

Letter from John F. Stephens, Executive Director, ASA,

To the ASA Chapter Officers and Members

Since certain problems and practices are common to the effective administration of all of the chapters which make up the American Studies Association, the Committee on Regional Chapters decided to prepare this *Handbook for Regional Chapters* in which to note the duties of chapter officers, the resources at hand, and the best practices for handy reference. This *Handbook* also usefully describes the rules and customs that govern the relationship between regional and national organizations in the American Studies Association. Let me note how the Office of Executive Director is prepared to assist the chapters in strengthening regional networks and developing positive interactions with the national organization.

The Office of Executive Director has the responsibility of cooperating with the regional chapters whose members may be largely or wholly drawn from the national organization. Such cooperation may take many forms, but includes maintaining mailing lists, administering rebates, keeping financial records, advertising regional activities in the *ASA Newsletter*, and assisting chapters in taking the necessary steps to become legally incorporated. Such cooperation might in the future involve assisting in planning regional conferences, encouraging consortia groupings among the chapters, publishing programs, journals, or newsletters, and keeping financial books. Such cooperation also requires me periodically to assess the condition of each chapter to insure that the chapter holds regular elections, that it meets and/or conducts other activities on a reasonably regular basis, that it actually spends its financial rebate from the ASA and uses it in meaningful ways, and that the nature of its activities does not exclude or discourage the participation of significant segments of the regional membership. If I receive reports that a chapter is inactive or ineffective in serving the majority of ASA members in the region, it is my duty to make appropriate inquiries and, if the concerns are not allayed, to take steps to correct the problem.

The regional chapters usually cannot provide the range of services provided by the national organization, and yet their size and nature often make for stronger loyalty than the larger and more impersonal society can command. The regional chapters usually cannot offer the diversity of participation offered by the national organization, and yet their cohesiveness enables them to experiment and innovate in ways that can later instruct the larger society. Special efforts to develop close cooperation can make these differences work to the benefit of all parties.

*John F. Stephens, September 1997*

## Foreword

*Bryan Le Beau, Mid-America ASA Representative and  
Chair of the ASA Committee on Regional Chapters*

The purpose of this Handbook is to assist ASA regional chapters in developing strong programs and a productive relationship with the national American Studies Association organization. This effort grew out of meetings of ASA regional officers and representatives at the Association's annual conferences beginning in 1989. As the statement by past-ASA president Allen Davis (published here) makes abundantly clear, such vitality is a part of the heritage and tradition of the American Studies Association. Now, as in the past, the value of the national Association depends on its grass roots support and the efforts of many individuals at the local level.

The *Handbook* provides an overview of the American Studies Association, its history and purposes. It also contains basic information about regional groups and linkages to the national office that are of common interest to all chapter affiliates. One section traces the history and functions of the initiative to bring regional representatives together that resulted in formation of the Committee for Regional Chapters in 1993. The section on chapters includes descriptions of successful regional programs and initiatives that can serve as models and catalysts for other chapters where appropriate. The book offers some suggestions for dealing with common difficulties if they arise. Finally, there is a reference section including important dates and the addresses of current staff and officers of the national association, of representatives on the Committee for Regional Chapters, of major officers of regional chapters for 1997-1998, lists of departments and programs of American Studies, and other useful information.

This guide is meant to serve, not to "instruct." Further, it is intended to be a fluid, ever-updated resource for chapters and their participants. The drafters of the 1993 edition recognized and supported the diversity among the eleven regional chapters. With widely differing geographical boundaries, institutional affiliations, and mix of members, the chapters have naturally developed different types and schedules of programs and activities to best suit the needs of their local Americanists. Thus, rather than presenting itself as an end-all, authoritative "master plot" for all the ASA chapters, the Handbook is meant as a compendium of information that can be collected, shared, revised, and updated continuously to reflect evolving chapter priorities, needs, and growth.

In 1993 we included materials that came out of the meetings of chapter representatives held at the national ASA conventions beginning in 1989. We asked for input from officers and former officers of chapters across the country and built into the *Handbook* sections that could be expanded in the future. To all of these ends, the 1994 edition, edited by Blanche M. G. Linden (New England ASA), was reorganized and expanded through contributions from representatives of the various regions. Thanks to ASA Executive Director John Stephens, we were able to access information and reports developed and collected by the national office over the last few years.

*Bryan Le Beau, August 1997*

**PART ONE**

**THE AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

## *The ASA: Its History, Purpose, and Functions*

### HISTORY

The American Studies Association was chartered in 1951 and now has approximately 5,000 individual and 140 institutional members representing many different fields and types of institutions. (See the list of institutional members and their locations in the section on "Useful Information.") The organization is financed by membership contributions and a trust fund and is administered through a national office located in Washington, D.C. The Association also provides an umbrella for the 12 local chapters for whom this Handbook is intended. (See the U.S. map of ASA districts.)

ASA individual members are drawn from the disciplines of history, literature, religion, art, philosophy, music, science, folklore, ethnic studies, anthropology, material culture, museum studies, sociology, government, communications, education, library science, gender studies, popular culture, and others. They include faculty and students associated with American Studies programs in colleges and secondary schools; public historians working in cultural institutions; teachers and professionals in other fields whose interests extend beyond their specialty; museum directors and librarians interested in all segments of American life; public officials and administrators concerned with the broadest aspects of education; and independent scholars pursuing their own projects through consulting, grants, or personal funds.

With such a diverse body of interests and affiliations, ASA members view American Studies from many perspectives. However, members share an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to the study of American culture and society.

### WHAT THE ASA DOES

The ASA provides a forum and resources through which people of diverse interests can exchange ideas about American life and values. Through its publications, conferences, and local chapters, the ASA carries the intellectual and pedagogical philosophy of the field of American Studies to Americanists throughout the world.

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS:** The ASA holds an annual, four-day conference each year. The meeting includes a keynote address by the in-coming ASA President and presentation of awards; panel presentations by Americanists from throughout the world on all aspects of American Studies; meetings of the ASA standing committees; special receptions, including one for foreign Americanists; opportunities to schedule interviews for academic posts; a book exhibit; and other related activities. The meeting schedule through 1997 is:

October 30-November 2, 1997, Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

November 19-22, 1998, Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, Washington

October 28-31, 1999, Le Centre Sheraton, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

**AMERICAN QUARTERLY:** All members receive AQ four times a year. AQ helps the ASA to provide "a sense of direction to studies in the culture of the United States, past and present" by publishing essays and book reviews on American civilization. Editors encourage the lively debate and the innovative scholarship that has always characterized the American Studies community. They especially welcome contributions from ASA members.

**Submitting Articles to *American Quarterly*:** The editorial office of *American Quarterly* has relocated (effective January 1, 1994) from the Smithsonian Institution to Georgetown University. The new editor is Lucy

Maddox. Other members of the editorial staff are Teresa Murphy, Associate Editor; Barry Shank, Book Review Editor; and Katherine Grier, Exhibitions Editor.

The journal publishes interdisciplinary articles dealing with all aspects of American life and culture as well as articles on the teaching of American Studies and related subjects. We welcome submissions in the many disciplines and areas of interest represented by the readers of the *Quarterly*, including (but not limited to) history, literature, folklore, sociology, music, art and art history, popular culture, material culture, film, gender studies, women's studies, and ethnic studies.

The usual length of articles submitted to the journal is approximately 30 manuscript pages, although this length is not prescriptive. Submissions should be prepared according to the *Chicago Manual of Style* and should be double-spaced throughout, including quotations and notes. Decisions about publication are made with the advice of specialist reviewers and the Board of Managing Editors, which meets four times a year. To submit an article for consideration, send *three* copies of the manuscript, as well as a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like to have the copies returned, to the following address: Lucy Maddox, Editor, *American Quarterly*, Department of English, Georgetown University, Washington, DC 20057; phone 202/687-7539; fax 202/687-1923.

Authors whose manuscripts are accepted for publication will be asked to submit the final versions of their articles on a computer disk, preferably in WordPerfect or another DOS format. All initial submissions, however, should be in typescript.

**ASA NEWSLETTER:** All members receive the *Newsletter* four times a year. Its aim is to promote a broader awareness of the complex institutional, economic, and political challenges now facing the American Studies community. The *Newsletter* also serves as a clearinghouse for news of ASA chapters and committees, conferences and meetings, fellowships and grants, employment opportunities, publications, and other programs of interest to ASA members.

**GUIDE TO AMERICAN STUDIES RESOURCES:** Started in 1994, this includes a full membership roster as well as a directory of American Studies programs; resources of interest to ASA members, such as announcements of meetings of note, information about regional chapters, deadlines for submission of grants, addresses of significant American Studies centers, research sites, and periodicals. The *Guide* also includes other items of particular interest to ASA members, such as the register of winners of prizes awarded over the years by the Association, and its activities and services. It is distributed by the Johns Hopkins University Press. All ASA members receive the *Guide* free, included in the cost of membership; The price for individual non-members of the ASA is \$25; and for libraries and other institutions, \$35.

**DIRECTORY OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN AMERICAN STUDIES:** This 70-page publication includes contact information, program specializations, information on graduate faculty, and 1996-1997 American Studies dissertations and theses for American Studies programs. (Price for ASA Members: \$20)

**AMERICAN STUDIES CURRICULUM RESOURCES GUIDE:** ASCR makes available course outlines and bibliographies in a wide variety of areas, ranging from introductory American Studies courses to graduate seminars on special topics. It contains a list by subject of over 900 syllabi from American Studies programs across the country. The list is partially annotated and contains an order form. The syllabi are located in the Office of the Executive Director and will be sent for the cost of copying. (Price for ASA Members: \$20)

**THE INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN AMERICAN STUDIES (GRADUATE):** This publication contains introductory course syllabi drawn from a range of different types of American Studies graduate programs. (Price for ASA Members: \$20)

**THE INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN AMERICAN STUDIES (UNDERGRADUATE):** This publication contains introductory course syllabi drawn from a range of different types of American Studies graduate programs. (Price for ASA Members: \$20)

**ASA SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE:** ASA members receive a special discount on *American Studies International* (\$20 per year), the *Canadian Review of American Studies* (\$20), and *Prospects* (The Annual of American Culture Studies) (\$38). Members may also subscribe to *American Studies* (\$15) and the *Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* (\$10) at the time they become ASA members or renew their membership. Only current ASA members may use the subscription service.

The ASA will verify upon request the receipt or placement of orders through the subscription service. However, the editorial management of each of these magazines is independent, and the ASA is not responsible for any other aspect of subscription fulfillment. If your address changes during the year, you must notify the office of the journal directly. Subscribers with other mailing difficulties (claims for lost issues, etc.) must also contact the office of the journal directly. If you wish to obtain a precise production schedule, please contact the journals directly. Addresses are as follows:

*American Studies*, 2102 Wescoe Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045  
*American Studies International*, George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052  
*Canadian Review of American Studies*, University of Calgary Press, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada  
*Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas*, P. O. Box 97271, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76718-7271  
*Prospects*, Journals Fulfillment Manager, Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573

These publications may also be acquired directly through the publishers. Rates for other ASA publications are only available to individual ASA members, institutional members, and to members of an affiliated, international American Studies association. For non-member rates on these publications, please contact the Office of the Executive Director, American Studies Association, 1120 19th St. NW, Suite 301, Washington, D.C.; (202) 467-4783. All orders must be pre-paid. Mail payment and order to the American Studies Association, P. O. Box 630304, Baltimore, MD 21263-0304.

**ASA REGIONAL CHAPTERS:** All ASA members automatically belong to one of the 12 regional chapters, several of which issue newsletters and all of which meet at least once a year. It is an ASA tradition to encourage strong regional participation.

**ASA ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM:** Six prizes are awarded annually: the John Hope Franklin Publication Prize for the best published book in American Studies; the Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize for the best completed dissertation in American Studies; the Bode-Pearson Prize for outstanding contributions to American Studies; the Wise-Susman Prize for the best student paper presented at the annual meeting; the Annette K. Baxter Awards to provide travel assistance to outstanding graduate students on the annual meeting program; and the Mary C. Turpie Prize for outstanding contributions to teaching, advising, and program development in American Studies at the local or regional level.

**INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:** ASA supports and assists programs for teaching American Studies abroad, encourages the exchange of teachers and students, and maintains informal relations with American Studies associations in 35 countries.

**ASA GOVERNANCE:** A National Council, whose 19 voting members are elected by the full membership of the ASA, administers the Association. Each year, five new members are elected for three-year terms; one additional seat is reserved for a student councilor. The President, President-Elect, and Past President serve on the Council. Candidates are chosen by a Nominating Committee. ASA members have the right to add candidates by petition.

**ASA STANDING COMMITTEES:** Important ASA functions are carried out by the membership through standing committees that rotate periodically. Currently, the ASA has the following committees: Finance; Nominating; Annual Program; American Studies Programs (offering minors, majors, advanced degrees); Local Arrangements; International; Minority Scholars; Regional Chapters; Students; Women's; Subcommittee on Professional Conduct; Subcommittee on Public Affairs; Bode-Pearson Prize; John Hope Franklin Publication Prize; Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize; Constance Rourke Article Prize; and Gene Wise-Warren Susman Student Paper Prize. (See the listing of ASA Officers, Committees, and Staff for 1996-1997 in the section on "Useful Information.")

**ASA MEMBERSHIP:** For membership information and application forms, write or phone Natalie Garrity, Customer Service Representative, Journals Publishing Division, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218-4319; 410/516-6968. To place an order using Visa or MasterCard, call toll-free 800/548-1784 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET. Membership is available for a calendar year only. Persons who join by October 1, 1998 will be enrolled for the 1998 calendar year. Membership applications received after that date

will be effective for 1999, although certain benefits--discounts on ASA publications, members' rates for Annual Meeting registration and hotel--are available immediately.

**ASA BY-LAW AMENDMENT FOR  
A REGIONAL CHAPTERS COMMITTEE  
(ARTICLE V: Committees,  
sec. 10, adopted in 1993):**

The Association shall have as one of its standing committees the Regional Chapters Committee. The Regional Chapters Committee shall have as its function to keep the Council and the Association's membership informed of the regional chapters' current activities, interests, and needs; to act as a liaison between the Association and the regional chapters; and to have responsibility for special tasks involving the Association's regional chapters. The Regional Chapters Committee shall be composed of one member from each of the regional chapters. The members shall be named by the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Council, following a request to the regional chapters for their recommendations and an open call to the membership for self-nominations and suggestions. Members of the Regional Chapters Committee shall be members of their respective chapters, as well as of the Association. Each of these members shall serve three year staggered terms. The Executive Committee, with the approval of the Council, shall select a chair of the Regional Chapters Committee from those appointed to the Committee. He/she shall serve a single term of three years.

**Understandings (Not Part of the By-Law Amendment):**

- A. The Council has the authority to appoint standing committees as it deems necessary "in order to advance the activities of the Association." (Art. V, Sec. 1)
- B. The Regional Chapters represent a constituency of equal importance to, and therefore merit equal encouragement from, the Association as any of the groups currently holding standing committee status.
- C. "All standing committees. . .shall report in writing to the Executive Director at least one month in advance of the annual business meeting of the Council. The Executive Director shall distribute such reports to the members of the Council and they shall be published in whole or in substance in the American Studies Association newsletter." (Art. V, Sec. 3)
- D. Pursuant to C, the Regional Chapters Committee shall meet at least once each year, mostly likely at the ASA Annual Meeting, to conduct its business.
- E. In appointing members to the Regional Chapters Committee, the Executive Committee and the Council shall give serious consideration to, but not be limited by, the recommendations of the regional chapters and make every effort to appoint those who have been active in the regional chapters from whose membership they are selected.
- F. In making their recommendations for appointment to the Regional Chapters Committee, the chapters shall make every effort to assure diversity in their selections, as well as to be consistent with their by-laws governing such a process.

**PART TWO**

**THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
REGIONAL CHAPTERS**



## *A History of ASA Focus on Regional*

### *Activities and Concerns*

An early meeting of ASA members interested in regional activities took place at the 1985 ASA convention in San Diego with an "Open Session of the ASA Task Force on Regional Relations," chaired by Peter W. Dowell of Emory University. The ASA National Council appointed the four-member task force in the spring of 1985 to survey the condition of individual bodies and to make recommendations concerning the regional structure of the ASA. The session was scheduled on the program with an invitation to all ASA members "to share ideas and suggestions with the members of the new ASA task force on regional relations." The meeting was informal and sparsely attended, and the discussion was informal. Individual task force members informally interviewed various representatives of many of the regions at the convention, gathering information presented in their report of March 1, 1986 (included herein). The report urged the National Council to "establish regular procedures for reviewing the state of the regional chapters."

