

counts as two.

#### **Article 5. Committees**

Committees may be created by the Board, to perform Board functions, and shall follow Board instructions.

#### **Article 6. Meetings**

*Section 1. Annual Board Meeting.* The Board shall meet annually, at some time during a Society Annual Meeting, and at the same site. Society Members may attend Board Meetings.

*Section 2. Special Board Meetings.* A Special Board Meeting shall be called by the Chairman when at least three Directors request it, stating the purpose. In choosing the time and site, the Chairman shall aim to achieve the largest possible attendance by Directors.

*Section 3. Agenda.* The Agenda for Board Meetings shall be prepared by the Chairman. Additions to the Agenda may be made by any Director, with the concurrence of the Chairman.

*Section 4. Quorum.* The quorum for any Board Meeting is three Directors.

#### **Article 7. Amendments to Board Bylaws**

Any Director may propose an amendment.

At an Annual or Special Meeting, a majority vote of the Directors present and voting shall carry the proposed amendment.

When an amendment is proposed by the Chairman, in writing, between Meetings, the Chairman shall decide whether to hold the proposal for the next Meeting or put it to an earlier vote by mail. For voting by mail, the Chairman shall promptly notify the Directors by a special mailing of the proposed amendment, with supporting arguments, requesting opposing arguments by 21 days after the date of mailing. Thereafter, the Chairman shall mail the opposing arguments, and a ballot, to the Directors, with a voting deadline of 21 days after the date of mailing. The votes shall be tallied by the Chairman, and verified by the Secretary, who shall notify the Directors of the outcome.

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING PETER STONE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**

The 1998 Annual Meeting of the Bertrand Russell Society took place at the Ethics Center of the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg Campus, located at 100 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida. The meeting ran from Friday, June 19, to Sunday, June 21.

This year, the Society held its Annual Business Meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. These minutes record the decisions of both meetings.

Peter Stone announced the results of the elections to the Board of Directors held at the beginning of the year. The eight Board members elected were Ken Blackwell, Dennis Darland, Gladys Leithauser, John Lenz, Stephen Reinhardt, David Rodier, Tom Stanley, and Ruile Ye.

John Lenz chaired the joint meeting. Ken Blackwell and Peter Stone took notes. Board Members present were James Alouf, Ken Blackwell, Dennis Darland, Jan Loeb Eisler, John Lenz, Stephen Reinhardt, Michael Rockler, Peter Stone, and Ruile Ye.

The Board then took up the issue of electing Board and Society officers. The following individuals were unanimously elected:

Chairman--Ken Blackwell  
President--John Lenz  
Vice President--Jan Loeb Eisler  
Secretary (Board and Society)--Peter Stone  
Treasurer--Dennis Darland

The process of nominating and electing officers required the reassignment of a few responsibilities. Mr. Blackwell agreed to take over from Mr. Lenz the job of managing the Russell-1 listserve. He will also take on the responsibility of pursuing additional renewals this year. In addition, Mr. Darland may be unable to perform his duties as treasurer for part of the year, and so Blackwell and Lenz later agreed to work out an arrangement to take over his duties temporarily. These duties include keeping a computerized version of the membership list, printing out labels for the Society newsletter, handling the Society's money, and keeping track of who has paid dues and who owes the Society money. In addition, Darland also sent out postcards to delinquent members in the past; in light of the Society's current membership problems (to

be discussed later), it will be necessary to resume this practice as soon as possible.

The Board then took up the subject of the next annual meeting. Alan Schwerin, a professor at Monmouth College, volunteered to arrange holding the meeting at Monmouth. The chair of his department would support this move, there is a very good limo service available to provide transportation, the drive from Newark Airport is not too bad, and there may even be dorm space available. Ms. Eisler moved that the next meeting be held at Monmouth College at a time to be arranged by Schwerin and Lenz. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The site for the annual meeting in 2000 was also briefly discussed. Mr. Rockler would like the meeting to move back to the West Coast, or possible the Midwest. He noted the meeting hadn't been held in either area since the 1993 meeting in San Diego. Mr. Lenz thought that it would be necessary to have someone on site to organize the meeting there, but Mr. Rockler and a few others disagreed.

