

Spring 5-1-1999

Appalink

Appalachian Studies Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Steve Fisher

In the last issue of *Appalink*, I talked about the scope of the social, economic, and political problems currently facing Appalachian communities and made the case for a new form of critical discourse and practice leading to a reappraisal of how we envision education, culture, democracy, identity, and resistance in the region. I'd like to build on that discussion in this issue.

In the early 1980s, Bill Horton helped write a pamphlet for the Appalachian Alliance in which he said that the problems confronting Appalachia could only be solved by the creation of coalitions where none existed before and that included groups that have not coalesced before. We need, he said, coalitions of opposition, coalitions of advocacy, and coalitions of alternatives. That call to action is just as relevant today as it was back then.

The challenge for us all is to work to build coalitions and networks that are practical enough to fight the necessary short-term battles, but visionary and committed enough to bring about long-term fundamental change. The problems we face are just too immediate and too great to not do that.

There are some encouraging signs. Jeff Boyer, Carol Kubre, and others are working to create sustainable development networks in Appalachia that would be connected to broader national and global efforts. Rich Kirby at Appalshop has been circulating a provocative and insightful discussion paper outlining the need and initial steps necessary for a regionwide visioning process. Betsy Taylor and some folks at the University of Kentucky's Appalachian Center are moving ahead with plans to help create regional networks to support grassroots environmental activities. "Just Connections" is one of several ongoing efforts to bring together academics, students, and local activists to create and use models of participatory research and service learning in support of self-sustaining communities. *The Appalachian Reader* now exists to keep us informed about various ways in which people are fighting back in Appalachia.

I'd like to think the Appalachian Studies Association could play a role in this process. Indeed, the original purpose of the ASA was to serve as a forum for an ongoing conversation between activists and academics. There was some success in this regard for the first few years, but over time fewer and fewer community people attended. Community activists were occasionally asked to

participate on a panel, or a citizens group was invited to come present their story. But this was done haphazardly and infrequently, and there was always the problem of how to cover the costs of the registration fee, travel, and lodging. These sessions usually weren't well integrated into the overall meeting and were often poorly attended.

Fortunately, there has been significant improvement in recent years in involving community groups in the annual meeting. As the Preliminary Program indicates, this year's Program Committee, which includes several community activists, has worked hard to build on this progress. There are sessions on some of the most pressing issues facing the region as well as on some of the more successful grassroots initiatives and struggles. There are also a number of presentations on efforts to nurture university-community collaboration. Money raised through last year's Silent Auction is available to help reduce the registration fee for some community participants, and the ASA Steering Committee has established an ad hoc committee, chaired by Pat Beaver, to investigate ways to increase the amount of such money available in the future. An additional ad hoc committee, chaired by Gordon McKinney, is examining what roles the ASA might play in helping to create the type of coalitions and networks described above. We are excited and encouraged by the fact that five community groups in McDowell County, WV — Big Creek People in Action, Sandy River District Action Committee, Stop Abusive Family Environments, Cooperative Action Program of Southern McDowell County, and McDowell County Action Network — have each contributed \$200 in support of this year's conference. Special time has been set aside on Saturday afternoon during the conference for networking and coalition-building discussions.

So, come to Abingdon. You'll see old friends and make new ones. You'll be inspired and enlightened by Jo Carson's keynote address, Earl Dotter's photographs, and Hazel Dickens's music and songs. You'll be hard-pressed to choose which of over 70 sessions to attend. And you'll have an opportunity to participate in conversations about the future of Appalachia and the role that you and the ASA can play in ensuring that the future of the region is a more just and democratic one. I look forward to seeing you.

ASA BYLAW REVISIONS

Note from President Steve Fisher: The ASA Steering Committee has approved the following revisions to our bylaws. They are generally editorial and intended to bring the wording of the bylaws in line with decisions made by the association in light of its actual operation over the past several years. Members will be asked to vote their approval of the revisions at the luncheon/business meeting on Saturday, March 20, during the annual conference. Proposed changes [additions, deletions, or revisions] appear in boldface.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSES. **(5) to strengthen the involvement of Appalachian youth in Appalachian studies through a youth conference integrated into the annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association.** [Delete all of part (5).]

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES. Section 2. Categories. There shall be three (3) categories of membership in the association. These are: Regular, Student, and Unwaged. [Revise to read: **two (2) categories of membership in the association. These are: Regular and Student.**]

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES. Section 3. Dues. Membership and conference fees shall be reviewed annually by the steering committee at the joint meeting of the steering and program committees. [Delete **at the joint meeting of the steering and program committees.**]

ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS. Section 1. A. Elected Officers **(7) Youth conference program chairperson (8) Youth conference program vice-chairperson/youth conference program chairperson elect.** [Delete all of parts (7) and (8).]

ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS. Section 3. A. Elected Officers. **(7) Youth conference program chairperson-one year (8) Youth conference program vice-chairperson/youth conference program chairperson elect-one year.** [Delete all of parts (7) and (8).]

ARTICLE X: DUTIES OF OFFICERS. **Section 7. Youth Conference Program Chairperson.** [Delete all of Section 7.]

ARTICLE X: DUTIES OF OFFICERS. **Section 8. Youth Conference Program Vice-Chairperson/Youth Conference Program Chairperson Elect.** [Delete all of Section 8.]

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES. Section 1. D. Meetings. The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice during the year, **those times being during the summer and on the opening day of the annual conference.** [Delete the entire clause following the comma.]

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES. Section 2. Program Committee. A. Membership. **(3) Youth Conference Program Chairperson (4) Youth Conference Program Vice-Chairperson/Youth Conference Chairperson Elect.** [Delete parts (3) and (4).]

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES. **Section 4. Youth Conference Subcommittee.** [Delete all of Section 4.]

ARTICLE XI: COMMITTEES. Section 5. Website Committee. A. Membership. The Website Committee shall consist of the chair and three members appointed by the ASA president to rotating three-year terms, with an effort made to preserve a membership balance between the scholarship and service/activist interests of the ASA. [Change the last period to a comma and add the following: **and the ASA Office Manager and JAS Editor as ex-officio members.**]

AMENDMENTS PASS

The two proposed amendments to the ASA Bylaws, which appeared on a ballot in the Summer 1998 issue of *Appalink*, were passed by the membership: 1) To add the ASA Office Manager to the steering committee; and 2) To change the number of issues of *Appalink* from three to two times annually, Spring and Summer.

BALLOT

ASA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1999-2000

The following nominees are placed before the ASA membership by its nominating committee for various offices and committees for 1999-2000. Following each entry is a blank space where you should mark your vote for that nominee or write-in a nominee for the same position. Please fill in ballots and return them by **MARCH 12, 1999**, to the Nominating Committee Chair, Jim Lloyd, at the address below.

James B. Lloyd, Special Collections, Hoskins Library,
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996

You can FAX ballots to Jim at (423) 974-0560.

For Vice-President / President Elect:

Sally Ward Maggard, Associate Professor of Sociology,
West Virginia University

Maggard ____ Write-In nominee _____

For Conference Program Vice Co-Chairs (2000) / Chairs Elect (2001):

Sandra Barney, Assistant Professor of History,
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania

Kate Long, writer, storyteller, singer, and writing coach,
Charleston Gazette, Charleston, West Virginia

Barney & Long ____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Treasurer (3-year term):

Doyle Bickers, Director of Admissions,
Western Carolina University

Bickers ____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Secretary / Appalink Editor (2-year term):

William Klaus, Ph.D. candidate in History,
West Virginia University

Klaus ____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Steering Committee (three members, 2-year terms):

Pat Beaver, Professor of Sociology,
Appalachian State University

Beaver ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Shaunna L. Scott, Associate Professor of Sociology,
University of Kentucky

Scott ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Gordon McKinney, Director of the Appalachian Center,
Berea College

McKinney ____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Nominating Committee (two members, 1- year term):

Pat Beaver, Professor of Sociology, Appalachian State
University

Beaver ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Shaunna L. Scott, Associate Professor of Sociology,
University of Kentucky

Scott ____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Program Committee (4 members, one-year term):

Phyllis Bickers, Coordinator of Career Services,
Western Carolina University

Bickers ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Roberta Herrin, Professor of English,
East Tennessee State University

Herrin ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Ted Olson, Assistant Professor of English,
Union College

Olson ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Blair White, Assistant Director/Curator,
Carroll Reece Museum,
East Tennessee State University

White ____ Write-In Nominee _____

For Chair of Website Committee:

Phil Obermiller, Urban Appalachian Council,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Obermiller ____ Write-In Nominee _____

Silent Auction

Howard Dorgan, ASA immediate past president, reports that this year's conference in Abingdon, Virginia, will again feature a silent auction. All money raised through this event will be used to offset part or all of the ASA conference fees for special groups attending next year's gathering in Knoxville.

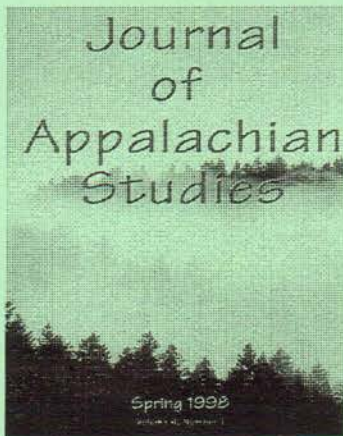
Inaugurated at the 1998 conference in Boone, North Carolina, the silent auction has already generated approximately \$1,300 which will be used to provide fee reductions this year. The association's goal, as stated in last year's solicitations for auction bid items, is to raise funds which will help conference participants (students or community groups in particular) pay for the cost of their involvement. Through these efforts, the ASA hopes to keep the annual conferences open to as many participants as possible. All ASA members, friends, and supporters are urged to help in this effort.