ASA regional chapter representatives have met regularly at the national conventions to discuss issues of mutual concern since 1989. Following are reports on the meetings held since 1995.

## *Recent Reports of ASA Regional Chapters'*

### *Standing Committee*

#### *Annual Meetings*

*(1995-1997)*

### **Pittsburgh 1995**

A Report on the 1996 Business Meeting of the ASA Committee on Regional Chapters Saturday, November 11, 1995, Pittsburgh Hilton

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Tebbe (New England); Louise Stevenson (Mid-Atlantic); Thomas Blues (Kentucky-Tennessee); Sherry Lee Linkon (Great Lakes); Bryan Le Beau (Mid-America and Chair); Ruth Banes (Southern); Richard Tuerk (Texas); Eric Sandeen (for Emily Curter, Rocky Mountain); Pamela Steinle (California); Mark Ott (for Shelley Armitage, Hawaii); and Richard Masteller (Pacific Northwest).

Others Present: Blanche Linden, Outgoing New England Representative; John Stephens, ASA Executive Director; and Patty Limerick, ASA President

Absent: Joel Foreman (Chesapeake)

Bryan Le Beau opened the meeting by welcoming new members to the committee, including: Sherry Lee Linkon, Thomas Blues, Ruth Banes, and Shelly Armitage. Bryan welcomed as well Jennifer Tebbe, who will complete Blanche Linden's term.

Bryan reminded the committee that terms of office are due to expire for Louise Stevenson, Richard tuerk, Pam Steinle, and Richard Masteller. Each of the regions involved has already submitted to the ASA Executive Committee and Council a name for (re)appointment.

Sherry Lee Linkon reported on her efforts at reviving the Great Lakes ASA. She noted considerable success. Her initial contacts with people in the region have been met with much enthusiasm and goodwill. Moreover, a number of people have offered their support. She and her steering committee are formulating plans for a regional newsletter and resource guide. The first GLASA conference has been scheduled for March. [NOTE: GLASA had an organizational meeting in Pittsburgh on November 12.]

Louise Stevenson was less successful in her efforts. Her valiant efforts notwithstanding there was little interest in reviving the chapter. Those who were interested could not find the time to help. As a result, the committee discussed the prospect of dividing the region between the Chesapeake and Great Lakes ASAs. Further discussion will take place between the parties involved. Along these lines the committee discussed dividing what used to be the New York Chapter between New England and Great Lakes. Several individuals in downstate New York are already active in New England. Members in upstate New York, however, would be closer to Great Lakes. The committee will further discuss this possibility.

Patty Limerick joined the committee to discuss its proposal to the ASA Council for representation on the Annual Meeting Program Committee (see last year's report). Patty voiced her support for the principle involved--that chapters ought to be involved in planning the national meetings in their regions--but she also pointed to the problem involved when all interest groups are given seats on program committees. She and John Stephens presented a new policy statement which she hoped would answer the needs of the committee.

According to that policy, the President appoints the Chair of the Program Committee, who, in the process of selecting Program Committee members, is to consult with all standing committee chairs. In the case of the Committee on Regional Chapters, it is understood that the chair will direct the inquiry to the committee member from the region in which the national meeting is to take place. The committee voted to accept this policy and to withdraw its recommendation to the Council, pending review at a later date of the effectiveness of the new policy.

Pam Steinle and Ruth Banes led a discussion of setting up archives and writing regional chapter histories. They provided examples of attempts made in their regions to preserve their records, to record the recollections of their founders, and, even, to write chapter histories. Following some discussion of those activities and various other proposals, the committee resolved to urge each chapter to at least establish an archive for its records this year. Once archives are established, perhaps histories could be written.

John Stephens spoke on the difficulties of organizing ASA papers for the Library of Congress; it is labor intensive and time consuming. He needs help, if anyone has any to offer. At the same time, however, he recommended that chapters send him copies of their important papers for deposit along with those of the national in the Library of Congress. He asked that committee members contact him before sending anything, so as to be clear on what is appropriate for storage and how it is to be arranged.

Bryan Le Beau distributed a letter from the ASA Program Committee asking that the Chapters Committee host a session at the 1996 Annual Meeting. Richard Tuerk recommended that the Chapters Committee host a session on regionalism. After some discussion, the committee recommended that Bryan Le Beau, with the assistance of other members of MAASA, organize a session on the theory, or concept, of regionalism, and that he would work with the Local Arrangements Committee so as to provide complimentary tours and performances of a distinctly regional nature. The committee also asked Bryan Le Beau to submit to the Program Committee its recommendation for a session in 1996 on the "threat to academe" prevalent in the United States today.

Bryan Le Beau distributed a letter to the committee from Betty Ch'maj asking for regional chapters' assistance in identifying nominees for the Mary Turpie Award. This award is given annually for outstanding service to American Studies in teaching, advising, and program development. Le Beau recommended that committee members seek and support likely nominees in their regions.

Bryan Le Beau reported that the latest edition of the Chapters Handbook would soon be printed. John Stephens urged those committee members that still had not sent him information updates to do so immediately. It was agreed that John will send six copies of the handbook to each committee, who will then distribute those copies to chapter offices.

Following some general and informal discussion of chapter activities the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

## **Kansas City, Missouri 1996**

Annual Business Meeting, ASA Committee on Regional Chapters, Saturday, November 2, 1996, Kansas City.

Committee Members Present: Bryan Le Beau, Chair (Mid American); Jennifer Tebbe (New England); Michael Elliott (for Sarah Chinn, Metro New York); Jim Gilbert (for Bernard Mergen, Chesapeake); Louise Stevenson (Mid-Atlantic); Sherry Lee Linkon (Great Lakes); Scott Guenter (California); Richard Masteller (Pacific Northwest); Richard Tuerk (Texas); Ruth Banes (Southern).

No Representation From: Kentucky/Tennessee; Hawaii; Rocky Mountain.

Amanda Rees, ASA Student Committee Chair, urged members of the committee to regularize graduate student representation on regional chapter executive boards, as well as to consider ways by which graduate students might be involved in chapter affairs. The committee agreed with Amanda and supported her request, at the same time that they reported on their efforts already been made in this direction in their respective chapters.

Patty Limerick, ASA President, joined the committee for a brief conversation, in which she thanked the members for their work.

Michael Elliott reported on the progress Metro New York ASA has made in reviving that chapter. An interim board has been established, a newsletter begun, and program plans developed. He thanked members of the committee for their help.

Louise Stevenson reported that Simon Bronner (American Studies--Penn State, Harrisburg) had voiced interest in attempting to revive the Mid-Atlantic ASA when he returns from Japan. She noted that at this point, this seems like the best plan for the chapter.

Sherry Lee Linkon reported that GLASA was up and running, and that the revival of that chapter could now be declared a success. A conference has been planned for March 1997, a home page has been created, and a newsletter is in progress.

Bryan Le Beau reported that he, on Mid America's behalf, but with the committee's direction (the session is hosted by the Committee on Regional Chapters but organized by the chapter in which the annual meeting is being held) had organized a session on regionalism at the Kansas City Annual Meeting and that it had been very well attended. He both reminded and encouraged Jim Gilbert to move forward on Chesapeake's offering for 1997. He agreed to work on it with the other officers of his chapter.

Bryan reviewed the ASA policy for filling expired terms on the committee. He reminded the committee that the following terms were due to expire in June 1997: New England, Chesapeake, Mid-America, Rocky Mountain.

He noted that chapter nominations should be sent to John Stephens by April 1, 1997. Jennifer Tebbe reminded the committee that New England had decided to support her for reappointment (possible in her case because she has not yet served a full three year term). Jim Gilbert reported that Bernard Mergen, who is currently filling the final year of Joel Foreman's term, had requested reappointment to a full term. Bryan Le Beau introduced James Farrell as MAASA's nominee for that seat. Ruth Banes reported that Lynne Adrian was to replace her on the committee, effective immediately, and that she would be in line for reappointment for a three year term in June. Finally, Le Beau voiced his concern for Rocky Mountain ASA. He noted that the current committee member had not been heard from in years, and that some in the chapter wanted to rectify the situation. Eric Sandeen, in particular, offered to help select a more dependable representative.

Bryan Le Beau reminded the committee that the position of chair would have to be filled as well. After some discussion, the committee voted to support the appointment of Jennifer Tebbe to that position.

Each of the committee members present delivered brief reports on the state of their chapters. Without detailing these reports, it seems that all is well--that all of the chapters reporting are quite active.

Under New Business, the following matters were raised:

Scott Guenter raised some concern as to the ASA Council's vote to boycott California as a location for its annual meetings if the voters were to pass Proposition 209. He questioned the appropriateness of the proposed response, as well as the process used by the Council in making its decision. Bryan Le Beau agreed to look into the matter and to report back to the committee.

Bryan Le Beau distributed information on the Mary Turpie Award, reporting that the nomination process had been modified to allow for regional chapter nominations.

Bryan Le Beau and John Stephens (who joined the committee for part of its meeting) discussed the forthcoming revision of the chapter handbook. He asked committee members to send him their updates and corrections by April 30, 1997. Upon John's recommendation, the committee also agreed to receive the revised handbook on disk (multiple copies), which could then be distributed in that format to chapter officers, saving the ASA considerable money in printing costs.

Sherry asked John to advise them on the matter of ASA members residing in Canada. In particular she asked whether it would be possible, or advisable, to attach areas of Canada to the closest U.S. chapters in order to provide chapter membership, services, and activities for them. John recommended that involvement by Canadians in chapter activities be done informally--that events be publicized among them and their participation encouraged.

Some members of the committee voiced interest in creating home pages, perhaps copying those already existing in California and Great Lakes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

## **Washington, D.C. 1997**

Annual Business Meeting  
 ASA Committee on Regional Chapters  
 Saturday, November 1, 1997  
 Glacier Room, The Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill  
 Washington, D.C.

### Committee Members Present:

Ruth Banes (for Lynne Adrian)—Southern ASA  
 Thomas Blues—Kentucky/Tennessee ASA  
 Jim Farrell—Mid-America ASA  
 Ellen Garvey—New York Metro ASA  
 Sherry Lee Linkon—Great Lakes ASA  
 Richard Masteller—Pacific Northwest ASA  
 Bernard Mergen—Chesapeake ASA  
 Bruce Ronda—Rocky Mountain ASA  
 Pamela Steinle (for Scot Guenter)—California ASA  
 Richard Tuerk—Texas ASA  
 Mari Yoshihara—Hawaii ASA  
 Jennifer Tebbe, Chair—New England ASA

### Committee Members Unable to Attend:

Louise Stevenson—Mid-Atlantic ASA  
 Jennifer Tebbe called the meeting to order and asked committee members to briefly introduce themselves.

#### 1. New Appointments to the Committee on Regional Chapters, 1998.

Jennifer Tebbe reviewed policy for filling expired terms on the regions committee. She reminded committee members that the following regions needed to fill terms due to expire in June 1998: Great Lakes ASA; Hawaii ASA; Kentucky-Tennessee ASA; and Southern ASA.

#### 1. Review of Regional Chapters' Session for 1998 (Pacific Northwest Hosting).

The Committee discussed a variety of possibilities for the subject of the regional chapters' session at the 1998 ASA meeting in Seattle. Some of these related to connecting the session to the theme of the Spring Pacific Northwest

regional conference, "Laying Claim to America," as it explore issues of "laying claim" in the Pacific Northwest. The Committee agreed that Rich Masteller would consult with others in his region and report back to the region in a timely fashion to meet the ASA 1998 program deadlines.

1. Planning for Scheduling of Regional Committee Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, November 19-22, 1998.

The Committee agreed that the 2:15-6:15 Saturday time slot worked best for the regions' annual business meeting. However, to avoid the conflict between the session co-sponsored by the regional committee and the hosting region which occurred in Washington, D.C., the committee formally recommended that the Pacific Northwest region would request a time for the region's session to appear on the ASA program which did not conflict with the Regional committee's annual business meeting on Saturday afternoon. Some committee members recommended that an ideal time would be on Saturday morning, November 21, 1998. Committee members agreed that they should support the regional committee's session in Seattle by attending and working with Richard to foster additional word of mouth support.

1. Review of Status of Representation and Participation of Students in the Regional Chapters (Guest: Carolyn Thomas De La Pena).

The Chair of the Students' Committee, Carolyn Thomas De La Pena, discussed the role of the Students' Committee in the ASA and problems related to regular communication among student members of the ASA. She requested that the regional representatives send her the names, affiliations, addresses, and especially, e-mail addresses, of students who were active as board or council members of the individual regions in order to pursue better communication among students on a national level. She wants to establish a database of active students, possibly by setting up a listserv. Her e-mail address is: ctpena@mail.utexas.edu. She also requested that we encourage through our newsletters, etc., all of the students who are active in our regions to pursue contact with the students' committee on the national level.

Following Carolyn Thomas De La Pena's presentation, the committee discussed issues relating to student participation in the regions. Committee members noted the degree to which students were active in the regions through such areas as membership on regional boards/councils and participation on panel sessions at regional conferences. After discussion, the Committee approved the following motion: "The Regional Chapters' Committee strongly urges regions to change their bylaws to make every effort to include graduate students on their boards or councils." The purpose of this recommendation is to both acknowledge the importance of student participation in regional activities and to support the national students' committee's efforts to coordinate student participation in the ASA.

1. Annual Update of the Handbook for Regional Chapters of the ASA (Guest: Margo Lambert).

Margo Lambert distributed a draft of the 1997 Handbook for Regional Chapters of the ASA. The Committee thanked her for making the Handbook draft available to us at our business meeting. The Committee discussed with Margo various issues relating to production and distribution of the Handbook. Margo requested that we send any submissions on computer disc (Word Perfect 5.1 or 5.2 Windows). She can also transcribe hard copy if we cannot send a disc.

Committee members discussed whether we should revise the Handbook not only by updating each region's information, but also by reviewing all of the information presented in the Handbook. It was decided that committee members would review drafts of the handbook and submit changes relating to their individual regions. Committee members also agreed to look at the Handbook overall in order to recommend changes. Margo requested that we meet a November 20, 1997 deadline for revision.

1. Crossroads and Regional Chapters on the Web (Jeff Finlay).

Jeff Finlay reported on how the regions are represented on Crossroads. This includes the ASA Regional Chapters Homepage; news of regional chapters activities, e.g. conferences, ASA sessions, and journal publications on the Bulletin Board; links to American Studies program organized by state; and the official Chapters Manual (Handbook) describing the duties of chapters, resources at hand and good practices, and also explaining the relationship between the chapters and ASA.

Jeff distributed material which illustrated examples of the region's presence on Crossroads. He urged committee representatives who had not already helped establish individual regional homepage links to the region's homepage to do so as soon as possible. He reminded committee members to send in updates for the Bulletin Board on chapter activities as well. Any questions or help needed from Jeff should be directed to him at his e-mail address: cepacs@guvax.georgetown.edu.

#### 1. The State of the Chapters: Reports from the Various Regional Chapters.

Each representative gave a brief overview of their region's recent activities. Ellen Garvey, representative from the recently revived New York Metro Region, asked committee members to especially review the kinds of activities regions sponsored in the past or were planning in the future to foster participation from members of their respective regions. Committee representatives reported on such endeavors as newsletters, recent one to three day conferences, jointly sponsored conferences held by adjacent regions, journals, publications resulting from conferences, reading and writing groups, videos about pivotal or defining moments in the history of the individual regions, and efforts to encourage participation among a variety of constituencies on the regional level (e.g., students, public historians, archivists, secondary schools, community colleges).

Jennifer Tebbe read from an e-mail sent by Louise Stevenson reporting on continuing difficulties with efforts to revive the Mid-Atlantic ASA Chapter. Ellen Garvey reported that she had spoken with ASA members from Temple University (i.e. Regina Bannan and Miles Orvell) who had expressed interest in becoming involved in the Mid-Atlantic revival effort. Jennifer Tebbe indicated that she would forward these names to Louise Stevenson.

