

2019 Eugene O'Neill Society Business Meeting
American Literature Association Conference
Saturday, May 25th
The Westin Hotel, Copley Place, Boston

Present: Steven Bloom, Patrick Midgley, Beth Wynstra, Ryder Thornton, Alex Pettit, Zander Brietzke, Jeff Kennedy, David Palmer, Rob Richter, Ranald Quirk, Josh Polster, Fei Zheng, Joel Minor, Yuji Omori

- Approval of 2018 minutes
 - Approved
- Secretary/Treasurer Announcements
 - Patrick will be taking over in January 2020, Hooray!
 - Steve wanted it documented in the minutes that Beth has been irreplaceable and THANK YOU
 - Announcement of elections: Beth Wynstra and Steve Bloom elected as Board members; Board Chair will be coming soon
 - Membership is just about at 100 members; this number is more than last year (about 20 more), but we still need to grow!
 - Financial picture is strong: \$22,858.41 +\$2,000 royalty check from PSUP (expected)
- *Eugene O'Neill Review* announcements (Alex)
 - 40.1 with publisher and will be published late summer/fall 2019
 - Features from Eric Frasier Hayes, Zander, Dan McGovern, John G. Peters
 - Eight performance reviews (New Ross Festival included)
 - Two book reviews
 - Biggest problems
 - Small number of authors
 - Paucity of submissions
 - High acceptance rate
 - Solutions
 - Outreach
 - Expand digital presence
 - Newly-named features (commissioned): "Lost and Found," "Used Books," (new review of Berlin's O'Neill's Shakespeare), "Director's Circle." These sections will reduce the backbone: refereed essays (RE). Expect to see 8-10 REs per year.
 - Will likely see shorter and more selective issues, as acceptance rates are a serious issue. *We cannot expect people to submit to a journal that will not help them professionally.*
 - Beth pointed out that we seek more submissions on pedagogy

- Zander: this may be an opportunity for commissioned essays
- Not Alex's preference; 2 people have brought this up but currently his inclination is that the submission quality is not as high in this area
- Beth: if it's someone you really know, sure--but "not one of us" is a really important trend
- Steve: we've have had many conference sessions in the past on pedagogy; perhaps we should consider having a panel at the Boston conference
- The overall point is that getting these pieces, and getting them from other people, is very important
- Please send your best work and please solicit articles from people you know
- Good single author journal acceptance rate: 35-40%; literature journals are around 20%; our current website reports 35-40% but the reality is it's much higher than that
- Receiving the new issue this summer: please send Alex feedback!
- Alex presented some new bylaw amendments that take in account our relationship with Penn State University Press and new editorial board. Beth will send the amendments out to membership for voting.
- Steven: read a message from Kurt Eisen. Our best wishes are with Kurt in this challenging time for him and his family. A photo was taken to send to Kurt after we adjourned.
- Newsletter announcements (Jeff)
 - Goal is deadline of two weeks prior, so far so good
 - Jeff's number one request is *as many photos as possible*
 - Also include information about the members--the journal is also about members and their lives
 - Newsletter will not accept reviews, etc. Scholarship belongs in the *Review*
 - Website and FB going well, CFPs will be posted soon
 - Jeff introduced Joel Minor, a librarian from Washington University (St. Louis) who will be handling Harley Hammerman's collection
- Recruiting new members
 - We have a membership committee! Katie is heading this group and has begun generating ideas. Steve shared a Google document with ideas
 - We are seeking 2 members to join that group
 - Alex: juried competition for emerging scholars (Katie is high on this)
 - Patrick: inclusion at conference/EONR

- Jeff: we need more info in the EONR about membership, and could also advertise at ATHE/ASTR
 - Rob R suggested that we send the CFP for the Boston conference to the O'Neill Theater Center for them to blast out to their email lists
- E-Voting discussion
 - When we have voting for members, that is done online in advance of the annual meeting
 - If we make any changes in the by-laws, 2/3 of membership must approve
 - Formerly these changes took 1 year to implement; *that has been overturned*
 - At the international conference, we had 65 members present
 - There are things in our by-laws which require only the Board to approve; we can send ideas to this process if we don't feel a full membership vote is required
 - Fai: please include a brief CV of members for international/online members
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- Funding for conferences
 - For MLA, we have two academics attending the conference. David looked into funding for this. His question is: can we set aside funding for conference attendees who don't have institutional funding?
 - Steven: we've had to approve this in the past
 - David: In this case (MLA 2020), the librarians registered at a low fee themselves
 - Beth: even w/ the Fred Wilkins fund, the rules are loose and open to interpretation
 - Zander: leery to make hard rules
 - Jeff: is there a point at which MLA is no longer worth it?
 - Rob: once you step out (librarian, practitioner, retired, etc.)...where do we draw a line here?
 - David: maybe we focus on a funding pool for a few conferences? There will be an E-Vote on this by the Board
- Rob: Update on Monte Cristo Cottage
 - \$250,000 on renovations: physically, the Cottage is in good shape
 - Cottage opens May 29-August 11 (Wed-Sun)
 - Staffed by a fellow
 - Main goal is attracting visitors
 - The EON Center considering a consultant from the museum world to make the cottage more intellectually accessible to new visitors
 - Annual Eugene O'Neill Celebration

- There was local funding for this, but it dictated that the celebration had to be in New London and not in Waterford, where the O'Neill Center has the resources to host an event
- Rob is willing to help with the continuation of this event, but he cannot spearhead the effort
- Steven: potentially every three years? The Society and The Cottage used to share a very close partnership

- Zander: I used to love to October date, but there are lots of competing events. This includes New Ross, which will likely continue to grow.
- Steven: Executive Board should make a proposal for next year's meeting for an event in New London.
- Jeff: we need to voice our support for that organization

- Next International Conference
 - June 17-20 in Boston at Suffolk University
 - We explored Boston University, but several of their buildings will be under construction during that time
 - Conference Hotel is the Sheraton: a 20-minute walk to Suffolk, and the rate is \$279/night. We have to fill 75 rooms for 3 nights at that rate.
 - We are open to non-traditional panels and events
 - Lots of other exciting sessions planned
 - Medallion nominations going out soon!

- New biz
 - David: Deadline for CDC is November
 - There are a lot of regional conferences; let's get an O'Neill presence at these conferences!
 - Our next business meeting will be at the Boston Conference

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Midgley and Beth Wynstra