

Dear DHA Members,

Since January, the board of the Disability History Association has been working to bring the study of disability history to the broader world. As a young organization, many of the early steps we must take to ensure future stability and longevity require patience and a fair bit of unglamorous bureaucratic machinations behind the scenes. I'm pleased to report that we are making important strides in a number of areas.

1. DHA Incorporation. By the fall we should be incorporated as a stand-alone non-profit entity. This means that member dues and other contributions will be tax-deductible and that we will enjoy greater legitimacy, not to mention we'll be more enticing for Bill Gates and others, should they want to give.

2. A scholarship committee has been working on establishing guidelines for two DHA Prizes to honor outstanding work in the field. On alternate years we will award a prize for the best book and the best article by one of our members. The committee will seek out funding sources and establish criteria. We hope to launch the prize competition with much fanfare in 2007. Only DHA members will be eligible to compete for these prizes.

3. We are working to upgrade the DHA website. We're trying to strike a delicate balance between promoting the field by making bibliography and syllabi available to everyone and having benefits for members only. Soon we will introduce a feature: "Research Treasures" where researchers will post brief descriptions of exciting discoveries that they hope could serve as the basis for someone's research project. This would include archive tips, novels, interesting questions. The members'-only section will include an updated membership directory.

4. Several of us are working with Linda Kerber, President of the American Historical Association, to bring a higher profile of disability history to our colleagues in the profession. The November issue of *Perspectives* will feature a Presidential Forum on Disability History that will contain articles about incorporating disability into research and teaching, as well as a discussion of how people with disabilities can be made more welcome. Behind the scenes we're working to add "disability" to the list of interest areas one can declare when joining the AHA, establishing guidelines for making the annual meetings more accessible both intellectually and logistically, and establishing an AHA Committee on Disability Issues, much like ones that currently exist for women and minority historians.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We'll be hosting a gathering at the January 2007 AHA meeting in Atlanta - stay tuned for details.

MEMBER NEWS

Please submit any news items - books, awards, important scholarly moments - to me so I can include them in the next newsletter.

VOLUNTEER!

DHA has a number of areas where contributions from our members would be very welcome! Here are some possibilities:

- fundraising
- images or any other content for the DHA website
- submissions for ?Research Treasure? feature regularly offering a list of topics and resources to foster more research in the field
- host a mini-conference or workshop in disability history

ANOTHER WAY TO BENEFIT THE DHA:

We need members! Help get the word out by encouraging colleagues, friends, relatives to join. We'll give a prize to the person who signs up the most members by September 1, 2006. We're especially eager to welcome members from beyond the United States, and to learn of news of other events, conferences, book and article publications that will encourage scholarly exchange.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and productive summer, insofar as these don't cancel each other out. Feel free to write to me with any suggestions, concerns or anything else.

Your fearless leader for 2006,
Cathy Kudlick