#### 1. New Business

Jim Farrell (Mid-America ASA) raised the question of whether the regional committee should support a request to John Stephens to have a booth in the book exhibit hall at next year's ASA conference in Seattle, Washington. Currently, the regions are asked to post or display their materials on tables or bulletin boards near the ASA registration area. In an exhibit hall where there is a more organized flow of traffic, regions could display such materials as information sheets about individual regions, flyers about annual conferences and other events, and copies of recent newsletters or journals. In addition, committee members agreed that a coordinated schedule would ensure that members from each region would be present in the booth to talk to conference participants about the regions individually and in general. The booth would be an ideal way to present the role in which the regions have played in the ASA historically and in the present, both for enthusiastically supported the request for a booth in the book exhibit hall. This request will be forwarded to John Stephens.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**PART THREE**

**REGIONAL CHAPTERS OF THE ASA  
AND THEIR MISSIONS**

**(1997)**

## *ASA Regional Chapter Missions*

As this section and others should make abundantly clear, each local chapter of the ASA has the freedom to define its own "mission" and to set its own agenda of activities and goals. There is simply no "boilerplate" model, since regions are so diverse, some ranging over thousands of miles and others confined to an area such as Hawaii.

Some regional chapters (e.g. New England ASA) are as old as ASA itself and see themselves as carrying on the "movement culture" of American Studies. Some see themselves as particularly focused on "regional" issues and culture which the national programs cannot always emphasize (e.g. Southern ASA). Others are more linked to professional scholarship and joint programs with other professional associations (e.g. Chesapeake ASA). Some regions have formal executive structures that meet several times a year and mount on-going programs. Others simply gather for an annual conference.

Regional chapters are an integral component of the American Studies Association. There are many ways in which regional chapters can participate in national ASA operations and programs. These include sponsoring panels and workshops for the national convention; planning local arrangements and activities during a given ASA convention (e.g. serving on the Local Arrangements Committee); nominating members for council seats and for the numerous committees within ASA; and being actively involved with the Standing Committee on Regional Chapters.

There are twelve active regional chapters of the ASA:

- ° **California**
- ° **Chesapeake** (Maryland, District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia [zip codes 220-223])
- ° **Great Lakes** (Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan)
- ° **Hawaii**
- ° **Kentucky-Tennessee**
- ° **Mid-America** (Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin)
- ° **New England** (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut)  
     ° **New York Metro Area** ([zip codes 090-119, 105-109, 124-127], and New Jersey [zip codes 070- 076, 077-079, 085, 088-089])
- ° **Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho [zip codes 835 and 838])
- ° **Rocky Mountains** (Southern Idaho [zip codes 832-834 and 836-837], Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana)
- ° **Southern** (Virginia [zip codes 224-246], West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana)
- ° **Texas**

Inactive regional chapters include areas in New York State [zip 120-123; 128-149] and the Mid-Atlantic (Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey [zip codes, 080-084; 086-087]).

At a rudimentary level, of course, some elements are common to all regional chapters:

- ° Each chapter has its own constitution and organization. There is no formal, "institutional" linkage to the governance structure of the ASA;
- ° All members of ASA within a given geographical region are automatically members of that region's chapter. The ASA rebates a small membership fee to the chapters from that received by the national. In addition, chapters may add their own individual and institutional members;

°Chapters elect their own officers and mount their own activities: conventions, teaching workshops, secondary school programs, and much more.

-Each chapter has the opportunity to define its own “mission statement.”

## *Regional Characteristics And Organization*

The regional chapters differ in terms of geographic characteristics, kinds of institutions represented, number of members, and types of activities. Despite this diversity, it is possible to make some general observations about the ways in which each region can make use of the national office, and how the national office can help to support activities within the regions. Simply stated, the national office provides information and money to aid the work of the regions. (See Appendix B, ASA Constitution, Article VII, Sections 1 and 2, and Article IX, Sections 1, 2A, and 3, which pertain to local chapters.)

**Funding:** When an individual joins the national American Studies Association, that person automatically becomes a member of the regional chapter in which she or he lives, and a \$4 "chapter rebate" is reserved for the use of the local chapter. (Members can also choose to join more than one regional chapter by paying an additional fee of \$4 per chapter.) (Note: The rebate was raised from \$3 to \$4 in 1994 for rebates from members living within a region; and the cost for joining another region other than one of residence will be raised similarly in 1995.)

In order to receive the reserved rebates from the national ASA, the appropriate chapter officer must submit an accounting of receipts and expenditures for the preceding year to the ASA Executive Director. The funds are then disbursed to the chapter treasurer and made available for appropriate activities -- for example, the costs of annual conferences, colloquia, or field trips. The necessary annual accounting need not be overly detailed, but it should indicate categories and amounts of funds received (dues, conference registrations, local grants, etc.) and expenditures (program printing, speakers' honoraria, banquet expenses, etc.) Full details are available from the national office. (Examples of annual financial statements are contained in "Examples of Annual Financial Reports" in section IV below.)

A chapter's rebate will be paid within one month of the ASA Executive Director's receipt of the financial statement for the preceding year. If a chapter does not file its financial statement and/or request its rebate, its rebate will be held in escrow by the ASA for three years. After three years in escrow, the ASA Council may use such unclaimed funds to support general regional purposes and projects.

Depending on their legal status and by-laws, chapters can and do augment their income through charges for programs and/or grants from local, state, or federal organizations. The charges for programs vary with the region and function. Obviously, care should be taken not to discourage participation, especially by students, and differential rates may be set. Chapters must be incorporated as tax-exempt nonprofit organizations to apply for grants from state humanities councils and other organizations (See "Incorporation of Regional Chapters: Some Guidelines" in section IV below).

**Membership:** Regional chapters will receive a roster of members who belong to the local group through membership in the national ASA each fall. The national office can also provide up-to-date membership rosters in label or non-label format upon request, although three to four weeks should be allowed for processing. These rosters will not include names of members who have joined the local chapter without joining the national ASA. Separate lists should be maintained by chapters for those individuals.

The bulk of the ASA roster will consist of ASA members who reside in the chapter's area. In addition, the roster will include ASA members not residing in the region, but who have elected to pay an additional dues fee (what the ASA calls the "multiple regional membership enrollment process") to affiliate with the chapter. Chapters should inform their members that they are automatically enrolled in the chapter when they pay their ASA dues and that they are not required to re-enroll through this "multiple regional membership process" provided on the annual ASA membership form.

While members of the national ASA are automatically members of the regional chapter and appear on the mailing list provided from the national office, individual chapter members may join separately and would not automatically

belong to the national organization. While some individual members may not need or wish to belong to the national ASA, membership information should be made routinely available to encourage broad participation in the American Studies Association at the grass roots level and to augment chapter rebates to the extent possible. Also, stimulating ASA national memberships means that the *ASA Newsletter* and *American Quarterly*, which embody and support the scholarly and pedagogical initiatives of the Association, will be widely available to encourage local activities.

An annual regional conference -- and the call for papers announcing such a conference -- can provide a good opportunity to enroll members. Alternatively, focused colloquia or field trips can provide occasions to distribute membership information.

**Organization:** Article VII, Section 2 of the ASA Constitution requires that each chapter have a constitution that does not conflict with the constitution of the national organization, and that elections of officers must be conducted fairly. Typically, chapter constitutions cover the purpose and legal status of the chapter; the election and terms of officers and other executive bodies; the function and appointment of standing committees; publications of the organization; special agreements with institutions in the region; and methods for amending the By-Laws (See "Samples of Regional Chapter Constitutions" in section IV below).

Chapters vary in the frequency and mechanism of electing new officers, as well as in the number and titles of officers. Some regions use mailed ballots; and, in other cases, elections are held at an annual business meeting. All chapters currently elect at a minimum a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Rocky Mountain and Mid-America ASA also have an Executive Director. The New England ASA elects both a Secretary and a Treasurer. Since much of the work of sustaining a chapter and organizing events falls upon the chapter officers, it is important that the individuals selected be committed to the office and have available time to devote to the post.

Officers of the regional chapters should be members of the national ASA. This provides an essential link for exchanging information and maintains the integrity of the organization. Also, officers of a regional chapter ideally should come from different institutions within the region. Particularly in geographically extensive regions, selecting representatives from several institutions helps to foster a broader base of participation and can provide continuity within the regional association. The officers should, however, have sufficient contact with each other to facilitate the activities of the regional chapter. In our era of FAX and e-mail, this is possible even when officers are separated by large distances.

**Communication:** It is important to keep the national office informed about the work going on within regions. Information that should be communicated to the national office includes (1) names and institutional affiliations of newly elected regional officers for listing in the *American Quarterly*; and (2) copies of regional conference calls for papers, programs, abstracts, and other relevant reports, for listing in the *ASA Newsletter*.

Information to be used to update this Handbook for next year should also be submitted to Committee on Regional Chapters Chair Jennifer Tebbe or to the person designated by the Chair for editing the revised addition before September 30, 1999.

**PART FOUR**

**REGIONAL OPERATIONS, PROCEDURES,  
AND EXPERIENCE**

## *Some Recent Reports*

### **California ASA**

The California American Studies Association (CASA) currently identifies close to 1000 members based on at least one of the following four areas of participation: current California members of the ASA; outside members of the ASA who have paid additional dues to be included in CASA; attendees of the most recent CASA conference; complimentary members who are past CASA members or attendees who have asked to remain on the mailing list. The current membership represents active participation from six University of California campuses (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz), eight California State University campuses (Chico, Fullerton, Pomona, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, and San Luis Obispo), as well as the University of Southern California and Claremont Graduate School and a wide geographic representation from community colleges.

Membership has been developed and sustained through annual conferences. In the seventies, these conferences were smaller and more informal, one to two day gatherings including presentation of papers, which alternated in location between northern and southern California. In the eighties, these gatherings had grown into more formal, two to three day conferences held each spring. Since the ASA national conferences at this time were biannual, CASA also held informal, focused topic workshops in the fall of the off year. When ASA national went to an annual conference schedule, the CASA workshops were given up in favor of encouraging attendance at the national meeting. CASA annual conferences at this time are three day meetings held each spring, with 24-36 formal sessions responding to a broad conference theme. Recent conference themes have included "Families, Tribes, and Communities" (1997); "Expanding Borders and Boundaries: Rethinking 'America'" (1996); "California Cultures" (1995); "Cities on the Edge" (1994); "Sin, Stigma, and Risk" (1993). The theme for the April 1998 conference (to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico as a joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain American Studies Association) is "Corridors and Open Spaces: Times, Places, and Texts."

At least as important as the scholarly aspect of the annual conference is the establishing and renewal of friendships among members. As the CASA conferences have become large and more formal, program chairs and their committees have successfully maintained the intimacy of the earlier informal gatherings through three open events which bring all the members together: an extended picnic lunch, a Saturday evening banquet, and a business meeting/buffet lunch as the conference ends. The business meeting includes a summary response to the conference by the President and/or the Program Chair, the secretary/treasurer's report and the election of officers, and lively discussion to determine the next year's conference theme. CASA members expanded their network in 1993 as they enjoyed their first joint chapters conference with the Rocky Mountain American Studies Association and look forward to a second joint conference in 1998.

CASA officers are elected for one year terms and include the positions of President, Northern and Southern Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, and Representative to the ASA Regional Chapters Committee (a two-year term). The Vice-Presidents serve in alternate years as Program Chair for the annual conference--which also alternates in location between the northern and southern regions of the state. Elections are a part of the annual business meeting held in conjunction with the annual conference each spring. With the agreement of the regional membership, the immediate Vice-President/Program Chair is presumed to proceed to the office of President.

#### CASA Regional Chapter Officers, 1997-1998:

*President:* Gail Jardine, San Jose State University

*Vice President/Program Chair:* Pamela Steinle, California State University, Fullerton

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Wayne Hobson, California State University, Fullerton

*Representative to ASA Regional Chapters Committee:* Pamela Steinle, California State University, Fullerton (replacing Scot Guenter of San Jose State University who is away on a 1997-1998 Fulbright).

For more and updated information, including the upcoming call for papers for our spring 1998 conference, please see the CASA website: [hss.fullerton.edu/amst/casa/casa.html](http://hss.fullerton.edu/amst/casa/casa.html)

## Hawaii ASA

Chapter Officers:

*President:* Vicki Dworkin ([dworkin@hawaii.edu](mailto:dworkin@hawaii.edu))

*Secretary:* Alison Hartle ([ahartle@hawaii.edu](mailto:ahartle@hawaii.edu))

*Treasurer:* David Mayeda ([mayedad@hawaii.edu](mailto:mayedad@hawaii.edu))

*Publications:* Mark James ([markjame@hawaii.edu](mailto:markjame@hawaii.edu))

*Film Coordinator:* Lou Zitnik ([zitnik@hawaii.edu](mailto:zitnik@hawaii.edu))

*GSO Liason:* Jennifer Malin ([malin@hawaii.edu](mailto:malin@hawaii.edu))

*Representative to ASA Committee on Regional Chapters:*

Mari Yoshihara ([myoshiha@hawaii.edu](mailto:myoshiha@hawaii.edu))

As of August, 1997, the Hawaii ASA has 55 joint members between ASA/HASA and 37 members of only HASA, creating a total HASA membership of 92.

Finances: As of September 24, 1997, HASA had a balance of \$794.58. A financial report is found below in the sample chapter finances section.

The Hawaii ASA is closely tied to the University of Hawaii at Manoa and also reaches out to scholars and students from other universities in the area and interested people throughout the region. The chapter maintains a mailing list of approximately 200 people and puts out an annual newsletter (*The American Studies Newsletter*) in cooperation with the department.

Many participants in HASA are faculty and students in the University of Hawaii's BA, MA, and PhD programs in American Studies. The graduate programs currently enroll 55 degree candidates; the undergraduate program has 50 students. Other HASA members come from Brigham Young University's Hawaii campus, Tokai University, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii Pacific University, and the community.

Chapter Activities: The chapter is presenting an ongoing series of local events, supported by active participation of members. The most active members continue to be those from the University of Hawai'i American Studies Department (the only college in Hawai'i with a graduate program in American Studies) and the planned activities reflect this. We maintain a mailing list of about 170 people who receive notices of upcoming events. We hope to explore the possibility of involving students from other local colleges in the planned Spring Student Academic Conference.

For many years, HASA has sponsored an annual research conference where graduate students present scholarly papers and receive professional critiques. Periodic colloquia feature local and visiting scholars. Graduate students sponsor semester-long series on film and other genres, topics, or issues. There are occasional social events which bring the group together for more informal discussions.

The program focus of HASA is on both traditional American Studies issues and curriculum and American-Pacific-Asian connections. A particular area of focus in recent years has been the American Studies program in Historic Preservation, which has a unique role in the Pacific, attracting participants world-wide for its summer field work in Hawaii.

Calendar of Events for the Fall 1996-Spring 1997 Academic Year:

August 30      New Student Orientation and Reception for students and faculty

November 13    M.A. workshop on meeting the degree requirements

- November 16 Pot luck party for HASA/American Studies students and faculty
- January 31 June Ellis, Vanderbilt University, presenting: "Representations of the Pacific in American Literature."
- February 7 Mari Yoshihara, Brown University, presenting: "In Search of Mrs. Pinkerton: American Women and the Gendering of Orientalism."
- March 7 Chaman Nahal, University of Delhi/Cambridge University, presenting, co-sponsored by the Matsunaga Institute for Peace: "Thoreau and Gandhi: Sabarmati and Walden."
- April 30 Betty E.M. Ch'maj, California State University, presenting: "The Changing Face of the Christian Right."
- May 6 Robert S. Thompson, University of South Carolina, presenting: "The Eagle and the Dragon: The Designs of Washington and Beijing and Differences of Political Culture."

Tentative Calendar of Events for Fall 1997-Spring 1998 Academic Year:

- August 29 New Student Orientation and Reception for students and faculty; welcome for new faculty member Mari Yoshihara
- September 26 M.A. workshop to discuss changes in degree requirements and differences between thesis and non-thesis options
- October 17 Ph.D. workshop to discuss changes in degree requirements and preparation for the revised qualifying exam
- November 21 Brown Bag workshop: "After the Ph.D.: Facing the Job Market."
- December End of semester social event
- February Historic Preservation Certificate Program and Field Schools
- March Student Academic Conference

**Mid-America ASA** (Bryan Le Beau, Regional Chapters Committee Representative) Report submitted in 1997:

The Mid-America ASA (MAASA) has the distinction of being the oldest regional chapter in the American Studies Association. Indeed, MAASA's antecedent, the Mid-Continent American Studies Association, predates the founding of ASA by several years.

