

DEMHIST General Assembly 2017
11:45 am-12 :45 pm, 16th October 2017, Hampton Court Palace
HAMPTON, England

MINUTES

Present:

Board members: John Barnes - *Chair*; Luc Vanackere - *Vice Chair*; Gianluca Kannés - *Vice Chair*; Elsa Rodrigues - *Secretary-Treasurer*; Minerva Keltanen - *board member*; Ayşen Savaş - *Board member*; Ulla Strømberg - *board member*

DEMHIST individual members: Daniel Ronan; Yvonen Ploum; Timna Seligman; Yoshihiro Nakatani; Bert Boer; Linda Young; Franklin Vagnone; Edward Bosley; Vicky L. Kruckeberg; Carl R. Nold; Hetty Berens; Daniela Ursula Ball; Anna Lía Rúnarsdóttir; Remko Jansonius; Rauni Laukkanen; Roberto Andréu Quevedo; Tamar Berger; Maria de Jesus Monge; Maria de Fátima Ramos Branco; Maki Tokugawa; Milja Stijović

Non-voting members: Peter Keller; John Yeagley; Hafiz Ali Abdulla; Bård Frydenlund; Hamki Kizumki; Alexandra Kim

1. Welcome

John Barnes welcomed members.

**2. Minutes of the General Assembly in Milan
- Approval of the minutes**

All topics of the minutes were quickly covered and approved.

**3. Report of the Chair
- Approval of the report 2016-2017**

John Barnes went through his report elaborating that DEMHIST has been more live on Twitter and on Facebook and reported about the bursary for young members but at a certain point he was interrupted by members who wanted to know about the Board elections process.

So, a discussion begun around that matter.

Basically, John Barnes, a week before the conference, taking into consideration his experience as being the Chair for five years and baring in mind how difficult sometimes can be to hold an active Board, thinking on what might be the best for this International

Committee that is growing fast, having more members and being committed with more activities, decided to increase the number of Board members from 11 to 13. Exactly because this is a volunteer organisation he would welcome a bigger Board. That was his proposal. Since 13 candidates were willing to serve DEMHIST he assumed that those 13 candidates were automatically elected and announced the new Board.

That procedure revealed to go against ICOM statutes that oblige International Committees to hold elections. Therefore, we would hold our election to reverse the situation and members would elect the Board. All DEMHIST members had been informed about that via email and eventually some members had already sent their online votes.

Immediately after, Gianluca Kannés used the word on the behalf of the Italian National Group whose members were not attending the General Assembly, saying that we could not hold elections because they asked "to suspend the election of the new Board and to empower a steering committee with the task of organizing a proper election in the next few weeks or months" since they "believed that any other procedure would be democratically unacceptable, and would result in the election of a Board devoid of legitimacy".

However, some voices raised up contesting this decision.

Many members intervened, expressing their opinion, pros and cons, such as Daniela Ball, Gianluca Kannés, Hetty Berens, Daniel Ronan, Remko Jansonius, Carlid Nold, Maria de Jesus Monge and Ayşen Savaş for instance.

Summarizing their points of view, we had the following unfavourable ideas:

- 1) Not to hold election but to elect a Steering Board instead.
- 2) Having a Steering Board and holding elections in four or five months.
- 3) To appoint a new Board next year.
- 4) DEMHIST could invite members to become part of that Steering Board.
- 5) To elect the Board for a shorter term and hold elections next year.
- 6) Why not just to elect 11 or 9 Board Members instead of 13?

On the other hand, also favourable ideas come up from this discussion:

- 1) If we suspend the election DEMHIST would stay one year without Board. Who, then, would organise the next voting process?
- 2) Who would be part of the steering team? Who would like to work in such conditions, knowing that would be just a temporary position?
- 3) If we assume a steering team or if we postpone the election DEMHIST would totally lose its Board because these candidates will lose their joy, their commitment, their willing to serve.
- 4) Again, members should bear in mind that what candidates do is *pro bono*. All work done for the Board is *pro bono*.
- 5) DEMHIST is organizing a conference in Chicago, for that reason contacts should be done through its Board. If there is no Board, DEMHIST shall not organise an annual conference. Therefore, we should fully support this Board to serve 3 years.

