

Women in Religion Wikiproject Minutes

Meeting of January 25, 2024

In attendance: CM, HWS, CS, WW, CL, CH, RH. (Please note discussion below about maintaining member anonymity and privacy while also posting the minutes on the project page.)

1. Go-round/ check-in:

CH talked to representatives of the Wikimedia Foundation Board as part of an interview process they are conducting. She was glad to hear Rosie Stephenson-Goodnight again voicing strong support for our work and saying that we should take pride in our accomplishments. They were eager to hear more about the AI project, the Kenya project, and the incident in which an over-eager Wikipedian reverted an edit done in the middle of an editathon being conducted with the Circle of Concerned African Theologians. CM wrote it up in one of her book chapters and offered to track down the details and write it up for them. CH also raised the issue of using oral history as a valid source for Wikipedia entries. She also recommended that the Wikimedia Foundation create some source videos on combatting bias that outlines how incidents like that can happen and what a new Wikipedia editor could do about it. She also talked with them about community and its importance, and she encouraged others in our group to participate in similar conversations with the Wikimedia Foundation reps or to consider setting up a group date for such a conversation. She will send CM the link to distribute.

CS started a new biographical entry for Sr. Christine Schenk. She met Sr. Christine once when she was writing a biographical entry on someone else. She wanted group guidance on how to avoid any conflict of interest and was glad of the suggestion to add a conflict-of-interest disclosure on the talk page. She believes strongly in disclosure because of a friend who does research into the impact of conflict-of-interest disclosures. She understood that while she can ask others who know the subject to review the page that they should not then make any changes themselves but could alert others who are unrelated to the subject to sources that might prompt them to make edits to the page.

WW recently read an issue of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* and found two articles that led her to use them to update related Wikipedia entries and to cite them as her sources. She's been keeping busy with reading and prayer groups.

CL has gotten back into Wikidata work based on a file received from the African theologians. She made herself a table and has added to their Wikidata entries. Maybe this should be shared in the future. She found that one had been tagged as male based

on German bibliographic entry and will have to ask CA what the process is to change that. She is not back to editing articles yet.

CH recommends assembling a working list of American women religious who might need Wikipedia biographical entries. She suggested that maybe WW and HWS could help put that together and saw it as useful for CS's work.

CM expanded the entry for St. Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris from the 5th century. She found a book that traced her history and used it heavily for the Wikipedia entry. She has also submitted two Did You Know entries. (The one for Korean skater Yuna Kim subsequently appeared on January 30th /January 29th in the US). She has started writing the entry for Buddhist scholar Paula Kane Robinson Arai, the subject of a chapter in the second Women in Religion volume, and has had trouble finding additional sources.

HWS recently lost her 100-year-old mother-in-law and has not been doing much related to this project. She has made a couple of small edits to Wikipedia pages on the Hotel Guyon in Chicago, the critic Tom Shales, the actress Cindy Morgan (*Caddyshack*), and the beekeeper Amos Root (who witnessed the Wright Brothers early flights) based on articles she recently read in the newspaper or other reading.

RH mentioned that we have lost not just Polly but Teresia Mbari Hinga and another from the African theologians circle.

2. WiR editathon

It's on the second Monday of the month so will next be held on February 12.

3. Polly's memorial service

WW and HWS attended via Zoom and spotted JE in the congregation. They said that it was very moving and a number of speakers from various parts of her life outlined Polly's fearlessness and hard work on various projects. CH suggested holding an editathon in her memory.

4. User group grant

RH reported that she wrote a grant with the Kenyan group. It's basically to expand editors in Kenya. Their biggest problem is data packages. They can't get online easily because they have to buy data packages each time. Her group will need a bank account, and the grant wants two individuals in the user group to do a joint account, not a business account. She and CM will be on it. She found a credit union that does foreign currency exchange and is checking to confirm that they exchange Kenyan currency. She asked for a list of matriarchs of Kenyan circle leaders, and CH and CM

discussed where that list is. CM pointed out that they aren't all Kenyan, and that some are from other African countries, and RH confirmed that's correct. The grant reviewers were interested in who contributes to the project and how decisions are made and were eager to see annual user reports.

This led to a proposal that the minutes of our meetings be posted on our Wikiproject page. There was willingness to do that but some concern expressed because the minutes usually name the participants and many of us have chosen Wikipedia names that preserve our anonymity and privacy. The group agreed to begin using initials in the minutes instead of full names of the participants. RH also mentioned that the African circle will not be holding monthly editing sessions (usually on the 3rd Monday) until they can secure funding for the data packages needed.

5. 2nd Parliament of the World's Religions volume

CH will be meeting with Miriam shortly and reports that the PoWR would like to do a second volume. It would likely be either on women-centered or goddess religions (given the expertise of the PoWR's current chair of its women's task force) or on notable women who presented at the last two Parliaments. (CH kept lists of them.) She believes that PoWR would like to make a decision shortly so that they can send out a call for papers in March for Women's History month, but that the whole process will likely take a year or more until the volume would be in print. WW cautioned that even writing the call for papers will take careful work to avoid using language that might trigger distracting controversy. CH remembers Rosie contacting the group about a group of witches and we could perhaps try to connect them to the group in Scotland the mapped witch reports. CH also recently met with CS and will be glad to use her expertise in publishing and editing. CH also reported that the PoWR is interested in hosting an editathon in March for Women's History month.

6. AI projects

No report. CH will check in with CA and get a report from him. WW said that when she asked him for a copy of his article on AI whose link he had shared at the last meeting because she had difficulty reading it online, he promptly sent it to her.

7. Next meetings

Next US editing session will be Monday, February 12 at 4 pm CT

Next business meeting will be Thursday, February 22 at 4 pm CT
(Remember, it's the 4th Thursday not the last Thursday of the month.)

Respectfully submitted by HWS with assistance from CS