In April 1984, the Mid-Continent ASA and the North Central ASA merged to become MAASA, encompassing the 11 states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. MAASA is a not-for-profit corporation chartered by the State of Missouri. A geographically diverse six-member Executive Board meets semi-annually to appoint officers of MAASA and provide guidance on policy, fiscal, and membership matters. Routine operations of MAASA are handled by an Executive Director. MAASA currently has approximately 600 individual and institutional members, of which about 50 are from outside the United States. As part of its commitment to member services, MAASA publishes the biannual journal *American Studies* and a triannual newsletter. The chapter also sponsors an annual conference.

Philosophically, members of MAASA have always defined themselves as populist rebels on the cutting edge of American Studies. MAASA also takes pride, however, in its commitment to its membership. Despite its large geographical area, MAASA manages to maintain a real sense of community and intimacy. There is a strong commitment to encouraging individual expression and innovative perspectives at all levels. In MAASA, members can know, and be known by, their colleagues, thus deriving a considerable amount of intellectual comfort and nurturing.

Officers for 1997:

*President:* James Farrell, St. Olaf College

*Vice President:* Joanne Fritz, University of Iowa

*Executive Director:* Kathleen Wells-Morgan, David H. Hickman High School

**New England ASA** (Jennifer Tebbe, Council Member and Regional Chapters Committee Representative) Updated Report in April, 1997 from February, 1996 report.

The current membership of the New England American Studies Association (NEASA) includes New England members of ASA; outside members of ASA who have paid additional dues; and member from the New England states who are currently not affiliated with ASA. The NEASA has consistently sought to foster membership and participation from faculty representing the diverse public and private institutions of higher education. The NEASA Council reflects this college educator diversity in its membership. In addition, NEASA has sought to reach out to other groups, including the election of members to Council seats who specifically represent public history/humanities, graduate students, and secondary school constituencies.

The primary activity of our regional association, sponsoring conferences, exemplifies our commitment to involving diverse constituents through their participation in our programs.

Between April 1996 and May 1997 the NEASA sponsored three conferences: *Native Cultures and New England* (1996 Spring); *New England in Multicultural Perspective: Native Americans, African Americans, and Immigrants* (1996 Fall); and *Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture* (1997 Spring).

Providence College, Providence, RI hosted the April 27-28, 1996 Spring Conference *Native Cultures and New England*. Approximately 120 registrants attended the two-day conference. Twelve sessions included panels (on such subjects as land and power, Vermont eugenics and the Abenaki, place and identity, and literature and racial discourse), roundtables (including "Writing Native American History in the Academy: Keeping Native American History in the Community" and "Recovering Hidden Histories in New England Museums") and an evening performance, "Native American Storytelling and Dance." The annual business meeting was conducted at the Spring Conference.

On September 28, 1996, NEASA sponsored a conference for secondary and college educators, *New England in Multicultural Perspective: Native Americans, African Americans, and Immigrants* at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences. The conference program included workshops on teaching immigration literature and history, including the use of local histories, family histories, primary source materials, artifact, role-playing, and student research projects; education outreach and school partnerships; Native American Studies in museums and schools; Asian American and Latin American history and resources in the curriculum and classroom; a roundtable on integrating multiculturalism into American literature and history survey courses; and a multicultural "marketplace" which provided materials and ideas for teachers. More than eighty secondary school and college and museum educators participated. The conference was one in a series, including curriculum workshops for and by secondary school teachers, which NEASA has sponsored since 1987.

The NEASA May 3-4, 1997 Spring Conference *Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture*, took place at Salem State College, Salem, Massachusetts. The call for papers drew more than eighty proposals. From these proposals, the NEASA Council organized a two-day Conference with thirteen panels. Panel topics included grassroots fears, grand united fear theory, faith and fears, fearing the body, fear of miscegenation, literary fears, media phobia, and "end of the world as we know it" fears. Special topics panels include the 1834 burning of the Ursuline Convent in Charlestown, MA, and the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. The Plenary Session "Homophobia in American Culture" featured the screening of the film *Licensed to Kill* (1997) followed by a panel discussion including the film's director Arthur Dong. The film won this year's "Best Documentary Director Award" and the "Filmmakers' Trophy Award" at the Sundance Film Festival. A reception was held at the House of Seven Gables, with a tour of Hawthorne's famous "rusty wooden house, with seven acutely peaked gables, facing towards various points of the compass, and a huge, clustered chimney in the midst." Papers from the conference will appear in a book, *Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture*, edited by Nancy Schultz, (English Department of Salem State College), to be published by Purdue University Press in 1998.

A book will also be published by Peter Lang Publishers, with papers delivered at the NEASA Spring 1995 conference, *Margaret Fuller and American Cultural Critique: Her Age and Legacy*, held at Babson College in

Wellesley, MA. The book, tentatively titled *Essays on Margaret Fuller*, is edited by Fritz Fleischmann, and scheduled for publication in 1998.

The NEASA Council voted at its September 14, 1997 Council Meeting to establish a book award. Details about the award will be forthcoming.

The NEASA Spring Conference will feature the subject of New England's rich maritime history and culture, "Traffic on the High Seas: Trade, Transnational Cultures, and the Environment in New England." It will take place at the Museum of America and the Sea, in Mystic, CT, May 9-10, 1998.

#### **New York Metro Area** (Ellen Garvey, President) submitted 1997

NYMASA, the New York Metro ASA, was revived in 1996, with a group of Columbia graduate students leading the way. With over 300 members, NYMASA is dedicated to fostering a sense of community among American Studies scholars from all disciplines, who live or work in the New York Area. We are not at present affiliated with any institution.

NYMASA sponsors at least one general event each semester. These events have grown in complexity, beginning with a slide talk by the quintessentially New York artist Ben Katchor, author of the Julius Knipf, Real Estate Photographer comic strip, held at the CUNY Graduate Center in January 1996. In April 1996, our meeting featured a panel of editors discussing the present and future of academic publishing, at NYU. Our September, 1997 meeting, held at the New-York Historical Society, offered a panel on archival research, including the perspectives of both archivists and researchers. Our planned spring offering is a one-day meeting on teaching American Studies, and will include sessions on using the internet and the web in classes, teaching American Studies in and out of American Studies departments, and American Studies internationally.

All ASA members living in the New York area (including Long Island, parts of New Jersey, and lower New York State) are automatically members of NYMASA; however, those who do not wish to join the national organization can join NYMASA alone for \$5.00/year.

The chapter produces a twice-yearly newsletter, *The Metro*, which lists upcoming American Studies opportunities within the region. About 130 of our over 400 members also subscribe to our e-mail list, which also allows subscribers to share news of events in the area with one another. We also sponsor reading groups, writing groups, and have begun organizing field trips.

The listserv—[nymasa@columbia.edu](mailto:nymasa@columbia.edu)--is unmoderated. To be added to this list, a user simply sends a message to [majordomo@columbia.edu](mailto:majordomo@columbia.edu) with the message `subscribe nymasa <e-mail address>` (substitute your own e-mail address here). The listserv can be used to announce events in the New York area, to post queries about research or teaching, etc. Questions should be directed to Michael Elliott, e-mail: [me31@columbia.edu](mailto:me31@columbia.edu).

#### NYMASA Officers:

*President:* Ellen Gruber Garvey, Jersey City State College

*Vice President:* Alondra Nelson, New York University

*Secretary:* Leah Dilworth, Long Island University

*Treasurer:* Paul Lauter, Trinity College, Hartford

*Executive Members:* Michael Elliott, Columbia University; Lynn Domina, State University of New York, Delhi; Annette Zilversmit, Long Island University.

Contact address: Ellen Gruber Garvey, President NYMASA, 202 St. Marks Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11238-3419.

E-mail: [<garvey@panix.com>](mailto:garvey@panix.com).

#### **Kentucky-Tennessee** (Carroll Van West, president) submitted 1997

##### Officers for 1997-98 are:

*President:* Carroll Van West ([cwest@mtsu.edu](mailto:cwest@mtsu.edu))

*Vice-President:* Anne-Leslie Owens

*Secretary-Treasurer:* Gene Forderhase (hisford@acs.eku.edu)  
*Committee Representative:* Thomas Blues (tblues@pop.uky.edu)

The Kentucky-Tennessee ASA, founded in 1955 and one of the oldest chapters in the country, hosts an annual conference in alternating states. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17-18, 1998 in Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. (Located on the Kentucky-Tennessee border in eastern Macon County, Red Boiling Springs is one of Tennessee's popular mineral spring resort towns, with three historic hotels still in operation.) Proposals reflecting a multidisciplinary perspective on the architecture, history, literature, material culture, and music of the Upper South are encouraged and invited. Those interested in participating may submit a one-page proposal and a brief vita to:

Anne-Leslie Owens, Program Chair  
 PO Box 470, Middle Tennessee State University  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37132

by December 15, 1997.

The Association's journal, *Border States*, is published in odd-numbered years; the editors invite submissions on the literature, history, and culture of the region, especially interdisciplinary studies. Address inquiries to either of the co-editors: Ellen Donovan, Department of English, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132 (edonovan@frank.mtsu.edu); or Mary Hoffschwell, Department of History, MTSU (mhoffschwell@al.mtsu.edu). In 1997 the Association resumed publication of its newsletter; Thomas Blues is the editor.

### **Pacific Northwest ASA**

The Pacific Northwest American Studies Association (PNASA) serves those interested in American Studies in Oregon, Washington, and parts of Idaho. The mission and activities of the PNASA are shaped in part by the relatively large geographical territory and disparate population of the chapter. Although the chapter mailing list includes about 250 names, the active membership as reflected in conference attendance and payment of dues is about 70 people, the majority of whom are academics -- faculty or graduate students in the public universities, liberal arts colleges, or community colleges of the region. Given the territorial expanse of the chapter, the primary mission of the group is an annual two-day conference held in late March or early April. The meeting location alternates between the east and west side of the region to make attendance convenient for a portion of the membership every other year. Presentations are made by a core of regular participants as well as new members.

Conference topics are intentionally broad. Recent meetings have not had a specific theme, although examples of previous topics are "Ethnicity and Diversity in America" (1991); "Youth and Age in America" (1990); "Institutions and American Culture" (1989); "The Environment and American Culture" (1988); and "American Culture, American Cultures" (1987). While many papers focus on American culture as manifested in literature, presentations in other areas of the social sciences and the humanities are welcome. "Laying Claim to America" is the theme for the next PNASA conference, April 9-11, 1998, at Lake Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho.

Chapter officers, elected for two-year terms, consist of a president, a vice-president (who, with the aid of a program committee, is responsible for the annual conference), and a secretary-treasurer. Usually, the vice-president is subsequently elected president. We try to elect our officers from different institutions to foster a broader base of participation in the affairs of the regional chapter, although in recent years our secretary-treasurers have come from the same institution to provide continuity in maintaining chapter finances.

Contact address for the PNASA:

Richard N. Masteller, *Regional Chapter Delegate to ASA*  
 Department of English  
 Whitman College  
 Walla Walla, WA 99362  
 e-mail: <mastellerr@whitman.edu>

PNASA Call for Papers, Annual Conference  
 Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
 April 9-11, 1998

### Laying Claim to America

"Laying Claim to America" is the theme for the next PNASA conference, April 9-11, 1998, at Lake Coeur d'Alene in northern Idaho. What does it mean to lay claim to America--to assert the right to define its core values, establish its geographic and cultural boundaries, celebrate its literature and art, or demand adherence to purportedly "American" values? What territorial disputes arise in laying claim to America? Who gets to stake a claim? How are competing claims resolved? Who owns America these days? Is "ownership" an outmoded concept? Is "stewardship" a liberal ploy? What are "property rights"? What geographic, social, and intellectual regions, if any, are claimed as essentially American or essentially unAmerican? What is an American poet? Why does the persona in one of Langston Hughes's poems need to claim, "I, too, am America"?

To explore these and other questions, conference organizers welcome proposals from people working with a variety of media in American Studies. They encourage investigations of the theme, including issues of pedagogy, in various historical contexts, literary works, and visual arts, as well as studies that draw on the insights of other humanities disciplines, the social sciences, and the sciences. A formal call for papers with additional conference details and deadlines will appear later this year.

For further information contact: Gary Scharnhorst, PNASA, President; Department of English; University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM 87131; e-mail: <gscharn@unm.edu>.

### Report from Rocky Mountain American Studies Association

The Rocky Mountain American Studies Association is characterized by a relatively small number of programs in a vast geographical space, presenting to its members both difficulties and opportunities. The active and participatory programs are located, for the most part, along the Rocky Mountain front range, and include University of Wyoming, Colorado State University, University of Colorado-Boulder, University of Colorado-Denver, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, United States Air Force Academy, University of New Mexico, Arizona State University-West, Utah State University, Brigham Young University, and the University of Utah. RMASA has about 125 members identified by ASA, and its current officers are Eric Sandeen (UWyoming), President; Dottie Broaduss (ASU-West), Secretary-Treasurer; Ray Gunn, Board Member (UUtah), and Thomas Cutrer (ASU-West), ex-officio board member and editor of CANON, an RMASA-sponsored occasional journal of articles and reviews.

Since the last report, the region has seen the founding of a new undergraduate program at Colorado State University. Organized as a concentration under the Major in Liberal Arts, the CSU American Studies Program offers a full program of introductory courses, a junior methods course focusing on autobiography, a senior seminar (which has recently investigated the Battle of the Little Bighorn), and senior thesis. Since its inception in fall 1995, CSU American Studies has attracted ten "concentrators" (majors) and full enrollments in its introductory courses. The Program's director is Bruce Ronda.

In recognition of CSU's new program, Fort Collins was the site of the April 1995 RMASA conference, a joint session held with the Mid-America American Studies Association. This was a large and highly successful program, featuring a variety of papers on diverse subjects. In April 1997, RMASA gathered at University of Colorado-Colorado Springs for "A Regional Conversation." This conference focussed on American Studies practice, and featured conversational panels rather than formal papers. About seventy-five registrants heard from B.A., M.A., and Ph.D students, observed websites from Wyoming and Colorado State, and listened to conversation about interinstitutional American Studies projects in Fort Collins. Members have been invited to attend a joint session with the California American Studies Association in Albuquerque in April 1998.

Because of our geographical dispersion, RMASA sees itself as a logical place to experiment with electronic communication. UWyoming and CU-Boulder are members of the Crossroads Project, and could well lead the way for

other campuses to participate more fully in electronic sharing of syllabi, reading lists, archived materials, and other resources yet undreamed of.

**Southern ASA** (Lynne Adrian, President) Submitted in 1997:

The Southern American Studies Association began in 1989 when three ASA chapters -- Southeastern, Lower Mississippi, and a segment of Virginia -- merged to become the largest regional ASA chapter, geographically. SASA extends from Williamsburg, VA, to New Orleans, LA. In spirit and procedure, SAS follows the precedents of the old SEASA. Because the merger has greatly enlarged the chapter's geographical and membership base, our biennial meetings have grown into full-fledged regional conventions which attract SASA members, as well as scholars from outside the region. The 1991 Williamsburg meeting had 125 registrants and 20 sessions, while the 1993 meeting in New Orleans had 156 registrants and 29 sessions. The 1995 meeting, in Clearwater, Florida, had over 100 presenters and 24 sessions. The 1997 meeting, in Seaside, Florida, took advantage of the setting in a planned town to focus on "American Communities: Past and Present." It included 24 sessions, with 85 scholars from a wide range of disciplines, and plenary sessions by Kenneth T. Jackson and Gerald Early. SASA currently has an active membership of 500. The 1999 meeting will take place in Wilmington, North Carolina.

SASA presents new developments and findings in American Studies scholarship; identifies and defines areas of debate about the nature of American culture and its study; and conducts cultural and historical programs on the South and its communities. Conference themes are broad and inclusive to include topics such as art and architecture, black literature and music, American Studies as cultural critique, the cultural uses of photography, Native Americans, popular culture, Southern literature, and women's studies. Younger scholars in American Studies and related disciplines are encouraged to regard SASA meetings as an appropriate entry-level professional experience. SASA also holds smaller, informal board meetings at the ASA annual conventions and sponsors annual joint meetings with SAMLA and the Southern Historical Association.

