**History of Statistics Interest Group**

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., July 30, 2018**

**Nootka Room, Fairmont Waterfront Vancouver**

**2018 Joint Statistical Meetings**

**Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**

1. **Mixer**

The required annual meeting (business meeting) of the ASA History of Statistics Interest Group (HoSIG) began with a social mixer.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Wendy Martinez, HoSIG President, welcomed the attendees and asked each of them to identify themselves and explain their interest in the in the group. The attendees were Michael Anderson, Marcia A. Ciol, Michael P. Cohen, Amanda Golbeck, Peter Guttorp, Lee Kennedy-Schaffer, Hans Kiesl, Wendy Martinez, John McKenzie, Martha Rozsi, Beverly Wood, and Kelson Zawack.

1. **History of Statistics Interest Group Overview**

Wendy presented an overview of the interest group, starting with its creation in 2017. Among the items discussed were its website (<https://community.amstat.org/historyofstats/home>) and its contents, the HoSIG JSM Information Table, and HoSIG-sponsored activities at JSM 2018. She thanked Martha and Jeffrey Smith, the interest group’s program chairs.

1. **Ideas for Future Sessions of the History of Statistics Interest Group**

John proposed that the attendees provide their thoughts for future JSMs by forming a circle of attendees and asking each attendee to present at least one session topic. Here are these topics, which were recorded by Martha:

1. History of the US Census / History of Census (regardless of country)
2. Statistics versus Data Science - Long-standing debate that could be examined in depth
3. History of Price Indices. For example, after the US Civil War, a list of certain household items was used to create a price index.
4. How statisticians contributed during WWII
5. How is the history of statistics brought into the classroom? (This could be a joint session with the Stats Ed Section.)
6. The history or motivation for key statistical processes, such as p-values, data visualization, etc.
7. Understanding of key test differences, such as Pearson and Fisher test differences. This is rarely acknowledged in the US.
8. A memorial session for a woman statistician
9. A session for women (or all statisticians) who have been missed for memorial sessions. Could be called "Missed Memorial Sessions"
10. Information on the history of statistics and general history background for non-stats people. This could include interesting facts such as how Gosset worked at Guinness, etc.
11. An oral history project with a major university - focus on stories by elderly statisticians and the memories they have
12. A session on firsts. This could include things like the first fellow, the first founder of the ASA, the first female statistics professor, the first time a statistics procedure was taught, etc.
13. Changing vocabulary - How statistic language has evolved over time from group to group, such as phrases used by statisticians versus those in computer science that mean the same thing or are the same concept. Could also involve the evolution of notation changes in the field.