

DHLSNA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

1:48 PM, January 22, 2023

Present

Adam Parkes, Tonya Krouse, Benjamin Hagen, Irina Yamboliev, Kathleen Vella, Fiona Fleming, Bridget Chalk, Isobel Dixon, Ronald Granofsky, Sue Reid, Robert Caserio, Holly Laird, Richard Kaye, Tina Ferris, Erin Johns Speese, Terry Gifford, Judith Ruderman

Moment of Silence for Garry Watson, Distinguished Lawrentian

Approval of minutes from 2022 meeting (Tonya Krouse)

Correction from Tina Ferris: Jeff Brackett should be credited for the website. Minutes accepted as amended.

Election of Officers and New Amendment to Bylaws (Adam Parkes)

The Executive Committee voted unanimously in favor of change to the bylaws in the Fall to make the awards more transparent moving forward. The aim of the revision is to formalize the splitting of the newly published scholar awards so one for essay and one for a book but also to clarify the process and timeline, as well as to make clear how the committee is selected and the powers of President and President Elect in the process.

Re: the Election of the officers, three new members were elected – Bridget Chalk from Manhattan College, Fiona Fleming from University of Paris at Nanterre, and Irina Yamboliev at Stanford University. We are grateful to them for their service and look forward to meeting with them over the next couple of years.

Financial Statement – (Andrew Keese)

Andrew walked those present through the statement. Working document at the moment; a bit of a complex statement and some changes may still need to be made. The complication is the conference; many payments made and not sure everything accounted for came out of the right place.

There are three accounts. Expenses tended to relate to web expenses (Bravenet, the Paypal transaction fee, etc.), expenses related to taxes, advertising for the Society, and then expenses connected to the International Conference. The expenses paid for the conference are listed on the third page of the financial statement document; Andrew explained some of the challenges of transactions fees because of some of the complexities of international banking and wire transfers.

The ending balance for the main DH Lawrence account was 9,581.61.

As it now stands, the total balance is probably about \$17,000 or so at the moment. Andrew apologizes for the complex nature of the statement this year and any errors there may be; he is still working on making sure that money is coming from the correct accounts.

Andrew says that we grew by about \$500 more in membership fees this year over last; whether from the last conference or from the advertising.

Holly Laird asks about the membership drive, wondering whether that helped more than the TLS advertising. She also noted the absence of the names of the award winners who were covered by the conference, and she suggests that Nanette Norris may be the best person to ask about payments that are unclear. Andrew notes that every transaction through the Bank of America Accounts is accounted for.

Sue Reid asks what the actual contribution of the DHLSNA is to funding the conference; what contribution can future conference hosts expect from the society? Andrew explains that those decisions happen at the level of the president and the executive board and not something handled by the treasurer. Sue suggests that it seemed like the DHLSNA was contributing a higher amount and whether future people could expect similar support; Adam explains that some of those decisions were made on an ad hoc basis and not based on policy, in part because the University of New Mexico chose to withdraw their support for the conference at the last minute. The D.H. Lawrence Society of North America contributions helped to make up for that.

Andrew suggests that we might table the financial statements for now and get it more accurately updated prior to ratifying it as a group. He says that we could approve the new version via email and Ron Granofsky agrees.

Membership – (Tina Ferris)

Tina adds in relation to Andrews previous report more detailed explanation for the web expenses on the financial statement. Segueing into membership, Tina says that seeing when bumps up in membership happen, but the difficulty this year is that the advertisement and the conference were happening at the same time. Tina reports membership has started very well this year; over 30 renewals so far; current membership up to 64 I believe, and you can always track current membership at the bottom of the roster. Keeping those tallies helps for MLA and keeping the dedicated D.H. Lawrence panel. About 60 regular members still need to renew. We need to keep sending out reminders and hopefully the rest of our members will get themselves up to date in their membership. Regarding updating the listserv, it was suggested that it's more important to get those folks in quicker now than we had done because of different programming we are hosting. Tina puts an asterisk in front of new members each year that you can see. Tina also added a society timeline to the website with important deadlines and when things usually occur (elections, renewals, etc.). Final comment relates to the memorial list; Tina shares that Garry had paid a two year subscription and had a year left, so she gifted that and added it on to Betsy Sargent's subscription.