**Texas ASA** (Richard Tuerk, ASAT Chapter Representative)

Each year the American Studies Association of Texas holds a conference on the weekend before Thanksgiving. The conference has evolved from a one-day activity held on a Saturday into a full-scale conference beginning on Thursday and ending on Saturday. Recent conference sites have included San Marcos, Texas, in 1994 (with Southwest Texas State University as the host institution); Austin, Texas, in 1995 (with the University of Texas at Austin as host institution); and Marshall, Texas, in 1996 (with Texas Baptist University as host institution). Future conference sites include San Antonio, Texas, in 1997 (with the University of Texas at San Antonio as host institution); Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1998 (with Midwestern University as host institution); Abilene, Texas, in 1999 (with Hardin-Simmons University as host institution); and Waco, Texas, in 2000 (with Baylor University as host institution). The conference include a reception, a reading of creative works, a banquet with a keynote speaker or some kind of performance, and presentation of papers. Highlights of conference include the passing of the gavel and the awarding of prizes for papers presented at each conference.

The association continues to publish a journal, *JASAT: Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas*. It appears once a year, usually around the time of the annual meeting. During 1997 the editorship of the journal passed from J.R. LeMaster to Elizabeth E. Dunn, both of Baylor University. The book review section of the journal continues to be edited by Marvin Harris at East Texas Baptist University. Manuscripts should be sent to Elizabeth Dunn, Editor, Department of History, Box 97306, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76798. Books for review should be sent to Marvin Harris, English, East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, TX 75670-1498.

The association also publishes *A\*S\*A\*T Newsletter* that contains things like announcements of meetings of the association, news about members, announcements about conferences and calls for papers in which the membership might be interested, as well as other kinds of information of interest to the members. It too is currently being published from Baylor University; the editor is Jerrie Callan, Secretary-Treasurer of the association. Items for the newsletter should be sent directly to Jerrie Callan at American Studies Association of Texas, Baylor University, PO Box 97404, Waco, TX 76798-7404. Clearly, Baylor University continues to be very generous in its support of the association.

Officers for 1997 are President--Marvin Harris, English, East Texas Baptist University; Vice President and Program Chair--Gena Dagal Caponi, American Studies, Behavioral and Cultural Science, University of Texas at San Antonio;

Secretary-Treasurer--Jerrie Callan, English, Baylor University. Councilors are Margaret Galloway, University of North Texas Library, University of North Texas; Priscilla Leder, English, Southwest Texas State University; and Robert Abzug, American Studies, University of Texas at Austin.

## *Incorporation of Regional Chapters: Some Guidelines*

The following regional chapters are incorporated: California, Mid-America, New England, New York Metro ASA, Texas ASA.

Local chapters may obtain several advantages by incorporating as a nonprofit, tax-exempt group. Incorporation allows local chapters to apply under tax exempt status for grants and other types of funding. Several chapters do augment their budgets with grants from state humanities councils and other sources. Additionally, nonprofit groups with tax exempt status are eligible to take advantage of lower postage rates.

In its report to the ASA Council on March 1, 1986, the appointed Task Force on Regional Relations recommended that the regional chapters of the ASA take the necessary steps to become legally incorporated. The ASA Council approved the recommendations of the Task Force and subsequently authorized the national office to extend aid to regional chapters undertaking to incorporate.

As announced in the Task Force letter of February 14, 1987:

Chapters may incorporate in Washington, D.C., where the national organization itself is incorporated, with the assistance of the Executive Director and the ASA's attorney there. Alternatively, if they wish to, chapters may incorporate within a state of their own region. Those choosing this course are urged to seek pro bono legal services from a university attorney or other public-minded lawyer and in general to take the most cost-effective route to incorporation.

To aid in this process, here are a few "tips" from Michael Anesko, who served as Treasurer for the New England Chapter as it went through the process of incorporation:

(1) The services of an attorney are essential to the process. Members of the local council should consult with one another about lawyers they know who might be willing to do the work pro bono or to give advice as the process goes along. Unless these services can be obtained at reasonable cost, incorporation may not be a realistic option. The national organization has promised each chapter a modest amount (\$500) to help underwrite the expense, but it is imperative that the local council find ways to minimize the start-up costs.

(2) Local incorporation must be accomplished according to the laws of the jurisdiction in which each chapter is (nominally) located. For chapters spread across different state jurisdictions, the most logical center might be chosen as a matter of convenience. The New England chapter, for example, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, even though its officers frequently reside in other states. In some large regions, there may be particular advantages for incorporating in one jurisdiction as opposed to another (much lower filing fees or annual reporting requirements, etc.). Again, the local council should research this information in order to make the most prudent arrangements.

(3) Formal incorporation as a not-for-profit organization should be achieved before filing for exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. An attorney familiar with the local filing requirements should be consulted at this stage.

(4) Few attorneys are eager to do the kind of financial work necessary to achieve tax-exempt status from the IRS. They can probably supply the local chapter with the relevant forms and instructions, however.

(5) To complete the application for tax-exempt status, it is essential that the chapter's financial records for the past three years be in itemized order. Careful maintenance of such records will be necessary whether the local treasurer plans to file an application himself or herself or to engage the services of an accountant. Once again, members of the

local council may know professionals who might be willing to help with the process, either by doing the work pro bono or at a reduced fee. These options should be explored first to avoid misunderstandings and unexpected bills.

(6) Like most IRS documents, the forms for tax exemption are not simple to decipher. However, the New England chapter achieved tax-exempt status without the benefit of an accountant's expertise (although the 1993-1995 NEASA President, based at the business-focused Babson College, had repeatedly been able to call upon volunteered professional in-put from his colleagues). The process can be time-consuming, however. If the local treasurer intends to tackle this herself or himself, that officer should realize that a period of up to a year may be necessary for all communication with the IRS to be effective. In other words, this is not something to be at the end of one's term of service (unless re-election can be expected). It will be much easier for one person to see the work through.

(7) Once achieved, tax-exempt status will not be reviewed by the IRS for a period of five years. At that time, however, the organization must be prepared to present full and complete documentation of its professional and financial activities. The importance of careful and consistent record keeping cannot be overemphasized.

(8) Most local jurisdictions require annual filing of the names and addresses of the organization's officers. An annual registration fee is usually assessed at this time.

(9) Once tax-exempt status has been achieved, the organization is eligible to take advantage of lower postage rates. A major post office in the incorporating jurisdiction can provide registration forms and instructions.

## *Samples Of Regional Chapter Constitutions*

### CONSTITUTION OF THE GREAT LAKES AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

#### *Article I: Mission*

The Great Lakes American Studies Association (GLASA) is the regional chapter of the American Studies Association (ASA) serving Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. GLASA aims to assist individuals and groups interested in the study of American culture in locating sources, making connections with colleagues, and developing and sharing their work. GLASA serves a diverse membership of secondary teachers, college and university faculty, graduate students, independent scholars, and others.

#### *Article II: Membership*

All members of the ASA who live in Indiana, Michigan, or Ohio are automatically members of GLASA. ASA members from other states may join through their ASA membership, and non-ASA-members may join individually. Dues for non-ASA-members will be set by the GLASA Board annually.

#### *Article III: Officers*

1). GLASA will have a Board consisting of the following officers:

**President:** The President is responsible for organizing and leading annual business meetings, communicating with the ASA office and the ASA Standing Committee on Regional Chapters, assisting and advising any GLASA committees, compiling and transmitting archival materials to the GLASA archives, organizing and chairing a Nominating committee to propose new board members when necessary, and any other specific projects assigned by the GLASA Board. The President is elected to a two-year term.

**Vice Presidents:** The Vice Presidents' primary responsibility is chairing the program committee for the annual conference. The First Vice President chairs the current year's conference committee, and the Second Vice President chairs the next year's committee. Usually, the Vice Presidents are affiliated with the institutions that are hosting the conferences. In addition, the Vice Presidents will lead any meetings the President is not able to attend, assist the President with his/her responsibilities, and replace the President if s/he cannot complete the elected term. The Vice Presidents are elected to staggered two-year terms.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer will oversee the GLASA budget. Responsibilities of the Treasurer include communicating with the Board, especially the Vice Presidents and the Newsletter Editor, concerning GLASA expenditures, reporting to the ASA Executive Director on annual expenses, and requesting disbursements from the ASA Executive Director. The Treasurer is elected to a two-year term.

**Secretary/Newsletter Editor:** The Secretary's primary job is to oversee regular publication (at least twice per year) of a newsletter announcing events in the region. The Newsletter Editor is appointed by the President for a one-year term, which may be renewed indefinitely.

**Electronic Editor:** The Electronic Editor is responsible for managing the GLASA-L-e-mail list and the GLASA Web Page. The Electronic Editor is appointed by the President for a one-year term, which may be renewed indefinitely.

2) Conference Committee

Each Vice President will organize a committee of GLASA members and colleagues from his/her institution to plan the

annual conference. Every effort will be made to include individuals who represent different interests and roles, including graduate students, independent scholars, librarians and archivists, and secondary teachers as well as people from different fields.

### 3) Elections

In advance of the GLASA business meeting, the Nominating Committee will consult with other GLASA members and prepare a slate for each year's GLASA Board elections. Additional nominations may be made during the business meeting.

Elections of officers and the appointment of the Secretary- Newsletter and Electronic Editor will occur each year at the GLASA business meeting. All GLASA members are eligible to run for office and to vote in the election.

### 4) Board Meetings and On-Going Communication

The GLASA Board will meet annually during the GLASA conference. Board meetings are open to all GLASA members. In addition, the President will maintain on-going communication with the Board via e-mail and written reports.

## *Article IV: GLASA Activities*

### 1) Newsletter

The GLASA Newsletter will publish announcements of events, queries, descriptions of courses and exhibits, and other information. The newsletter will be published and distributed without charge to all GLASA members.

### 2) Conferences

GLASA will hold a regional American Studies conference annually. A committee of GLASA members, chaired by the Vice President, will be organized each year to plan the next year's conference. GLASA members and non-members are eligible to attend and give presentations at the conference.

The Board will make every effort to rotate the conference location throughout the region, to facilitate participation by members from all three states. In addition, effort should be made to keep conference costs low, in order to encourage participation by part-time faculty, independent scholars, and students.

### 3) Business Meetings

A business meeting open to all GLASA members will be scheduled at each annual conference. The business meeting will generally coincide with the Board meeting.

### 4) GLASA-L

GLASA maintains an e-mail network, GLASA-L, that serves as an information sharing site to supplement the newsletter. GLASA-L is open to any interested participants, including non-GLASA members.

### 5) Other Activities

GLASA may, as the Board and GLASA members choose, develop any projects related to its mission, including the development of publications and electronic sources, collection of archival materials on the organization's history, and sponsorship of GLASA panels for American Studies-related conferences in the region.

## *Article V: Amendments*

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any GLASA member by submitting a written proposal to the

President at least one week before the business meeting. Proposals will be distributed and discussed at the business meeting and must be approved by a two-thirds vote of those attending the meeting.

**CONSTITUTION OF THE MID-AMERICA  
CHAPTER AMERICAN  
STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

Article I. Name and Purpose

1. The name of this organization is the Mid-America American Studies Association (hereinafter, MAASA).

2. As a chapter of the American Studies Association, MAASA is formed by the merger of the Midcontinent ASA and the North Central ASA approved by the membership on April 28, 1984. Its purposes are to foster the study of American culture in all its aspects, to provide a forum for communication and discussion among its members and the general public, and to promote scholarship by the publication of the journal *American Studies*. These ends are to be achieved by the organization of regular meetings, by recognition of outstanding contributions to American Studies, and by cooperation with the national American Studies Association.

3. MAASA is a not-for-profit educational organization incorporated in the State of Missouri.

Article II. Membership

1. MAASA's regional mandate is to serve members residing in the following states: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

2. Membership in MAASA is open to any person interested in the study of American culture, upon payment of one year's dues. Amount of annual dues, determined by the Executive Board, shall entitle members to receive a one-year subscription to *American Studies*.

3. Members of the American Studies Association who reside in the eleven-state region served by MAASA shall be considered members of the organization. Such members must subscribe separately to *American Studies*.

4. Any not-for-profit educational or cultural institution that shares its interests may become an institutional member of the MAASA upon payment of one year's institutional dues, amount of such dues to be established by the Executive Board.

5. Members whose dues are six months in arrears shall be dropped from the rolls by the Executive Director. Such persons or institutions may be reinstated at any time upon payment of one year's dues.

6. Only members in good standing may vote or serve on the Executive Board of MAASA.

### Article III. Officers

1. The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President (who shall be President-Elect), an Executive Director, the Editor of *American Studies*, and the Chairperson of the Editorial Board of *American Studies*.

a. The President shall preside at all meetings of MAASA and its Executive Board. She/he will formulate such policies and activities that, if approved by the Board will carry out the chartered purposes and obligations of MAASA.

b. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, preside at all meetings. Should the Presidency become vacant, the Vice-President shall serve the remainder of the President's term. Besides serving on the Board, the Vice-President shall normally chair the Program Committee for the annual meeting of MAASA. The Vice-President/Program Chair will be responsible to the Board in all program and financial matters connected with the annual meeting.

c. The Executive Director will be responsible for the day-to-day business of MAASA, including collecting dues, banking and disbursing funds, maintaining membership rolls, and mailing routine communications to the membership. The Executive Director will also prepare a financial statement for the Board's approval at least annually, and will be subject to such internal audits as the Board may deem necessary. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of an is appointed by the Executive Board to serve a five-year renewable term of office.

d. The Editor of *American Studies* shall be responsible for the editorial policies and day-to-day fiscal operations of the journal. She/he shall have ultimate authority for the format and content of the journal, subject only to the approval of the Board, and shall work with the Editorial Board and its chairperson to ensure that *American Studies* meets the needs of its subscribers. The Editor shall report on the editorial and financial aspects of the journal to the Board at its regular meetings.

e. The Chairperson of the Editorial Board shall be responsible for recruiting new members of the Editorial Board, shall serve on the search committee for members of the editorial staff (Editor; Associate, Assistant, or Consulting Editors; Chair of the Editorial Board) and shall make reports of his/her activities to the Executive Board at its regular meetings. The Chair of the Editorial Board shall also initiate, in consultation with the Executive Board, a review of the journal and its editorial staff at least once every five years.

2. The officers shall serve without compensation. They may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in service to MAASA when such services and reimbursement are approved in advance by the Executive Board. If such expenses are incurred between meetings of the Board, reimbursement may be approved by agreement of the President, the Executive Director, and the Chair of the Audit/Finance Committee.

### Article IV. Executive Board

1. The Executive Board of MAASA shall consist of the officers, the immediate past-president, six elected members representing the various geographical areas of the region, and one student enrolled in an American Studies graduate program within the MAASA region, for a total of thirteen members. All except the officers and the immediate past-president shall serve two-year terms. Elected members may succeed themselves.

2. The six elected members of the Executive Board shall be chosen by the membership at large at the annual meeting. A nominating committee of three members will prepare a ballot for this election. At the initial election, the six elected members will be appointed for one- or two-year terms depending upon the number of votes received. After the Board is constituted, the nominating committee will annually propose replacement candidates. All nominations shall be mailed to the membership at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

3. In case of vacancies in office, the Executive Board will elect persons to fill unexpired terms.

4. The times and places of all meetings of MAASA and the Board will be determined by the Executive Board. The Board will meet during the annual meeting of MAASA and at such other times as the officers shall determine.

#### Article V. American Studies

1. The journal *American Studies* is jointly sponsored by MAASA and the University of Kansas and is copyrighted by MAASA. This is the result of negotiated agreements between MAASA and the University of Kansas, such arrangements being subject to periodic review. The Editor of *American Studies* and any Associate, Assistant, or Consulting editors serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board. Except for such subsidies as are provided by the University of Kansas or any other sponsoring institution, MAASA, through its Executive Board, oversees the disbursement of funds for journal expenses.

2. The Chair of the Editorial Board of *American Studies* serves at the pleasure of the Executive Board. She/he shall submit names of Editorial Board members to the Executive Board for approval, and shall serve terms approved by the Board.

3. Members of the Editorial Board are not, nor may they be, members of the Executive Board of MAASA

#### Article VI. Committees

Standing Committees are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board.

Standing Committees consist in an Audit/Finance committee and a Nominating Committee. The Audit/Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing, at least annually, the procedures and records of the Executive Director and reporting to the Board. This Committee will also make any recommendations regarding the finances of MAASA that it deems necessary to the Board.

2. Ad hoc Committees are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board or the Board's designated representative.

The Vice-President/Program Chair shall appoint a committee to work with him/her on the program and arrangements for the annual meeting. The President and the Board shall appoint such other hoc committees as are necessary to accomplish specific tasks.

