



Participation at the August 2013 meeting was robust, and 35 participants exchanged many good ideas about possible directions for the new organization. We continue to receive emails with suggestions and inquiries from these individuals.

We also received emails from many retirees who were not able to attend the meeting in New York. Scheduling was an issue for some, because the meeting took place at the same time as the SWS dinner. Others have disabilities that make travel difficult. Still others could not afford to come. Retirement usually means the end of institutional support for travel to professional meetings, and the meetings are held in large cities, where lodging, food, and transportation are very expensive. Through ORN, perhaps we can find ways to include members who are not currently participating in ASA activities.

At the ORN organizational meeting, several members said they felt isolated in retirement, especially if they had moved to a new locality. The proposed network would enable retirees to connect with colleagues to share research interests or lifestyle questions, either in person at meetings or through newsletters, listservs, and other forms of communication. In addition to providing support, interaction among retirees would enable the dissemination of opportunities for new professional endeavors, such as visiting or part-time teaching appointments, volunteer consulting, activism, or collaborative research.

Senior members are also uniquely positioned to assist ASA in its outreach to younger members. Seniors have a wealth of experience to share and could serve as mentors to others, including younger colleagues, undergraduates and graduate students. In addition, as a participant noted during the discussion at the ASA meeting, older members have memories of working with some of the “fathers” and “mothers” of American sociology, which they could share. Moreover, they are likely to have the time to serve in advisory or consulting positions, to engage in research to benefit the profession, and to serve as advocates for sociology and the social sciences in meetings with government officials and legislators.



After this meeting, Roz Darling, Jon Darling, and Peter Stein arranged to meet on October 22, 2013 with senior ASA staff, including: Karen Grey Edwards, Margaret Weigers Vitullo, and Sally Hillsman, at the ASA Executive Office in Washington, DC to discuss more specific plans for this new initiative.