Mr. Stone inquired if another joint meeting will be held in 2000 with the Humanist Society of Canada, the Council for Democratic and secular Humanism, and others; Mr. Lenz and Mr. Blackwell responded that it might be, but that nothing was definite yet. Stefan Anderson indicated that he might within a year or two be able to organize a meeting at Vancouver. No final decision was reached.

The Society then discussed the question of incorporation. Don Jackanicz, the BRS's Secretary for many years, had handled the paperwork for our continued incorporation in Illinois. He has now asked the Society to be relieved of this duty within a year. This means that the Society must forego continued incorporation, find a new agent in Illinois to incorporate us, or reincorporate in another state.

Two specific options were discussed. Jan Loeb Eisler announced to the Society that the Center for Inquiry in Buffalo is willing to incorporate the BRS at its address and handle all the paperwork. The Center would apply for nonprofit status for the Society in New York and act as agent for the state's annual report. It would also provide a permanent space for the BRS at the Center, including space for a Society library (as part of their larger collection) and commission a sculpture or painting of Russell for the Center.

Ms. Eisler read a letter from Paul Kurtz at the Center outlining the proposal. She strongly endorsed the move. Other members, including Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Rockler, were more wary. Rockler was unsure what "affiliation" with the

Center would entail. Blackwell also expressed concern that humanism represented only one of Russell's interests, and that affiliation with a humanist center would suggest that the Society was uninterested in other aspects of Russell's life and thought (including even positive aspects of religion). He thought that it would be better for all of Russell's interests (including humanism) if the BRS remained independent in both appearance and fact. In addition, Mr. Lenz wanted to know whether the Center would help us publicize the Society amongst the many people connected to the Center.

The second option discussed involved finding an independent agent in Illinois willing to serve as a registered agent for the BRS. The Society would have to locate such an agent, probably through the Secretary of State's office (Mr. Jackanicz would know how to do this), but for an as-yet undetermined yearly fee this agent would do all the work for us. Either way, the BRS would need a new address by January 1999, unless Mr. Jackanicz could be persuaded to give the Society another year.

In the end, the Society agreed to seek out an agent in Illinois willing to do the work for us and inquire into the price. This was agreed to with two abstentions. The Society also decided by a 9-6 vote (no abstentions) to obtain more information as to what affiliation with the Center for Inquiry would entail. Mr. Lenz and Ms. Eisler will prepare a mailing to the Board of Directors on the topic by September.

Mr. Lenz raised several issues for Mr. John Shosky, who was unable to attend. First Shosky wanted to solicit materials from the membership for the newsletter, especially membership profiles. Second, he nominated Peter Strawson for Honorary membership in the Society. Mr. Stone moved successfully that the Board table this nomination until Shosky can provide a short statement in support of his nomination. Third, he announced that there are two organizations in Eastern Europe that wish to obtain organizational memberships in the BRS--the Institute of Logic of the Academy of Sciences in Prague, and the Institute of Social Science at the University of Plovdiv in Bulgaria. The Society advised Shosky to check the bylaws; no vote should be necessary on this action (in any event, no one seemed to have any objection to the new memberships).

The Society also made several requests of the editor of the BRS *Quarterly* (Shosky). Mr. Blackwell requested that Shosky provide in a future issue a list of all the BRS's honorary members and award recipients, as well as a copy of the Bylaws of the Society and Board of Directors. Mr. Lenz also requested a list of all the BRS's members, which used to be published annually in the *Quarterly*. Some objected that there may be people who would not want the publicity. And so it was agreed that people should be given a chance to indicate that they do

not want their names publicized in a non-commercial way. This should be done on the membership renewal form; the Editor should make the appropriate changes before renewal time.

A motion was made to rename the Society's Service Award (an ad hoc award given to members who perform outstanding service to the Society) for Lee Eisler. The motion was unanimously approved with one abstention.

The Society discussed publicity. Among the methods discussed were slipping BRS bookmarks into books in bookstores and print ads (the latter having been discontinued, without any loss in new memberships according to Mr. Lenz).

A large number of members have so far failed to renew this year. The Society agreed that the renewal form in the Quarterly must be made more visible, and if possible a return envelope should be provided in the Quarterly.

Mr. Schwerin advised the BRS to hold sessions at the APA's annual meetings. Mr. Lenz explained that the Society did indeed have such meetings but has not done so lately for lack of someone to organize them. Schwerin will look into doing Russell events at the APA.