#### Article VII. Amendments and By-Laws

Amendments to this Constitution and any by-laws of MAASA must be proposed in writing to the President at least one month before a meeting of the Board. The Board shall consider all such proposals, and if by a two-thirds majority it approves, the proposed amendments or by-laws shall be submitted to the membership at the next annual meeting. Final approval of such proposed changes or additions must be by two-thirds majority vote of those present and in good standing.

#### Article VIII. Meetings

1. There shall be an annual meeting of the membership. A quorum shall consist of those members in good standing in attendance.

2. The Executive Board shall meet twice annually, once in October and once in conjunction with the annual meeting of the membership in the spring. A quorum for conducting business shall be eight members of the Board, past officers, and members of standing and hoc committees.

Amended 4/21/90

#### ***Proposed Changes in the MAASA Constitution***

At the April 1994 annual business meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, the MAASA membership was asked to vote on the following proposal to amend the Association's constitution:

Whereas there appears to be a contradiction between Article III, Section 1e and Article V, Section 1 on the responsibility for initiating reviews of *American Studies* and its staff;

Whereas the Constitution does not adequately allow for the coordination of the review of *American Studies* and its editorial staff;

Whereas the Constitution invites a conflict of interest in putting the Chair of the Editorial Board in the position of reviewing his/her own performance;

Be it resolved that three sections of the MAASA Constitution be amended and one added as follows:

**ARTICLE III, SECTION 1e** to read: "The Chair of the Editorial Board shall be responsible for recruiting new members of the Editorial Board, chairing meetings of the Editorial Board, and representing the Editorial Board in communications with the Editor. The Chair of the Editorial Board shall make reports of his/her activities to the Executive Board at its regular meetings."

**ARTICLE V, SECTION 1** amended to read: "The journal *American Studies* is jointly sponsored by MAASA and a cosponsoring institution, and is copyrighted by MAASA. This is a result of negotiated agreements between MAASA and the cosponsoring institution, such agreements being subject to periodic review. Except for such subsidies as are provided by the cosponsoring institution, MAASA, through its Executive Board, oversees disbursement of funds for journal expenses. At least once every five years, in consultation with the Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board, the Executive Board shall initiate a review of these arrangements."

**ARTICLE V, SECTION 2** amended to read: "The Editor of *American Studies*, the Chair of the Editorial Board, and any Associate, Assistant, or Consulting Editors serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board. At least once every five years, the Executive Board shall initiate a review of these staff."

**ARTICLE V, SECTION 3** amended to read: "The Chair of the Editorial Board of *American Studies* shall submit names of Editorial Board members to the Executive Board for approval. Editorial Board members shall serve terms approved by the Executive Board."

**ARTICLE V, SECTION 4** to be added: "Members of the Editorial Board are not, nor may they be, members of the Executive Board of MAASA."

**BYLAWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND AMERICAN  
STUDIES ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Article I. Name, Purpose, Offices, and Seal

1. NAME--The name of this corporation is the New England American Studies Association, Incorporated ("the corporation," hereafter, or "NEASA").

2. PURPOSE--The New England American Studies Association (NEASA) is a chapter of the American Studies Association ("ASA," hereafter). The NEASA embraces general objectives of the ASA: "To encourage and enrich the study of American Culture in all its dimensions and manifestations." Within those general objectives, the NEASA seeks especially to foster the study of the culture and history of New England; to bring together practitioners of the various disciplines that examine American and New England culture; and to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship, publication, and teaching in these areas at all levels and at all types of institutions.

3. OFFICES--The initial principal office of the corporation is at Boston College, Chestnut Hill, County of Middlesex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or at the institution with which the President of the Corporation is affiliated, or at such places as the Council, functioning as a Board of Directors, may from time to time determine.

4. SEAL--The seal of the corporation is circular in form and bears thereon the name of the corporation, its logo, and the year of its organization.

Article II. Membership

1. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP--Membership is open to all persons, without regard to race, sex, national origin, sexual preference, age, or religion.

2. CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP--All members of the ASA who reside in the New England states are automatically members of the NEASA. Members of the ASA residing outside of the region may join the ASA according to the ASA guidelines. Other individuals unaffiliated with the ASA may join the NEASA directly. Institutional membership without voting privileges is also available. Annual dues will be set by the NEASA Council.

3. ANNUAL MEETING--The first annual meeting shall be held in the fall of each year thereafter, on such date and at such time as shall be determined and announced by the Directors, for the purpose of presenting a progress report and acquainting new members with the business and policies of the corporation, and for the purpose of presenting a progress report and acquainting new members with the business and policies of the corporation, and for the purpose of receiving the President's annual report, establishing or amending basic policies concerning the structures and operation of the corporation's programs, and transacting such other business as may properly come before such meeting. Except as provided otherwise by law or herein, and business may be transacted at the annual meeting irrespective of whether the notice calling such meeting has contained a reference hereto.

4. SPECIAL MEETINGS--A special meeting of the members of the corporation shall be held when called:

a) by the President or Vice President or any two Council members, or

b) by the lesser of ten members or 20 percent (20%) of the members.

5. NOTICE OF MEETINGS--Notice of the time, place, and purpose of all meetings of the members shall be given to each member not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Such notice shall be given in person or by mail at such address as appears on the membership list of the corporation. It shall be the duty of each member to furnish the Secretary her or his post office address and to notify the Secretary of any change therein.

6. PROCEDURES--Except as otherwise provided by law or herein, the presence in person of five percent (5%) of the members of the corporation is necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting, without notice other than announcement at the meeting, until the requisite number of members be present. At all meetings of the members of the corporation, each member is entitled to one (1) vote. All matters coming before a meeting of the members shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting at which there is a quorum, unless provided otherwise by law or herein.

7. COMPENSATION--The Directors may, at their discretion, pay reasonable and appropriate compensation to members rendering special or unusual services to the corporation.

### Article III. Directors or Councilors

1. NUMBER AND ELIGIBILITY--The business and property of the corporation are managed and controlled by a Council composed of not less than twelve (12) nor more than twenty-two (22) members of the corporation, which Council presently contains twenty members.

2. ELECTION AND TERM--The Council members, functioning as Directors, assume power at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors and serve two-year terms. Approximately half of the Council members are elected each year; the Council members shall act only as a board with individual Council members having no power to act for the corporation.

3. VACANCIES--If the office of any Director or Council member becomes vacant by reason of resignation, removal, death, or other inability to serve, the President must select a successor to serve the remainder of the term.

4. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL--A Council member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or Secretary. A Council member may be removed for due and just cause by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Council. Cause for removal shall include inability to attend regular meetings of the Council for reasons such as moving beyond the region to a distance inhibiting attendance at meetings.

5. ANNUAL MEETING OF DIRECTORS--Within three months following each annual election of Council members, the newly elected Council shall meet at such place and time as shall be fixed and announced by the President at the annual meeting of members for the purposes of organization and announcement of election of officers and to consider such other business as may properly come before such meeting. No further notice of such meeting is necessary to constitute the meeting, provided a quorum be present.

6. REGULAR MEETINGS--The number, time, and dates of regular meetings of the Council shall be determined at the annual meeting of the council or as necessary depending on circumstances. An announcement of Council meetings shall be mailed to members at least one week before the date of the convening of a meeting.

7. SPECIAL MEETINGS--Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President on a week's notice to each Council member, which notice shall be given in person or by telephone, letter, or telegram. Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary in like manner and on like notice on the written request of any two Council members. Members of the corporation are entitled to attend all meetings of the Council, although notification of members is not required.

8. QUORUM--At all meetings of the Council, a majority of the total number of Council members is necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, each Council member having one (1) vote, and the act of a majority of the Council members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Council, except as may be otherwise provided by law or herein. If at any meeting of the Council, there is less than a quorum present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum is outlined, and no further notice thereof need be given other than by announcement at said meeting which is so adjourned.

9. POWERS--Except as may be otherwise provided by law or herein, all corporate powers are vested in and executed by the Council. The Council may by general resolution delegate to committees of the membership or to employees of the corporation such duties as the Council members deem necessary and proper.

10. MINUTES--Minutes of all meetings must be taken and are open to the corporate membership.

Article IV: Officers

1. NUMBER--The officers of the corporation are the President, Vice President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer, and such other officers with such powers and duties not inconsistent with these Bylaws as may be appointed and determined by the Council.

2. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE--The officers of the corporation shall be nominated by the Council and elected by the membership by secret ballot prior to the end of the annual meeting. Each officer holds office for a term of two years or until his or her earlier resignation or removal. Any officer may be removed at any time by the Council. Election for officers is held in odd numbered years. Half the members of Council are elected each year.

3. VACANCIES--If any vacancy is created by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Council may elect a successor to serve for the unexpired term.

4. PRESIDENT--The President is the chief executive officer of the corporation. He or she shall exercise general charge and supervision of the affairs of the corporation including but not limited to presiding at all meetings of the members and of the Council. At each annual meeting of the members, the President shall report on the current status of the corporation and the operation of the program during the preceding year. She or he shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to her or him by the Council.

5. VICE PRESIDENT--At the request of the President, or in the event of her or his absence or disability, the Vice President shall perform the duties and possess and exercise the powers of President. To the extent authorized by law, the Vice President shall have such other powers as the Council may determine, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to her or him by the Council.

6. SECRETARY/CLERK--The Secretary/Clerk has charge of such books, documents, and papers as the Council may determine and shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Council and member of the Corporation.

7. TREASURER--The Treasurer has custody of all funds, property and securities of the corporation, subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the 'council. (She or he may be required to give bond for faithful performance of her or his duties, in such sum and with such sureties as the Council may require. The costs of such bond if required, shall by borne by the corporation.) When necessary and proper, the Treasurer may, on behalf of the corporation, endorse for collection checks, notes, and other obligations and shall deposit the same to the credit of the corporation at such banks or depositories as the Council may designate, He or she shall sign all receipts and vouchers and, except as other officer or officers, if any, are designated by the Council, she or he shall sign all checks of the corporation and all bills of exchange and promissory notes issued by the corporation, unless the signing and execution thereof has been expressly delegated by the Council to some other officer or agent of the corporation. The treasurer shall make such payments as may be necessary or proper on behalf of the corporation. She or he shall enter regularly on the books of the corporation which are kept for such purpose full and accurate account of all moneys and obligations received by and paid or incurred for or on behalf of the corporation. Such books are open for inspection by members as required by law at the offices of the corporation. She or he shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the Treasurer, subject to the control of the Council.

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

This organization is called the Rocky Mountains American Studies Association. It shall be an officially recognized regional unit of the American Studies Association, including the states of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and southern Idaho.

### **II. PURPOSE**

The object of the Rocky Mountains American Studies Association shall be to encourage the study of American culture by bringing together people from various disciplines engaged in the analysis of different phases of American life, leading to a cross-fertilization of ideas and a more holistic understanding. It shall foster interdisciplinary research focusing on both the nation and the region, and make an effort to attract teachers, researchers, students, and interested members of the general public to join the Association and participate in its activities.

### **III. MEMBERSHIP**

Anyone interested in American Studies is eligible for membership in the Association. All members of the national American Studies Association who live or work in the region shall be included, and anyone else interested in belonging to the Rocky Mountains American Studies Association can join by paying dues to the Secretary-Treasurer equal to the regional rebate per member returned by the national association to the regional treasury.

### **IV. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

To conduct the affairs of the RMASA, there shall be an Executive Board composed of President, immediate Past President, Vice President, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and three additional elected members who should include, whenever possible, the student and non-academic members of the RMASA. They shall hold office for two years. Neither the President nor the Vice-President may succeed himself or herself. The Vice-President shall become President at the end of the officers' terms unless he or she declines the position, in which case a President shall be voted in by the membership as a part of the normal, biennial election. At-large members may serve a maximum of two terms consecutively.

It is the duty of the President to convene the Executive Board of the RMASA once a year and to act as a liaison with local American Studies Programs. The President will also answer routine correspondence directed to the RMASA by the ASA or its regions as well as other professional organizations. The Vice-President is responsible for planning the program of the biennial meeting, and shall take over the duties of the President should the President resign before the expiration of his/her term. The Vice-President shall also preside at meetings, should the President not attend. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect dues from those RMASA members who are not members of the American Studies Association and shall request each year the rebate from the ASA to which the RMASA is entitled. He/She shall make a financial report to the Executive Board at the yearly meeting and shall prepare the biennial elections (see article V).

### **V. ELECTIONS**

Biennial elections shall be held, beginning with 1985. The ballot, distributed by the Secretary-Treasurer, shall reflect the geographic distribution of members in the region; each position should have two candidates. Ballots shall be mailed to all RMASA members on February 1 and shall be counted by the Secretary-Treasurer on March 15. Nominations shall be made to the Secretary-Treasurer by majority action of the Executive Board, or may be submitted by a petition containing the signatures of ten bona fide members of the region. The results of the election shall be announced at the biennial meeting and shall be relayed to the ASA office by April 15. Terms of office shall begin on July 1 of the year during which the election is held.

### **VI. MEETINGS**

A biennial meeting of the Rocky Mountains American Studies Association shall be held, generally in the spring of the calendar year during which the American Studies Association convention is held. All meetings shall be open to the public, but only members of the RMASA shall participate in the business meeting held in conjunction with the biennial conference. At the business meeting, any new office holders will be announced, a financial statement will be

presented, and amendments and by laws entertained. More frequent meetings, and sponsorship of joint meetings or RMASA sessions at larger conferences, shall be encouraged.

#### VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed by a majority vote of RMASA members at a business meeting. They shall then be voted upon in a referendum by mail, and adopted if a majority of the voting members approve.

#### VIII. BY LAWS

By laws consistent with the provisions of this constitution may be adopted by the Executive Board by majority vote.

##### I. Meetings

- A. Normally, meetings of the RMASA shall be arranged, announced, and convened by the Executive Board. However, should two years pass without a meeting, a petition signed by ten bona fide members of RMASA can initiate an official meeting of the chapter.
- B. The meeting shall be preceded by a call for papers, which shall be mailed out to all members of RMASA and to the ASA Newsletter.

##### II. Executive Board Meeting

- A. Should a quorum of Board members be unable to attend the annual meeting, a conference telephone call shall be made to conduct the region's business.
- B. An agenda for the annual Executive Board meeting, along with pertinent supporting documents, shall be mailed to all Board members at least two weeks before the meeting date.

##### III. Interim Officers

Until July, 1985, when the first regular election is held, the constitutional review committee shall act as Executive Board of RMASA. It will elect from its membership a President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. This interim service will not disqualify the three officers from running in the 1985 elections, nor will this count as an official "term" for the at-large members.

## *Regional Chapter Newsletters and Journals*

In addition to the type of planned activities (explained below), several chapters also publish newsletters and/or journals. See Appendix at the end of this *Handbook* for examples of a number of recently published chapter newsletters and journals. The following chapters have recently listed these publications:

**Chesapeake** does not publish either a newsletter or a journal.

**Hawaii** publishes an annual newsletter.

**Kentucky-Tennessee** publishes a journal entitled *Border States*. It appears annually.

**Mid-America** publishes MAASA News (a newsletter in February, June, and October) as well as the journal, *American Studies* (semiannually in the spring and the fall), which contains articles and book reviews.

*American Studies* encourages the transdisciplinary study of the American experience. That is, it seeks primarily to publish work that achieves an interpretive coherence or integration of the diverse social and cultural dimensions of American life. Thus *American Studies* welcomes authors and readers from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives who wish to explore the broader social and cultural implications of their work. *American Studies* also includes a section titled "On Teaching," which is designed to encourage descriptions, analyses, and reflections on the process of teaching American Studies. For further information, please contact the editors at: *American Studies*, 2120 Wescoe Hall, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

**New England** publishes a newsletter, *NEASA INK*., twice a year (Fall and Spring). This newsletter includes such items as the following: NEASA council names/addresses list; announcement of and call for papers for the annual conference; greetings from the President's column; a report on NEASA chapter representative to the ASA Committee on Regional Chapters; occasional short news articles; a variety of announcements and lectures, symposia, conferences, and museum exhibitions; news of members and related regional and national organizations; and in the Spring, publication of the annual Conference Program.

Since 1997, *NEASA INK*'s editor has been Laurie Umansky. Members of the ASA in New England receive the newsletter as do those with no ASA affiliation who join NEASA or ASA members from other regions who choose the cross-membership. Correspondence should be sent to: Laurie Umansky, Newsletter Editor, *NEASA INK*, Suffolk University, Department of History, 8 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108-2770, phone: 617/573-8210; e-mail: LUmans85113@aol.com.

