

(Annual Business Meeting, 2018 MLA, New York City, 3:30-5:00 pm --held in the Hilton Conference Hotel)

Present: Executive Board members Joyce Wexler, Nanette Norris, Carrie Rohman, Matthew Kochis and, via facetime, Nancy Paxton, Julie Newmark, and Tonya Kraus; also present were general members Holly Laird and David Game.

Chaired by Joyce Wexler, President

1. **Introductions** and Welcome; **Minutes** of last year's meeting have been online for one year; Holly Laird and Carrie Rohman volunteered to take minutes for the meeting in the absence of the secretary.
2. **President's Report** (Joyce Wexler)
 - a. JStor, as Richard Kaye has explained, will soon begin online publication of the *DHLR*, starting with the last three years after a one-year gap for the most recent year
 - b. Copies of the agenda and of the treasurer's report had already been delivered electronically to the executive board.
3. **Annual election report** (Nancy Paxton)
 - a. The election returns remained strong this year, with 66 votes as compared to, e.g., 67 votes 2 years ago.
 - b. The vote was unanimous for all board-nominated candidates, with no write-ins.
4. **Treasurer's report** for 2017 (Nanette Norris)
 - a. Last year was a simple one, and the accounts remain healthy.
 - b. We are using a maximizer savings account, which offers .67% per year
 - c. The paypal fee raises an issue since up to \$2.00 goes to paypal for every \$25.00 payment, and fees can be high depending on the country.
 - d. It is not known at this time if the membership has grown or not, but it has held relatively steady.
 - e. Discussion ensued of the pro's and con's of raising membership fees, on the one hand, and of moving away from paypal, on the other hand. It was agreed that the board would continue to consider the issue but make no changes at present.
 - f. Students accepted to present at the virtual conference must become members.
5. **Vice President's report** (Nanette Norris)
 - a. **First DHLNA Virtual Graduate Student Conference:**
 - i. There are 4 definite, acceptable submissions of abstracts for the first virtual graduate student conference. There may be a 5th and 6th.
 - ii. A respondent is needed.
 - iii. The conference will occur on April 15, if this is a Saturday.
 - iv. It was agreed that it would be better to have fewer papers on a panel than more.
 - v. Each "room" can hold 40 spots.
 - vi. Everything will be recorded and then can be posted on the website.
 - vii. Joyce suggests "Taking D H Lawrence into the 21st Century" as a good title for it, and all present agreed.
 - viii. Julie and Nancy volunteered to serve as respondents.
 - b. **International D. H. Lawrence Conference:**
 - i. The conference will now probably be held in Taos, and this will be more affordable than Santa Fe.
 - ii. The hotel, the Sagebrush Inn, is offering shuttle service to the airport.
 - iii. The meeting rooms and all meals will be in the hotel and included in the registration fee; the accommodations are comfortable.
 - iv. A local art gallery appears ready to exhibit Lawrence's paintings
 - v. The plans include a play by D. H. Lawrence, if possible.
 - vi. The conference will take place in the first or second week of July 2020. July is a good month for almost everyone and certainly for U.K. participants and Canadians.
 - vii. Sharon has been dealing with all this and has not yet finalized these plans.
 - viii. All plans are based on a contract quote obtained before Sharon became involved.

6. Awards announcement (Holly Laird):

- a. For the “newly published scholar” award, general approval was given to comparing articles only with articles and books only with books, allowing for the possibility (which the Society can afford) of two awards in this category.
- b. Procedures for vetting submissions for the “newly published scholar” award were announced by email at the end of 2017 to various groups of scholars who had attended the most recent London, Paris, and Cornwall conferences.
- c. It was agreed that the panel of judges will be anonymous and that Joyce will appoint them.
- d. It was agreed that the announcement and procedures should be revised to include a request from nominees for resumes.
- e. Much discussion ensued as to who exactly should qualify as a “newly published scholar,” ranging from honoring its original intent of awarding a “younger” scholar (in the sense of being new to the profession), to allowing anyone (e.g., Stephen Greenblatt) eligibility who had published their first work on Lawrence.
- f. It was agreed that this discussion could continue by email and exact wording be settled through online discussion among the executive board members.
- g. It was agreed that further discussion of procedures for deciding the other awards was desirable.
- h. Nancy suggested and all agreed that: after (i) developing new and/or more explicit procedures for any of these awards, and (ii) testing them in the years approaching the 2020 conference (where they are announced), we might then vote to change the by-laws to formalize these procedures.

7. 2019 MLA (Joyce Wexler)

- a. Joyce posed the question of whether to try to have 2 panels next year or not—one guaranteed, the other collaborative.
- b. General discussion ensued as to the in’s and out’s of developing collaborative panels; the procedures by which rejected panels may be revised and resubmitted in a subsequent year; whose labour these panels involve (in recent years, the president has developed the MLA panels, though the by-laws were changed under Betsy Sargent, delegating that responsibility to the President elect); and what the MLA politics are regarding our choices.
- c. Possible topics began with those discussed in previous years (listed on the DHLSNA website), including “Digital Lawrence,” “Lawrence and Place,” “Lawrence and the Space In Between,” and “Lawrence and Affect.”
- d. “Lawrence and Poetry” was proposed (a topic last chosen for the 2014 MLA), given the pending publication of the third volume of the Cambridge University Press *Poems*.
- e. Nancy noted the desirability of including theoretical lenses in our proposals.
- f. It was noted that this year’s panel proved extremely successful in eliciting excitingly fresh contributions on an important topic by participants from outside the D. H. Lawrence Society as well as from within.
- g. Given the issue most prominent at the 2018 MLA Convention of a “Post-Jobs Society,” enthusiastic discussion followed of a possible panel on Lawrence and jobs, and it was decided that the next panel would be “Lawrence, Labour, Work”—with exact wording for the panel to be proposed by the vice president and president, then vetted through email conversation among the executive board members.
- h. “Digital Lawrence” was embraced next as a potential topic for collaboration with the MLA Digital Humanities or the MLA Libraries and Research allied group, with possible contributions from non-MLA member organizations, such as the MJP.
- i. It was further agreed that we would propose this as a round table rather than a panel, after further examination of the most current rules for proposing these.
- j. It was decided that the vice president would work on the blurb for this after receiving a copy of the rules from the president.

8. Other Business (Joyce Wexler and those present): none; the meeting was adjourned. (Submitted by Holly Laird)