



AFS*News*

Winter 2008/Volume 37, Number 1

AFS 2007 Election Results

In the 2007 election balloting, the following members were elected to AFS office:

Executive Board

Timothy H. Evans, Western Kentucky University

Carl Lindahl, University of Houston

Marsha MacDowell, Michigan State University Museum

Nominating Committee

Juwen Zhang, Willamette University

Our congratulations go to the newly elected officers, and our thanks go to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve the Society and to the 2007 Nominating Committee (Amy Kitchener, chair; Mario Montaña, Solimar Otero, and Elaine Thatcher) for their work in identifying candidates and preparing a slate.

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

The American Folklore Society 2008 Nominating Committee invites and encourages members to submit the names of individuals to be considered as candidates for the AFS Presidency, Executive Board, and Nominating Committee in the 2008 AFS Election. The person elected to the Presidency will serve for four years: one year (2009) as President-Elect, two years (2010-2011) as President, and one year (2012) as Past President. Terms for the three seats on the Executive Board and the one seat on the Nominating Committee run for three years (2009-2011). The senior member of the Nominating Committee will serve as chair during the last year of her/his term.

Any member of the Society may suggest any other member for nomination. In selecting its initial slate of candidates, the Nominating Committee considers (1) candidates' awareness of the issues facing the Society at the present and their expression of willingness to work with the President, the Executive Board, the Executive Director, and the membership in formulating sound policies and programs to guide the Society in the coming years; and (2) a slate that is balanced with regard to the candidates' geographical distribution, present employment, ethnicity, race, and gender.

This year's Nominating Committee is Mario Montaña (chair), Solimar Otero, Juwen Zhang, and AFS Executive Board Representative Guha Shankar. To suggest the names of potential candidates, or for more information, contact Mario Montaña; mmontano@coloradocollege.edu. The deadline for suggestions is **April 1, 2008**.

The Committee will announce its initial slate of nominees in the August 2008 *AFSNews*, after which members will have the opportunity to add names to that slate by petition. Candidates will appear in a Candidates' Forum just before the Society's business meeting at the annual meeting in Louisville. The Forum will include brief candidates' statements and opportunities for questions from AFS members. Online balloting will take place after the 2008 annual meeting and will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

AFS Offers the 2008 Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award, and the Benjamin A. Botkin, Zora Neale Hurston, and Américo Paredes Prizes

In 2008, the Society will again award its **Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award**. The award, offered in even-numbered years, recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement by a living senior scholar over the course of a career. W.F.H. Nicolaisen received the first such award in 2002, Linda Dégh the second in 2004, and Don Yoder the third in 2006. The awardee will be honored at the AFS 2008 annual meeting in Louisville, and will be given a \$500 prize stipend, a plaque, and lifetime AFS membership.

To nominate a candidate for the award, submit by e-mail a cover letter and supporting materials detailing the rationale for putting forward the candidate's name, no later than **February 28, 2008**, to AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd at lloyd.100@osu.edu. Supporting materials should include a CV or list of degrees; scholarly positions; publications and other scholarly productions; professional and university service; awards, grants, and honors. Other materials in the nominating package may include reviews of prominent works, letters or articles by major scholars attesting to the nominee's contributions and achievements, and texts of awards and honors.

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Each year, the Society and the AFS Public Programs Section join together to award the **Benjamin A. Botkin Prize** of \$100 to an individual for significant achievement in public folklore. This prize is given in recognition of the work of [Benjamin A. Botkin](#) (1901-1975). Eminent New Deal-era folklorist, national folklore editor of the Federal Writers' Project in 1938-1939, advocate for the public responsibilities of folklorists, author and compiler of many publications on American folklore for general audiences, and head of the Archive of American Folk Song at the Library of Congress from 1942 to 1945, Botkin has had a major impact on the field of public folklore and on the public understanding of folklore. The review criteria are:

- Engagement of a broad public audience in the materials of folklore
- Impact on the field of public folklore: development of models, methodology, visibility, and advocacy
- Impact on communities/constituents and their traditional culture
- Contributions to the body of materials of folklore/public folklore
- Quality of artistry in presentation: writing, photography, stagecraft, etc.
- Quality of scholarship
- Impact on the discipline of folklore, its theories and methodology
- Quality/adequacy of nomination package itself
- Breadth of support: letters from community members and non-folklorists in addition to folklore colleagues

The Prize, given by the AFS since 1994, has in the last three years been awarded to James Leary of the University of Wisconsin (2005), Elaine Thatcher of Utah State University (2006), and Steve Zeitlin of City Lore (2007).