Silent auction bid items (\$10 value or more) are now being sought. These items should be sent to: **Howard Dorgan, Dept. of Communication, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608**. Please remember to provide the name, address, and institutional affiliation (if applicable) of the contributor, along with any information about the item which will be useful in the bid item's display. For example, make certain that the creator of any art or craft object is identified, along with any printed informational material. It is important to the organizers of this auction that all contributions be fully credited.

This year the auction committee hopes to receive a great variety of Appalachian artifacts and collectibles: craft items, photography, art work, music tapes and disks, video documentaries, story-telling collections (printed or electronically recorded), novelty items, books, journal collections, and almost any nonperishable item that is likely to bring a bid of \$10 or more. Last year's collection of bid items included a piece of "Depression Glass," a collection of poetry broadsides, an Ohio quilt, a six-pack of "rare" Devil Anse beer, a wide range of out-of-print books, a now famous (or infamous) shopping list, and a broad array of similar desirables.

Anyone who wishes to check on the appropriateness of any particular contribution should contact Howard Dorgan (**828-262-2403 office; 828-264-4361 home; dorganch@appstate.edu email; or at the address above**).

Plan to participate in the excitement and fun of this annual conference event!



**APPALINK READERS:
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Invite your institution's library and/or your local public library to subscribe to the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. Give them the form below. Tell them the JAS is published by the Appalachian Studies Association, the national association of scholars, teachers, and regional activists who write, research, and teach in the interdisciplinary field of Appalachian Studies. The JAS is published twice annually, in the spring and fall, and includes the most recent scholarship in academic disciplines specializing in the Appalachian region as well as an annual bibliography.

All back issues of JAS are available. Inquire at RRIASA@wvu.edu or at the office address below.

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_____ We would like to see an issue of the JAS before subscribing. Please send us a free sample copy.

BACK ISSUES ORDER FORM

If you would like to obtain back issues of the *JAS*, *JASA*, or *Proceedings of the ASA*, complete the form below and send it with your check made out to: *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, Box 6825, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506. Be sure to include your return address and phone number.

The following issues of the *Journal of Appalachian Studies* are available at \$10 per copy: Vol. 1, no. 1, Fall 1995; Vol. 2, nos. 1 & 2, Spring and Fall 1996; Vol. 3, nos. 1 & 2, Spring and Fall 1997. CIRCLE THOSE YOU WISH TO PURCHASE.

The following issues of the *Journal of the Appalachian Studies Association* are available at \$5 per copy: Vol. 7, 1995 (*Appalachia and the Politics of Culture*); Vol. 6, 1994 (*Appalachian Adaptations to a Changing World*); Vol. 5, 1993 (*Diversity in Appalachia*); Vol. 4, 1992 (*Environmental Voices*); Vol. 3, 1991 (*Southern Appalachia and the South*); Volumes 1 & 2 are out of stock. CIRCLE THOSE YOU WISH TO PURCHASE.

The following issues of the *Proceedings of the Appalachian Studies Conference* are available at \$5 per copy: Proceedings of the 10th Annual ASA Conference (*Remembrance, Reunion, and Revival*); Proceedings of the 9th Annual ASA Conference (*Contemporary Appalachia*); Proceedings of the 6th Annual ASA Conference (*The Appalachian Experience*). All other Proceedings are out of stock. CIRCLE THOSE YOU WISH TO PURCHASE.

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\$.50 for each additional copy) _____

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Conference Planned

The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia at Marshall University, which is funded in part by the Rockefeller Foundation for the Humanities, will be sponsoring a conference March 3-5, 2000. The tentative title is "Piecing It Together: Ethnicity and Gender in Appalachia." The conference will be held at Marshall University, 400 Hal Greer Boulevard, Huntington, WV. There will be no registration fee.

If you are interested in receiving conference materials or more information, please call Mary Thomas, Administrative Assistant, (304) 696-3348, or e-mail: mthomas@marshall.edu, or write: Attention Mary Thomas, CSEGA, 400 Hal Greer Blvd., Huntington, WV 25755. As the conference develops, information will also be posted on the website: <http://www.marshall.edu/csega/>.

ASA Website Update

The Association's website has been well-served by the pioneers on its website committee: Barb Rasmussen, Howard Dorgan, and Lou Athey. The current committee members are Marie Tedesco, Alan Banks, and Darlene Wilson, with Phil Obermiller as acting chair. The committee invites you to browse the website for current information about ASA activities, officers, and publications.

The committee sees the website as a work in progress. They invite you to e-mail them with your comments and suggestions: Darlene at dgwils0@pop.uky.edu, Alan at antbanks@acs.eku.edu, Marie at tedescom@etsu.edu, or Phil at solotso@aol.com.

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