

American Hungarian Educator

NEWSLETTER
of the
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Association

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Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://ahea.net> and send any suggestions you have to the Executive Director at eniko.basa@verizon.net or 4515 Willard Ave., Apt. 2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Conference

The 42nd Annual American Hungarian Educators Association Conference was held jointly with the [Hungarian Studies Association of Canada \(HSAC\)](#), at Ryerson University in Toronto, May 27-29, 2017.

The conference theme was *Sovereignty, Compromise, and the Making of Modern Hungary: 1867 and Beyond*. On Saturday May 27 HSAC president Olivér Botár welcomed attendees, calling attention to the opportunity to attend other events of the concurrent Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences and to the 150th anniversary of the Canadian confederation as well as recent debates in Canada about the past and present status of that country's indigenous peoples. Following this note, I encouraged presenters to think about parallels between Hungary and Canada in the light of their twin anniversaries. Éva Kovács of Vienna's Wiesenthal Institute and the Hungarian Academy in Budapest gave the keynote address, "The Politics of Memory in the Long Twentieth Century: The Hungarian Case in a European Historical Perspective." The talk gave special attention to alternative views of the 1956 Revolution in Hungarian public discourse. An ensuing round table discussion extended the context of Hungarian

debates to include Canada, Austria, and Yugoslavia, highlighting the legacy of colonialism in the relationship of dominant and minority peoples.

A varied program filled parallel sessions from morning to evening on Sunday and Monday. Many papers did indeed reflect upon the conference theme and contemporary memory politics. Travel grants from the Hungarian Initiatives Foundation of the USA enriched the offerings by making possible the attendance of several presenters from Europe. The dinner on Saturday at the Bond Place Hotel featured an impressive tribute by president Botár to Judy Young Drache, the long time secretary of the HSAC. The next evening, the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse provided the historic venue for a piano recital by Judit Gábos and a reception hosted by Dr. Stefánia Szabó, the Consul General of Hungary in Canada.

James P. Niessen, AHEA President

Photos from the conference are posted on the AHEA website, <http://ahea.net/photo-album>.

Business Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

- 1. President's Report:** James Niessen reiterated briefly his update (largely communicated by way of email) on the events of the diaspora liaison in the Washington embassy, Peter Gyombolai, prepared minutes of the Diaspora Council Regional Meeting that he and Basa Molnar Eniko attended. Gyombolai invited Jim to edit the text and Jim prepared a summary of his remarks that he was able to present about the issue of "repatriation" of Hungarian American manuscript collections.
- 2. Secretary's Report:** Klara Papp reported that following last year's meeting, a brief survey was sent to all attendees to ascertain their perceptions of the meeting; given that only 16 responses were received, the results will not be reported. She suggested that this year's attendees be surveyed in closer proximity to the meeting to assess their perceptions of the meeting. All were in favor and accepted the report.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Kálmán Magyar presented the treasurer's report (below).
- 4. AHEA Publication Fund:** Hungarian Cultural Studies Layout Editor & Webmaster Proposal. Katalin Vörös proposed new use for the AHEA Scholarship Fund and renaming it Publication Fund. Magyar Kálmán moved to approve, seconded by Klára Papp. Unanimously accepted.
- 5. New Position to the AHEA Board: Membership Development:**
Katalin Vörös proposed an Amendment to the By-Laws, to add another officer's position to the governance of AHEA, a Membership Development Officer. This would be an elected position; thus, creating it would require an Amendment (Article X) and voting by the full membership. If accepted at Business meeting this year then we are asking/looking for a volunteer until the next elections in 2018. Kálmán Magyar approved, Endre Szentkirályi seconded. All approved.
- 6. Elections and Nominating Committee:** Judit Némethy, past-president of AHEA was nominated Chair of the Elections and Nominating Committee. Endre Szentkirályi to serve on the Committee. All voted in favor.
- 7. Discussion of Future Conferences:**
2018: Cleveland, Ohio at Cleveland State University
Endre Szentkirályi described plans for the conference at CSU. The proposed date is April 12-13-14, 2018. Plans will follow.

THEME: Forging the future, facing the past: Hungary and its diaspora

2019: [possibly] Pittsburgh, PA

Katalin Vörös is in conversation with people at U Pitt to see whether the arrangements can be made for the conference to be hosted there.

2020: University of Pécs in Hungary: Monika Fodor and Judit Huszti are arranging the meeting in Pécs. The conference will be held at the new Cultural Center with a nearby hotel. The facilities are state of the art. Public transport to the city center is good and distances are all within walking distance.

8. **Peter Basa Prize:** Scheduled to be awarded at the 2018 meeting (bi-annually). Please consider who may be nominated who has served AHEA meritoriously and is deserving of this prize.

