

**National Collegiate Honors Council  
Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
Westin Peachtree Hotel, Chastain E—Atlanta, GA  
Saturday, November 11, 2017 8:00-9:00 AM**

**I. Welcome—Art Spisak, President**

Spisak welcomed audience and hoped everybody was enjoying the conference. He introduced Julie Holm, Conference Planner, and the national office staff who helped organize the conference. He also introduced the Conference Planning Committee Chair, Naomi Yavneh Klos.

**II. Announcements and Introduction of NCHC Staff—Mary Beth Rathe, Executive Director**

Rathe introduced a new staff, Edmund Tan.

**III. Adoption of the Agenda—Art Spisak, President**

Motion made by Ryan Diehl, seconded by Asha Deka

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**IV. Approval of the 2016 Annual Business Meeting Minutes, as posted and distributed—Art Spisak, President**

Motion made by Mary Kate Andreport, seconded by Jim Ford, with friendly some corrections.\*

The 2016 Annual Business Meeting Minutes was approved by unanimous consent.

**V. Treasurer's Report—Steve Engel, Treasurer**

Steve Engel reported that NCHC's finance was in good shape and compared the structure of our finance to honors program/college finance. Engel asked the audience to give to the Founders Fund. He explained that NCHC had four separate endowment funds, totaling \$2.9 million to fund various opportunities. It provided long term viability of the organization. 2. To explain the annual operational budget, Engel referenced the pie chart that was distributed previously. He noted that we would not know the final financial status until the end of the year, after the conference. He reported that in 2016 NCHC borrowed money from the endowment, but this year we did not have to do so even with short staff. He noted that the last time we increased dues was in 2005, 12 years ago as an inflation adjustment. The Board of Directors and the Finance Committee had been exploring dues increase and looked into the tiered dues. As an informational item, Engel announced that the Finance Committee planned to propose the dues increase along with the tiered due at the February Board meeting, and after the Board discussion this would then be voted in 2018. New dues structure would not take into effect until 2020, even if it was voted affirmatively in 2018. Engel noted that this would mean we would have to wait 15 years to increase dues since we last raised the dues. A member asked whether NCHC was setting our dues structure to reflect how we would be financially in 2020 and asked if we should put dues proposal that would automatically raise the dues annually. Engel answered that

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\* Correct the year of the minutes and Ryan Diehl's name.

NCHC would be increasing the professional membership dues also, and other cost cutting measures were in place. For example, the biggest cost saving was the national office cost and the Executive Director had been trimming down the staff and cutting the travel cost. Alana Giesemann agreed with Engel that the office was cutting the cost every way it could. Engel added that even though NCHC borrowed money from NCHC Endowment last year with the Board's approval for up to \$10,000, NCHC borrowed approximately \$42,000 from the NCHC Endowment and would expect to pay back to the endowment at the end of this year.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. 2017 Conference—Naomi Yavneh Klos, President Elect**

Yavneh Klos thanked the audience and noted that there were many proposals that related to the conference theme, Just Honors. She reported that the number of attendees exceeded our expectation: we had 2023 registrants and welcomed two new members, resulting in 898 members. She also noted that Chinese Honors Organization would soon be our partner and thanked all and staff's effort in making this conference a success.

### **B. 2018 Conference—Richard Badenhausen, Vice President**

Badenhausen announced that our next conference would be in Boston. The Conference Planning Committee, consisting of 39 members, had met in Lincoln, NE, and had done a conference site visit. He stressed four things NCHC members should know about our next conference: 1. It would be held in a great city, would be a lot of fun, and have a new component—story slam—that encourages audience to learn about each other in a competitive setting; 2. There would be a Teaching and Learning strand to emphasize the conference theme: Learning to Transgress; 3. There would be Professional development opportunities for staff, such as DIH lead by our Board of Director, Melissa Johnson; 4 NCHC contracted bell hooks as our plenary speaker.

Yavneh Klos introduced Andy Falter , who collected \$80,000 from various sponsors for the Atlanta conference and asked the audience to send ideas for sponsors for the Boston conference.

