

June 8, 1997

Special Projects Committee
Minutes from August 1996 Meeting
Flagstaff, Arizona

A Meeting of the Special Projects Committee was held in conjunction with IC96, Friday August 9, 1996 in the back corner of the dining room. In attendance were: Barbara Newsom, Larry Watkins, Tony Finstad, David Kantor and Larry Watkins. Cece Forrester was absent due to family travel. Committee Chair, David Kantor, appointed Barbara Newsom to function as Secretary for the meeting.

An agenda was provided by the Chair (a copy of which was sent to each member in early July) which consisted of a review of outstanding Committee projects as had been reviewed at the General Council meeting in June of 1996. In addition, the directive of the Executive Committee that Special Projects form a sub-committee to develop a Fellowship presence on the Internet was discussed. Comments by Cece Forrester which had been mailed to the Chair in response to the mailed agenda were read.

The Resource Guide to Secondary Works was discussed. The Chair was directed to see if an electronic version was available which could be made accessible over the Internet.

The Video History Project was discussed. Barb Newsom agreed to send a copy of the script to the Chair for review and suggestions.

Oral History Project: The chair recommended that the Oral History Project be dropped. A motion to continue with the Oral History Project was made by Barbara Newsom. Discussion included the possibility of involving First Society in the project as they have many members who have been involved since the early days. Barb Newsom agreed to generate a list of persons who would be good subjects for interviewing along with a projected budget and time estimate for completion which the committee would then submit to the General Council for approval. The motion was passed by majority vote.

Additional discussion was held regarding TWIGS--Special Interest Groups. Barb Newsom agreed to research such groups and report back to the chair prior to the winter Council meeting.

The chair presented the need for a technically competent subcommittee to manage website development. A motion was made to allow the Chair to expand the Internet subcommittee as needed. Discussion on the motion included a review of tasks which the committee felt could be accomplished by the website. This discussion included:

Publication of historic documents: Barb Newsom agreed to collect and send documents and photographs to the Chair for processing on the website.

Resource Library: The Chair will have the internet subcommittee look into the scanning of resource documents for purposes of making them available on the website.

Email lists: Lee Smith discussed the need for a liaison between the internet subcommittee and Family Life Committee. The Family Life Committee desires an internet presence with hopes of providing resources for children and families. The chair agreed to pursue these matters with the subcommittee. The motion was passed by majority vote.

The meeting concluded with general comments about the exciting possibilities of using the website for the completion of several outstanding projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DK' with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Kantor, Chair

(Note: These minutes were prepared from notes taken by the Chair. Barbara Newsom had volunteered to take minutes and was subsequently appointed Secretary for the meeting by the Chair. Somewhere along the line the original minutes disappeared. Please review these minutes and come to the meeting prepared to add anything which I may not have noted in my notes.)

Minutes of the Special Projects Committee, August 9, 1996, Flagstaff, Arizona

A meeting of the Special Projects Committee was held in conjunction with IC96, Friday, August 9, 1996. (By consensus, the meeting had been re-scheduled from 8:15 p.m., Tuesday, August 6, the time stated in the July 10 Notice of Meeting.) In attendance were Tony Finstad, David Kantor, Barbara Newsom, Lee Smith, and Larry Watkins. Cece Forrester was absent due to family travel.

David Kantor, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The published agenda for the meeting called for a review of Special Projects functions. The Chair had submitted a formal report to the General Council that represented his views, and committee members were to have our input in the committee meeting, which would be added in an addendum to the Chair's General Council report. Due to time constraints, a partial review was conducted.

The Chair reported on development of the Fellowship Website, a project initiated through the Special Projects Committee in spring 1996. A growing number of volunteers is involved in designing the Home Page, answering e-mail, and preparing to scan documents for an on-line resource library, including historical documents and photographs. It is a constantly evolving project. Lee Smith discussed the need for a liaison between the internet and family life group, who desire an internet presence. The Chair agreed to pursue this. The Chair was directed to see if an electronic version of Resource Guide to Secondary Works was available which could be made accessible over the Internet.

Barbara Newsom raised the issue of the importance of continuing the oral history project and the committee concurred. She agreed to review the committee's list of former Forum members, and develop a plan for completing the project, with a budget and time estimate. Barbara also volunteered to write a proposal for First Society, in response to their request for clarification about how they could participate in Fellowship history projects. At the Chair's request, Cece Forrester had informed them in spring 96 of our interest in working with them, and they wanted more details. Barbara also agreed to send a copy of the video history script to the Chair for review and suggestions.

The Chair reported strong and rapidly developing commitment among readers to form special interest groups (earlier referred to as TWIGS, thematic working interest groups). The Chair asked Barbara Newsom to help research such groups.

The meeting concluded with some discussion of Fellowship language projects, such as multilingual communication on the internet, and possible Fellowship translations of **The Urantia Book**. There was general excitement about using the Website for completion of several outstanding projects. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watkins, Secretary