Conferences

Ron reports that the papers at the MLA Convention in San Francisco were excellent and a great discussion was generated from them.

Ron suggests "D.H. Lawrence and Emotion" for next year at MLA; we are also at work on trying to collaborate with the Dickens society on a panel and asks for feedback. Richard Kaye suggests adding the word "affect" since so many scholars are working on affect theory and affect studies today. Kathleen Vella asks about the difference between emotions and feelings or emotion and feeling.

“Celebration: Joy and Sorrow” is the MLA conference theme. Ron notes that his suggestion was inspired by the theme.

All in attendance agree that this is a good idea for next year’s convention.

Robert Caserio reports about trying to collaborate for an MLA panel. This process started last year, and we got a frosty response from the late 19th century and early 20th century society, but the Dickens Society responded warmly. He asks if we know anyone in other societies for us to reach out and discuss collaboration for MLA 2025 and beyond. Robert suggests Lawrence and Lessing. Tonya Krouse says she will help Robert connect with them; Holly reminds everyone that there was a panel with the Lessing and Lawrence societies collaborating within the past decade. Tina offers to update the section on MLA on the website to fill in gaps.

“Joys and Sorrows of Attachment: Dickens and Lawrence” for the collaborative panel for MLA 2024 with a March 19 deadline and abstracts going to Robert. This session is not guaranteed.

South Atlantic MLA Conference in November and Ben Hagan is taking that on. The proposed topic for this coming year is (In)Security, and Ben suggests a number of possible topics connected to Lawrence studies, to children, to scholarship on Lawrence. Holly suggests that Lawrence in relation to foreign policy and the Pax Britannica could be a way forward – thinking about “security” as connected to foreign policy. Ron, Tonya, and Irena all expressed delight with the idea of pursuing a topic about children in Lawrence and their “delicious security.” The deadline for this will likely be in late May for us for a mid-June deadline for the conference. Holly notes that the more focused the topic the harder it is to get abstracts. She argues that we need to think broadly to get interest for the panels.

Ben will continue to tweak that call and then circulate it.

Ben then shifted gears to discuss the virtual graduate student conference sponsored by the society. Do we want to try to do it this year or try for 2024? Do we want to broaden participation beyond graduate students? Adam says wait to 2024 and try to get ahead of it before Christmas.

Andrew adds that we need to do a better job of advertising; Tonya and Holly discuss the benefits of this for junior scholars in getting feedback from established scholars and professional networking with the community of Lawrence scholars. Having a respondent for conference panels is particularly desirable.

Report on the *D.H. Lawrence Review* (Richard Kaye)

Richard reports we have a double issue coming out; hoping to put it to bed in March. Richard is beginning a yearlong sabbatical so has more time than usual to devote to the journal. It has a cluster of articles about the leadership fiction and an essay of Bridget Chalk’s about *The Rainbow*; a review by Robert Caserio; an essay about “The Woman who Rode Away.” There is also a review of the new *Lady Chatterley* film adaptation by Maria DiBattista. The whole point of the double issue is to correct the discrepancy between the date on the journal and the actual date. This has been a challenge but it is foremost on Richard’s mind and the double issue will help to catch us up to a synchronicity between the date of the journal and the actual date. Richard also discussed the “From the Archives” part of the journal, which helps scholars to get their hands on material that may be difficult for folks to get because it isn’t published or available electronically. Looking forward, Richard would like to reprint hard to get essays by Richard Hoggart introducing Lawrence’s fiction. Other issues: we still have Joost Burgers as

book review editor; He is now at James Madison University in Virginia; He has done a superb job. Richard also has two paid students working on the journal, in addition to the graduate students who work on putting the issues together. Richard expresses his commitment to keeping the journal as a print and electronic edition. Finally, Richard concludes that conferences are very important to the journal. He also is committed to getting timely evaluations to help support folks who are on the job market or who are pre-tenure.

He adds: He still doesn't have a complete collection of the Cambridge Editions and makes another appeal for those if anyone has access to them who may want to share them with the journal. The other thing he wanted to say is that he's trying to make it easier for people to give donations to the journal or put it as a bequest in their will.

New Twitter Presence (Julie Newmark)

The twitter account is being overseen by Buxi Duan. To follow us on Twitter, this is the link:
<https://twitter.com/DHLawrenceSocNA>

Meeting Adjourns

3:18 PM