## **VII. New Business—Art Spisak, President**

**A. Reinstatement of Secretary Position**—Spisak asked the membership to vote on the reinstatement of the secretary position. He explained that in an effort to reduce the size of the Board of Directors from 24 to 18 or 19, an ad hoc committee had recommended eliminating the secretary position. The Board since then realized that the position was necessary. This would be on the list of items to be voted on the ballot, along with the candidates.

**B. Annual Report/Strategic Priorities**—Spisak announced that the Board of Directors approved three strategic priorities. At the summer 2017 meeting, the Board discussed details of the 2018-2020 strategic priorities, and at the fall 2017 meeting, the Board added a 4<sup>th</sup> priority—diversity and inclusion. The 4<sup>th</sup> priority was yet to be developed at the Winter 2018 Board meeting.

**VIII. Slate of Nominees—introduced by Jerry Herron, Past President**

Spisak introduced Jerry Herron, the Past President and the Chair of the Nominations Committee. Herron asked the nominees to stand.

**A. Officer Nominees**

**Vice Presidential Nominees (Vote for 1)**

Kathleen King (Hillsborough Community College)

Elaine Torda (Orange County Community College)

**Nominations from the Floor:**

None

There being no nomination from the floor, the nomination was closed by unanimous consent. (No motion and second)

**B. Board of Directors Nominees**

**1. Professional — Three Year Term—Vote for Three**

Francois Amar (University of Maine)

Angela Bolte (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

James Ford (Rogers State University)

Aaron Hanlin (Seminole State University)

Michael Lane (University of Maryland Eastern Shore)

Quakish Liner (Broward College)

James Buss (Salisbury University)

**Nominations from the Floor:**

Clay Motley (Florida Gulf Coast University)

There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed by unanimous consent. (no motion and second)

**2. Student — Two Year Term—vote for Two**

Sydney Keenan (Purdue University)

Sabrina Maristela (Purdue University)

Bailey Skidmore (Purdue University)

**Nominations from the Floor:**

Christina McIntyre nominated Parker Adamson (Virginia Tech University)

Mary Kate Andrepont nominated Audrey Shriner (Loyola University of New Orleans)

There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed by unanimous consent. (no motion and second)

**IX. Recognition of Retiring Board Members—Art Spisak, President**

Ray Davis, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore

Jerry Herron, Wayne State University  
Maureen Kelleher, Northeastern University  
Kathleen King, Hillsborough Community College  
Stacy Rice, Northern Virginia Community College  
Leslie Sargent Jones, Appalachian State University (stepped down earlier this  
year)  
Abhilasha Deka, Suffolk University (Student)  
Sean Finn, University of Iowa (Student)

- X. President's Address—Art Spisak, President (Appendix A)**
- XI. Passing of the gavel--Art Spisak to Naomi Yavneh Klos**
- XII. Adjournment—Yavneh Klos**  
Yavneh Klos adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kyoko Amano  
Secretary, NCHC

Appendix A:

## **Presidential Address**

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**

**Business Meeting**

Next on the agenda is what can be called the president's retirement speech. For, the following item on the agenda is my passing of the gavel to president elect, Naomi Yavneh. I'll try not to be too, too serious, and I'll also to be brief, because in my church the most popular priest was always the one who gave the shortest sermon.

I've been part of the NCHC leadership for six years: specifically, I was elected to the NCHC Board of Directors back in 2012; served a three-year term and then was elected to the leadership cycle, which means one year as VP, one year as president elect, my current year as president, and then next year as immediate past president. I don't know how much you all know about leadership of the NCHC, but before I became involved with the board, I knew precious little about it. So, **you** might be wondering what it's been like to have been part of the NCHC leadership for these six years – to have seen the workings of honors education at a very personal level, at the national and international levels, and also the business side of things, since NCHC is a nonprofit organization with assets over two million dollars. If you'd like to hear just what my own personal experience has been, I'll start with a story.