Nominations should include: a letter of nomination; a one- or two-page biography or resume of the nominee; three to five letters of support from a broad range of people, including community members who have benefited from the nominee's work and people from outside the folklore field in addition to colleagues. Letters should specifically address the review criteria listed above and should explain how the nominee has taken folklore to a broad public audience.

All nomination letters and support material must be submitted in electronic format so they can be distributed easily and quickly to the committee members. Nominations remain active for three years. Previous nominators should contact Jens Lund to ensure that their nominations are still in the pool, to arrange to send electronic versions of materials previously sent in hard copy, and to inquire about adding new or updated materials to those nominations.

The deadline for nominations is **September 1, 2008**. Please e-mail nominations, as well as your questions, to the 2008 Botkin Prize Committee chair, Elaine Thatcher at elaine.thatcher@usu.edu

###

The **Zora Neale Hurston Prize** of \$100, awarded each year by the Society and its Task Force on Cultural Diversity, is named for the pioneering folklorist, ethnographer, and creative writer who lived from 1891 to 1960, worked in and wrote extensively about African American communities throughout the southern U.S., and is internationally known for her folklore collection *Mules and Men* (1935) and her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937), as well as other notable works. The prize is given to a graduate or undergraduate student for the best work in any medium—including but not limited to papers, films, sound recordings, or exhibitions—on African American folklore.

Works submitted for prize consideration do not have to be about Hurston herself. One of the past prize-winning works was a graduate research paper that resulted in a thesis, another was a course paper written by a graduate student and later published as an article in the journal *Southern Folklore*, and the most recent was an ethnography project conducted by an undergraduate student for a senior seminar course. The last three Hurston Prize recipients have been Quan Lateef of Howard University, for her paper, "The Rap that Binds: The Evolution of Hip Hop" (2004); Scott Edmondson of the University of California, Los Angeles, for his film, "'I Seen and I Know': Testimony from a Los Angeles Storefront" (2005); and Tracy Carpenter of The Ohio State University, for her paper, "The Construction of the Crack Mother Icon" (2007).

The deadline for nominations is **August 31, 2008**. Please send submissions in hard copy, with a second copy sent by e-mail, to Marilyn White, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Kean University, Union, NJ 07083, USA; mawhite@cougar.kean.edu

###

The AFS Executive Board and Task Force on Cultural Diversity, along with the AFS Chicana/Chicano and Folklore Latino, Latinoamericano, y Caribeño Sections, invite nominations for the 2006 **Américo Paredes Prize**, given by the Society each year to recognize excellence in one

or both of the following achievements: integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, and teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities.

[Américo Paredes](#) (1915-1999), a leading scholar in folklore and Greater Mexico studies, worked relentlessly throughout his life, in the words of Olga Nájera-Ramírez, "to better understand, represent, and respect the rights, lives, and culture of U.S. Latinas and Latinos." Dr. Paredes contributed significantly to the formation of various intellectual trends and in particular to the scholarship on "native" folklorists and anthropologists; indeed, he trained several generations of "natives." Dr. Paredes was the first Mexican American to receive a Ph.D. at the University of Texas, where he taught from 1958 until his retirement in 1984.

The prize can be awarded for many forms of accomplishment, including products such as a book, article, software package, or exhibit; or on the basis of the overall impact of the nominee's engaged teaching and scholarship, or her/his fostering of folklore work in one's own community or culture. William A. Wilson, Brigham Young University, *emeritus*, received the first Paredes Prize in 2002; Norma Cantú of the University of Texas at San Antonio received the 2003 Prize; in 2004 Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell of the Michigan State University Museum shared the Prize; in 2005 Enrique Lamadrid of the University of New Mexico was the Paredes honoree; in 2006 the Prize went to the "El Rio" project; and in 2007 Barre Toelken, *emeritus* of Utah State University, received the Prize.