- 6) General Assemblies take place during DEMHIST annual conferences. Who would be willing to travel just to attend a General Assembly? Probably none.
- 7) It is obvious that we cannot function without a Secretary and a Treasurer. We have to allocate responsibilities.
- 8) What if we don't have 13 candidates in 3 years' time?

Peter Keller (ICOM General Director), who was invited to take part on this General Assembly, after listening to members' opinions affirmed that, according to ICOM statutes, Boards can only be announced after holding elections and DEMHIST could hold its election on that moment. Therefore, the problem would be solved if we would hold elections. Moreover, if we wanted, we could hold elections on that General Assembly because elections would be legal according to ICOM statutes.

John Barnes asked to members to express their opinion by raising their hands if they wanted to vote or not. «We should take a decision. To suspend the elections or not». Members said «Yes, we are going to vote». Just Gianluca Kannés expressed himself against it. John Barnes replied «Thank you for that clear decision».

Then he asked for members raise their hand those who wanted to increase the number of board members to 13 and who wanted to remain at 11. Nineteen members voted for increasing the number of Board members, one voted to remain at 11 and others abstained.

After this discussion, John Barnes preceded with his report, followed by its approval.

4. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

- Approval of the report 2016-2017

John Barnes went through Elsa Rodrigues' report covering the most significant points and concluded «Isn't Elsa brilliant?»

Members applauded.

- Approval of the budget for 2018

John Barnes quickly explained the budget for 2018 and asked «Are there any questions on Elsa report?» Of course, Elsa Rodrigues forecasted the budget for 2018 but it is up to the New Board to use it according to their Strategic Plan.

John Barnes explained that ICOM does not allow International Committees to use funds in the coming year. In fact, «It urges to use DEMHIST funds because ICOM asks it». It is such a small subvention although DEMHIST is one of the best committees. Otherwise, it would receive even a smaller one. As a matter of fact, some committees are receiving less money.

We have 4000 euros on our budget for National Groups because it has been a successful challenged in the past, so we would like to continue supporting National Groups as well as affiliated events.

Then the budget was approved.

5. Election of the New Board

The Assembly went through the voting process, ballots were distributed and members voted.

Twelve members previously voted online: Ulla Strømberg, Werner Van Hoof, Remko Jansonius, Ann Scheid, Daniel Ronan, Barbara Elfman, Timna Seligman, Francesca Baldry, Joan Bacharach, Marta Antuñano, Yoshihiro Nakatani and Carmen Jiménez.

Twenty three members voted at the General Assembly. John Barnes and Elsa Rodrigues abstained from voting. Therefore, thirty five members voted on this elections.

A few minutes later John Barnes announced that the Assembly elected the new Board and he greeted DEMHIST members with a special «Congratulations to Elsa for the Chair!».

The board was elected with the following votes:

Elsa Rodrigues – 30 votes
Yvonne Ploum – 26 votes
Ana Cristiana Carvalho – 30 votes
Frank Louhenapessy – 29 votes
Barbara Elfman – 23 votes
Daniel Ronan – 28 votes
Jonathan Gratton – 27 votes
Gianluca Kannés – 29 votes
Marta Antuñano – 32 votes
Remko Jansonius – 26 votes
Timna Seignan – 28 votes
Ulla Strømberg – 28 votes
Yoshihiro Nakatani – 30 votes

6. Any other business

There were no any other businesses to be discussed.

7. Conferences:

- Update on the 2018 conference in Chicago and Next General Assembly

Daniel Ronan said that «We are excited to welcome you in Chicago. The conference will be from 14th – 18th October next year». Then he explained that he was trying to engage international organisations and that part of the conference would be possible by fundraising. Finally, he concluded with «Feel free for asking any questions».

Minerva Keltanen and Rauni Laukkanen thanked John Barnes for taking the lead on organising the conference in London when they were not able to do it in Helsinki.

John Barnes, then, declared the Assembly closed.

Elsa Rodrigues
DEMHIST Chair
Lisbon, November 2017