9. **CEU Issues**

With 10 minutes remaining, AHEA members present discussed the pros and cons of expressing our views to the Hungarian Government regarding the matter of Central European University (CEU). Several members expressed the view that CEU is among the best institutions of higher education in Hungary and we should oppose its closing. Others felt that this has become a highly politicized issue and that as a 501c3 organization; we should refrain from weighing in.

Of those present voted 12-3 that Jim Niessen would compose a draft along the lines of what Enikő and Kálmán suggested making the following assertions:

CEU has been a valuable asset to Hungary and has done a good job in fulfilling its mission.

In light of this fact, we, the members of AHEA respectfully ask that the government do all it can to resolve the confusion and work with CEU administrators to assure that CEU stay in Budapest.

If such a statement is approved by the Executive Committee, it will be presented to dues paying members for a vote. If a simple majority votes in favor among dues paying members, (more than half of dues paying members must cast their vote in favor of the proposal) then we will forward it to the Hungarian Government and post it on the AHEA website.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted: Klara Papp, Secretary

Followup Discussion about the Central European University

Following the conference we proceeded to an email discussion of this matter in the AHEA Executive Committee. With sensitivity to the view of some members that it was inappropriate for AHEA to get involved in politics, I argued that higher education and scholarship were our legitimate concerns. I proposed the following resolution with the understanding that, if the committee approved it, I would submit it to the vote of currently paid AHEA members and disseminate it on our website if approved by a majority of currently paid members. The committee approved the statement by a vote of six to three with one abstention:

Whereas, the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) is an organization of scholars and Hungarians based in the United States and dedicated to the pursuit of Hungarian Studies, and

Whereas, the Central European University (CEU) is an institution of higher learning that has made valuable contributions to our field of study through research, teaching, and publishing, and

Whereas, the CEU provided the location for the 2005 annual conference of AHEA.

Therefore, AHEA expresses its hope for a satisfactory resolution of questions regarding the continued existence of the CEU.

I then submitted the resolution to a vote within a two month period by the 124 currently dues-paid members of AHEA, using the Qualtrics anonymous survey instrument. 47 members voted, with a vote of 42 (89.36%) in favor and 5 (10.64%) opposed. In light of the low participation, I decided to take no further action beyond submitting this report.

James P. Niessen, AHEA President

Treasurer's Report:

**AHEA ACCOUNTING
2016**

INCOME		Income \$	Expense \$
	DUES	2,633.32	
	Donation Scholarship Fund	200.00	
	Savings transfer	300.00	
	Bank rewards	97.42	
	Total operations income	3,230.74	
EXPENSES			
	Hunor Networking web fee		300.00
	Bank Fee * Canadian check		8.00
	U. of Pittsburgh Journal		1,000.00
	Deposit to savings		200.00
	Newsletter mailing to libraries		39.72
	Pay Pal expe - scholarship transfer		5.00
	1956 Memorial Wreath		305.00
	Web Maintenace		180.00
	Conference subsidy		3,921.06
	Total operational expenses		5,958.78
	Balance		(2,728.04)

HOLDINGS	\$
CHECKING ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance	4,681.01
Income 2016	3,230.74
Expenses	(5,958.78)
Balance end of 2016	1,952.97

SAVINGS	
Opening Balance	1,174.93
Deposites from investment and donations to scholarship	1,200.00
Interest	10.41
Sholarship payment	(1,000.00)
Service Charge	(3.00)
Transfere to Checking	(300.00)
Balance	1,082.34

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL INVEST.	
Beginning balance 2016/01/01	44,095.07
Ending Balance 2016/12/31	45,911.96
Income for 2016	1,816.89
Scholaship withdrawal	(1,000.00)
BALANCE 2017/01/01	46,728.85

Total holdings 2016/12/31	
Checking	1,952.97
Savings	1,082.34
Investment	46,728.85
TOTAL	49,764.16

Kalman Magyar
Eniko Molnar Basa

Other news

Hungarian Cultural Studies, e-Journal of the AHEA (ahea.pitt.edu)

Members are encouraged to submit original research papers to *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, e-Journal of the AHEA. Please refer to [guidelines for authors](#) and [submit manuscripts on-line](#). The journal is a peer reviewed and open access journal, indexed in several humanities databases, thereby increasing access to author's work.

AHEA Membership Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send dues for the current year if not yet paid. Reminders for dues renewal are emailed in January. Check out your entry under Members, <http://ahea.net/members>, for last time we received dues from you, changes you wish to make, additional information, etc.

Dues: Regular members: \$30.00, Couples/Joint members: \$50.00, Students/Retired: \$10.00

Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to AHEA, 4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815. You may also pay on-line with PayPal at <http://ahea.net/members/membership-information>

We are using email to communicate news of a timely nature or those with a deadline. Also, we will send you updates on conferences and other dated news. Emails are sent out via the web site and do not contain emails of recipients, so your privacy is protected.

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