

Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Inc.
Business Meeting Minutes
28 May 2011

The annual business meeting of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society convened at 8:00 am., 28 May 2011 in St. George D of the Westin Copley Hotel. Wesley Mott presided. Approximately twenty members were in attendance.

1. Minutes and Treasurer's report from the 2010 annual board meeting were presented. Approved unanimously.
2. Wesley Mott thanked outgoing board members: Dan Malachuk, who continues to serve on the Florence conference committee, and Barbara Packer, who passed away in December.
3. In memoriam: Barbara L. Packer (Wes Mott)
4. Todd Richardson presented the 2011 Treasurer's report (see attached).
5. Leslie Eckel reported on Program Chair activities.
6. Awards announcements:
 - Distinguished Achievement Award: Phyllis B. Cole (Committee: Wes Mott, Len Gougeon, Peter Balaam)
 - Graduate Student paper Awards: Carolyn Elliott (U of Pittsburgh) and Jacob Risinger (Harvard U) (Leslie Eckel)
 - Special Awards: Research Grant to Teresa Coda (Wittenburg U) (Committee: Dan Malachuk and Jessie Bray)
7. Reports
 - *Emerson Society Papers*. Editor Bob Habich reported that the spring 2011 issue was mailed in early May; costs of production and mailing continue to rise; we need to consider ways to distribute the journal electronically.
 - *Collected Works*. Al von Frank showed the recently published vol. 9, *Poems*, which he coedited with Tom Wortham; congratulations to Al and Tom; Joel Myerson reported that vol. 10, *Miscellanies*, will be submitted to the Press later this year.
 - Contributions to Society collections. Wes Mott reported that material from vol. 9 of CW will be donated soon; Wes is in ongoing conversation with Jeff Cramer of the Henley Library and Kevin van Anglen of the Thoreau Society about a policy for contributions; he will report to the board.
 - Web site. Joel Myerson is retiring as webmaster after 10 years; new webmaster to be Amy Earhart of Texas A&M University who also works with Leslie Wilson of the Concord Free Library on the Concord Digital Archive; need to decide long-range what will be posted to the site; the site is registered and the redirection

function has been extended for another three years; the board expressed its gratitude to Joel.

8. Nominations and elections

- President-Elect: Sue Dunston
- Sec/Treasurer: Todd H. Richardson for another two-year term
- Advisory Board, 2011-1013: Yoshio Takanashi and Jessie Bray
- Program Chair: Leslie Eckel (her “solo year”)
- DAA Committee (Len Gougeon, Sandra Morris, Bob Habich—appointed by President)
- Special Projects Awards Committee (Jessie Bray, Bonnie O’Neill, Bob Habich ex officio)
- Graduate Student paper award (Leslie Eckel and Bob Habich)

9. Additional announcements and items discussed:

- Al von Frank discussed Packer Fellowship. He has received approximately \$43,000 in pledges, towards the needed minimum of \$50,000 to be administered by the American Antiquarian Society. Of the \$43,000, the Emerson Society has pledged \$10,000 and the AAS has offered to cover up to \$10,000, if the initial drive falls short of its goal, in order to announce the Fellowship this year. The AAS would advertise the fellowship and collect applications, the RWES would establish a committee to help review applications that made it through the initial AAS screening. Al indicated he would check if the AAS would be willing to receive and process donations directly.
- Todd Richardson gave a general update on the planning for the Florence 2012 conference. The proposal deadline is October 1, and the conference program will be established by the end of 2011, with the help of program committee representatives from the RWES. As it stands, those individuals are Sue Dunston, Dan Malachuk, and Todd Richardson. Conference registration fee for each individual is \$400, and there are 140 maximum participants. RWES has paid out, to date, approximately \$3,000—an amount that should be recouped from the conference registration fees. Jason Courtmanche will be conducting a site visit at La Pietra in Florence in June 2011 and will report his findings to each of the sponsoring societies’ boards.
- Wes Mott explained the need for a policy governing the replacement of a board member who cannot serve out the rest of his or her term. The following motion passed: "If an officer or board member is unable to complete a term, the Advisory Board may appoint a successor to complete the remainder of the term."
- Next year’s board/business meetings. Due to the closeness in time between ALA 2012 and the Florence 2012 conference, it is probably prohibitive to expect members to travel to both. RWES membership agrees that the 2012 board/business meetings be held in Florence, not at ALA.

- The annual Society dinner will be held 28 May at 7 p.m. in Legal Seafoods, Copley Square.

Adjourned at 9:20a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd H. Richardson
Secretary/Treasurer

Treasurer's Report: The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Inc. 27 May 2011

Membership and comparisons (as of May 12, 2011)

	May 2004	May 2005	May 2006	May 2007	May 2008	May 2009	May 2010	May 2011
Total membership	188	183	194	210	184	176	165	160
Life members	25	22	22	22	25	26	27	27
Sustaining members	17	18	18	25	29	19	20	18
Contributing members	48	46	51	55	41	40	41	52
New Members	n/a	11	22	40	15	19	17	12
States represented	35	35	43	43	38	35	31 (+DC)	34
Non-U.S. countries	5	6	10	10	13	12	10	9

Our international membership includes the countries of Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Australia, Canada, Russia, Spain, and Turkey.

Finances (as of 1 May 2011)

\$31,391	Balance 1 May 2009
4,882	Credits
8,158	Debits
28,115	Balance 1 May 2010
\$1,169	Current balance, checking account
4,624	Current balance, Wells Fargo savings account
28	Current balance, West Texas Educators CU savings account
15,277	Current balance, CD #1
7,017	Current balance, CD #2
28,115	Current assets 1 May 2011

Major debits for the year ending 1 May 2011 include the Graduate Student paper award (\$750), Community award (\$450), Research grant (\$500), printing and postage for Spring and Fall 2010 ESP (\$983), design and layout of Spring and Fall 2010 ESP (\$1,000), deposit to Florence in 2012 conference organizers La Pietra (\$2,141), deposit to Eurocoperture for Florence conference support (\$471), funds to Florence conference organizer Jason Courtmanche for travel to Florence (\$500), and payment for update of RWES website (\$1,200).

Major credits for the year ending 1 May 2011 include membership dues and donations (\$4495), and interest on savings (\$387).

Additional notes:

- Our balance is down about \$3,000 from last year. This can be attributed primarily to our outlay for the Florence conference. It is my understanding that we can

count on a refund of our deposits to La Pietra and Eurocoperture. Even so, we are continuing a trend of spending somewhat more than we are taking in.

- I had to switch banks in September 2010. The credit union, though offering very good rates, cannot handle international wire transfers, international money orders, and the like. I am, however, keeping CD#1 at the credit union to take advantage of the good rates. In order to do so, I must maintain a nominal amount (\$25) in a savings account there.
- Membership is down somewhat from this time last year by about five members.
- Our CDs are not performing as well for us as they had been. Our current interest rates for our two CDs are 0.6% and 0.5%.

Many thanks to everyone in the Emerson Society who has helped make my term as Secretary / Treasurer a rewarding one!

Respectfully submitted,

Todd H. Richardson
Secretary/Treasurer
Richardson_t@utpb.edu