

Eugene O'Neill Society Business Meeting
Comparative Drama Conference, Baltimore, Maryland
April 2, 2016

Present: Chris Westgate, Jackson Bryer Andrew Lee, Stephen Marino, David Palmer, Michael Schwartz, Steven Bloom, Robert Dowling, Dave King, Anne Morgan, Jeff Kennedy, Beth Wynstra, Susan Brown

By Skype: Katie Johnson, Eileen Herrmann, Rob Richter, and Dan Larner

Chris called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last business meeting (held at the CDC in 2015) had been emailed to the membership prior to this meeting. Rob Dowling moved to approve the minutes; David Palmer seconded. They were approved unanimously.

Visit from Diana Pesek

Diana Pesek our representative from Penn State University Press presented on the *Eugene O'Neill Review*. Diana gave a publishers' report with information about our subscription numbers as well as the most downloaded articles from the *Review*. She also explained how readers access the journal and read it.

Honoring Dave King

Beth Wynstra and Chris Westgate presented Dave King a plaque to acknowledge and celebrate his work as editor of *The Eugene O'Neill Review*.

Elections

An election was held for a new board member and board chairperson. Kurt Eisen had been nominated for the new board position, and Steven Bloom had been nominated for board chairperson. Both were elected.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Beth Wynstra reported that our membership numbers are up slightly from last year! Right now we have 89 members in good standing (as opposed to 75 this time last year). We ended 2015 with a slight surplus of funds and are on target to do the same in 2016. The increase in membership dues and the change in structure of our membership levels seems to be helping. We also now receive a yearly royalty check from Penn State University Press.

O'Neill Society at the MLA Conference

Chris began a discussion about O'Neill at MLA. Chris reported low turn-out (both of panelists and audience). He wants to think about new opportunities for the panel.

Jackson thought bringing in theater people to the panel (perhaps Tony Kushner) much like Travis used to bring in Jason Robards, etc. might be a good idea. The next MLA is in NYC. Jackson strongly advised not giving up the slot at MLA.

Jeff pointed out the long lead-in time for MLA and discussed how panelists flaked out and low audience. Jeff said we need to think about what we want our outcomes to be. Jeff also mentioned the BIG cost of attending MLA.

David Palmer sees the O'Neill Society as being the "big cheese" of dramatist societies. He suggested that the EOS acts as the organizer at MLA (perhaps partnering with Miller, Albee, Wilson, etc).

Kurt agreed about bringing in a theater person, commissioning a person. We should actively invite other groups, and have a pre-organized panel.

Rob Dowling suggested a name change (perhaps to American Drama, etc.). We cannot change the name of our allied organization but could open up the session name

Jackson really suggested that we solidify a point person for two years for MLA.

The Eugene O'Neill Review

Dave King is stepping down as editor. The Ex Committee has, over the last few months, vetted several new potential editors. Judi Barlow has offered to guest edit the next edition.

Dave King pointed out that there is carry-over of material. Perhaps an upcoming issue could be an issue and a half (to include this extra material).

Jeff asked about the possibility of one issue. Chris pointed out that Diana from PSU strongly argued against this route. Dave King pointed out that a once a year thing would mean that authors would be waiting a long time to have their work published.

Kurt had a question for Dave-Would it be helpful to have an assistant editor? Graduate student assistant? Dave King said the editorial board is what is in need of revamping. There are currently people on the board that are no longer associated with O'Neill studies or the Society.

David Palmer commended Dave King's exceptional editing.



Update on Ireland

Rob Dowling read the progress report on Ireland (see attached)

Chris said we need a sense of numbers both for attendance and who wants to stay in hotels or dorms. Beth will be working on this task.

Jackson-suggested other channels for advertising, perhaps through Penn State Press or MLA.

Stephen Marino suggested that Diana put a call for papers for this conference in the PSUP journals

Kurt asked about medallion winner protocol. Beth will be handling this protocol. Kurt also asked when the CFP will be out; it will be out this summer.

Jackson and Jeff both reminded us that we need to know soon how many sessions for papers/presentations there will be.

New website

Jeff presented new logo for website and reported that the website should be up and running by the summer. Jeff also volunteered to be our webmaster for the year.

Dave asked what we should do with old paper versions of the *EOR*. Several people suggested Tao House, and Jackson suggested Yale or Connecticut College. Dave will contact all places.

Steve Bloom will contact Bette Mandl about old paper copies of newsletters.

Upcoming conferences

CDC (2017)-Chris Westgate/David Palmer will chair

ALA (2017)-TBD

MLA (2018)-David Palmer will chair

New Business

Steve Bloom reported that there are some O'Neill productions in Florida this year including *The Iceman Cometh*, for which he will be providing a talk for audiences.

Susan Brown detailed the events happening in Provincetown this summer.

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Baltimore-based playwright and theater artist Mark Scharf detailed the different O'Neill productions happening in Maryland this year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

