

Eugene O'Neill Society Business Meeting

Eugene O'Neill International Conference

Friday, July 21, 2017

Galway, Ireland

Present:

Chris Westgate, Steven Bloom, Robert Dowling, Beth Wynstra, Carole Wynstra, Katie Johnson, Jo Morello, Susan Rand Brown, Dan McGovern, Carolyn McGovern, David Palmer, Zander Brietzke, Johan Callens, Yuji Omori, Shiyan Xu, Alex Pettit, Sheila Hickey Garvey, Kurt Eisen, Brenda Murphy, Eileen Hermann, Thierry Dubost, Jackson Bryer, Daniel Larner, Patrick Midgley, Ryder Thornton, Nelson Ritschel, Audrey McNamara

Chris called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the last business meeting (held at the CDC in 2016) had been emailed to the membership prior to this meeting. Kurt Eisen moved to approve the minutes; David Palmer seconded. They were approved unanimously.

Thank you to Chris Westgate

Beth Wynstra presented Chris with a gift and a card of messages from Society members in recognition of his Presidency. Congratulations, Chris!

Elections

Chris explained the ballot of nominated officers. The ballot was:

Vice President-

Katie Johnson

Open Board positions (Choose four)-

Eileen Herrmann

Sheila Hickey Garvey

Katie Johnson

Jeff Kennedy

Ryder Thornton

Patrick Midgeley

International Secretary-Europe

Thierry Dubost

Board Chairperson

Steve Bloom

There were no nominations for any of the positions from the floor. Thus the members who were present were asked to remove Katie Johnson's name from the Board positions list.

Voting took place.

Financial/Membership

Beth presented the current financial report for the Society. She explained that this was a big year of expenses for the Society with the website reboot and the conference costs. However we are in a healthy financial position due to the yearly royalties from Penn State as well as not paying an editor. Our new dues structure has also helped bring in more revenue despite lower membership numbers.

Beth stressed the need to grow our membership; Chris mentioned that the new membership committee should help with this goal.

Announcement of new editors for *Review*

The next edition of the *Review* will be an Ireland issue, edited by Nelson and Audrey. After this issue Kurt Eisen will assume the editorship for three years.

Announcement of MLA O'Neill panel

Steve Bloom announced that the Neo-Futurists will be the subject of the O'Neill panel at the MLA, which will be in New York City in January, 2018.

Christopher Loar, a director with the Neo-Futurists will give a talk followed by responses by Laura Shea and Zander Brietzke.

By-laws

Chris began a discussion of some much needed by-law changes. The first item up for discussion was the by-law which restricts any changes going into effect until a year waiting period. The Executive Committee would like to see this by-law changed immediately. The second change is to allow online voting for everything.

-Brenda asked for an amendment rather than just striking the one-year thing

-Sheila recommended going to procedure before getting to the striking of the one-year thing

-Chris pointed out that with the language around the voting of officers we can do the same thing with by-law changes

-Jackson emphasized that we cannot disenfranchise anyone

-Daniel pointed out that 2/3 number present at meeting now needs to be changed to 2/3 of those who vote (online or otherwise)

-Chris decided to email things out rather than voting. But he did want to get people's feelings

-Sheila pointed out that we are holding up Society business by nitty-gritty details about by-law stuff

-Dan suggested a suggestion about emailing during the conference period with changes that we want

-Brenda: we need to vote that we are making an exception to by-laws

- Steve made the motion to have a rare exception to by-laws so that we can get rid of the one year wait and that we can vote electronically

-Dan suggested this language: This vote is in no way a normal thing. This is not a precedent for changing items in the future.

Steve raised the motion to move forward with this email voting, Dan seconded. Passed unanimously.

Chris said the new amendments we want cannot be voted on until the votes on the one-year wait and a vote on online voting. But here is a preview:

Vice President

-The vice president: right now there is not language in the by-laws about when the Vice President becomes President. Plus their terms of office are not lined up (three years for President and two years for Vice President).

-Dan suggested that the Vice-President be called the President elect

-Brenda suggested get rid of the multiple terms of President

Chair of Board

-We need to change the language of the by-laws to bring the duties of the Chair in line with the practices we are currently using.

Conference chair

Chris explained that a current Board member will take on the role of Conference Coordinator. This Coordinator will keep track of all deadlines of conference CFPs and be responsible for assembling panels for conferences or assigning someone to assemble the panels. Chris explained that this responsibility usually fell to the overworked Secretary/Treasurer. past problems and why we need this position.

-Kurt asked about the conference chair taking on moderator position if he/she cannot find someone.

Membership Committee

Chris explained that two board members will be nominated and elected as part of a three-person Membership Committee which will be led by the current Vice President of the Society. These Directors will serve a three-year term. Members of this committee will develop and oversee ways of growing membership of the Society through various means approved by the Executive Committee.

-Rob suggested striking the Executive Committee oversight language about this new committee from the draft language in the by-laws.

Review/Newsletter Review

Chris explained that many years ago a by-law amendment about a formal review of the *Review* and the Newsletter was passed by the Society. This amendment never made its way into the by-laws. It will now be put into the by-laws.

Website reveal

Chris revealed our new Society website and gave Jeff Kennedy profound thanks for all his work in improving our digital presence.

Results of Election

Vice President: Katie Johnson

International Secretary, Europe: Thierry Dubost

Board Chairperson: Steven Bloom

New Board members:

Eileen Herrmann

Sheila Hickey Garvey

Ryder Thornton

Patrick Midgeley

Next International Conference

Chris offered two locations for the next International Conference that came up during the Board meeting:

-Boston

-Tao House

A decision will be made soon about our next conference.

Next Society Meeting

The next Society meeting will be at the ALA Conference in San Francisco in May. Beth said she will plan an event at Tao House during this same weekend.

Announcements about Medallion Banquet

Nelson and Audrey gave some announcements about the Medallion Banquet.

The meeting was dismissed at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Wynstra, Secretary/Treasurer