Nominations, in the form of a letter describing how the nominee has achieved excellence in either or both of the achievements the Prize recognizes, must be *received* via e-mail by AFS Executive Director Timothy Lloyd at lloyd.100@osu.edu by **August 31, 2008**.

Although the nomination deadlines for these last three prizes are in late summer, nominations may be made at any time before then. Submit your nominations now! This year's Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award; the Botkin, Hurston, and Paredes prizes; and the AFS Fellows Book Prize (see below), will be awarded at the opening ceremonies of the 2008 AFS annual meeting on Wednesday evening, October 22, in Louisville.

AFS International Committee Offers Stipends for Travel to Meetings Outside North America

The American Folklore Society's Committee on International Issues announces the availability of one \$500 stipend for an American Folklore Society member traveling from North America to attend a meeting abroad. Members may receive the stipend only once, and they are also ineligible if they have received previous support from AFS to attend the AFS meeting.

Because of the variability of conference deadlines, there are two deadlines each year for support. The first deadline, **June 30, 2008**, is for proposals to travel to conferences that will take place between August 1, 2008, and August 1, 2009. The second deadline, **December 1, 2008**, is for proposals to travel to conferences that will take place between March 1, 2009, and March 1, 2010. We strongly encourage preliminary queries.

The purpose of the stipends is to foster increased international communication, collaboration, and awareness among the AFS membership. In judging applications, therefore, we consider not only how the proposed travel will benefit the individual but the benefit accrued to the Society and the field. Stipends will be paid by check upon receipt of a 500-word report on the meeting for publication in the AFS News. Our criteria are flexible, but we favor:

- Meetings with participants from regions where AFS has had relatively little involvement
- Meetings featuring forms of disciplinary practice that are less familiar to AFS members
- Meetings likely to foster a significant disciplinary contribution to major international issues
- Applicants at earlier stages of their careers
- Applicants lacking significant institutional travel support or frequent opportunities to travel abroad
- Applicants likely to pursue ongoing international collaborations as a result of attending the meeting abroad
- Applicants likely to bring new international participants into the AFS as a result of attending the meeting
- Applicants likely to share what they have learned abroad with colleagues in North America
- Applicants who are meaningfully involved in AFS

Your letter (ca. 2 pages) should explain what the meeting is, its date and location, the paper or presentation you will contribute to it, and the relevance of your application to the above criteria. Please send your letter with a brief CV (as a Word or .rtf or text attachment) to committee chair Timothy R. Tangherlini at tango@humnet.ucla.edu

AFS and University of Chicago Offer Chicago Folklore Prize

AFS invites submissions for the 2008 [Chicago Folklore Prize](#), which recognizes the best book-length work of folklore scholarship for the year. Offered jointly by AFS and the University of Chicago and first awarded in 1928, the Chicago Folklore Prize is the oldest international award of its kind for publishing in folklore.

From its inception, the administrators and judges for the prize have interpreted “folklore” in a broad and inclusive sense, and winners have traditionally come from the fields of folkloristics, cultural studies, ethnomusicology, literary studies, anthropology, sociology, cultural geography, and dance ethnology. The recipients of the prize in the past three years provide a sense of the disciplinary range represented in the competition: Marcia Gaudet (University of Louisiana, Lafayette). *Carville: Remembering Leprosy in America*. University Press of Mississippi (2005); Jo Farb Hernández (San José State University). *Forms of Tradition in Contemporary Spain*. University Press of Mississippi (2006); Cristina Bacchilega (University of Hawai‘i). *Legendary Hawai‘i and the Politics of Place: Tradition, Translation, and Tourism*. University of Pennsylvania Press, and James P. Leary (University of Wisconsin). *Polkabilly: How the Goose Island Ramblers Redefined American Folk Music*. Oxford University Press (2007). See <http://www.afsnet.org/aboutAFS/AFSprizes.cfm#chicago>

We encourage entries from scholars in folklore and their publishers all over the world. Works submitted must be monographs published in 2007 or within one year of the submission deadline of **April 1, 2008**. We will not consider articles, dissertations, reissues of older works (unless they have

been substantially revised and rewritten), editions of works by others, or works-in-progress for the prize. A modest cash award is made to the winner or winners of the prize. If no entry is deemed worthy, no prize will be awarded. The winners will be announced at the Society's October 2008 annual meeting in Louisville.

