**NASPH 2015 Business Meeting**

**September 19, 2015 1:00-2:00pm**

**Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel**

**Prepared by Dan Tate, NASPH Secretary**

1. Ted George reported on a great year for NASPH including an excellent satellite session at SPEP in 2014 on Hermeneutics and Latin American Philosophy. He commented on the appropriateness of using the SPEP session for broadening the scope of hermeneutics and highlighting the range of interests represented by NASPH.

Ted underscored the high quality of the program at the current (2015) meeting of NASPH as well, citing many comments of participants to this effect. On behalf of the Executive Committee he thanked all the speakers and participants for their contributions to the success of this meeting.

Ted also acknowledged the highly successful partnership with Villanova University, this year’s host institution, and especially the diligent and generous work of Walter Brogan in establishing the venue for our meeting.

The conference fees collected will defray costs of renting the Cook Room for the presentations, additional costs of the banquet, and the production of flyers (etc.) for use by the participants.

Finally, the Executive Committee made preliminary efforts toward revising the NASPH by-laws during the past year. It expects to continue this work in the coming year. It was suggested that the EC consult the by-laws of other similar organizations (e.g., the Heidegger Circle) in these revisions.

1. Lawrence Schmidt reported that, through his dogged efforts with the IRS, NASPH has been officially constituted as a non-profit corporation in Arkansas and our EIN number has been restored. This allowed us to open a bank account. To receive official recognition by the IRS as a tax-exempt organization, we still need to file the 1030 or 1030 EZ form at a cost of $400.00. This process will begin in the near future. He noted that once this recognition is granted we can get permission from the state to build an endowment.

Lawrence also reported on the current financial situation of the organization. In the last fiscal year (July 1-June 30) NASPH began with $485, paid $55 for the incorporation fee, earned $0.04 interest and ended with a balance of $430.04.

This was the first year that the organization has used an electronic service – namely, Paypal – for receiving payments. Paypal requires $0.30 for each transaction and 2.9% fee for the total amount. It was suggested that the user fee be transferred to the payer, rather than being absorbed by the payee. It was also proposed that NASPH consider using a free site for electronic payments (e.g., Venmo) instead. It was pointed out that payment by checks is still an option and would bypass the issue of user fees. For this purpose a mailing address should be provided so that the treasurer could receive advance payments by check.

It was also brought to our attention that the NASPH website itself has a cost which, for at least the past couple of years, has been paid by Jamey Findling. The EC should prepare to assume this cost.

1. Dan Tate reported that NASPH received 31 paper submissions for this year’s conference (not including several that were submitted after the deadline). This represents the highest number of submissions to date and hopefully indicates an increased interest in the organization and its conference.

He also reported on the balloting results for the position opened on the EC by the departure of Jim Risser whose term has expired. Jim’s long and dedicated service to SPEP and NASPH were recognized as well as his deep commitment and significant contribution to Philosophical Hermeneutics and Continental Philosophy.

We were pleased to announce that Georgia Warnke has been elected to this position with unanimous support. We welcomed Georgia in absentia to the NASPH EC which looks forward to working with her.

Finally, there were (at least) 43 participants at this year’s conference. In addition, the current NASPH membership stands at (approximately) 40 members. For purposes of the recent EC ballot we included as members those who paid conference fees in 2014 (when no membership dues were collected) as well as those who paid membership dues for the current year. However, going forward, membership will be annual so that only those who have paid the dues will be considered members and their membership will be regarded as valid up until (but not including) the following year’s meeting.

1. Finally, we turned our attention to future venues for NASPH meetings. The EC expressed its desire to plan the meeting venues two years out if possible. We were pleased that four NASPH members were prepared to offer their own services as well as the facilities of their home institutions to host upcoming conferences. These included: Ted George, Texas A & M (College Station, TX); John Rose, Goucher College (Baltimore, MD); David Vessey, Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI – near Grand Rapids); Greg Lynch, North Central College (Naperville, IL). After discussion a motion was put forth (by Jim Risser) and seconded (by Lawrence Schmidt and John Rose) to hold the 2016 meeting of NASPH at Texas A & M. The motion was approved by those in attendance. It was provisionally decided that the 2017 meeting would take place at Goucher College. In order to facilitate consideration of new venues, the EC asked that the faculty proposing to host the conference provide a “proposal” that would amount to answering basic questions – e.g., about transportation, hotel availability, institutional facilities and support, etc. – that would help us to determine the viability of the venue.