**Rocky Mountains** published a newsletter, *RMASA NEWS*, which has been replaced in the 1993-1994 academic year (volume one) by *Cañon: The Journal of the Rocky Mountains American Studies Association*, a semiannual journal. Subscriptions for non-members of the regional chapter are \$8 (prepaid) per year for individuals and \$10 per year for institutions (with \$2 added for foreign subscriptions). Students receive a subscription for \$7 with a faculty signature. Single (current and past) copies are available for \$4 each.

Correspondence goes to Thomas W. Cutrer, Editor, American Studies, Arizona State University West, P. O. Box 37100, Phoenix, AZ 85069-7100. There is an Associate Editor and a Managing Editor as well as an eight-member Editorial Advisory Board.

*Cañon* stipulates (as a model for other regions launching a journal):

Manuscripts, books for review, and all correspondence concerning editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor. Manuscripts sent for consideration must be accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes, if they are to be returned. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Only previously unpublished works will be considered.

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those of the editors or publisher. Articles may be copied for personal or internal use. This consent is given on the condition, however, that the copier pay the stated per copy fee through the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. for copying beyond that limit permitted by Sections 107 and 108 of the U. S. Copyright Law. This consent does not extend to copying for general distribution, for advertising or promotional purposes, for creating new collective works, or for resale.

To date, issues of *Cañon* include three to four articles, book reviews, and a section on "Affairs of the Association," serving as a newsletter. The focus is largely regionalist. *Cañon* is available through Internet [Details are not available for the Handbook].

**Texas** publishes *JASAT: Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas* annually through the American Studies Program of Baylor University, usually around the time of the annual conference. It contains articles and book reviews. The journal exists to focus interdisciplinary attention on thematic, methodological, and pedagogical issues in American Studies. Publication is limited to members of the ASA or the ASAT.

Manuscripts and books for review should be addressed to Elizabeth E. Dunn, editor, *JASAT*, Department of History, P. O. Box 97306, Baylor University, Waco, TX 76798-7240. Contributors should keep copies of all manuscripts submitted. To submit a manuscript to *JASAT*, please type the manuscript on one side of 8 1/2 x 11-inch bond of medium weight. Send two copies (and a 3.5 disk for Macintosh, formatted in Microsoft Word, if possible), double-spaced throughout, including quotations, endnotes, and works cited. The contributor's name should appear only on the cover sheet. Place the endnotes (double spaced) on separate sheets between the text and works cited. In matters of style, refer to the *MLA Handbook of Style*.

Yearly subscription rates for nonmembers of the regional chapter are: United States postal zones: institutions, \$25; college and university libraries, \$15; secondary school libraries, \$10; all other libraries and institutions, \$15; individuals for personal use, \$10; all other countries add \$2 for postage per year. Students enrolled in appropriate courses may subscribe at \$7.50 per year. Teachers should endorse student subscription requests. Single current issue, \$10; single back volumes, \$10.

ASAT also publishes ASAT Newsletter twice yearly. It contains calls for papers, information about the regional chapter's activities, news about members of the chapter, and other information of interest to members of the regional chapter. Items for the newsletter should be sent to Jerrie Callan, ASAT Secretary-Treasurer, PO Box 97404, Waco, TX 76798-7404.

## *Recent Regional Conference Programs*

### SUMMARY OF RECENT CONFERENCES IN THE REGIONAL CHAPTERS

#### California

- "Origins and Visions: American Voices at the Quincentennial"
- "Moving America"
- "Place in American Culture"
- 1993 spring**: "Sin, Stigma, and Risk," joint meeting with the Rocky Mountains ASA at University of Nevada, Reno.
- 1994 spring**: "Cities on the Edge" in San Diego (Ramada Inn in Oldtown)
- 1995 spring**: "California Cultures"
- 1996 spring**: "Expanding Borders and Boundaries: Rethinking 'America'"
- 1997 spring**: "Families, Tribes, and Communities"

**Chesapeake** Substitutes a "sharply focused series" of shorter programs "that combine broad appeal with a specific topic or activity" for an annual conference. These have included:

- "A Colloquia on International American Studies"
- "American Studies Career Day"
- "A Session on Material Culture"
- "A Seminar on Multiculturalism"
- "A Program Around the Air and Space Museum's *Star Trek* Exhibit"
- "A Field Trip to Baltimore" (including an Orioles game)
- "A Panel of Editors Speaking on Academic Publishing"
- "A Theater Piece Following by Discussion"

#### Great Lakes

**Hawaii** Sponsors an annual session where graduate students present scholarly papers and receive professional critiques.

**Kentucky-Tennessee** Meetings take place on a weekend at a scenic site with ample time allowed for informal discussion.

**Mid-America.** MAASA meets each spring. It does not organize its conferences around a particular theme.

**Mid-Atlantic.** No report received. The chapter has been inactive recently

**New England.** The annual, public business meeting is held at the spring conference.

- 1984 spring** "The Social and Cultural History of Everyday Life" at Tufts University
- 1984 fall** "Technology, Ecology, and American Culture" at Brown University
- 1985 spring** "Reconstructing American Literature" at the Twain/Stowe Houses in Hartford
- 1986 spring** "Memory and Memorials in American Culture" at University of Massachusetts-Boston
- 1986 fall** "The Place of American Studies: Teaching for the Professions" at Babson College
- 1987 spring** "New England and American Regional Cultures" at University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- 1987 fall** "New Directions: American Studies in the Classroom" at Boston College
- 1988 fall** "Bellamy's *Looking Backward* and Other American Utopias" at Emerson College
- 1990 spring** "Out of the Sixties" at University of New Hampshire
- 1991 spring** "Nature and Culture" at Pine Manor College

- **1992 spring** "Multiculturalism and the Americas" at Univ. of Massachusetts-Boston
- **1993 spring** "The Cultures of Technology: Science, Media, and the Arts" at Brandeis.
- **1994 spring** "American Popular Cultures: At Home and Abroad" at Brown University
- **1995 spring** "Margaret Fuller and Her Legacy: Cultural Critique in America" at Babson College and on the road
- **1996 spring** "Native Cultures and New England" at Providence College
- **1996 fall** "New England in Multicultural Perspective: Native Americans, African Americans, and Immigrants" at The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences
- 1997 spring** "Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture," Salem State College

### **New York Metro ASA**

NYMASA presents panels, lectures, and other shorter programs throughout the year instead of a single conference. These have included:

- Slide talk on Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer
- Panel of editors on the present and future of academic publishing
- Panel on archival research
- One-day meeting on teaching American Studies
- Theater trip followed by lecture and discussion

### **Pacific Northwest**

- **1987** "American Culture, American Cultures"
- **1988** "The Environment and American Cultures"
- **1989** "Institutions and American Culture"
- **1990** "Youth and Age in American Culture"
- **1991** "Ethnicity and Diversity in America"
- **1994 spring** Open Topic for meeting at Lincoln City, Oregon

### **Rocky Mountains**

- **1993 spring** "Sin, Stigma, and Risk," joint meeting with the California ASA at University of Nevada, Reno
- **1994 spring** Open Topic encouraging themes on the American West and "applied American Studies" outside the academy, at University of Utah in Salt Lake City
- **1995 spring** (No Topic Announced.) At Colorado State University
- **1996 December** Multi-regional conference in Denver (Oxford Hotel) with the Mid-America, the California, or perhaps the Pacific-Northwest and Texas ASA chapters
- **1997 spring** Perhaps at University of Wyoming

### **Southern**

- **1993** "Cultural Crossroads" at the Moteleone Hotel, New Orleans
- **1995** "Cultural Counterpoint: American Themes and Improvisation" at the Belleview Mido Resort, Tampa
- **1997** "American Communities: Past and Present" at Seaside, Florida
- 1999** "Memory and the American Century," at the Wilmington Hilton, Wilmington, North Carolina

### **Texas**

- 1993 fall** "The Keystone of American Culture: Diversity Imbued with Opportunity" at Baylor University (including annual business meeting)
- 1994 fall** at San Marcos, TX
- 1995 fall** at Austin, TX
- 1996 fall** at Marshall, TX
- 1997 fall** at San Antonio, TX
- 1998 fall** at Wichita Falls, TX
- 1999 fall** at Abilene, TX
- 2000 fall** at Waco, TX

## SAMPLES OF RECENT CALLS FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION

(See Appendix at end of this handbook for samples of Recent Regional Chapter Conference Programs.)

### **California ASA:**

The California ASA has issued a call for papers for its 1994 annual meeting to be held. . .in Oldtown San Diego on May 6-8. The interdisciplinary conference theme will be "Cities on the Edge." Its program committee is seeking papers on such topics as the city in conflict; patterns and perceptions of urban violence; and issues of race, gender, and power in the contemporary city. It is also interested in papers that explore the city in history; public places and public events; urban design and urban decay; and the representation of the city in art, literature, and the media. Papers may explore the city in history, public spaces and public events urban design and urban decay, and the representation of the city in art, literature, and the media or case studies of particular cities, urban theorists, and/or designers are also welcome. The organizers invite proposals for individual papers, complete panels, workshops, or media presentations. Themes include: Power in the City; Urban Violence/Urban Fear; Public Spaces/Public Events; Urban Design, Designers, and Theorists; Urban Turfs; Representations of the City; and Utopian/Dystopian Visions of the City. Interested scholars should submit a 500-word proposal and a vita by 15 January 1994 to . . . .

**January 28 deadline.** The California and Rocky Mountain ASA's joint conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on the theme "Corridors and Open Spaces: Place, Time, and Texts" will be held April 24-26, 1998. The conference will explore Americanness along the Inter-mountain, Pacific Coast and Southwest regions. We invite proposals on questions of social rupture and continuity in native, mestizo, and immigrant communities, technological and ecological corridors and spaces, trans-border synergies, contested and mythic texts including the arts, media, constructed/natural environments, and written documents. Innovative frames of analysis are encouraged. Please send a 250 word abstract and a one page cv to A. Gabriel Melendez, American Studies Dept., 305 Ortega Hall, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131; <gabriel@unm.edu>.

### **New England ASA:**

#### *Native Cultures and New England*

The 1996 conference of the New England American Studies Association will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. The theme of the conference is "Native Cultures and New England." The conference seeks to examine both the region's indigenous peoples and their relationships with others in and around the boundaries of present-day New England. From the Deerfield Massacre to the "Mohawk Trail," from the Pequot War to the Abenaki struggle for tribal recognition in Vermont, from Squanto to the casino, the presence of native cultures has been a powerful element in shaping the identity of "New England"—and vice versa. Visions of and by Indian peoples have informed the writings of New Englanders as diverse as Thomas Morton, Jonathan Edwards, William Apess, Lydia Maria Child, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Michael Dorris. We can envision proposals on any of the above subjects (and let's not forget the battle for Thanksgiving!). Papers and panels with an interdisciplinary or cross-cultural perspective are especially welcome--those that blend, for example, an expertise in religion and politics, women's studies and economics, literature and archaeology, or environmental studies and folklore. Topics might include but surely need not be limited to questions of tribal identity, ethnicity, and assimilation; military, political, economic, and cultural encounters; geographical boundaries and regional identities; regional images of and by Native American peoples in literature, painting, film, or tourism; and such continuing issues as American Indian activism, entrepreneurship, and the ownership of history and artifacts. We also solicit proposals for roundtables, workshops, and performances. Proposals for papers, panels, etc. should be sent to... by January 15, 1996.

#### *Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture*

The 1997 Conference of the NEASA will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4, at Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts. The theme of the conference is Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture.

On the site of America's notorious witch hunt, the NEASA invites reflections on the nature and uses of fear in American culture. Who, for example, determines which fears are imaginary or real, paranoid delusions or prophetic insights? We seek interdisciplinary perspectives on a wide range of collective fears, past or present, whether generated by state authority or popular enthusiasm.

Suggested conference topics may include: fear of immigrants, communists, subversives, and other deviants; fear of government (whether right or life), technology, pollution, and viruses (biological or computer); fear of conspiracies (Revolutionary-era suspicion of British colonial policies, Southern white fear of slave revolt and abolitionist activities, and Populist fear of organized corporate power); the theme of fear in literature, art, motion pictures, television, and on the Internet; and let us not neglect culture wars.

We are most interested in papers, panels, and presentations that shed light on how fear actually works in precise contexts . . . not so much whether Oswald acted alone, for example, but what the controversy says about American culture.

Please submit a one-page abstract . . .

#### NEASA TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

*New England in Multicultural Perspective: Native Americans, African Americans, and Immigrants*

The NEASA will sponsor an all-day teachers' conference on Saturday, September 28, 1996, from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Services in Boston. The theme of the conference will be *New England in Multicultural Perspective: Native Americans, African Americans, and Immigrants*. Teachers will be able to obtain professional development points for attending or participating in the conference.

We are looking for workshop presentations focused on new curriculum and new pedagogies related to the conference themes. We particularly encourage collaborative submissions by college and secondary school teachers; workshops focused on intercultural teachings; and innovative strategies for teaching interdisciplinary courses/units that involve diverse students as active learners.

While a formal call for proposal submissions will be sent out in January, inquiries and indications of interest can be sent to . . .

#### Southern ASA

*Cultural Counterpoint: American Themes and Improvisations*

The 1995 Biennial Conference of the Southern ASA will be held March 30-April 2, at the Belleview Mido Resort Hotel in Clearwater, Florida. The theme is "Cultural Counterpoint: American Themes and Improvisations." the keynote speaker will be Cecelia Tichi. Scholars in American Studies are academic mavericks who may resist adherence to or affiliation with any single academic home. We define America as a multicultural, multi-ethnic, and pluralistic civilization which reaches beyond the borders of the U.S. Papers for this conference may address any facet of American culture, high or low: African-American studies, architecture, art, education, ethnicity, history, literature, material culture, music, photography, politics, popular media, regionalism, social movements, women's studies, and other areas. The Belleview Mido is an elegant hotel on the U.S. Register of Historic Places. It is the oldest all-wooden hotel (built in 1897) still in use in the U.S. In addition to enjoying this luxurious beach resort for our meeting, we will spend a Friday evening in Tampa's famous historic district, Ybor City, and have dinner at the Columbia Restaurant. The conference will be hosted by the Department of American Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 33620-5550. Proposals for complete sessions, workshops, roundtable discussions, and individual fifteen-minute papers are welcome. Sessions will be 90 minutes with no more than four papers in a single session. Abstracts should be camera ready with 2" margins, single spaced, and on a single page. Two copies of the abstract are required. One copy should include the names, degrees, titles, affiliations, addresses (with home or office designated), and daytime telephone numbers of all presenters/authors. The first person listed will be designated the primary contact person and will be asked to share information with co-presenters. Complete and attach the Abstract Reply Form and return the form and two copies of the abstract by October 10, 1994, to....

*American Communities: Past and Present*

The 1997 Biennial Conference of the Southern ASA will be held February 27-March 2, 1997, at Seaside, Florida. Seaside is an innovative architectural community on the gulf coast of the Florida panhandle. Widely noted for its embodiment of neo-traditionalist town planning, Seaside offers a unique meeting site for the discussion of community. One national magazine has called Seaside a "down-home utopia," and some of the locals have

affectionately termed it "pastel hell." Our primary speakers will be Kenneth T. Jackson, Barzun Professor of History and Social Studies at Columbia University; and Gerald Early, Director of African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis. The conference will also include 24 sets of concurrent panels with 84 papers. Approximately 200 scholars from a wide range of disciplines will attend.

### EXAMPLES OF ANNUAL CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORTS

#### ***CHESAPEAKE***

##### **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1992**

Checking account in a Richmond, Virginia, bank.