Please submit **three copies** of your entry to:

2008 Chicago Folklore Prize
American Folklore Society
Mershon Center
The Ohio State University
1501 Neil Avenue
Columbus OH 43201-2602
USA

If you have questions, please direct them to American Folklore Society Executive Director Timothy Lloyd at lloyd.100@osu.edu

Chip Leaves Children, Hungary

C.W. Sullivan III, Distinguished Research Professor of English at East Carolina University and long-time editor of the Children's Folklore Section publication, *Children's Folklore Review* (and better known to most AFS members as "Chip") has received a Senior Lecturing Grant from the Fulbright Commission for the Spring of 2008. He will be lecturing in the English and American Studies Program at the University of Debrecen in Debrecen, a major city about 100 kilometers east of Budapest, where his topics will be "American Folklore" and "Northern European Mythology: Celtic and Scandinavian." To some extent, the Fulbright came about as a result of his being asked to be the keynote speaker at the 2005 biennial meeting of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English where he met faculty and graduate students from English and American Studies Programs throughout Hungary. Sullivan says that it was both the quality of the faculty and students as well as the opportunity for research and residence in Hungary that attracted him. Also this year, after an impressive thirty-year innings, Sullivan is handing over the *Children's Folklore Review* editorship to Elizabeth (Libby) Tucker, Associate Professor in the English Department at SUNY Binghamton. Congratulations Chip! AFS surely appreciates your dedicated service.

Other Society News

After a long search process, the Society for Ethnomusicology is pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen Stuempfle as the first full-time Executive Director for SEM. Officially starting on January 28, 2008, Steve comes to the Business Office of SEM with many years of experience in the non-profit sector. The SEM Business Office will remain at Indiana University, which has provided office space, technology support, and part-time clerical staff support since 1988.

Steve received a Ph.D. in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania and has conducted field research in Trinidad, Texas, and Florida. During the past two decades, he has assisted a variety of

arts and historical organizations and has taught courses on folk and popular culture at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Miami. He is the author of *The Steelband Movement: The Forging of a National Art in Trinidad and Tobago* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1995), and has written about Caribbean music for several journals and encyclopedias. He is also co-editor, with Sandra Pouchet Paquet and Patricia J. Saunders, of *Music, Memory, Resistance: Calypso and the Caribbean Literary Imagination* (Ian Randle Publishers, 2007).

Steve will be leaving the Historical Museum of Southern Florida in Miami where he has worked for the last twelve years. Since 2000, he has been its Chief Curator with responsibilities for the direction of research projects; archival and object collections; and exhibition programs related to the history and cultural traditions of South Florida and the Caribbean. He has curated several exhibitions, including Caribbean Percussion Traditions in Miami (1997); Calypso: A World Music (2004), with Ray Funk; and Visions of the Caribbean (2005), with Dawn Hugh and Rebecca Smith.

Steve replaces Alan Burdette, who served as the half-time Executive Director of SEM from 2000-2007. Alan Burdette has assumed the directorship of the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University and will continue in his position as Executive Director of the EVIA Digital Archive Project. See <http://webdb.iu.edu/sem/scripts/news/newsdetail.cfm?CID=9&nID=1395>

New Grant: State Department Cultural Exchange Programs

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is requesting grant proposals. The Office of Citizen Exchanges of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for grants that support exchanges and build relationships between U.S. non-profit organizations and civil society and cultural groups in Africa, East Asia, Europe, the Near East, North Africa, South Central Asia and the Western Hemisphere. See <http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/febu15rfgp.htm>

