

Minutes of a Conference Call Meeting of the ASA Council

Monday, June 26, 2006

Members Present: Rebecca Adams, Judith Auerbach, Troy Duster, Cynthia Epstein (President), Caroline Persell, Ann Orloff, Frances Fox Piven (President-Elect), Gay Seidman, Lynn Smith-Lovin (Vice President), Bruce Western, Franklin Wilson (Secretary).

Staff Present: Sally Hillsman, Michael Murphy

Members Absent: Kathleen Blee, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Michelle Lamont, Nan Lin, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Bonnie Thornton Dill, Diane Vaughan, Min Zhou.

With 11 of the 19 voting members present, ASA President Cynthia Epstein announced the presence of a quorum and called the telephone conference call meeting of the ASA 2005-2006 Council to order at 4:04 pm on Monday, June 26, 2006.

The issue before Council was whether the Association should become a subscriber to INMEX, the Informed Meetings Exchange. The question had been submitted to Council previously by e-mail, but the outcome of that vote was not unanimous as required by the ASA Bylaws for such decisions. Therefore a conference call meeting was convened to discuss the issue.

Initial discussion focused upon specific concerns raised in recent discussions: (1) whether INMEX would attempt to involve itself in any future strike activities, (2) what type of information INMEX would provide to subscribers, and (3) the role of INMEX with hotel negotiations in specific contract negotiations. Epstein called upon Executive Officer Sally Hillsman to brief Council on the issue and to address the specific concerns.

INMEX is the creation of UniteHere, but will shortly be a separate organization with an independent governing board. Hillsman reported that UniteHere staff recently reported to her that INMEX will be focused on longer term and bigger picture issues and that they did not anticipate involvement with specific negotiations or disputes. UniteHere has developed a ten-year strategic plan and subscribers to INMEX will receive information from that plan about UniteHere's views of the transformation of the hospitality industry

and how it intends to respond with investments of union resources. However, contrary to some expectations, INMEX will not be a shield for organizations like ASA against potential future penalties connected with meeting contract cancellations.

Members noted that ASA can withdraw its participation at any time should INMEX activities not be in the best interests of the Association. Therefore, members suggested moving forward by joining INMEX and regularly monitoring its activities and development. Epstein suggested adding this topic to each of the next few Council meeting agendas for updates on INMEX, and to provide an opportunity for Council to revisit the issue if necessary; Piven agreed that this was reasonable. Members agree to submit their votes on the motion to become a subscriber to INMEX by email. Hearing no additional discussion, Epstein adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

<p>MOTION: To have the ASA subscribe to INMEX, Informed Meetings Exchange. Carried unanimously</p>