While I was working on my master's degree in classics at John Carroll University, which is in the Cleveland, Ohio area, I was also teaching Latin and English for the Cleveland Public School system – an experience, which I will tell you, was quite the introduction to the wonderful world of education and my chosen profession. At the very large high school in which I taught I would regularly have lunch with a small group of fellow-teachers, who, unlike me, were all veterans of the secondary school system and what you could call lifers. At one of those lunches one of that group – his name was Bob Ross – let it be known to the rest of us that as the chair of the business department at our large high school he was of late attending Saturday morning, two-hour leadership training sessions that had been mandated by the Cleveland Public School system. I repeat: Saturday morning, system-mandated, two-hour, leadership training sessions. We asked Bob what those sessions were like, certain that we'd get an earful, since the bureaucratic inefficiency of this large

public school system was notorious. Bob, who had naturally curly hair, a cherub-like face, and was the absolute master of the sardonic, gave us a memorable single word response to our very loaded question on what those mandatory training sessions were like: after just a brief pause for thought his response was, and I still remember him vividly even after decades saying his single word response with his cherub-like face and innocent expression – and now let me see if I can duplicate his tone: “Awesome!” With that single-word reply and his tone he managed to convey all that he felt at having to go through the ordeal of an early Saturday morning, two-hour, leadership training session. Thereafter, btw, in honor of Bob’s highly enlightening response, we christened him Awesome Bob.

Now, after that story you may be a bit uncertain about what my own response is going to be about my six years (and still counting) as part of NCHC leadership. [pause] No need for concern. Although I am going to use Awesome Bob’s word to describe my own experience, it will carry a completely different meaning as well as a qualifying modifier. My own feelings about my six years in the NCHC leadership is that it’s been friggin’ awesome, and I’d recommend it to all who consider honors education as their profession and field of study.

Why such high praise? First and foremost, the NCHC is not the Cleveland Public School system, which, like most if not all large, inner-city school systems back in those days, was an underfunded, worn and torn bureaucratic quagmire, trying valiantly, at least in in some instances, to educate young people while at the same time dealing with seemingly insolvable social issues. In contrast, the NCHC – our organization – is, in my opinion, right poised for a substantial leap in its development. We represent the field and profession of honors education, which embodies for the majority of colleges and universities what excellence is for higher education. As such, the NCHC and the field of honors education is rife with opportunities to do good in the world.

I did not see honors education that way when I started as a NCHC board member in 2012. I didn’t see it at all as a field of study and a profession in itself, as I now do. Nor did I see the role, the obligations, and responsibilities that the NCHC had as THE organization that represents honors education nationally. And I certainly wasn’t aware of the potentially game-changing opportunities leadership in the NCHC offered. For example, our sister org, the National Association for Gifted

Children, has over the years gotten hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funds to expand gifted education to underprivileged groups of students. We could do the same for honors students. We could, for example, with funding from the Department of education, help our students to treat in more depth, the issues of social injustice that Naomi has addressed with this conference. For, if anyone can solve these complex issues, it's honors students.

So, in sum, why has my experience with the NCHC been awesome? Because it's given me opportunity, inspiration, vision, and direction in my chosen field of education.

A few words in conclusion: as anyone in a leadership position realizes, it's the people with whom you work that in large part determine your accomplishments. There are six people with whom I've worked most closely as NCHC president. I'd like to recognize them by name: the NCHC executive director, Mary Beth Rathe, and then the Executive Cmte members, Jerry Herron, Immediate Past President, Naomi Yavneh, President Elect, Richard Badenhausen, Vice President, Kyoko Amano, Secretary, and Steve Engel, Treasurer. This is the group that leads the NCHC between board meetings. They're an accomplished, smart, and dedicated group, and they deserve your recognition. I also want to acknowledge the other fifteen NCHC board members and our parliamentarian for their strong leadership and support. I ask that they stand. There are, of course, others in the NCHC who are leaders – the NCHC staff, who, as full-timers, lead us volunteers – not an easy job; there are also the many talented and dedicated chairs and co-chairs of our standing committees, who do so much for the NCHC and honors education. I thank them all and have been pleased to work with and get to know more than a few of them.

Thank you.