According to a Theater Communications Group Bulletin (January 2008), Congress has allocated \$505 million for Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs within the State Department's FY 08 appropriations. This is a \$19 million increase over the President's request and a \$59 million increase above last year's budget. This is only competitive grant program at the Department that supports international exchanges and builds relationships between U.S. not-for-profit organizations and cultural groups abroad. Eligible programs will support exchanges with Africa, East Asia, Europe, the Near East, North Africa, South Central Asia and the Western Hemisphere. The application process is highly competitive, and focuses on projects that encourage citizen engagement in current issues, focus particularly on youth and promote the development of democratic societies and institutions. See <http://www.tcg.org/publications/bulletin/jan08/advocacy.cfm#article3>

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Opportunity

[The Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore](#) is accepting applications for its Post-Doctoral Fellowship of 3 months to 3 years tenure. The Kule Post-Doctoral fellowship allows recent recipients of the Ph.D. to engage in uninterrupted research aimed toward producing a major publication. Fellowship holders will have access to the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore

Archive and the extensive Slavic and East European collection at the University of Alberta library. The Alberta Provincial Archive, the Edmonton City archives, and 5 museums are within easy access. Fellowship holders will conduct a seminar related to their research and may request time to teach regular courses. The University of Alberta is a leader in digital humanities and training in database construction and other digital technologies will be available. The Fellowship offers \$40,000 plus \$3000 in research expenses, per year, pro-rated. Application deadline: **April 1, 2008.**

Applicant qualifications:

- 1) Ph.D. received within 5 years of appointment to the fellowship
- 2) Research project related to Ukrainian or Canadian folklore

Please submit:

- 1) Curriculum vitae
- 2) Research proposal (5 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12 point font)
- 3) Sample of recent academic writing (article or dissertation chapter)
- 4) Two letters of reference

To: Kule Post-Doctoral Award Committee
Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore
200 Arts Building, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB T6R 1L5
Canada

For more information contact Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Director, Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore and Huculak Chair at andriyn@ualberta.ca

Call for Papers

Annual Meeting of the [Folklore Studies Association of Canada l'association canadienne d'ethnologie et de folklore](#)

May 22-25, 2008
Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia

The Setting: Located on culturally distinct and diverse Cape Breton Island, at the confluence of Mi'kmaq, Acadian, Irish, Loyalist, and Scottish traditions, further enlivened by the multicultural influx of industrialisation, Cape Breton University is the only university in the Maritimes to offer undergraduate programmes in Folklore and Ethnomusicology.

Themes: The context of Cape Breton suggests a number of themes:

- Cultural tourism
- Post-industrialism
- Out-migration and diaspora
- Romantic nationalism
- Multiculturalism outside the metropolis

Proposals dealing with other topics will also be considered. As much as possible, we would like to adhere to a plenary session format, which would include: chaired discussions, round table discussions, workshops, oral paper presentations, and visual display presentations.

Note that some funding will be available for travel costs **ONLY** for those who are giving formal presentations and are **UNABLE** to secure funding from their own institution **OR ELSEWHERE**.

Please send your 100-word abstract for your formal presentation in English and French (or enclose a translation fee of \$20), along with the completed registration form by **February 15, 2008** to:

Ian Brodie
Cape Breton University
Box 5300
Sydney, NS B1P 6L2
acef2008@cbu.ca

Please note, your abstract will not be considered until the Secretary-Treasurer has received your registration fee and your membership fee. See <http://www.celat.ulaval.ca/acef/capebretonf.htm>

Datebook 2008

- February 1 Deadline for submission of abstracts for the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research annual conference
<http://www.afsnet.org/cgi-bin/conferen.pl?213>
- February 15 Deadline for submission of abstracts for Western States Folklore Society annual conference (see the August 2007 *AFSN*, pp. 4, 6-7)
<http://www.westernfolklore.org/>
- Deadline for submissions of abstracts for FSAC/ACEF annual conference (see pp. 8-9) <http://www.celat.ulaval.ca/acef/capebretonf.htm>
- Deadline for submission of abstracts Organization of American Historians
<http://www.oah.org/meetings/2009/call.html>
- Deadline for State Department Cultural Exchange Programs (see p. 7)
<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/rfgps/febu15rfgp.htm>
- February 18-21 31st Indian Folklore Congress and International Folklore Conference (see October 2007 *AFSN*, pp. 3-4)
<http://www.afsnet.org/cgi-bin/conferen.pl?211>

