

Emerson Society Business Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 24, 2014

Concord Room, Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

President Sue Dunston called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. About 14 members were present.

1. 2013 Minutes approved
2. 2014 Treasurer's Report approved.

Announcements and Updates

1. Sue announces that the IRS has reinstated the Society's tax-exempt status.
2. Website: Sue asks that members give any feedback on the newly redesigned website directly to her or to webmaster Amy Earheart.
3. Special Award Presentation: Noelle reports on efforts to advertise awards
4. Packer Fellowship: Sue recognizes the 2014 Packer Fellowship recipient, Peter Wirzbicki
5. Projected 2018 Heidelberg Conference: Sue passes around a sign-up sheet for members to join the planning committee; she mentions interest in co-sponsoring the conference from the Poe, Hawthorne, and Fuller Societies.
6. Other Announcements:
 - a. The Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy has invited the Emerson Society to offer a panel at their annual meeting in March, 2015; Sue invites any interested parties to let her know of their desire to get involved. She notes that there is a possibility for this to become a regular panel at future SAAP conferences.
 - b. Jardin des Plantes: the Society is exploring the possibility of sponsoring a plaque commemorating Emerson's formative experience at the Jardin; Joe Urbas and another member who is also based in France will pursue this.
 - c. New/Forthcoming Publications: Phyllis Cole and Jana Argersinger's new book, *Toward a Female Genealogy of Transcendentalism* (University of Georgia Press); David Dowling's *Emerson's Proteges: Mentoring and Marketing Transcendentalism's Future* (Yale University Press)
 - d. Conference in Paris: Joseph Urbas and Thomas Constantinesco are organizing a conference on Emerson in Paris on June 3, 2014.
 - e. Bob Habich announces that he is writing the annual essay on American literary scholarship on the Transcendentalists, and asks that anyone publishing a relevant work provides him with a copy so that he may include it in his essay.

Presentations

1. Graduate Student Award: David Dowling presents the award, including a check for \$1000, to Robert Rabiee, a Ph.D. student at the University of Southern California.
2. Distinguished Achievement Award: Sue presents the Distinguished Achievement Award to Bob Habich.

Business

1. Election of David Greenham and Neal Dolan to three-year terms on the Advisory Board.
2. Election of Roger Thompson to a three-year term as Program Chair.
3. Board approves a recommendation to form a Media Committee to advise the webmaster and coordinate the Society's various media presences (website, Facebook, *ESP*). Sue passed a sign-up sheet and encouraged Members to sign up for the committee or recommend possible committee members.
4. Next Meeting: ALA in Boston, Massachusetts, in 2015.
5. Other Business:
 - a. The members discussed ways of recognizing work on Emerson in digital-humanities environments with an award. There was consensus to change the language of the CFPs for awards to include DH projects as well as traditional projects.
 - b. Sue reminds panelists to submit abstract of their papers to *ESP* for publication.
 - c. Bob thanks officers for agreeing to serve.

Meeting adjourned, 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie O'Neill
Emerson Society Secretary/Treasurer