##### **CREDITS:**

2/11/92 ASA Rebate	\$1,108.00
4/30/92 Individual Membership	10.00
7/7/92 Baltimore Trip	660.00
8/7/92 Baltimore Trip	225.00
8/20/92 Baltimore Trip	25.00
12/3/92 Individual Student Membership	5.00
12/17/92 Star Trek Exhibit	<u>65.00</u>
	<b>\$2,098.00</b>

**DEBITS:**

2/14/92 Copying of programs, fall '91 and winter '92	67.03
2/14/92 Postage, winter '92 program	126.15
2/14/92 Catering, fall '91 program	186.00
3/4/92 Copying, spring '92 program	3.86
3/0/92 Check order	68.80
3/29/92 Copying, envelopes, postage for '92 Richardson lecture	198.21
6/6/92 Bus, fall '92 program	307.00
7/9/92 University of Maryland, Dept. of History	66.28
8/25/92 Baltimore trip	600.00
8/25/92 Baltimore trip	8.21
12/17/92 <i>Star Trek</i> exhibit	100.00
12/17/92 <i>Star Trek</i> exhibit	32.08
2/12/92 Service fee	<u>96.50</u>
	\$2,883.45

**BALANCE IN BANK** on 1/1/93: \$237.68

**TEXAS****TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1992****CREDITS:**

Balance from 1991	\$2,949.95
Chapter rebates 1989-91	769.00
Dues 1992	1,330.00
Journal subscriptions	180.00
Checking account interest	<u>105.18</u>
	\$5,334.13

**DEBITS:**

Printing of newsletter	\$198.52
JASAT Journal	700.00
Postage and office supplies	316.73
JASAT institutional members	250.00
Time/share account deposit	<u>330.00</u>
	\$1,795.25

### *When Chapters Experience Problems*

The reports from the regions provided at the meeting of chapter representatives at the 1990 ASA Conference in New Orleans pointed up some common problems experienced by regional groups. These include the difficulties of mounting programs and maintaining communications over large geographical territories; lack of doctoral-level American Studies programs and leadership in the regions; and the need for more structured outreach strategies to add members from a variety of disciplines and careers. We hope that future editions of this guide will provide examples of how chapters have successfully tackled these challenges, as well as others that may be brought to our attention.

Occasionally, chapters experience organizational difficulties, including disagreements as to focus and programs at the local level; legal confusions regarding incorporation or other matters; and a lapse in chapter leadership. Most such issues can be resolved in the region, but members may wish to contact Executive Director John Stephens to gain the benefit of other chapters' experiences in similar situations.

The lapse of chapter leadership -- which occurs when chapter officers cease to organize programs, hold elections, and, in its most extreme form, to provide the national office with its annual accounting so as to receive funds -- is the most serious type of recurring problem that chapters have experienced. As the national ASA By-Laws stipulate, if a chapter does not file its financial statement and/or claim its rebate, the money is held in escrow for three years, after which it can be used for general purposes. This policy underscores the importance of filing financial reports and requests for rebates by the designated deadline of April 1 (for the preceding academic year), and preferably by the suggested date of October 1.

When members of a chapter feel that the officers are no longer functioning, they may place a notice to this effect in the ASA Newsletter, and should also contact John Stephens for direction on how to proceed.

**PART FIVE**

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

**ASA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND STAFF, 1997-1998**

(parentheses indicate when terms expire)

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**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL CHAPTERS, 1997-1998:****Names, Addresses, Phones, Fax, e-mail:**

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 Telephone Home: 970/204-0370

FAX: 970/491-5601  
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**Richard Tuerk**, Texas ASA, Texas A&M University (June 1999)  
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Telephone Home: 808/988-9647  
FAX: 808/956-4733  
e-mail: myoshiha@hawaii.edu

**John F. Stephens**, *ex officio*, Executive Director, American Studies Association  
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Telephone Office: 202/467-4783  
FAX: 202/467-4786  
e-mail: pp001366@interramp.com

#### **ASA REGIONAL CHAPTER OFFICERS, 1997-1998:**

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*MAASA Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* BRYAN LE BEAU, Creighton University

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*Convener and Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* LOUISE L. STEVENSON,  
Franklin and Marshall College

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*Secretary/Newsletter Editor:* LAURIE UMANSKY, History, Suffolk University

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CASTLE MCLAUGHLIN, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, (Public Representative)

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DAVID SANJEK, BMI Archives

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SANDRA STUPPARD, Boston Latin School (Secondary School Representative)  
 ADAM SWEETING, Boston University  
 JENNIFER TEBBE, Political Science/American Studies, Massachusetts College of  
 Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences  
 BARBARA TISCHLER, History, Columbia University  
 SCOTT WONG, History, Williams College

*NEASA Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* JENNIFER TEBBE, American Studies/Political Science,  
 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences

### **New York Metro ASA**

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*Vice-President:* ALONDRA NELSON, New York University  
*Secretary:* LEAH DILWORTH, Long Island University  
*Treasurer:* PAUL LAUTER, Trinity College, Hartford  
*Executive Members:* MICHAEL ELLIOT, Columbia University; LYNN DOMINA, State University of New York,  
 Delhi; ANNETTE ZILVERSMIT, Long Island University

### **Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho [zip codes 835 and 838]):

*President:* GARY SCHARNHORST, University of New Mexico  
*Vice President:* SUSAN DANIELSON, Portland State University  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* WENDY DASLER JOHNSON, Washington State University, Vancouver  
*Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* RICHARD N. MASTELLER, Whitman College

### **Rocky Mountains** (Southern Idaho [zip codes 832-834 and 836-837], Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana):

*President:* ERIC J. SANDEEN, University of Wyoming  
*Secretary/Treasurer:* DOROTHY BROADDUS, Arizona State University West  
*Members At Large:* RAY GUNN, University of Utah, Faculty Representative  
 WILLIAM BRYANT, University of Wyoming, Graduate Student Representative  
 THOMAS W. CUTRER, Arizona State University West

*Cañon: The Journal Of The Rocky Mountains Asa Editor:* THOMAS W. CUTRER

*Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* BRUCE A. RONDA

### **Southern** (Virginia [zip codes 224-246], West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana):

*President:* LYNNE ADRIAN, University of Alabama  
*Vice-President:* MATTHEW MANCINI, Southwest Missouri State University  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* MICHAEL D. CLARK, University of New Orleans  
*Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* RUTH BANES, University of South Florida  
*1999 Program Chair:* BILL ATWELL, University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
*Executive Committee:* Lynne Adrian, University of Alabama  
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 Townsend Ludington, University of North Carolina  
 Matthew Mancini, Southwest Missouri State University  
 Richard Megraw, University of Alabama  
 Lisa Nanney, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics  
 Peggy Whitman Preshaw, Louisiana State University  
 Lorenzo Thomas, University of Houston Downtown  
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*President:* MARVIN HARRIS, East Texas Baptist University

*Vice President:* GENA CAPONE, University of Texas, San Antonio

*Secretary/Treasurer:* JERRIE CALLAN, Baylor University

*Councilors:* ROBERT ABZUG, University of Texas at Austin  
 MARGARET GALLOWAY, University of North Texas  
 PRISCILLA LEDER, Southwest Texas State University

*Regional Chapter Delegate To The ASA:* RICHARD TUERK, East Texas State University

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE ASA, 1997:**

Academy for Educational Development  
 American Studies Center for the European Humanities University, Minsk, Belarus  
 Arizona State University-West, Phoenix, Texas  
 Barnard College, New York, New York  
 Baylor University, Waco, Texas  
 Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
 Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio  
 Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah  
 Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island  
 California State University, Chico, California  
 California State University, Fullerton, California  
 Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota  
 Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 The Chedd-Angier Production Company, Inc.  
 Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California  
 Colby College, Waterville, Maine  
 Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire  
 College of Staten Island, City University of New York, Staten Island, New York  
 College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia  
 Columbia University, New York, New York  
 Cornell University, Ithaca, New York  
 Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
 H. H. Dow High School  
 Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library  
 Elmira College, Elmira, New York  
 Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia  
 Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut  
 Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida  
 Franklin College of Indiana, Franklin, Indiana  
 George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia  
 Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.  
 Hamilton College, Clinton, New York  
 Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan  
 Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York  
 Hollins College, Hollins College, Virginia  
 Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho  
 Illinois Math and Science Academy  
 Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana  
 Institute of United States Studies  
 Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos, Barcelona, Spain

Jessie Ball Dupont Library, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee  
Kent State University  
Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio  
Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania  
The Library of America, New York, New York  
Louisiana State University, Shreveport, Louisiana  
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California  
Mark Twain Memorial, Hartford, Connecticut  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
McDougal Littell, Inc.  
McFaddin-Ward House, Inc., Beaumont, Texas  
Memphis State University, Tennessee  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Paintings and Sculpture Department, New York  
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan  
Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont  
Museum of Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York  
New York University, New York, New York  
Northbridge High School  
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma  
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon  
Pennsylvania State University  
Primary Source Media  
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey  
Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana  
Rowan College of New Jersey  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
Saint Cloud State University  
Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri  
Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia  
Saint Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont  
Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota  
Salzburg Seminar  
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California  
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York  
Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts  
Stanford University, Stanford, California  
Stetson University, De Land, Florida  
Swets Subscription Service  
Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts  
Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Union College, Schenectady, New York  
Universidad de la Americas-Puebla, Mexico  
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama  
University of California, Davis, California  
University of California, Santa Cruz, California  
University of Colorado  
University of Hawaii, Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii  
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Catonsville, Maryland  
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland  
University of Miami, Miami, Florida  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi  
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana  
University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia  
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee  
University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee  
University of Texas, Austin, Texas  
University of Texas, Dallas, Texas  
University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio  
University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia  
University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming  
U.S. Information Service, American Embassy, Minsk  
Utah State University, Logan, Utah  
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee  
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Washington State University, Pullman, Washington  
Washington University, Saint Louis, Missouri  
Wellesley College  
Willamette University, Salem, Oregon  
Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware  
Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, Newark/Winterthur, Delaware  
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

**BREAK-DOWN OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS OF THE ASA, 1997, BY REGION:**

The following break-down by region of institutional members of the ASA for 1998 is added to this revised edition of the Handbook as an aide for regional representatives and officers in recruiting involvement in regional chapters by institutions in their area. It should also indicate those programs, departments, and institutions that are conspicuous by their absence even though representatives of them are active in the ASA and/or regional ASA chapters.

**California:**

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California  
 California State University, Chico, California  
 California State University, Fullerton, California  
 Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California  
 Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California  
 San Diego State University, San Diego, California  
 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California  
 Stanford University, Stanford, California  
 University of California, Davis, California  
 University of California, Los Angeles, California  
 University of California, Santa Cruz, California

**Chesapeake** (Maryland, District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia [zip codes 220-223]):

Academy for Education Development, Washington, D.C.  
 American University, Washington, D. C.  
 George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia  
 Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.  
 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland  
 University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Catonsville, Maryland  
 University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

**Great Lakes** (Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan):

Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana  
 Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio  
 Franklin College of Indiana, Franklin, Indiana  
 Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan  
 Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana  
 Kent State University, Kent, Ohio  
 Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio  
 Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
 Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan  
 Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana  
 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
 University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana  
 University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio

**Hawaii:**

University of Hawaii, Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Kentucky-Tennessee:**

Jessie Ball Dupont Library, University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee  
 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee  
 University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee  
 Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

**Mid-America** (Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin):

Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota  
 Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, Missouri  
 Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota  
 University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
 University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

**Mid-Atlantic** (Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey [zip codes 077-089]):

Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
 Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
 Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania  
 Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania  
 Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey  
 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
 Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
 Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware  
 Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, Newark/Winterthur, Delaware

**New England** (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut):

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
 Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island  
 Colby College, Waterville, Maine  
 Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire  
 Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut  
 Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 Mark Twain Memorial, Hartford, Connecticut  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
 Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont  
 Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island  
 Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, Connecticut  
 Saint Michael's College, Winooski, Vermont  
 Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts  
 Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts  
 University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
 Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, Connecticut  
 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

**New York Metropolitan:**

Barnard College, New York, New York  
 Center for American Culture Studies, Columbia University, New York, New York  
 College of Staten Island, City University of New York, Staten Island, New York  
 Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York  
 The Library of America, New York, New York  
 Museum of Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York  
 New York University, New York, New York  
 Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey

**New York State** (defunct):

Elmira College, Elmira, New York  
 Hamilton College, Clinton, New York  
 New York State Education Department, Albany, New York  
 Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York  
 State University College, Brockport, New York

Union College, Schenectady, New York  
 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York

**Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho [zip codes 835 and 838]):

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon  
 Washington State University, Pullman, Washington  
 Willamette University, Salem, Oregon

**Rocky Mountains** (Southern Idaho [zip codes 832-834 and 836-837], Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana):

Arizona State University, West Phoenix, Arizona  
 Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah  
 Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho  
 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
 University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming  
 Utah State University, Logan, Utah

**Southern** (Virginia [zip codes 224-246], West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana):

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia  
 Duke University, Durham, North Carolina  
 Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia  
 Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida  
 Hollins College, Hollins College, Virginia  
 Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina  
 Louisiana State University, Shreveport, Louisiana  
 Stetson University, De Land, Florida  
 Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana  
 University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
 University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama  
 University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida  
 University of Miami, Miami, Florida  
 University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi  
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
 University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi  
 University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida  
 Wolfsonian Foundation, Miami, Florida

**Texas:**

Baylor University, Waco, Texas  
 McFaddin-Ward House, Inc., Beaumont, Texas  
 University of Texas, Austin, Texas  
 University of Texas, Dallas, Texas

**H-AMSTDY: AN AMERICAN STUDIES ELECTRONIC FORUM:**

**h-amstdy@uicvm.uic.edu**

**What is H-Amstdy?** A moderated scholarly forum for those involved with or interested in American Studies. The list has been in operation since July 1993 and now has an international membership in excess of 500.

**What does H-Amstdy discuss:** Among the many subjects we have encountered are:

- °Cultural Geography Textbooks
- °Middle-Class America
- °Right-Wing Activism of the 1960s

- °Interdisciplinary Methodologies
- °Female Fandom of the 1950s Wrestling
- °Swedenborg in America
- °Amusement Parks

In addition, the list:

- °publishes a weekly jobs notice
- °stores extensive files on funding
- °posts relevant conference announcements
- °maintains a file library full of useful resources and relevant materials

Because the list is moderated, H-Amstdy is also in a position to answer people's questions about computers, software, modems, and general connectivity issues.

**What does H-Amstdy cost?** H-Amstdy is free to anyone with an e-mail account. If you are interested in joining, please send an email message to either of the two moderators of H-Amstdy for further information:

Randy Bass, Project Director, Georgetown University

Jeff Finlay, New York University

Internet: [cepacs@guvax.georgetown.edu](mailto:cepacs@guvax.georgetown.edu)

If you don't have an email account, contact your on-campus academic computing office and ask for information. If you have further questions they cannot answer, call Jeff Finlay at 202/467-4783.

**IMPORTANT ASA DATES FOR REGIONAL CHAPTERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES:**

<b>July 1</b>	Next Year's Program Committee Appointed Directory of ASA Officers and Committees Updated Directory of Regional Chapter Officers and Handbook Updated Directory of International American Studies Associations Updated
<b>August 1</b>	Copy Deadline for September <i>ASA Newsletter</i> Revisions of Guides and Directories Completed
<b>September 7</b>	Deadline for Submission of Wise-Susman Prize and Baxter Travel Grant Entries
<b>September 30</b>	Deadline for Regional Chapters' Handbook Update
<b>October 1</b>	Nominations by Petition Due to Nominating Committee Chair Individuals Joining from Now to the End of the Year Become Members for Next Calendar Year

**NOTICE TO CHAPTER SECRETARIES OR TREASURERS TO REQUEST CHAPTER REBATES AND TO SEND ROSTER OF CURRENT OFFICERS**

<b>November 1</b>	Copy Deadline for December <i>ASA Newsletter</i> Annual Meeting Begins (approximate date) Annual Business Meeting of Council (approximate date) Preliminary Planning Meeting of Next Year's Program Committee (approx.)
<b>January 15</b>	Deadline for Receipt of Annual Meeting Proposals
<b>February 1</b>	Copy Deadline for March <i>ASA Newsletter</i>
<b>March 1</b>	Deadline for Submission of Franklin Prize Entries Final Program Committee Meeting (approximate date)
<b>March 15</b>	Postmark Date for Annual Election Ballot
<b>April 1</b>	Applications for Standing Committee Positions Due
<b>CHAPTER REBATES FOR PRIOR YEAR CLOSED</b>	
<b>May 1</b>	Copy Deadline for June <i>ASA Newsletter</i> Annual Executive Committee Meeting (approximate date) Deadline for Receipt of Corrections for <i>Resource Guide and Graduate Directory</i>
<b>May 20</b>	Deadline for Submissions of Gabriel Prize Entries Deadline for Making Committee Appointments Effective July 1
<b>June 1</b>	OED Starts Update of the <i>American Studies Resources Guide; Directory of Graduate Programs in American Studies; Guide to Faculty in American Studies; Guide to Directors of American Studies Programs; Guide to Dissertations in American Studies</i> (annual, cumulative); and <i>Guide to American Studies Curriculum Resources</i>