- February 28 Deadline for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award nominations (see p. 2)
- March 14-16 Telling Stories: Building Bridges Among Language, Narrative, Identity, Interaction, Society and Culture, Georgetown University Round Table Conference (see the August 2007 *AFSN*, pp. 5-6)
<http://www8.georgetown.edu/college/gurt/2008/>
- March 31 Deadline for proposals, AFS 2008 Annual Meeting (Theme: “The Commons and the Commonwealth”), Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. For information, see www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm.
- April 1 Deadline for nominations for AFS Presidency, Executive Board, Nominating Committee (see p. 1)
- Deadline for 2008 Chicago Folklore Prize Submissions (see p. 5-6)
- Deadline for The Kule Centre Post-Doctoral Fellowship (see pp. 7-8)
- April 4 Hoosier Folklore Society Annual Meeting in Terre Haute, Indiana. Contact nmcentire@indstate.edu (see the October 2007 *AFSN*, p. 3)
- April 10-12 Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Davis, California (see the August 2007 *AFSN* pp. 4, 6-7) <http://www.westernfolklore.org/>
- April 30 Deadline for abstract submissions for the Annual Meeting of the Gypsy Lore Society and Conference on Gypsy studies
<http://www.afsnet.org/cgi-bin/conferen.pl?214>
- May 1 Deadline for submissions for the Wayland D. Hand Prize for the best book combining history and folklore. Contact nmcentire@indstate.edu (see the October 2007 *AFSN*, pp. 5-6)
- June 16-20 [9th SIEF Congress](http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/sief/), University of Ulster, Magee Campus, Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland, see <http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/sief/>
- June 30 Deadline for AFS international travel stipend proposals to travel to conferences between August 1, 2008, and August 1, 2009 (see pp. 4-5)

August 31	Deadline for nominations for the Zora Neale Hurston Prize and the Américo Paredes Prize (see pp. 3-4)
September 1	Deadline for nominations for the Benjamin A. Botkin Prize (see pp. 2-3)
October 22-26	American Folklore Society 2008 Annual Meeting (Theme: “The Commons and the Commonwealth”), Hyatt Regency Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. For information, see www.afsnet.org/annualmeet/index.cfm
December 1	Deadline for international travel stipend proposals to travel to conferences between March 1, 2009, and March 1, 2010 (see pp. 4-5)

AFSNews

Editor: *Maria Teresa Agozzino*, American Folklore Society, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; agozzino.2@osu.edu

AFS President: *Elaine Lawless*, Department of English, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

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Kay Turner (2008), Brooklyn Arts Council, Brooklyn, NY

Lucy Long (2009), American Culture Studies/International Studies, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

Olga Nájera-Ramírez (2009), Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

Guba Shankar (2009), American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Patricia A. Turner (2009), Office of the Provost, University of California, Davis, CA

Timothy H. Evans (2010), Folk Studies Program, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

Carl Lindahl (2010), Department of English, The University of Houston, TX

Marsha MacDowell (2010), Michigan State University Museum, MI

Ex Officio: *Timothy Lloyd*, Executive Director, American Folklore Society, Mershon Center, The Ohio State University, 1501 Neil Avenue, Columbus OH 43201-2602 USA; lloyd.100@osu.edu

AFS Web Site: www.afsnet.org

AFS Cultural Diversity Task Force Chair: *Marilyn White*, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Kean University, Union, NJ

AFS Membership Committee Chair: *Margaret Yocom*, Department of English, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

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Editors, *Journal of American Folklore*: *Harris M. Berger* and *Giovanna P. Del Negro*, Department of Performance Studies, Texas A&M University; jafolklore@tamu.edu

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