

SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MORMON LIFE

Volume 4, No. 1

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ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

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The time has come, under our Constitution (Article VI, Section 4), to hold an election for new officers, who will assume their posts at the official annual business meeting next September. Under our constitutional structure, the current Vice-President (Jim Duke) is also automatically the President-Elect, so we do not have to elect a new President. We do, however, have to elect a new V-P and President-Elect, a new Secretary-Treasurer, and three new council members.

Our ad hoc Elections Committee has nominated a new slate of officers, as follows:

President-Elect and Vice-President: Marie Cornwall, U. of Minnesota

Secretary-Treasurer: Rosemary S. Bahr, BYU

Council Members: Harold T. Christensen, La Jolla, CA

Clark S. Knowlton, U. of Utah

Gary Shepherd, Oakland University

(Michigan)

The enclosed ballot permits you either to vote for the members of the above slate (individually) or to write in the name of any alternative candidate whom you may prefer for any of the offices. Before you write in any alternative name, you must (1) be sure the person's name appears on the current list of members attached, and (2) contact the person to be sure he/she is willing to serve. The attached membership roster will also enable you to communicate with and organize any segment or interest group in the Society to produce en bloc voting for write-in candidates whom you may prefer over members of the slate. If neither the slate member nor any write-in candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, there will be a run-off election, as the Constitution requires, between the two candidates for a given office receiving the largest pluralities.

The election arrangements laid out here are similar to those followed in the Mormon History Association. They are intended to simplify and streamline the process in an organization with a small membership, few available candidates, and no known controversies. There is certainly no intent to "railroad" or to manipulate the process. A general call for nominations for these various offices went out to the membership in the last Newsletter, but none were received. Accordingly, the Elections Committee has generated a slate of its own, which will be considered elected if ratified by a majority of the voting Society members. It is still possible, however, through the arrangements described above, for any Society member to offer a write-in candidate for any of the offices, and to try to persuade other members to vote for the alternative (write-in) candidate. We are allowing ten days for the entire process, though that limit might be extended on behalf of any candidate or interest group feeling the need of more time.

In order to vote (or, if you wish, to petition for more time), simply indicate your choice(s) on the enclosed ballot and mail the same as soon as possible to our retiring SSSML president, Armand Mauss, P.O. Box 2061, C.S., Pullman, WA 99163. In order to be counted, your ballot must be mailed (postmarked) by March 13, 1982. Please be sure that your ballot and return envelope are anonymous - i.e., that they carry neither your name nor your address - unless you are petitioning for an extension of time. PLEASE VOTE AND THEREBY PARTICIPATE AT LEAST MINIMALLY IN THE AFFAIRS OF SSSML, and do so soon.

#### AS FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Both the Pacific Sociological Association and the Western Social Science Association will be meeting during April 21-24, 1982. The conflict is unfortunate, but we hope you will be able to attend one or the other. The PSA will meet at the Embarcadero Holiday Inn, San Diego, and the WSSA will meet in Denver. Both organizations will feature special sessions on Mormon topics: The WSSA session will feature papers on Mormon religious behavior, on the use of individual responsibility by Mormon counselors and therapists, and on a content analysis of the values expressed in official church teaching materials. The PSA session will feature papers on Mormon birth control practices, the causes of inactivity in the Church, the process of affiliation with the Church, and a content-analysis of priesthood and Relief Society lesson manuals. The next SSSML Newsletter, in about a month, will give more details on these interesting programs. Meanwhile, for more information on either of them, contact their respective chairpersons, Jim Duke for the WSSA program and Rosemary Bahr for the PSA program.

AND TO HELP YOU KEEP UP ON THE MODERN MORMON SCENE: There is a new magazine, Restoration, published out of Bountiful, Utah, that covers the developments across the various schismatic groups out of the Mormon movement, many of which you probably didn't even know existed! (Ever heard of the "Free Will Mormons"?). Then there is Seventh East Press (Box 7223, Univ. Station, Provo, Utah 84602-0223), a newspaper that comes out monthly or so to help you keep up with controversial and other kinds of tidbits on the BYU campus (and in the Provo area) that are usually "overlooked" by the Daily Universe.

AND FINALLY . . . Don't be bashful! We need your suggestions about OUR ANNUAL SSSML PROGRAM in conjunction with the annual ASA and SSSP meetings, to be held this year in early September and in San Francisco. What would you like to see us do with our program this year? Send suggestions to Armand Mauss.

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