

Ralph Waldo Emerson Society
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Friday, 27 May 2016, 11:10-12:30
ALA Conference
Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, CA

President Todd Richardson called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. About 20 members and two guests were present.

2015 Minutes approved

2016 Treasurer's Report approved.

Announcements and Updates

1. Todd discussed a new discount for Society members attending the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering. We will receive the same rate as Thoreau Society members. Also, RWES will offer 25% discount off our regular membership for Annual Gathering attendees wanting to join RWES. Thoreau Society is giving us a free ad in the conference program. RWES will continue our tradition of making a \$250 donation to the Annual Gathering.
2. Todd shared Joe Urbas's report on the successful RWES panel at the SAAP conference in Portland, OR, March 30.

Presentations

Sue Dunston presented the special awards:

Research Award: Christina Katopodis

Subvention Award: Daegan Miller

Community Service Award: Sue noted that there were no submissions for this award.

Roger Thompson presented the Graduate Student Award to Tim Sommer.

Todd reported that the Barbara Packer Fellowship will be granted to Reed Gochberg (Boston University, ABD), whose dissertation *Novel Objects: Museums and Scientific Knowledge in Nineteenth Century Literature* will be aided by her study of museum guidebooks and other materials at the American Antiquarian Society. Todd also noted that part of the fellowship includes presentation of Barbara Packer's book *The Transcendentalists* to the recipient.

Business

1. Officer and Board Member elections: The following slate of nominations was approved by acclamation:

RWES Board: Michael Weisenburg and David Dowling (3 year terms)

Program Chair: David Greenham (3 year term)

Webmaster: Michael Weisenburg (3 year term)

Todd thanked outgoing Board Members Martin Kevorkian and Jan Stievermann and outgoing webmaster Amy Earhart.

Michael Weisenburg reported on the work he has done on the RWES website and changes he plans to make in the coming weeks and months. Specifically, he plans to move from the Droople platform housed at TAMU to a WordPress platform; he recommended clearer, more regular communication between the web master and the Board; and he plans to add buttons making membership and donation easier.

Bonnie O'Neill reported on the RWES Facebook page: as of May 27, 2016, the Facebook page was followed (or "liked") by 1,474 users. Most posts reach approximately 200 users; the most effective post reached 4,046 users.

2. Summer 2018 Heidelberg Conference: Dan Malachuk reported that the conference, arranged in collaboration with the Margaret Fuller Society, aims to encourage interdisciplinarity in studies of philosophy, literature, and religion. The conference will be held July 26-29, 2018. A subcommittee of the planning committee will draft the CFP, which will be presented to the Boards of the Emerson and Fuller Societies in September 1 and published on October 1. Proposals will be due August 31, 2017, and applicants will be notified by September 15, 2017.

3. Thoreau Bicentennial: 2017 is the bicentennial of Thoreau's birth. Todd opened the floor to discussion of possible activities celebrating the bicentennial. The RWES will organize conference panels on relevant topics at the ALA and Annual Gathering. Todd requested that anyone with ideas for relevant conference programming send them to Roger Thompson.

4. Forthcoming volumes:

Joel Myerson announced *Picturing Emerson: An Iconography* will be published by Harvard University Press in Fall, 2016.

Al von Frank and Sue Dunston announced publication of *An Emerson Chronology* (2 volumes)

Al von Frank announced that Emerson's *Major Poetry* will be published in paperback soon by Harvard University Press.

5. Todd invited all present to a Society dinner at 7 p.m. and Osha Thai Restaurant.

6. Todd encouraged all members to distribute Society bookmarks when they attend conferences throughout the year.

7. Next Meeting: RWES will next meet at the ALA conference in Boston, MA.

8. Other Business:

- Phyllis Cole encouraged all present to join the Margaret Fuller Society for just \$10.
- Michael Lorence expressed a desire for the RWES to become members of the Innermost House Foundation, which, he said, aims to take Emerson literally and in the process reinvigorate Transcendentalism as a living philosophy.

Meeting adjourned, 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie O'Neill

Emerson Society Secretary/Treasurer