Ms. Eisler inquired if the BRS was in arrears with its membership in the International Humanist Ethical Union. Mr. Lenz claims we were given an honorary membership but fears that the IHEU has forgotten this. He will write to the Union.

Mr. Schwerin suggested that the BRS hold an annual paper contest, much as the Leibniz Society apparently does. Mr. Lenz informed him that the BRS has such a contest but that in recent years no contest has been held due to lack of an effective committee to run it. He will look into reviving it.

Ms. Eisler asked how much money it costs the BRS to have a membership. No one had an effective answer.

#### MEETING ATTENDEES

Jim Alouf (Sweet Briar College, Va.)  
P.O. Box 463  
Ivy, Va. 22945  
alouf@sbc.edu

Stefan Andersson  
3906 17th Ave.

Vernon, B.C.,  
Canada V1T 1C1  
sanderss@chass.utoronto.ca

Milton and Cecily Aronson  
Publisher, Technical Trade Journals; new BRS member  
5820 Bikini S.  
St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706  
MHARON@JUNO.COM

Trevor Banks  
435 Ravenhill Ave.  
Ottawa, Ont., Canada  
dx525@freenet.carleton.ca

Robert Barnard  
Dept. of Philosophy  
University of Memphis  
Memphis, TN 38152  
RBARNARD@MEMPHIS.EDU  
www.people.memphis.edu/~rbarnard

Ann Berdeen  
American Humanist Association/Humanist Association of St. Petersburg  
7299 Mt. Piney Rd. NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Karen Betts  
Campus Freethought Alliance: Humanistic Atheist Student Assoc'n at Univ. of  
Florida  
3730 SW 18th St.  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
afn29587@afn.org

Bill Bishop  
Campus Freethought Alliance  
3730 SW 18th St.  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
afn55009@afn.org

Ken Blackwell (and Liz Blackwell)  
Dept. of Philosophy  
McMaster University  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

blackwk@mcmaster.ca

Javier Bonet (and Mrs. Bonet)  
CCS 3101  
P.O. Box 025323  
Miami, FL 33102-5323  
jbonet@alum.mit.edu  
www.sxpress.com/~jbonet

Dennis Darland  
1965 Winding Hills Rd., Apt. 1304  
Davenport, IA 52807  
ddarland@netins.net

Jan Loeb Eisler  
Humanist Association of St. Petersburg and VP of BRS  
13336 Gulf Blvd #304  
Madeira Beach, FL 33708  
HASP@gte.net

Sidney A. Ellis  
P.O. Box 669  
St. Petersburg, FL 33731-0669

Joseph M. Glynn, Jr.  
625 E. Bismark St.  
Hernando, FL 34442-4726

Mitch Haney  
Ethics Center, USF; moving to become Asst. Professor of Phiosophy, USF,  
Tampa  
6107 9th Ave. S.  
Gulfport, FL 33707  
mhaney@bayflash.stpt.usf.edu

John R. Lenz  
Classics, Drew University  
38B Loantaka Way  
Madison, NJ 07940  
jlenz@drew.edu  
daniel.drew.edu/~jlenz

Steve Maragides  
2438 Pine Street

Granite City, Ill. 62040

Kendall Mazurowksi  
Humanist Association of St. Petersburg  
3516 19th St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Stephen J. Reinhardt  
2401 Pennsylvania Ave., Apt. 202  
Wilmington, Delaware 19806-1402

Henrique Carlos Jales Ribeiro  
Rua do Tunel, no. 5, 1,  
Alto Sao Joao,  
3030 Coimbra, Portugal  
simine@mail.telepac.pt

Alan Schwerin  
Dept. of Political Science & Philosophy  
Monmouth University  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898  
ASCHWERI@MONDEC.MONMOUTH.EDU

Peter Stone  
Political Science Department  
Univ. of Rochester  
Rochester, NY 14627  
prse@troi.cc.rochester.edu

Christos and Alice Tzanetakos  
#503 S  
3120 North A-1-A  
Fort Pierce, FL 34949-8865  
ATHALFLC@aol.com

David J. Vogt  
Humanist Association of St. Petersburg

Ruili Ye  
P.O. Box 683  
New York, NY 10185-0683  
lesalpes@yahoo.com