancouver, British Columbia, which is the first time outside the association has met outside of the U.S. She reminded members to check the status of their passports as soon as possible, so that they don't have problems crossing the border. She announced these other conference dates and locations:

2010 San Francisco
2011 San Antonio
2012 Portland

Betty reported that she will be retiring in September 2009. The association is in the process of candidate development. Peter Steinberger is the chair of the search committee looking for a successor.

d. Treasurer

Treasurer Gil St. Clair reported that the association continues to be solvent. He reported that the association had income of \$92,691.62 last year, expenses of \$83,875.29, and excess revenues of \$816.33.

e. Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Norrande presented the WPSA Nominating Committee slate for election:

Vice President and Program Chair, 2009-2010

Christine DiStefano, University of Washington

Executive Council 2009 – 2012

Region A

Susan Baer, San Diego State University
Kim Geron, California State University, Eastbay

Region B

Arturo Vega, St. Mary's University, Texas

Region C

Julie Novkov, University at Albany, SUNY

The motion to approve the slate was passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

There was no old business.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Introduction of Incoming WPSA President Andrea Simpson

Outgoing President Peter Steinberger presented a gavel to Andrea Simpson, marking the beginning of her term as the new WPSA president.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Clucas, Acting Recording Secretary